

ACTION Media & Advocacy Skills Training: Nairobi, Kenya October 28-30 & October 31-November 2, 2012

Participant Bios

Training One: October 28-30, 2012



Endalkachew Demmisse, ETHIOPIA

Endalkachew Demmisse is an Ethiopian who contracted TB of the lungs in 2004. He failed his initial treatment and was later diagnosed with multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB).

Without access to second line drugs within his country, Endalkachew managed to procure the needed drugs through the support of the American NGO Compassion International based in Colorado. Treatment with second-line drugs, however, was not without adverse effects, which included psychosis, sleep disturbance, constipation, vomiting, and nausea. Yet, after a painful course of treatment, Endalkachew was cured in 2007. Endalkachew

was one of the lucky ones — three other patients in his treatment group committed suicide,

thought to be related to the drugs' adverse effects. Since 2007, Endalkachew has dedicated his life to advocate for TB control. He has organized public health education campaigns and created and published a monthly journal called *Pharmanet*, which promotes rational drug use and treatment adherence. Endalkachew is currently in the process of establishing an MDR-TB association and treatment support group. He holds a Bpharm degree in pharmacy along with additional training in communication, web and graphics, and also published his own book called "The Mystery of God's Will (Amharic)".



Nombasa Gxuluwe, SOUTH AFRICA

Nombasa Gxuluwe became involved in HIV work in 2003 as a Treatment Literacy Practitioner and a Trainer with Treatment Action Campaign (TAC). The focus of Nombasa's work was to educate communities, health care workers, and people living with HIV about the prevention and treatment literacy of HIV and opportunistic infections, including TB. In 2005, she was employed by TAC as the Eastern Cape Treatment Literacy Coordinator to coordinate the program in five districts, while managing a team of 25 practitioners and six trainers. In 2008, she moved to work for Amnesty International South Africa (AISA) as a provincial campaigner on the connection between HIV and gender based violence (GBV)

and sought to educate communities about HIV and the law. Since July of 2009, she has worked for the World AIDS Campaign (WAC), based in the Eastern Cape Province, as program officer mentoring nine African countries under a program called HIV Leadership Through Accountability. The focus of her work is linked to the connection between GBV and HIV. In relation to GBV, Nombasa observes aspects of sexual offences, domestic violence, and the link to HIV.



Luwiza Makukula, ZAMBIA

Luwiza Makukula supervises and coordinates community treatment supporters working in the areas of TB, HIV/AIDS, and malaria at the Community Initiative for TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria (CITAM+) in Zambia. Luwiza coordinates trainings for treatment supporters and community representatives. Since 2006, she has worked with three different NGOs in Zambia that focus on treatment, care, and support for patients, orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC's), and the co-epidemic of TB and HIV/AIDS. She is trained in psychosocial counseling, advocacy, communication, and social mobilization. She is a former TB patient, was diagnosed HIV positive in 2002, and is on life-saving treatment.



Abimbola Esther Martin, NIGERIA

Abimbola Esther Martin's (nee Wintolu) struggles against TB and HIV started after she tested positive for HIV in 2000. During that time, she had very low knowledge of HIV and began a search for a cure. In the process, she lost huge sums of money paying for AIDS "medicines" that didn't work. She was widowed and later infected with TB through a homeless friend that she offered shelter in her house. Abimbola also suffered from stigma and discrimination from a close relation before being rescued by a good samaritan near the point of death. She completed her DOTS program and is cured of TB. She now works with PLAN Health Advocacy and Development Foundation in Ibadan, Nigeria as a Community Mobilization Officer where she is engaged in counseling, community education, enlightenment activities, and support/motivation of TB patients and persons living with HIV. Her dream is to defeat stigma and discrimination

related to HIV and TB through support for persons suffering from the diseases aimed towards projecting them in positive light.



Noloyiso Ntamehlo, SOUTH AFRICA

Noloyiso Ntamehlo works for Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) as a District coordinator in Lusikisiki, Eastern Cape. She joined TAC in 2003 as a volunteer for the Mcobothini branch. In 2004, Noloyiso became the organizer of the OR Tambo District supporting 19 TAC branches. In 2005 she became a treatment literacy practitioner providing treatment also education in the different communities and in 2006 she became a District Coordinator. She serves as a board member for an HIV/AIDS adherence councilor organization in Lusikisiki. Noloyiso finished a Public Management course in East London College, South Africa. She is a passionate HIV activist and advocate for a better health for all.



Jean Romain, CAMEROON

Jean is a married father of three living in Bafoussam, Cameroon. In 2011, he earned a diploma from the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso (DIU) with a focus on addressing HIV/AIDS in Africa. Professionally, Jean began his career in 1991 as an accountant in the Evangelical Church of Cameroon. Since 2002, he has been the president of an NGO named ORISADE (International Organization for Health and Development) located in Bafoussam. Jean also serves as the vice coordinator of the coalition on NGOs fighting against HIV/AIDS in the West Cameroon. Jean's organization was recently awarded a Stop TB Partnership Challenge Facility for Civil Society grant for a community and social mobilization project called Therapeutic Management of Sex Workers Suffering From Tuberculosis. Through this and other projects, Jean has been commitment to working with grassroots community organizations and the Cameroonian government to raise awareness and promote health information and referral programs about HIV/AIDS and TB.

