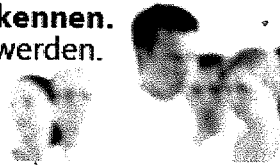




Farbe bekennen.
Mitglied werden.



Besser für die Menschen.



called for. We usually work in teams of two or three people. When doing home-based care, we do not merely attend those who are sick, but also educate other household members of how to take care of their ill family members. There is a great need of this kind of information, since people still fear this disease and sometimes even isolate their sick and will have nothing to do with them. This is not because they want to do this, but because they are simply afraid of the disease.”

C is for Control

Besides doing house calls, Salom and his volunteers also go out and give information to whole communities. “When we go and arrange some meetings or workshops, we always go and talk to the headmen and leaders first. Otherwise, people would not easily accept us, and there would be conflicts. But once we manage to convince the leaders and headmen about what we are doing, then they can address their people and tell them that it is okay to welcome us and to listen what we have to say.”

Sometimes, however, leaders may be opposed to them and their agenda. “This may happen for example, when we are trying to talk to people about abandoning such traditions as widow inheritance which contributes to the spread of HIV. In rural areas, there are still people who adhere to traditions like this, and even some headmen do it. So they may get angry and feel that we asking them to abandon their way of life and their culture. But we just want to point out that some features in our culture help to spread the virus.”

CBOs like Salom’s tend to be small, flexible, and well adjusted to local conditions. They are less susceptible to the political and moral agendas of larger NGOs and faith-based organisations (FBOs) are. “We give out condoms, in our kit we always have condoms, and we have condom distribution points,” says Salom. “We give demonstrations of how to use condoms, both femidoms and regular male condoms.”

In a time when the big donors to anti-

AIDS organisations in Namibia, demand that their partners follow the policy of A and B (Abstain from sex, Be faithful), small organisations like Salom’s can be more attuned to the beliefs and needs of those they serve. “Some men, even youth, are still opposed to condoms. To them we then say that the C in the ABC strategy stands for Control. If you are not for condoms, then control your behaviour.”

There is a problem of how to get these men more involved in anti-HIV/AIDS struggle, how to reach them

to increase their level of awareness. “These men often say that AIDS is a disease and it is all about care, and that in our culture it is women who provide care for the sick. So why should men get involved? But we say to these men: Listen guys, HIV/AIDS is a war. We are waging a war against this killer. And in war, men belong to the frontline, not women. Everybody has to take part in this struggle. Everybody has to take responsibility.”

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