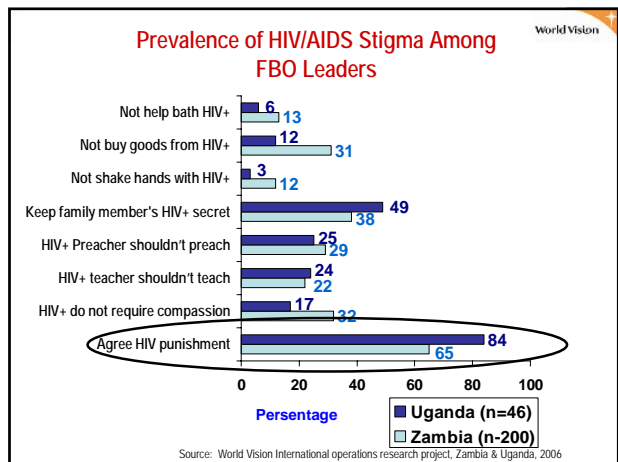
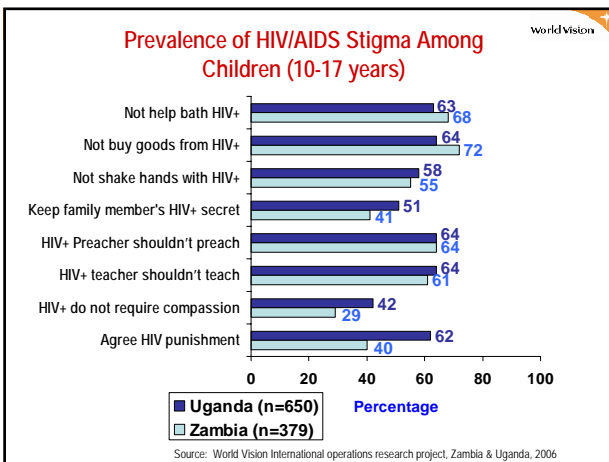




Historical experience of working with Faith leaders regarding HIV and sexuality

- Stigma amongst faith leaders high – in high and low prevalence areas
- Strong association with HIV and sin



Pastor Thomas Lebiletsa, Lesotho

"I would tell my congregation almost every Sunday... Those with HIV must repent. You will come back to the church when your legs are as thin as the pole holding up this tent and ask for forgiveness... and I will be ready to conduct your funerals."

Historical experience of working with Faith leaders regarding HIV and sexuality

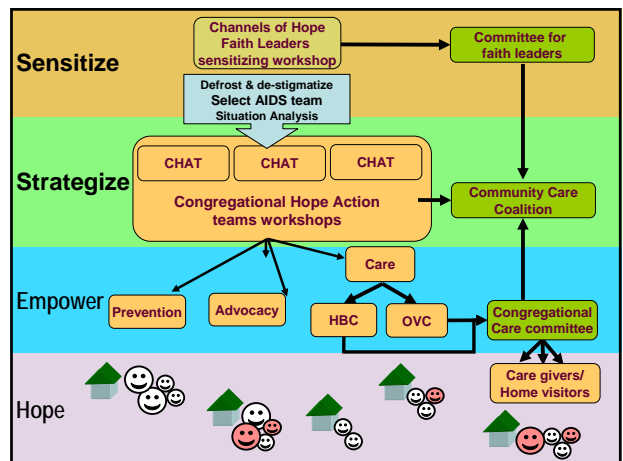
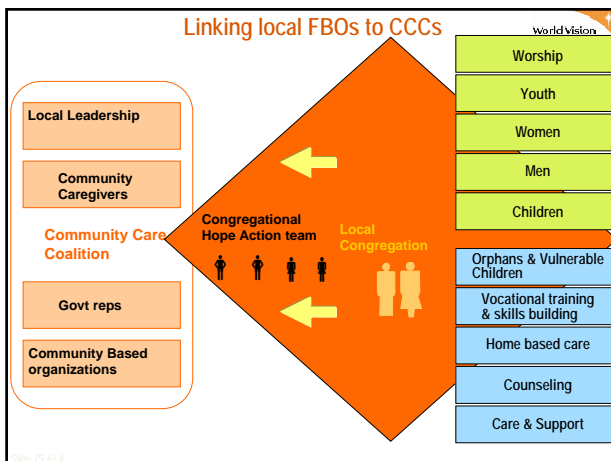
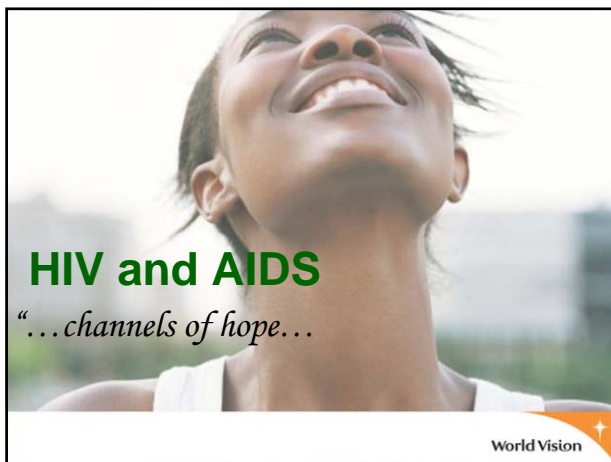
- Underlying judgement apparent in language used
 - "them" vs "us"
 - Innocent vs guilty
- Tension between theology and practice
 - Feel they need to "protect" the values of faith
 - Those who practice "sinful" behaviour – not true believers
- Are just as vulnerable to HIV infection as rest of community

