PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1 This project was officially launched on May 30th 1997 as a response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Nigeria with a special focus on “youth and family”. The ultimate goal of the project is an AIDS – free generation. The project has so far trained over 4,576 volunteers and church workers and has reached over 4,197,186 beneficiaries out of the 7,189,000 targeted to be reached within 6 years (April 1997 – March 2003). The main strategy of the project is “catching a few to reach many” using training of trainers workshops to get down to the grassroots with integrated prevention education. Through monitoring and evaluation the process is being closely checked at all levels. Partnership with 3 other organisations and intensive networking with related organisations has greatly helped our work over the years.

BACKGROUND/ HISTORY

2.1 In 1954, the first student Christian Leadership Course (CLC) was held in Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria. In 1957, a second CLC was held at Gindiri, Plateau State, Nigeria. During the 1956 course, at the request of several students, the Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), an affiliate of Scripture Union (SU) Africa Region was formed and has since been working among youth. The area of coverage is the former Northern Region of Nigeria now comprising of 19 states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja with over 4,000 school groups. Fellowship of Christian Students has been registered with the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs at the Corporate Affairs Commission since May 5, 1976.

2.2 The FCS National Council formally approved the adoption of The Aid for AIDS and Design for the Family Project in 1996. On May 30, 1997 the project was formally inaugurated as our active response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic because the disease affects many of the youth with whom we work. Nigeria ranks second in Africa and fourth among the worst affected nations of the world with the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. In Nigeria, AIDS was first recognised in 1986 and the National Surveillance Survey of 2001 showed that 5.8% of Nigerian adults are living with HIV/AIDS.

2.3 The 5-year FCS Aid for AIDS and Design for the Family Project has had a large impact on the African community such that government, non-governmental organisations and other faith-based organisations within and outside Nigeria now come to FCS for training and learning visits.

THE PROJECT

3.1 Goals

The project addresses all age groups, particularly targeting the age range 5-19, known as the “Window of Hope” for an AIDS-free generation. It harbours no religious or ethnic biases and is holistic in approach. It looks beyond today, viewing far into our future and that of our children, culminating in an AIDS- and
Drug-free Generation.

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of Aid for AIDS and Design for the Family Project include:

a) Contributing to effective AIDS prevention through education for life among people in Nigeria;
b) Motivating and causing an effective change in sexual and drug-seeking behaviours, especially among young people;
c) Influencing the moral character of future generations through education;
d) Preventing AIDS by promoting wholesome relationships and strong family life in Nigeria;
e) Educating the youth on the danger of drugs and drug abuse, including the linkages to HIV infection;
f) Providing information on AIDS, sexually-transmitted diseases and drugs, including other health-related matters that concern the youth and the family.

3.3 Who does the work?

The project has a comprehensive implementation structure comprised of a National Project Committee, State Coordinators, Field Staff, Zonal Coordinators and voluntary workers.

3.4 Main activities

The main activities include training of trainers workshops, awareness campaign outreaches, materials development and distribution, counselling services, consulting services, advocacy, library services, life skills development, exhibition and paper presentations at national and international conferences, monitoring and evaluation.

3.5 Materials utilised

The Aid for AIDS project has so far developed and published about 24 different types of outreach materials and has distributed at least 64,150 copies of the various materials.

3.6 Expected outcomes

a) Change in behaviours and attitudes of targeted beneficiaries;
b) Self-protection and care for people living with HIV/AIDS;
c) Information, experience and ideas shared with churches and other organisations;
d) Implementation of planned activities;
e) Timely and detailed narrative activity and financial reports produced for partners (donors) and stakeholders;
f) Regular review, monitoring and evaluation of activities against both short-term and long-term plans.

3.7 Results

Summary From May 1997 to December 2001, 4,576 persons, including church leaders, NGOs, members of governmental bodies, pastors, FCS volunteers and student leaders have been trained and 4,197,186 people had been reached through awareness campaign in 1,509 schools and 683 churches.
4 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

4.1 Our project facilitated various sessions of Project Management during the Vision 2010 Conference of Aid for AIDS organised in Harare – Zimbabwe for over 23 African countries in May 2001. In November 2001, we also facilitated a “training of trainers” workshop for volunteers in Sierra Leone.

4.2 Coordinators of various organisations working on HIV/AIDS and related issues have come from Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, United States of America, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on study visits to our project.

4.3 Our project has been consistently represented at national and international conferences and workshops, mounting exhibition booths, paper presentations, and other activities.

5 LESSONS LEARNED

1) When people are adequately informed they are also equipped to take responsibilities for their actions.

2) When learning is effective it produces change in attitude, values and beliefs. That means that behaviour change is possible.

3) Most donors and project supporters whether local or international, identify with success and are supportive of initiatives that have good prospects for positive outcomes.

4) Commitment of committee and project managers, who are ready to lay down their lives for the project means a lot, in helping projects to forge ahead.

5) Existing structures can either be stepping stones for success or stumbling blocks for projects depending on how they are managed.

6) Political will and Christian commitment are key motivating factors for Aid for AIDS and Design for the Family Project implementation.

7) The active involvement of policy makers and other key stakeholders and beneficiaries gives credibility at all levels.

8) Opposition in any form should be used as an opportunity to pray and seek for more alternative strategies for implementation at all levels.

9) Networking plays a vital role in effective project and program implementation.

Funding and other resources

1) Tearfund UK,
2) UNICEF-Zone D, Bauchi, Nigeria
3) Churches and individuals (within and outside Nigeria).

Contact information

Sam O. Udanyi, National Director
Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), National Secretariat,
Yakubu Gowon Way, Opposite Building Materials Market,
P. O. Box 1413, Jos, Plateau State – Nigeria 930001

Telephone: + 234-73-454314 (Office) +234-73-611701(Residence)
E-mail: fcshqnig@aol.com (Office) SRUdanyi@aol.com (Residence)