

Simba Utano: Year 1 Review

25th January 2021



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Preface/Reminders
3. Completed Activities
4. Challenges
5. COVID-related Challenges
6. Ongoing Risks
7. Lessons Learned
8. Public Engagement Activities

1. Welcome and Introductions

Invited Participants:

Katswe Sistahood: Talent Jumo (ND), Otilia Chinyani (PM), Nancy Chabuda (PO);

Youth Engage: Charles Siwela (ND), Ignatious Chivesa (PM), Clara Chinoruma (PO);

Global Affairs Canada: Anne Banwell (Sr. International Development Officer);

ICAD: Robin Montgomery (ED), Rosemary Forbes (Proj. Coord);

ICASO: Mary Ann Torres (ED), Michael O'Connor (Senior Advisor).

2. Preface/Reminders

a. Intermediate Outcomes:

- ▶ 1100: Increased **utilization** of gender equitable and adolescent responsive SRHR and HIV services by vulnerable AGYW in 4 districts of Zimbabwe;
- ▶ 1200: Improved **delivery** of gender equitable and adolescent responsive SRHR services to vulnerable AGYW;
- ▶ 1300: Improved effectiveness of AGYW, health workers and community organizations to **advocate** for SRHR services.

b. Project Delivery Mechanisms:

Katswe has adopted the concept of “Pachoto” and uses it as a space for discussion and self-awareness aimed at creating a vibrant feminist movement.

- ▶ Each Pachoto Community Facilitator has been conducting bi-monthly Pachoto sessions with each group having an average of 10 participants (adolescents and young people).
- ▶ From these sessions participants learn to analyse, respond to and advocate for SRHR policies and services for AGYW and ABYM.

Youth Engage has created a cadre called Youth Champions (YC) who have two roles:

- ▶ YC serves as Youth Data Reporters: they collect and analyze SRHR qualitative and quantitative data at the district health facility level (for scorecards);
- ▶ YC are trained on Pachoto group methodology and actively participate and contribute to the Pachoto movement.

3. Completed Activities

Activities contributing to Intermediate Outcome 1100 (increased AGYW utilization of services):

Capacity Building and Training:

- ▶ 24 SRHR needs assessments (one/ward) conducted with 123 AGYW and 20 ABYM ;
- ▶ A 100 page participant Training Guide on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) developed for Pachoto Groups plus 60 page Facilitator Guide;
- ▶ 162 Pachoto Community Facilitators (142 AGYW, 20 ABYM) and 120 Youth Champions trained on Pachoto methodology. Age ranges are between 18 to 24 years;
- ▶ 1629 Pachoto sessions conducted (162 groups met twice monthly over 5 months);
- ▶ 1890 young people (1690 AGYW, 200 ABYM) participated actively in Pachoto groups;
- ▶ Community theatre groups established in all 4 districts to sensitize community on SRHR issues affecting AGYW and young people;
- ▶ Job aids developed and distributed: 30 000 Fliers, 5 roll up Banners, 100 Golf T-Shirts, 100 branded bags, 100 branded sunhats, 250 branded round t-shirts, 100 branded wrap around fabric, 500 branded calendars, 100 branded diaries.

Completed Activities (con't)

Activities contributing to Intermediate Outcome 1100 (increased AGYW utilization of services):

Outreach to STI/HIV Hotspots:

- ▶ Outreach undertaken in STI/HIV hotspots (identified through the needs assessments);
- ▶ Undertaken in collaboration with Ministry of Health and National AIDS Council in all four Districts;
- ▶ On site services offered : HIV testing and counselling; contraceptives (both short and long term); STI screening and treatment; and VIAC. The number of people reached are 1811 female and 490 males. Targeted population (1811 f/490 m) included sex workers and their clients as well as AGYW/ABYM.

Sensitization of the Broader Community:

- ▶ Meetings held to sensitize community stakeholders of issues affecting AGYW. These involved meetings with 99 stakeholders (m/f) at the **district** level and 242 stakeholders (132 f/120 m) plus 219 AGYW and 77 ABYM at the **ward** level.