Historical experience of working with Faith leaders regarding HIV and sexuality

- ✘ Information on HIV very basic
- ✘ Dualism persist
 - ✘ Main task of faith leader is spiritual nurture
- ✘ Fear to move outside typical doctrinal thinking
 - ✘ Fear of being labeled radical, secular or weakening their faith's message
- ✘ Generalized myth: Information on sex and sexuality will lead to increase in sexual activity

Positives and Opportunities for partnership with FBOs on HIV prevention

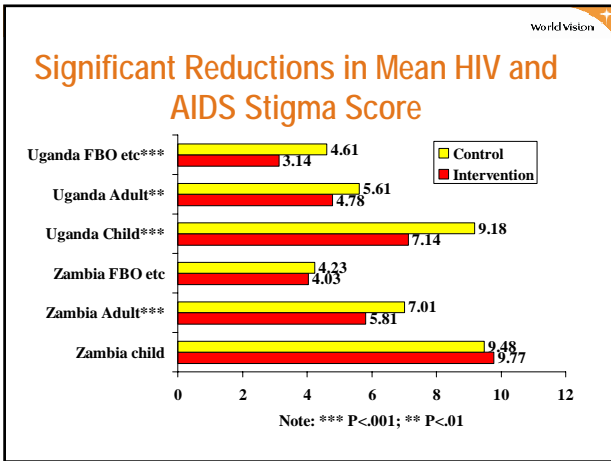
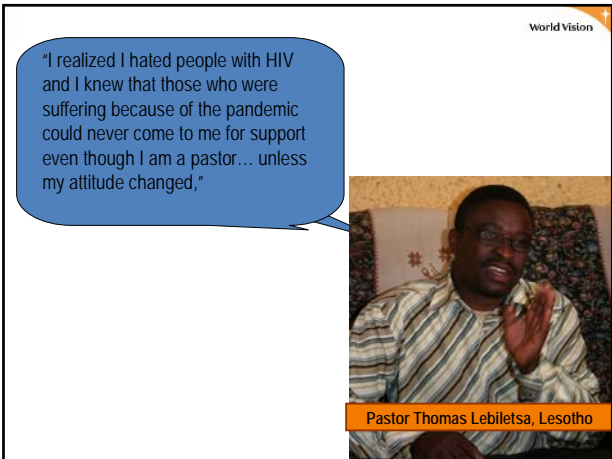
- ✘ Door openers
- ✘ If taken through a process
 - ✘ Amazing attitude change
 - ✘ Understand need for comprehensive multi-faceted approach (incl prevention)
 - ✘ Become powerful change agents



