SILENT NO MORE

Workshop on the current situation regarding the Church’s response to the problem of sexual violence in DRC

Event report

Hosted by The Archbishop of DRC
At Pallotin Training Centre, Goma
17th and 18th August 2011

In collaboration with UNAIDS and Tearfund

www.wewillspeakout.org
Summary
In 2010/11 Tearfund commissioned some research on the ‘Current situation regarding sexual violence – The role of the church and possible avenues for intervention’. The research was commissioned originally in Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

The ‘Silent no more’ report was launched on the back of this research, looking at both the challenges and potential for the worldwide church to address sexual violence. Commitments were made to work towards developing a supported church based response to sexual violence by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams; The Archbishop of the DRC, Henri Isingoma; The Archbishop of Burundi; Bernard Ntahoturi, The Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michél Sidibe; and members of the ‘We Will Speak Out’ Coalition.

Following the launch the report on the 21st March 2011 in partnership with UNAIDS and Tearfund, the research report was then taken to the national country level to be disseminated by church leaders of all denominations, NGOs and local government ministers.

Event Aim
The objective of the event was to share the findings of the research report with local and national church leaders, NGOs and government ministers. Engaging participants in the development of a practical action plan that can be implemented at a local and national level.

The event aimed to highlight the ongoing situation of sexual violence in countries across the world and to host working group discussions which looked at some practical steps to help the church to achieve its currently untapped potential.

Event format
The event was held on the 18th and 19th August from 8:00am-4:00pm. The schedule was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17th August 2011 Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.00-9.15 Welcome, Registration and Presentation of participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15 Morning Devotions</td>
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<td>9.30-10.30 Welcoming Speeches:</td>
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<td>The Archbishop Henri Isingoma</td>
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<td>Representative from Tearfund, Sadiki Byombuka</td>
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<td>Representative from UNAIDS, Prof. Chirume</td>
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<td>Delegate on behalf of the representative from the Provincial Governor</td>
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<td>10.30–11.00 Refreshment Break</td>
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11.00 – 13.00
Personal Reflection and Self-Discovery Tool
Sharing DRC research report – Dr Likofata, HEAL Africa
Sharing of survivor’s stories
Experiences of NGOs, local churches and local government
‘We Will Speak Out’ Coalition – Veena O’Sullivan
Comments and Questions

13.00– 14.30 Lunch Break

14.30 – 16.30
Gender & inequality – Mandy Marshall
Reflection and Questions

16.30– 17.00 Refreshment Break and Close of Day

18th AUGUST 2011 SCHEDULE

8.00 – 8.30 Reflection of the previous day and Morning devotions
8.30 – 9.00 Presentation from Consortium on HIV and Gender
9.00 – 10.15 Working Groups: Stage 1 – Vision

10.15– 10.45 Refreshment Break

10.45 – 12.30 Working Groups: Stage 2 – Identifying 5 challenges and how to overcome them. Including reflections and comments.

12.30– 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.30 Working Groups: Stage 3 – What resources do you currently have and 5 actions you can start with them. Including reflections and comments.

16.30 – 17.00 Commitments – Tearfund, UNAIDS and the Anglican Church

17.00 Official Closing
Participants

- 54 participants, including Archbishop Henri Isingoma and Madame Mughisa Isingoma, Partnerships and Organisational Development representatives from UNAIDS, 9 Anglican bishops and their wives, church leaders from the Methodist Church, local church leaders, representatives from the Inter-faith consortium, Mayor of a local region, NGOs from North Kivu and Kinshasa, Tearfund partners (including HEAL Africa medical and community staff), humanitarian organisations and media.
- Hendrew Lusey from WCC facilitated the meeting.

Key Outputs

- Commitments from key stakeholders to move forward with mapping and strategy development on a local and national level.
- Sharing of Tearfund research report by partners who participated in the community research, looking into how both survivors and community members wanted the church to respond to sexual violence.
- Acknowledgement by national and local church leaders of all denominations to speak out against sexual violence and share some of the hope they have for a church-based response.
- Networking opportunity for faith groups, international NGOs, mission organisations, etc.
- Facilitated space to discuss possible practical action plans for implementation at the country national and local level.
- Personal and Organisational commitments (The Anglican Church, UNAIDS and Tearfund) for building on the practical action plans and implementing these in the country.

