

Generation Hope Advocacy for Cervical Cancer - Zambia

(GHACC)

WACC Conference Presentation.

Introduction of Content:

GHACC seeks to fight cervical cancer & related illnesses using Global approaches to push back the pandemic. In complimenting Global efforts GHACC will continue to support policy initiatives, promotion of evidence based standards and guidelines and to work with partners to support performance and quality improvement in the area of training, pre – service education, human resource development and community involvement

Cervical cancer is one of the major silent killers which demands multi- sectoral responses. It needs positive Global approaches towards the fight. Amongst the target groups women especially in the developing countries are more vulnerable hence the organisation seeks to expand women’s education on the disease in central province with a view to reduce vulnerability, through networking with stakeholders in the implementation of Global prevention strategies.

Lack of adequate information on reproductive sexual health, most children due to lack of knowledge practice unprotected early sex, which resulted to an increased cases of teen pregnancies and early marriages. Even among school going children unwanted pregnancies are very common. Also existing is a serious problem of multi-sexual partners amongst the youths and uncontrolled births in mothers. Personal Hygiene is one other factor; it is evident that most people express ignorance on Male Circumcision where it is perceived as one option to cleanliness and also a reduction in the transmission of STIs

- To effectively reach out to communities by embarking on sensitisation and mobilise target groups to raise awareness so as to reduce vulnerability on cervical cancer and related illnesses

- In line with the situation analysis in Zambia, much attention has been focussed on HIV/AIDS leaving out cervical cancer which happens to be one of the silent killers among the sexually active groups. GHACC will closely collaborate with partners to defeat cervical cancer & related illnesses through continuous sustainable campaigns

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LOCALISATION:

Head office at Plot no. 8721, Highridge, Gwembe road, in Kabwe town, the Administrative Capital of Central Province of Zambia

MISSION:

Generation Hope Advocacy for Cervical Cancer (GHACC) is determined to raise awareness thereby complimenting the Global efforts in reducing the effects of Cervical Cancer & related illnesses.

Scope:

GHACC seeks to fight cervical cancer & related illnesses using Global approaches to push back the pandemic. In complimenting Global efforts GHACC will continue to support policy initiatives, promotion of evidence based standards and guidelines and to work with partners to support performance and quality improvement in the area of training, pre – service education, human resource development and community involvement

Furthermore GHACC shall continue to help others to help themselves in improving their lives & health through quality activities: mobilising of resources to address the effects of cervical cancer through care, counselling, and the provision of survival /assertive skills to the target group

Status:

Generation Hope Advocacy for Cervical Cancer (GHACC) is a local Non- governmental organisation. With its Head office Located at Plot no. 8721, Highridge, Gwembe road, in Kabwe town, the Administrative Capital of Central Province, maximising its operations within the six(6) districts of the Province with the aim to fighting cervical cancer and related illnesses that are affecting individuals. Its common interest is to advocate for a health Cancer free future. GHACC therefore intends to spread its activities to all the nine provinces of Zambia and in turn to the neighbouring countries, so as to effectively compliment to the Global fight against cervical cancer.

Teams:

The project teams will include:-

- Ten (10) organisation staff members,
- Sixty (60) volunteers expected to reaching out to twenty (20) communities in the six districts of central province, targeting six hundred (600) people.
- Networking partners: Local Health Centres, Civic leaders, Faith Based Organisations (F B Os), Community Based Organisations (C B Os) ,Home Based Care (HBC) and Local Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs

Resources:

Infrastructure:-

GHACC has its Head office Located at Plot no. 8721, Highridge, Gwembe road, in Kabwe town of Central Zambia, the Administrative Capital.

Human Resource:-

GHACC is currently working with ten (10) staff members with twelve (12) part-time staff who are implementing day to day organisation activities

Financing:-

- GHACC involves itself in a number of fund-raising ventures so as to raise some funds to sustain its day to day running of organisation activities.
- GHACC Sources for funds from the international donor communities, local NGOs and other

Well wishers.

Goals & Objectives

Goals

- To effectively reach out to communities by embarking on sensitisation and mobilise target groups to raise awareness so as to reduce vulnerability on cervical cancer and related illnesses
- In line with the situation analysis in Zambia, much attention has been focussed on HIV/AIDS leaving out cervical cancer which happens to be one of the silent killers among the sexually active groups. GHACC will closely collaborate with partners to defeat cervical cancer & related illnesses through continuous sustainable campaigns

Intentions:

To introduce Cervical cancer cost-effective prevention strategies in the organisation catchment's area: six districts of central province, with a view to expand Nationwide and Internationally.

