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Greetings from Victoria Falls! Welcome to this issue featuring the third Global Award for a *Bridges of Hope* based programme, some new developments and tailored programs, and a new story based activity *Umbrellas* for you to download and use.

It also includes information about an Open Workshop in Johannesburg from 17-21 May, and lists of already certified users.

Here are some photos from a workshop last week in Victoria Falls:



Above: The single bridge proves difficult to balance on, and some participants make use of both bridges (representing the ABC of prevention – Abstain/Be Faithful or use Condoms) to avoid the crocodile infested water (life's threats and dangers including HIV) and reach the island (personal goals and dreams).

Right: Sindiso Mabhena, a *Bridges of Hope* certified facilitator uses the Forum Theatre interactive drama technique to build participant's skills and strategies to persuade a spouse or sexual partner to go for an HIV test. The stick bridges have become his director's clapper board.



Standard Chartered Bank programme using *Bridges of Hope* to “Educate One Million” wins global award

A peer educator based programme using *Bridges of Hope* has again won a [Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Award](#).



Taiwan Standard Chartered Bank HIV Champions celebrating World AIDS Day in 2009

In 2007 Standard Chartered Bank pledged to the Clinton Global Initiative to extend their *Living with HIV* programme to educate one million people globally by March 2010. They contracted Peter Labouchere and BroadReach Healthcare to develop a tailored training package incorporating a variety of *Bridges of Hope* activities, and train 50 Wellness Champions from many different countries as Master Trainers.



After the Master Trainers programme in Kuala Lumpur (participants and facilitators in photo above) the programme was rolled out in over 60 countries, using the 1,100 Standard Chartered Bank HIV Champions to train the 72,000 people they employ globally, as well as members of their families and communities. They also worked through partnerships with 60 external organizations to extend its impact and coverage much further and reach the goal of educating one million.

This programme won the 2009 *Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* Community Investment Award. For a Global Business Coalition report on the programme and video clips of the Award: www.gbciimpact.org/itsc_node/10/0/award/1927



Iruka Okeke, a Standard Chartered Bank HIV Champion in Nigeria, using one of the interactive activities at a local school

Rosanna Fletcher (Rosanna.Fletcher@sc.com) provides the following update on the programme:

- Living with HIV's pledge to Clinton Global Initiative to educate 1 million on HIV and AIDS ends this month.
- We reached our 1 million target in pledges in time for World AIDS Day 2009, which was three months before our March 2010 target deadline. We are now focusing on educating those pledges.
- Our HIV e-learning is compulsory to all staff that join the bank, reaching a total of 72,000 people.
- Our www.vir.us website is aimed at educating 15-24 year olds, who are accountable for 40% of new HIV infections globally.

Editor's Note on www.vir.us

The website www.vir.us offers excellent “edutainment”. It includes wonderful animation and characterization of Mr HIV and his viral cronies in a series of short, entertaining video clips. It is brilliantly scripted so that in-built educational messages are conveyed clearly and accurately about many aspects of transmission, prevention and treatment. It is often also enjoyed by and relevant to people older than the 15-24 age bracket it was intended for!

New *Bridges of Hope* VIDEO on www.bridgesofhope.info

To convey effectively what *Bridges of Hope* offers and the impact it can have, the best possible way is by participatory demonstration – creating a personal multi-sensory experience of being involved in the activities. Words and photographs alone achieve little. To get one step nearer to creating a *Bridges of Hope* experience (without being there physically for a live demonstration), we have produced a short introductory video including a wide range of clips of people experiencing the activities, including:

- Standard Bank Champion Training Leaders (Master Trainers) and those they involved in community outreach sessions at a Johannesburg shopping mall.
- TEARFUND church partners on a programme in Nairobi to pre-test and train Master Trainers to use the *Guardians of our Children's Health* package.
- Participants on the AED Botswana / BONEPWA+ Prevention with Positives training programme
- Participants in Victoria Falls at a session facilitated by Sindiso Mabhena (certified Bridges of Hope Trainer)

Many thanks to all those who agreed to feature in the video clips, and to Provid Productions for the filming and editing work. Thanks also to the *Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* for permission to include clips from their presentations to Award winners using *Bridges of Hope*.

To see it, click the VIDEO link / this image on the Bridges of Hope home page www.bridgesofhope.info:



Standard Bank Champion Training Leader Vimbayo Vuyiswa demonstrating female condom use during what is very clearly a workplace programme.

Tailored programmes

During the last year the *Bridges of Hope* activities and techniques has been adapted and re-moulded to address the specific issues and contexts of various target groups, including support groups and church groups concerned about preventing parent-to-child transmission of HIV.