Commitments

The Most Revd Henri Isingoma – The Archbishop of the Democratic Republic of Congo

"We will do something radical together. We will fight against SV, especially in our country where SV is a big issue. This workshop for us was a good time of sharing and encouraging one another. It is important to engage together and work together. We will speak out and not keep silent. Now we know that we can work together. Our thanks to UNAIDS who are committed and engaged in this partnership...

.....We need to live out our commitments.... Now we will do this and we will hope. Especially as we have decided to work together with HEAL Africa, Tearfund, UNAIDS, the government and all organisations represented here. We will continue to discuss with UNAIDS how we can strengthen our partnerships. Our final goal may be to restore unity and the holistic life of men and women.....

.....We need to go back to the bible to look at how men and women were made in God's image. We need to live women as God loved the church. We shed tears yesterday as it was painful. We now need to maintain our vision."
1. UNAIDS is willing to provide technical support to the Anglican Church in Congo and to the HIV Consortium in developing work plans and project documents that can be used to mobilise resources in the country. This support will be provided through sending UNAIDS advisors to support the Consortium and the Anglican Church.

2. UNAIDS will send an advisor for 2 days to finalise with the HIV Consortium the 2012 planning work they started in Goma last week. This would better be completed before November 2011.

3. UNAIDS is ready to support (technical support mainly) the Anglican Church in developing a plan including all the dioceses on the fight against sexual violence. The Anglican Church with support from Tearfund will submit a TOR and a calendar for this process to UNAIDS by end of September 2011.

4. Plans from the HIV Consortium and the Anglican Church can form part of a proposal that can be submitted to the Round 11 of the Global Fund in DRC (discussions on proposals for the Global Fund in DRC will take place in November 2011).

5. UNAIDS will consider supporting a workshop to train teams from Anglican dioceses on result-oriented planning and M&E to increase their capacity in the work on SV.

6. There will be a training in Kinshasa before November 2011 (dates not yet confirmed) on how to prepare proposals for the Global Fund. UNAIDS will ensure Anglican Church and the HIV Consortium are put on the list of participants for the training. It was asked if Tearfund can support the cost to get 1 participant from the Anglican Church and 1 from the HIV Consortium to attend the training in Kinshasa.

Sarah Reilly, Tearfund

1. Thanks to participants for attending the workshop and for their participation. Tearfund believes that the local church in a place of hope in communities.

2. Tearfund is committed to walking this journey with the church in DRC and to supporting the church as it takes forward to practical action plans and works with UNAIDS to develop a strategy.

3. Tearfund sees their role as a facilitator role. Helping to facilitate collaborations and partnerships with national organisations and agencies both in North Kivu and in Kinshasa.
4. The next steps are sharing the action points from the meeting with participants and potential stakeholders.

Next Steps

- To follow up with commitments made from key stakeholders, implementing workshops and strategy planning.
- To continue to build networks within country to enable better partnerships between church leaders, local and national organisations and agencies.
- To carry out baseline mapped in DRC, strategy workshops and capacity building of the local churches.

Personal Commitments from participants

“I will speak out from the pulpit, through the media, by teaching, for mobilising, renouncing, train and inform the congregation.”

“I commit myself that I will work so that there will be more men who will work actively to not commit SV.”

“I commit myself to train on issues of equality and gender within the family, for equal opportunities for all boys and girls.”

The research report, ‘A view of the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo’ by Tearfund highlights the desire of local communities for churches to speak out against sexual violence as-well as the need for physical, emotional and psychological care and support.

The report documents that whilst many churches have deepened the impact of sexual violence through silence, churches have the potential to respond as they are a key part of community life.

Links and Resources

Silent no more: The untapped potential of the church in addressing sexual violence
http://tilz.tearfund.org/Topics/HIV+and+AIDS/HIV+and+AIDS+resources.htm

We Will Speak Out Coalition www.wewillspeakout.org

Tearfund www.tearfund.org

HEAL Africa http://www.healafrica.org/