

COMPASSION CAMPAIGN TRAINING WORKSHOP

PARTICIPANT MANUAL

FOR

CLERGY, IMAMS AND LAY LEADERS

GHANA

Christian Council for Ghana (CCG)
Johns Hopkins University / Center for Communication
Programs (JHU-CCP)
Ghana Social Marketing Foundation

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CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF GHANA (CCG)
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PROGRAMMES (JHU-CCP)
GHANA SOCIAL MARKETING FOUNDATION (GSMF)

ACRONYMS

AIDS	- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AED	- Academy for Educational Development
AMM	- Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission
CBO	- Community Based Organization
CC	- Compassion Campaign
CCG	- Christian Council of Ghana
CEDPA	- Centre for Development and Population Activities
COP	- Church of Pentecost
FHI	- Family Health International
FORB	- Forum of Religious Bodies
GAC	- Ghana AIDS Commission
GSMF	- Ghana Social Marketing Foundation
HBC	- Home Based Care
HIV	- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HIV+	- HIV Positive (Positive test for HIV)
IEC	- Information, Education and Communication
ILO	- International Labour Organisation
JHU/CCP	- Johns Hopkins University/Center for Communication Programs
JOH	- Journey of Hope
MURAG	- Muslim Relief Association of Ghana
NACP	- National AIDS Control Programme
NGO	- Non-Governmental Organisation
OHP	- Overhead Projector
PEF	- Private Enterprise Foundation
PLWHA	- People Living With HIV/AIDS
PPAG	- Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana
PVC	- Polyvinyl Chloride
STI	- Sexual Transmitted Infections
TASO	- The AIDS Support Organisation
TOT	- Training of Trainers
USAID	- United States Agency for International Development
VCT	- Voluntary Counselling and Testing

INTRODUCTION

When AIDS was first reported in Ghana in 1986, most people did not understand what the disease was, let alone, how it is transmitted and how it can be prevented. Today, it is well documented that the majority of Ghanaians are aware that “AIDS is a killer disease,” that is caused by a virus or germ and that it is transmitted largely through sexual contact.

Fifteen years into the epidemic, Ghanaians are now slowly coming to the realisation that AIDS is real and that we are all at risk of being infected. More importantly, it is becoming clear to many that AIDS is not only a health problem but it is also a social and a development concern.

Currently, our society is faced with a situation where persons who have tested HIV positive are greatly stigmatised to the extent that most PLWHAs prefer to conceal their identity and in many cases continue to transmit the virus out of frustration, fear and ignorance. Unfortunately some religious leaders still think that AIDS is someone else’s problem and tend to believe that morally upright people should neither get infected nor be involved in the national prevention efforts. Worst of all some believe that AIDS is “God’s punishment upon sinners.” Clearly, reinforcing the degree of stigma associated with the disease.

In an effort to disprove this fallacy, Muslim and Christian Leaders have come together to mount a “Compassion Campaign” to support persons living with HIV/AIDS. The goals of the Campaign are to reduce the stigma and discrimination that PLWHAs face. The experiences of PLWHAs show varying levels of stigma and discrimination from family, friends, employers, landlords and entire communities. The Compassion Campaign is specifically aimed at mobilising Muslim and Christian congregations to actively support persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families – morally, spiritually and physically.

WHY A COMPASSION CAMPAIGN FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS?

As Religious Leaders, whether we know it or not, there are people in our congregations who are living with HIV/AIDS or who are affected because family members, friends, colleagues and neighbours are living with the virus. Many are bearing the burden of caring for and supporting PLWHAs but due to the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease, they fail to share their burden.

The scriptures (Bible and Qur’an) compel us to show compassion to those in need, in sickness and all other forms of affliction.

“I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me”
(Matthew 25:36).

“And they feed for the love of Allah the indigent the orphans and captive saying we feed you for Allah’s sake, no rewards do we desire from you nor thanks” (Surah 76:8-9).

As shepherds of the flock, Religious Leaders must begin to show sensitivity to the needs of all members of their congregation. At a time when our nation is making strenuous efforts to keep the current adult HIV prevalence rate of 4% below the exponential growth rate of 5%, all hands must be on deck. Therefore, irrespective of how a person gets infected with HIV our responsibility as Religious Leaders is to ensure that those who have tested positive are given all the care and support they will need in order to live positively with the virus until such time that it pleases the Almighty to call them home in dignity. Our message to persons living with HIV/AIDS should be one of forgiveness and hope.

“...He has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor and to the broken hearted...” (Luke 4:18).

“Serve Allah, and join not any partners with Him; and do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, those in need, neighbours who are of kin, neighbours who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer (ye met) and what your right hands possess, for Allah loveth not the arrogant, the vainglorious” (Sura 4:36).