Prevention with Positives Bridges of Hope Programme

In a programme with AED and BONEPWA+ (Botswana Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS), we developed specifically for use with Support Groups an adapted and tailored *Prevention with Positives Bridges of Hope Users Guide* and package of training materials. 20 Master Trainers and over 100 peer educators from 50 Support Groups throughout Botswana have been supplied the training package and trained to use it effectively. AED Technical Advisor Lisa Jamu (lisa@aed.org.bw) reports:

The feedback we have had so far from this programme has been overwhelmingly positive. Support group members reported an increase in communication and open dialogue about living with the disease. There has also been an increase in psychosocial support provided through support groups. Furthermore, one counselor used the tool during an individual counseling session and reported that this saved the person from committing suicide because she made a goal and a plan using the bridges.

Guardians of our Children's Health Activities for Church Groups to involve Men and Women in Preventing Parent-to-Child Transmission of HIV

A TEARFUND training package of the above title (and acronym GooCH) has now been launched with an initial run of 2000 copies and is being distributed with training to church organizations throughout Africa.

The need for such a programme was clearly identified in 2006 when Tearfund brought together a group of seven African partners who were all implementing Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission programmes. The evident importance of involving men as well as women lead to a consensus on the term *Parent-to-Child* rather than *Mother-to-Child* transmission, and to contracting Peter Labouchere to work with Tearfund, its theological advisors and its local partners to develop the package and train Master Trainers to roll it out.

This involved adapting some *Bridges of Hope* activities, creating other new ones, and incorporating invaluable input from a spectrum of people including Professor Andrew Tomkins and Rev Canon Gideon Byamugisha, the founder of ANERELA (African Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV/AIDS).

Reconciling Faith and Condoms

Tearfund partners unanimously agreed that, as condoms can help to reduce the risk of parent-to-child transmission, they must feature as part of the GooCH training package. The sensitive issues around them must be addressed.

Canon Gideon Byamugisha (photo above) offered a valuable model which differentiates what is Lawful / Unlawful (in biblical terms) and what is Safe / Unsafe. For example, if a married discordant couple have sex with a condom to prevent HIV transmission to the uninfected person, this is both Lawful and Safe. If one of them uses a condom properly and consistently when having an affair with someone else, this is Unlawful but it is also Safe.

In other words, it is not the condom that dictates whether a particular act of sex is within or outside God's Law, but who you are doing it with.



Various options were explored for activities to open up discussion and communicate that:

1. The biblical ideal (and that of most faiths) is abstinence from sex before marriage and then mutual faithfulness for life. However, in reality, many people (including Christians at all levels of leadership) struggle at times to maintain this challenging ideal, and need to know about other options to stay safe and healthy.
2. Using condoms can in some circumstances be consistent with applying religious and moral principles and teachings around loving others and caring responsibly for your own health and the health of others.

Option 1: Use *Walking the Bridges* activity

One option is to use the *Walking the Bridges* activity (illustrated on page 1), in a way best described by Valentina Kyei-Sarkodie, Program Officer, Philip Foundation Family Life Education Project, Ghana:

"We identified a church in Suhum Kraboa Coaltar district and when we got there for a day seminar, the head pastor asked us not to talk about condoms in his chapel. So I introduced them to only the abstinence/faithfulness (white/blue) bridge and surprisingly the pastor together with some of his church members could not walk on it successfully.

So I threw in a question on how we could help those who could not walk on the bridge, since we never want them to fall in the water. They suggested the use of a condom, so I introduced them to the condom (yellow) bridge and explained to them the difficulty some people encounter walking on the abstinence and faithfulness bridge and the need for those people to use condoms.

So I had the pastor walk across on both bridges and he got himself convinced on issues of condom use and explained to the congregation that they should try and stick to the abstinence and faithfulness bridge, but use the condom bridge if they have to."

Option 2: Use a metaphorical story telling activity

Truth, naked and cold, had been turned away from every door in the village. Her nakedness frightened the people. When Parable found her she was huddled in a corner, shivering and hungry. Taking pity on her, Parable gathered her up and took her home. There, she dressed Truth in Story, warmed her and sent her out again. Clothed in Story, Truth knocked again at the villagers' doors and was readily welcomed into their houses. They invited her to eat at their table and to warm herself by their fire.

Jewish teaching story

Umbrellas

Reflecting on the above brief story (about using stories) lead to the creation of a story about a village chief with three sons, and their issues with using umbrellas. The "umbrella" is a metaphor for a condom, and in an indirect way the story explores attitudes and moral / religious issues that people face around using condoms. Notes and questions after each of the four sections of the story can be used to facilitate discussion on the issues raised.

Feedback from pre-testing by Tearfund partners with church groups and congregations in seven African countries was overwhelmingly positive.

Their feedback and also other contributions from Canon Gideon Byamugisha and Alice Fay lead to various refinements.

The story "Umbrellas" with full facilitation notes is available for free to download and use for non-profit purposes on www.bridgesofhope.info/umbrellas.pdf.

