

TRAIN THE TRAINER

UK AFRICAN MICROBICIDES WORKING GROUP

WESLEY'S CHAPEL

9:00am-1:00pm, 3rd AUGUST 2006

REPORT

Aims of the session

- To equip a small number of HIV prevention trainers and people active in the African community with the skills they need to become microbicide presenters and trainers.
- To build the confidence of key people on the African Working Group so that they can present on the need for microbicides and represent the group at key events.

The facilitators were Georgina Caswell from the African HIV Policy Network (AHPN), and Rebekah Webb and Arwa Meijer from the Global Campaign for Microbicides. There were 16 participants, most of whom were part of the UK African Microbicides Working Group and from organisations that have already endorsed the Campaign. For a list of participants, please see the end of this report.

About the Global Campaign for Microbicides

The Global Campaign for Microbicides is an international coalition of 250 NGOs and community groups worldwide campaigning for accelerated research into new prevention options for women. One of the central aims of the Campaign is to build capacity of community and civil society to participate in microbicide research, advocacy and debate. For further information, please contact Rebekah Webb at rwebb@path.org.

Organisations working with African communities in the UK are encouraged to endorse the Campaign and join the UK African Working Group by completing the endorsement form - **CAMPAIGN TOOL 2**.

The problems with presenting microbicides

Some of the problems that were described during an initial brainstorming session included:

- providing scientific technical detail
- responding to difficult questions around trials taking place in Africa (recruitment, side effects)
- uncertainty around the accessibility to and cost of microbicides once they exist
- tackling misconceptions around microbicides (such as: trials are taking place in Africa because it is cheaper and easier to exploit them; scientists must be actively exposing Africans to HIV in these trials; participating in a trial increases your risk of HIV; all trials are paid for by pharmaceuticals with lots of money).

Despite the problems we may face, we need to understand that to be a microbicides advocate does not have to mean being an expert, working full-time on the issue or tracking every new development. To be a good advocate, we need to:

- have some basic facts and figures to support our case
- be aware of current key advocacy messages and what needs to change
- know where to go to get accurate information
- have tools at our disposal to help communicate our messages

The Global Campaign aims to provide advocates with accurate, up to date information and current advocacy materials and tools via its website and secretariat.

Science, ethics and other key concepts in microbicides advocacy

Microbicides are a range of substances that could take many forms, which may prevent HIV/STI infection, and they are currently still under research. The group reviewed the main mechanisms of action, the mechanics of clinical trials and why a partially effective microbicide would make a huge difference to women in high-prevalence settings.

- To understand how they work and their effectiveness, see **FACTSHEET 2**.
- To learn about the five products furthest along in the development phase, see **FACTSHEET 13**.
- To respond to questions around clinical trials and ethical issues, see **FACTSHEETS 5 and 18**.

Using the standard GCM PowerPoint presentation

Participants went through the standard GCM presentation on microbicides (available at www.global-campaign.org/download.htm) one slide at a time and received feedback. The pros and cons of using PowerPoint were discussed. Participants were encouraged to familiarise themselves with important themes to emphasise and avoid when presenting, which are set out in **FACTSHEET 12**.

How to engage the audience

Participants came up with some creative ideas about how to engage different audiences during presentations and workshops. These include games (e.g. bingo), role-plays, quizzes, sharing personal experiences, using the DVD, drawing pictures and true/false exercises.

Using advocacy tools

The Global Campaign for Microbicides offers a range of resources, both off-line and online, to help partners advocate for microbicides - see **CAMPAIGN TOOL 1**.

- Online **PRESENTATIONS**, which can be adapted to suit the audience, can be downloaded from the website.
- There are **FACTSHEETS** on many topics, including 'Youth and Microbicides', 'HIV Positive Women and Microbicides' and 'Research Pipeline'.
- There are also **CAMPAIGN TOOLS**, including the petition, an endorsement form and a sign-up sheet for GC News.
- Other **NON-PRINT MATERIALS** include the DVD 'In Women's Hands', buttons, t-shirts, palm cards and pens. The 'Giving Women Power over AIDS' photographic exhibit is also available for conferences and venues where a large audience is likely to be reached.

Some of the resources can be downloaded from www.global-campaign.org/download.htm. In order to access non-print materials, please email georgina.caswell@ahpn.org

Next steps for the UK African Working Group...

Some of the possibilities discussed were:

- Using GCM materials as a basis, create a new resource for African communities in the UK - such as a new version of the PowerPoint presentation - taking into consideration cultural issues.
- Draft a policy paper expressing why Africans living in the UK support the microbicides effort and outlining key policy and research questions that need to be answered.
- Aim to collect 2000 signatures on a petition by the time of the next microbicides conference in India 2008.

Evaluation

The majority of participants at this workshop reported that they felt the training had given them increased confidence and skills to be a microbicides advocate. Overall, they enjoyed the interactive nature of the session, but would have liked more time to discuss the issues in depth.



Participants at the train the trainer session

List of participants

Angelina Namiba - Positively Women
Arwa Meijer - Global Campaign for Microbicides
Badru Male - Brent & Harrow Community Health Projects
Beatrice Nabulya - RestorEgo Consultancy
Georgina Caswell - African HIV Policy Network
Gertrude Othieno - African Culture Promotions
Karen Tardieu - African Culture Promotions
Lydia Zigomo - Interact Worldwide
Rebekah Webb - Global Campaign for Microbicides
Rhon Reynolds - African HIV Policy Network
Sarah Pulle - Newham Primary Care Trust
Stella Oryang - Hammersmith & Fulham Primary Care Trusts
Tarsisio Nyatsanza - Waverley Care, Scotland
Toju Cline-Cole - Crescent Support Group
Yeukai Taruvinga - Zimbabwe Women's Network UK
Yvonne Marimo-Feare - Zimbabwe Women's Network UK