Development objectives

- Improve the Health standards through provision of quality activities in the quest to tackle cervical cancer by targeting families and / or couples and closely network with the media, professionals and other partners.
- To mobilise resources to address the effects of cervical cancer through care, counselling, the provision of survival/assertive skills to the target group.
- Empower communities with relevant information on cervical cancer and other related illnesses
- Work as an Advocacy organization and help reduce cases of cervical cancer and other related illnesses in the communities by making health facilities accessible to the target groups
- To do the utmost (research) and build capacity for screening, treating cervical cancer and other sexually transmitted infections within the partner organisations in Africa, Asia and South America.
- To stimulate research in medical centres in the developing world especially on clinical behaviour, prevention and treatment of cervical cancer and gender related diseases such as breast cancer.
- To advocate for easily screening of cervical cancer in women and young girls.

Situation analysis:

In complimenting government and other stakeholders, Generation Hope seeks to bring together Institutions, Faith Based Organisations (F B O s), Non Governmental Organisation (N G O s) and Community based organisations (C B O s) in an effort to form Synergistic alliances in order to strengthen families and Community Capacities in dealing with the Problems of Cancer and related illnesses.

World Health organisation reported that Cancer of the cervix is the second common cancer among women worldwide, accounting for 288,000 deaths per year. It further stated that it was common cause of deaths among mid-aged women and was estimated that out of the 510,000 new cases which were reported per year, 80 percent occurred in developing countries, including Zambia. “Despite its public importance, there are no effective prevention programmes in most of our countries and hence the risk of diseases and deaths from cervical cancer remains uncontrolled.

Lack of adequate information on reproductive sexual health, most children due to lack of knowledge practice unprotected early sex, which resulted to an increased cases of teen pregnancies and early marriages. Even among school going children unwanted pregnancies are very common. Also existing is a serious problem of multi-sexual partners amongst the youths and uncontrolled births in mothers. Personal Hygiene is one other factor; it is evident that most people express ignorance on Male Circumcision where it is perceived as one option to cleanliness and also a reduction in the transmission of STIs.

Unsound traditional practices; amongst some Ethnic groups, Polygamy “where a Man marries more than one Wife”, and Sexual Cleansing are still being practiced widely. These high risk activities have exposed a number of our target groups to cervical cancer; STIs and related illnesses.



Figure 1: - Beneficiaries waiting to be sensitised by GHACC outreach staff.



Figure 2:- A cervical cancer patient affected by a number of other related illnesses in one of GHACC's catchments area. Next to her is her husband

Focussed targets: -

GHACC working with Sixty (60) volunteers in twenty (20) communities of the six(6) districts of Central province of Zambia, targets six hundred & fifty (650) people, within the sexually active groups. Most of them falling under the less privileged in both urban and rural areas

Programme of Action and distribution of information:

Campaign activities are expected to start in the first week of January 2010 and they will be on-going. With all the required resources available, campaigns shall be implemented in the Health centres and communities to the target groups.

Tools used:

Implementation of activities and dissemination of information will be done through:

- Capacity building workshops with relevant topics,
- Door to door campaigns,
- Airing of prevent ional programmes on local radio stations
- coming up with I.E.C materials and community outreaches.

Budget estimate:

****see appendix attached for budget.***

Measured Outreach & Qualitative Outcome:



Figure 3:- Children with mothers during one of the outreach activities of GHACC.

Lack of information on reproductive health has led to massive production of children and hence children are under extreme poverty.

Eight communities in Kabwe have been sensitized reaching out to about 200 people amongst the target group. GHACC will continue to network with partners in providing information to women and young girls on how best to curb cervical cancer and related illnesses.

Key learning on success constraints:

- Lack of adequate information on cervical cancer:- Cause, Transmission, prevention (mitigation Strategies)
- Lack of screening facilities in the developing countries.
- Myths and Misconception and
- Discrimination and stigmatisation

Lack of health (CANCER)-related information leads to delay in diagnosis and initiation of treatment among cervical symptomatic patients.

Health education messages should be simple and appropriate — the story method often carries some weight.

Skills/capacity building of non-medical or non-health professionals who volunteer and contribute effectively to cervical control programmes should be supported.

Due to the shortage of human resources available for health care programmes, rapidly expanding cancer control programmes face an acute shortage of skilled workers to man these initiatives effectively. More people must be recruited and given the necessary training.