This version has been adapted for use by teachers / leaders / facilitators with groups of any faith.

Broadening the Scope of Bridges of Hope

As well as addressing many HIV specific issues, the *Bridges of Hope* package (including the latest 2010 edition) has evolved to cover broader areas of health wellness and self-esteem, linked to achieving life goals.

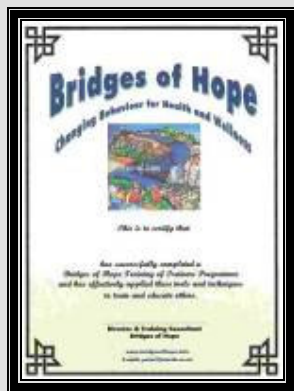
The *Walking the Bridges* activity (illustrated on the front page) can be applied very specifically to preventing infection with HIV and other STIs. It can also be applied very broadly to many different issues around physical, mental and financial wellness, personal development and goal achievement. For example, Percy Sethono (Certified Bridges of Hope Master Trainer at BCL Mine in Botswana) reports:

"I have recently adapted the Walking the Bridges concept to Financial Wellness. It works wonders and touched so many people. The feedback is so incredible.

The white bridge represents financial literacy and the blue represents financial goals. The yellow is support of all kinds (home, professional, etc). The crocodiles and hippos represent a range of things including debts, peer pressure, living beyond means, unclear personal budget, envy, credit cards, emergencies and paying debt with debt. The future island can be building a house, getting married, getting a farm, buying cattle, etc."

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the following who have all now completed the *Bridges of Hope* Certification Process. As well as receiving this presentation certificate in recognition of your achievement, your names appear on the *Bridges of Hope* website page: www.bridgesofhope.info/CertifiedBridgesofHopeUsers.htm



If you would like an electronic copy of the Bridges of Hope certification process, e-mail peter@bridgesofhope.info stating "Request BoH certification form"

Certified Bridges of Hope Users

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Lisa Jamu, Mercy Leshomo (AED)
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More Certified Bridges of Hope Users

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Partnership with Health & Wellness Education Centre

For delivering training programmes in South Africa in particular, *Bridges of Hope* now often works in partnership with the Johannesburg based *Health & Wellness Education Centre (HWEC)*. This offers great synergy, with HWEC bringing additional skills and experienced trainers in the areas of counselling, support, participatory training and personal awareness. A 5-day joint Training of Trainers programme incorporating all the *Bridges of Hope* materials is fully approved by the Health & Welfare SETA, so that it offers additional qualifications as well as skills levy rebate for South African organisations.

The next page introduces such a 5-day Open Workshop. For full details [click here](#).

Feedback please

Please continue to send in your feedback to peter@bridgesofhope.info, including:

- Feedback and comments and on any aspect of your experiences using *Bridges of Hope* training activities.
- Suggestions for changing / improving / adding to / deleting particular activities.
- Short reports on any programme making use of *Bridges of Hope* activities and techniques.
- Illustrative photos.
- Comments, letters or questions to the editor.

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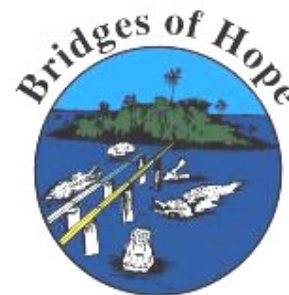
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Get the training materials and learn to use them on a 5-day workshop programme:

**Shangani Lodge, Edenvale, Gauteng, South Africa
17th – 21st May 2010
Cost: ZAR 7,500 + VAT (less 10% before 16th April)**

<p>Why attend this programme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve real impact when you facilitate <i>Bridges of Hope</i> based group training sessions. • To learn about the key behaviour change concepts and techniques underpinning the design of Bridges of Hope, and how to apply them. • To learn how to adapt <i>Bridges of Hope</i> activities and techniques to address wellness and HIV-related issues facing colleagues, families, friends and communities. • To enhance self-awareness and communication skills • To obtain the physical materials (e.g. complete <i>Bridges of Hope</i> kit) and plan how you will start implementing what you learn. • To get accreditation against 4 Health & Welfare SETA Unit Standards, as well as <i>Bridges of Hope</i> certification. 	<p>Who is it for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ Trainers, educators and facilitators ⌘ Company wellness and HIV focal persons ⌘ EAP practitioners ⌘ Peer educators / HIV Champions / Counsellors ⌘ Youth and Community Leaders ⌘ Leaders and educators in Faith Based Organisations ⌘ Anyone else interested in enhancing the impact of group training and education they provide to address wellness and HIV-related issues.
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Details and Booking Form

To get full details and a booking form, click www.bridgesofhope.info/BridgesofHopeOpenWorkshop-May2010.pdf or e-mail peter@bridgesofhope.info