Training Two: October 30-November 2, 2012



Joyce Kevin Abalo, TANZANIA

Joyce Kevin Abalo is the former Ag. CEO of the East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSO) and is currently the EANNASO-East Africa Community (EAC) Liaison Officer under the policy Watch Program. Abalo has extensive experience working with civil society in the region on policy, legal, and human rights programming at the regional level, including CSO representation, mobilization, and coordination in the EAC integration process. As the EANNASO Liaison Officer, Joyce coordinates advocacy agendas related to malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention with the EAC and international platforms. She has been working in the field of HIV and AIDS since 2010 on general programming work. Joyce has played a big role in the advocacy and mobilization for implementation of the regional HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management Bill 2012. She has currently initiated and is operationalizing the EAC CSOs Health Platform to engage the EAC extensively on HIV and health issues.



Achieng Lucy, UGANDA

Achieng Lucy is a graduate of Social Work and Social Administration and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Development Studies. As a worker by profession, she has focused and gained experience in community HIV/AIDS-TB counseling, sensitization, and advocacy. She has worked for Nagoke Youth HIV/AIDS Initiative (NYAI) since 2007 directly involved in programming, coordinating, and monitoring and evaluation of the day-to-day activities of the organization. This involves TB/HIV advocacy activities which enable youth and other people in the community to freely access treatment of TB/HIV services as well as fight stigma and discrimination that lead to adherence problems and development of MDR-TB. Lucy has also volunteered in a private hospital as a counselor for young people.



Jules Niyonkuru, BURUNDI

Jules Niyonkuru lives in Gitega, Burundi and is the first born of a family of four. Both of his parents being medical doctors, he followed their path to medical school and completed the first two years then turned to Political Science for two years in England, while adding an International Relations component to his education. After graduating in 2009, he moved to Zimbabwe and volunteered for nine months at a local NGO that played the role of an umbrella body for local NGOs. Following, Jules completed a nine-month internship with the UNDP as civil society organizations' Liaison Officer and with the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer responsible for the Global Fund grant. In 2011, he returned to Burundi and volunteered at ANSS and worked mostly on communication and prevention related issues. In 2012, he was hired as a Communication and Advocacy Officer. Jules has been confronted with HIV/AIDS his whole life. Some of his relatives are HIV positive and have died as a result of AIDS; ultimately, leaving behind orphans and fragile families. He began the fight against HIV/AIDS as a teenager doing campaigns related to prevention amongst peers at sporting events. Nowadays, he works in a field that corresponds to his area of expertise, and a very personal issue.



Teresa Njoki, KENYA

Teresa Njoki is the Program Officer for African Gender and Media (GEM) and a founding member of the Personal Initiative for Positive Empowerment (PIPE). Teresa is involved with the advocacy of HIV, TB, and reproductive health issues, including the elimination of mother-to-child-transmission (MTCT) at a national and global level. She is a Social Worker by profession and has also worked with Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya and the National Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV in various capacities.



Erick Okioma, KENYA

Erick Okioma lives in Kisumu Kenya, is HIV positive, and is married with four children. Currently, he is a member of Victory Post Test Group which is a community based organization founded in 2004 whose membership is comprised of individuals infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Erick previously worked for the civil service and the for last 11 years has been serving the community as a member and coordinator of group on voluntary basis in advocacy, communication, and social mobilization around HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria in the Nyanza Region. Erick has worked extensively with community youth to build their capacities by involving them through participatory approaches in activities around World AIDS Day, International AIDS Candle Light Memorial, and International Woman's Day for the last eight years. Erick also participated in the review of Kenya National AIDS strategic plan (KNASP) II (2005-2009) and validation and development of KNASP III (2009-2013) representing PLWHA's. Currently he serves on Community Advisory Board HIV Research (CDC /KEMRI) representing PLWHAs, Constituency AIDS Control Committee (Kisumu town west) representing CSO'S, Community Coordinator AIDS Candle Light Memorial, and Kenya AIDS NGO Consortium - Nyanza CSO Representative.



Malanilo J. Simon, TANZANIA

Malanilo J. Simon is a social scientist with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He has completed several trainings on HIV/AIDS, monitoring and evaluation, and project management. Simon has been the director of programs for Human Development Trust (HDT) since 2008. He has also actively participated in evaluation consultancies for anemia and conducted KAP survey for NMB for workplace programs. Simon has been managing HIV/AIDS projects including that of Global Fund since 2007 and has been a TB activist since 2010.