Completed Activities (con't)

Activities contributing to Intermediate Outcome 1100 (increased AGYW utilization of services):

Engagement at the Policy Level:

- ▶ In all four districts, organized and participated in the HIV/AIDS Multi-sectoral District Taskforce aimed at influencing the agenda and input into the National AIDS Council Reporting Mechanism;
- ▶ Participated in quarterly ASRH Forum in Umguza district.

Completed Activities (con't)

Activities contributing to Intermediate Outcome 1200 (Improved delivery of SRHR services to AGYW)

- ▶ Developed a training tool kit for Health Service Providers. The kit is approximately 78 pages and will be printed in January 2021;
- ▶ Provide training on gender equitable and youth friendly services for Health Service Providers (48 m and 71 f);
- ▶ 30 Youth Champions also trained to conduct advocacy dialogues on teen pregnancy, SGBV, STIs and HIV ;
- ▶ Organized multi sectoral cluster meetings in Umguza and Seke Districts to strengthen referral systems/pathways for adolescents and youth health.

Activities contributing to Intermediate Outcome 1300 (improved capacity to advocate for AGYW)

- ▶ All 120 Youth Champions trained as Youth Data Reporters;
- ▶ Training focussed on Accountability Framework, Action Research , Data Collection and Advocacy.

4. Challenges

- ▶ Unstable internet affecting communication at all levels;
- ▶ Delays in financial transfers resulting in the delay in the start-up of field activities;
- ▶ Unexpected delay in finalizing baseline and gender equality assessment resulted in multiple partner contract extensions causing confusion over reporting;
- ▶ Financial reporting difficulties which could have been resolved more easily if ICASO had been able to participate in an initial monitoring visit (postponed due to COVID);
- ▶ Ongoing delays in financial reporting;
- ▶ Retention of AGYW by facilitators due to relocation (particularly in Seke).

5. COVID Challenges

- ▶ Staff illness due to COVID;
- ▶ No travel during lockdown resulting in postponement of some activities and the rescheduling of other;
- ▶ Difficulty in accessing food, electricity and water during the lockdowns especially. Staff need to spend time just addressing basic needs;
- ▶ Substantial increase in GBV amongst AGYW;
- ▶ Closure of bank branches making the withdrawal of funds difficult.

6. Risks

- ▶ Ongoing security risks and government attacks on human rights. Situation worsened by COVID and the proliferation of roadblocks etc.;
- ▶ Food insecurity and malnutrition;
- ▶ Disruption to electricity and water distribution;
- ▶ Financial instability including bank branch closures;
- ▶ Fragile health system coupled with insufficient COVID testing and increasingly high infection rates;

7. Lessons Learned

- ▶ Project success hinges on efficient and timely transportation -vehicle procurement should have been included in initial discussions;
- ▶ Familiarisation with local health personnel remains a huge barrier for adolescents and young people's access to health SRHR services. The outreach programs have been very effective towards increasing uptake of services;
- ▶ Financial and nutritional support is key for AGYW and young people's access to services to address transport cost barriers and adherence to medication;

Lessons Learnt conti.....

- ▶ Meaningful engagement of both district and ward stakeholders is very crucial in community mobilization at every stage of the planning of project activities. This enables project staff to identify different community underutilized assets in the district as well as facilitating planning and implementation of project activities;
- ▶ Disaster risk reduction is a critical component that should be prioritized in the implementation of the project. The project is focused on human beings and it is mandatory that the safety of our target populations is prioritized.

8. Public Engagement Activities

- ▶ ICAD Fundraising Bike-a-thon (June, Ottawa)
- ▶ 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (Nov/Dec 2020, Harare): 10 30-minute radio shows on GBV by project staff;
- ▶ Canada Pavilion 2020 (which showcased Canadian contributions to HIV and AIDS, July 2020): Session on the Simba Utano project
- ▶ Presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Primary and Secondary Education (Sept 2020, Talent Jumo): An overview of SRHR in the Education Sector

Activities in pictures; Goromonzi community facilitators



Community facilitators training; Gender, sex and sexuality session



Outreach Program - young woman seeking HIV Testing and counselling services