Our responsibility towards PLWHAs should not be limited to counselling the PLWHA and their families it should include support from members of the congregation, and mobilising the congregation to help all those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS.

“I was hungry and you fed me...” (Matthew 25:35).

“O ye who believe! Give of the good things which ye have honourably earned, and of the fruits of the earth which we have produced for you, and do not aim at anything which is bad, out of it ye may give away something when ye yourselves would not receive it except with closed eyes and know that Allah is Free and all wants, and worthy of all praise” (Qur’an 2:267).

WHO MAY USE THIS MANUAL

This manual is designed to be used as a training guide for Christian and Muslim Clergy Imams and Lay Leaders for the purpose of launching the 2nd phase of the Stop AIDS/Love Life Compassion Campaign for people living with HIV/AIDS.

It is intended that it will be a primary resource and guideline in downstream training other members of the religious communities in Ghana for brining about attitude and behaviour change for a more compassionate response towards people living with HIV/AIDS.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

By the end of this workshop, participants will have...

- Reviewed HIV/AIDS facts and discussed the HIV AIDS situation in Ghana, Africa and the Globe.
- Discussed and practised counselling skills focusing on HIV/AIDS issues.
- Reviewed the Compassion Campaign and identified roles expected of Religious Leaders within the campaign
- Identified and practised skills to mobilise religious leaders to carry out Compassion activities in the communities.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

It is expected that by the end of the training, Christian and Muslim Clergy, Imams and Lay Leaders will have acquired Basic Facts about STIs/HIV/AIDS and Basic Counselling skills to enable them to provide accurate information to members of their congregation. They will also be equipped to mobilise members of their congregations to start and carry out activities to support PLWHAs. Ultimately, it is expected that Clergy, Imams and Lay Leaders will establish programmes within their congregations to reduce and ultimately eliminate the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV.

COMPASSION CAMPAIGN TRAINING OUTLINE

- I. Module 1 – BASIC FACTS
 - Session – Introduction, Welcome and Overview
 - Session 1 – Overview of HIV/AIDS Situation in Ghana
 - Session 2 – Basic Facts About HIV/AIDS and STIs
 - Session 3 – HIV worldview, culture and religion

- II. Module 2 – IMPACT
 - Session 1 - HIV stigma, discrimination and self-awareness
 - Session 2 - Behaviour/What influences behaviour
 - Session 3 - Behaviour Change/Journey of Hope
 - Session 4 – Compassion & Ghana Compassion Campaign

- III. Module 3 – COUNSELLING
 - Session 1 – Counselling Process TASO
 - Session 2 – Counselling Skills
 - Session 3 – HIV Testing and VCT
 - Session 4 – Field trips to PLWHA *

- IV. Module 4 – COMPASSION, CARE AND SUPPORT
 - Session 1 – Working with people in need
 - Session 2 – Creating a compassionate congregation
 - Session 3 – Identifying community needs and resources
 - Session 4 – Getting and maintaining community support
 - Session 5 – Home Based Care

- V. Module 5 – ACTION PLANNING
 - Session 1 & 2 – Implementing faith based compassion programs
 - Session 3 & 4 – Measuring the impact of faith based activities
 - Final Session - Workshop Synthesis and Closing

* The workshop includes a site visit to a Hospital or a Centre that is currently working with persons living with HIV and AIDS so they can interact with the workshop participants. For some participants, this might be the first time that they meet persons living with HIV and AIDS. This site visit provides an opportunity to express compassion and reduce stigma associated with HIV/AIDS in Ghana.

Workshop Schedule
COMPASSION CURRICULUM WORKSHOP FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Workshop Formalities	Recap/ Reflection	Recap/ Reflection	Recap/ Reflection	Recap/ Reflection
8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Introduction, welcome & pre-workshop test	HIV Stigma. Discrimination and self awareness	Counselling skills	Working with people in Need	Implementing faith based compassion programs
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	TEA BREAK	TEA BREAK	TEA BREAK	TEA BREAK	TEA BREAK
10:30 a.m. – 1200 p.m.	Overview of HIV/AIDS in Ghana	Behaviour What Influences Behaviour	Counselling Skills	Creating a compassionate congregation	Implementing faith based compassion programs
12:00 - 1:00PM	Basic facts about HIV/STI	Group work: What changes behaviour Journey of Hope	HIV testing /VCT	How to identify Community Needs and Resources	Measuring the impact of church /mosque activities. Brainstorm on indicators.
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	STIs (Video:“ Silent Epidemic”)	Compassion & Ghana’s Compassion Campaign	Filed trip to PLWAs	Getting and maintaining community support	Measuring the impact of church /mosque activities. Action Planning
3:30PM- 5:00PM	HIV/AIDS worldview, culture and religion	Counselling Process TASO Video	Filed trip to PLWAs	Home Base Care	Workshop Synthesis & Evaluation Closing