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Promising results

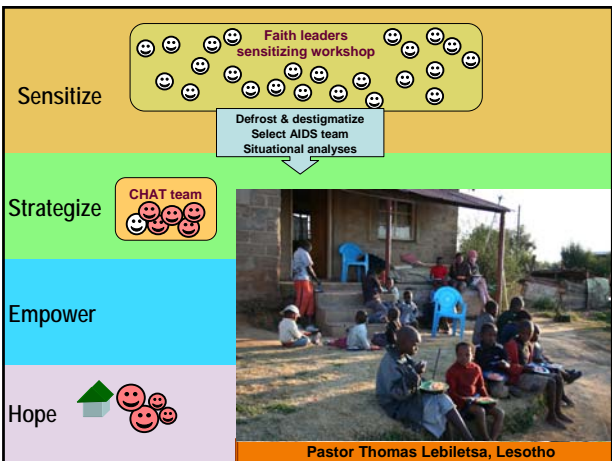
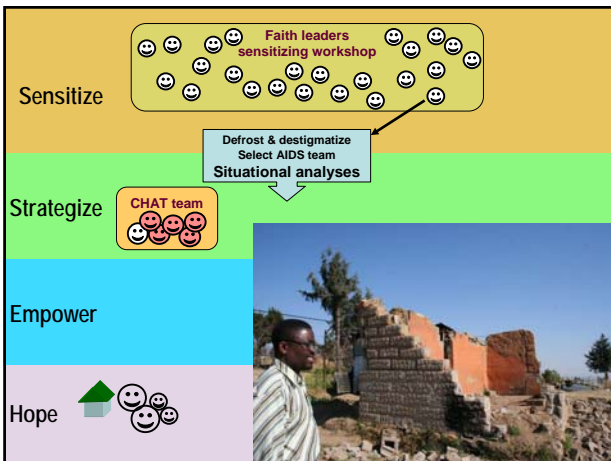
Stigma

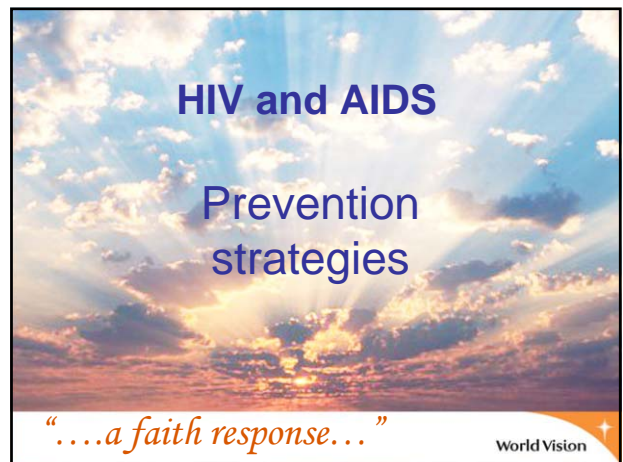
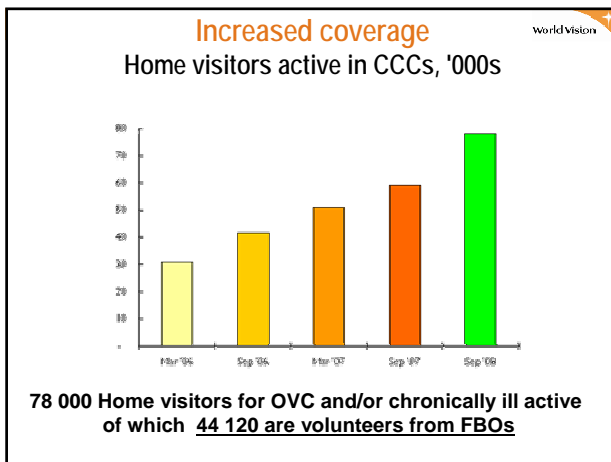
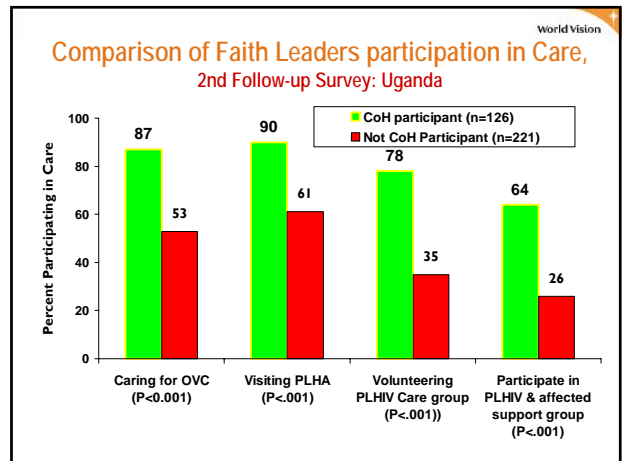
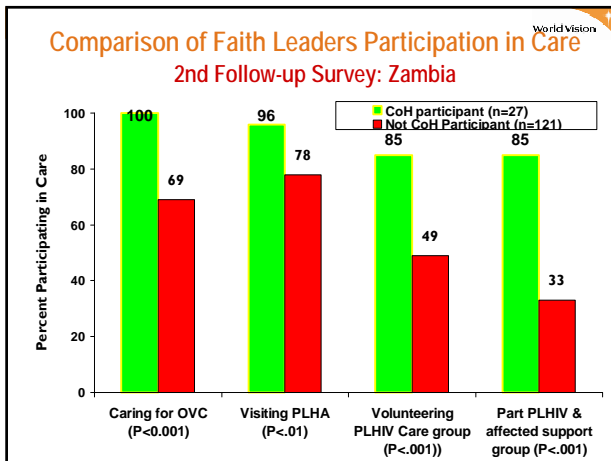


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Promising results

Care and support





A

bstinence

B

e faithful

C

ondoms

Our duty

Move from "ABC" To "SAVE"

Safe(r) practices
Access to treatment
Voluntary testing
Empowerment

God made you special...

Choose Life!

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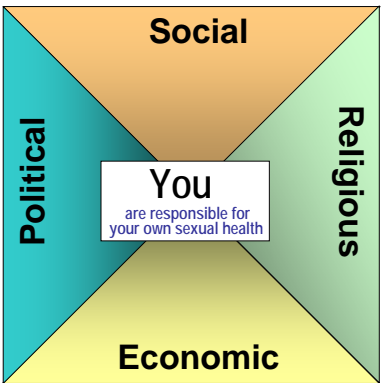
Slide (S4.2) 17

You are responsible for your own sexual health



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Slide (S4.2) 19



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Slide (S4.2) 20

Risk increasing contexts

Which practices or situations in your community increase the risk of more people contracting HIV and/or increase the vulnerability of children?

- ⓧ Social and Cultural
- ⓧ Religious
- ⓧ Political
- ⓧ Economic

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Lawful and Safe!
(Moral and Safe)

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Not everything that is lawful, or acceptable are necessarily SAFE

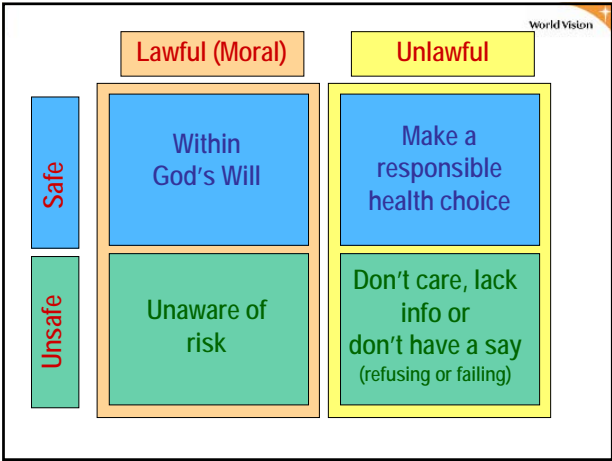
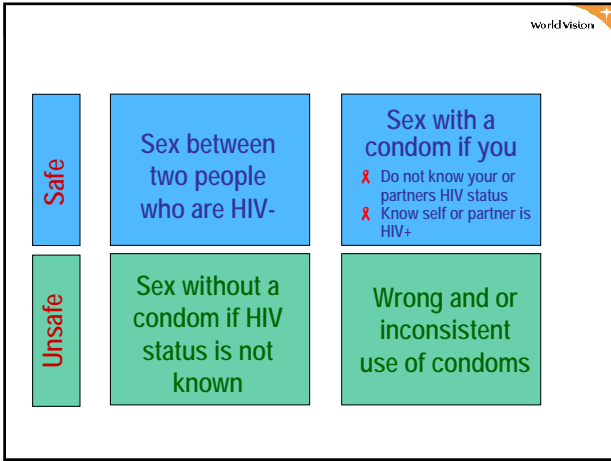
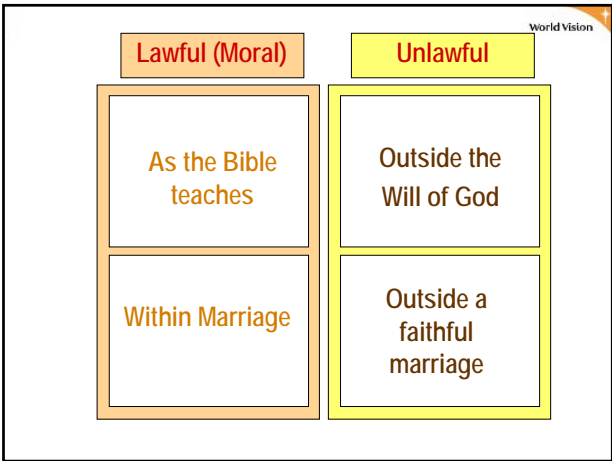
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Source: Gideon Byamugisha

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What is unfaithful or unlawful, may not necessarily be unsafe

Source: Gideon Rhyamunisha

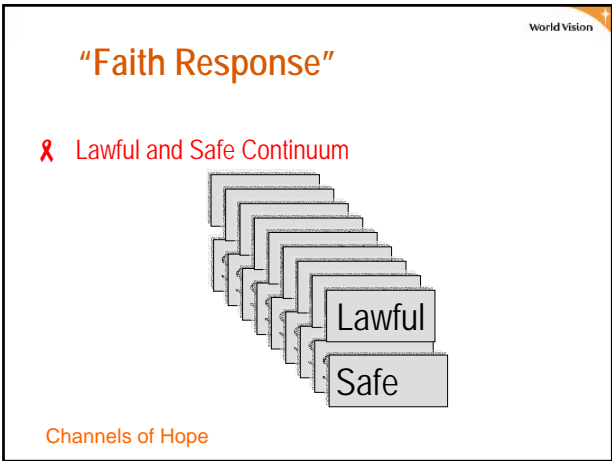


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Key Message

- ⚠ What is culturally, legally, religiously, or politically correct, acceptable or lawful may not always be safe in terms of HIV infection, transmission and prevention
- ⚠ To be within God's will, the sexual practice must be lawful; to escape HIV infection the sexual practice must be safe

Source: Gideon Rhyamunisha





1. Should Christians/Muslims have sex outside or before marriage?

2. Are Christians/Muslims having sex outside or before marriage?

3. Should Christians/Muslims use condoms when having sex outside or before marriage?

4. Does condom use fit within the Biblical/Quaranic perspective?

5. Should Christians/Muslims use condoms for prevention of HIV infections?



6. Can Christians/Muslims contract HIV when having sex outside, before or within marriage?

Discussion triggers Tough stuff and "Agree and Disagree"

- ✂ If a particular way of doing things is part of our culture, we cannot say it is wrong because it is actually our culture that tells us what is right and what is wrong
- ✂ It is natural that men should have authority over women and that women are inferior to men
- ✂ A husband always has a right to have sex with his wife

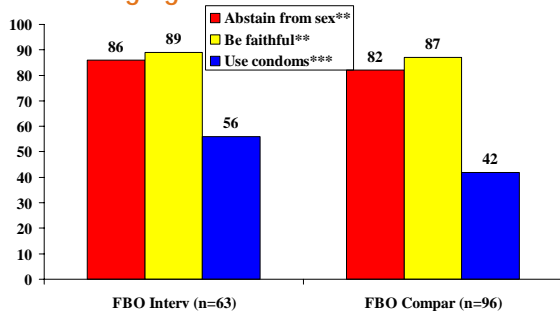
Discussion triggers Tough stuff and "Agree and Disagree"

- ✂ If it is part of our culture for people (particularly men) to have multiple sexual partners, you cannot say that this is wrong because it is actually our culture that tells us what is right and what is wrong
- ✂ It is time for the church to talk openly about masturbation as a safe way of releasing sexual energy?

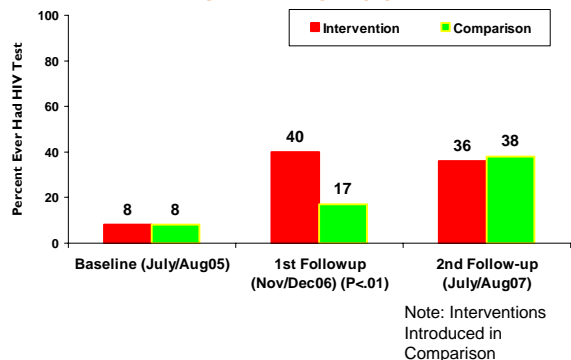
Promising results

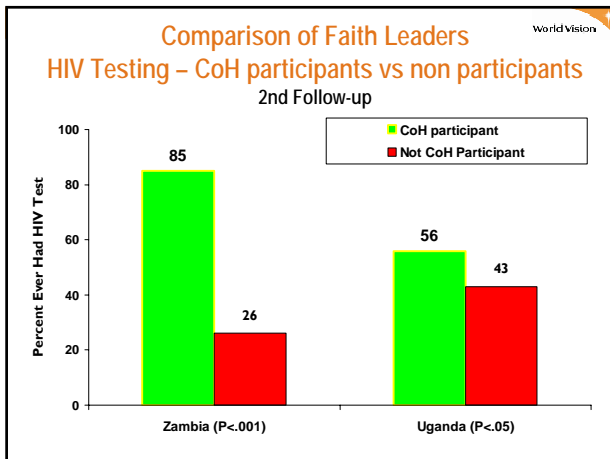
Prevention

FBO Leaders ever discussed ABC with their congregation: 1st Post-Intervention



Trends in Faith Leaders Testing for HIV: Zambia





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Lessons learnt

- ✂ Trained facilitators who know how to facilitate sensitive issues
- ✂ Inclusion of PLWH essential – especially people of faith living with HIV
- ✂ Faith specific rather than interfaith

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Guiding principles for a Christian response to HIV and AIDS

- ✂ Live as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)
- ✂ Be ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- ✂ Speak the truth in love (Eph 4: 15)
- ✂ Find wisdom from heaven (James 3:17)
- ✂ Accept as Christ accepted (Romans 15:7)
- ✂ Be compelled by the love of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14)
- ✂ We have a living hope (1 Peter 1:3)
- ✂ Help people in practical ways (James 1:27, Matt 25:31-46)
- ✂ Uphold the value and dignity of all human beings (Gen 1:27)

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Guiding principles for a Islamic response to HIV and AIDS

- ✂ Our motivation: Compelled by our love for Allah (Surah 3:31)
- ✂ Believers are of one Brotherhood (Surah 49:10)
- ✂ To accept as the Prophet accepted (Surah 3:159)
- ✂ Serving Allah in practical acts of love and compassion (Surah 2:177)
- ✂ Our search for answers and solutions: With wisdom and knowledge from Allah (Surah 2:269)
- ✂ Our responsibility: To break the silence by speaking the truth with compassion (Surah 2:263)
- ✂ We are Allah's Ambassadors (Surah 6:165)

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Lessons learnt

- ✂ Cultural or religious contexts might require separate sessions by gender
- ✂ Trust the process
 - ✂ Change happens through facilitated process with peers
 - ✂ Discover personal vulnerability
 - ✂ Grasp need for multifaceted approach

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Lessons learnt

- ✂ Mobilization needs follow-up process linked to integrated community response
- ✂ Capacity building
 - ✂ Trained facilitators
 - ✂ Organizational capacity building for CCCs and CHATs
- ✂ CoH Methodology can be used for any non-faith specific group

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Lessons learnt


Experiences with Muslim Christian combined trainings

- ✘ Culture and religion often intertwined
 - ✘ E.g. Position of women, FGM
- ✘ "Interreligious dialogue" emphasized the differences
- ✘ Lack of contact brings fear and sustain myths
 - ✘ Christians: All Muslims are like ...
 - ✘ Muslims: All Christians are like...
- ✘ Respect the differences, but celebrate what we have in common
- ✘ Common issue helps to discover what we share



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Dr Iqbal Karbanee, HIV and AIDS coordinator Islamic Relief South Africa



"I must honestly say that I had many doubts before this training. But now I am convinced this is the way to go. This approach of CoH allows people from both faiths to address a common issue. It creates an environment where they can share the common principles while respecting the differences. What I like is the fact that it did not try to make the faiths all the same, but built respect for one another."



Together we can!

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