



Channels of Hope Facilitator Training

Impact Report 2016

This is the results of a feedback survey sent to 355 of AIDSLink International's trained Channels of Hope Facilitators.

In 2016 we trained **86** Channels of Hope (COH) Facilitators (62% Russian and 38% English). The trainings were held in South Africa, Russia, Kazakstan, and Malaysia.

We had a disappointingly low response rate to the survey – 10%, however this is enough for a representative sample and those who responded represented a good cross section.

Seventy-eight percent of respondents had taken part in activities directly influenced by the training. Of these activities **74%** were initiated, planned or led by the facilitator.

The numbers have been calculated to represent all facilitators (i.e. the 10% is counted as a reliable indicator and the number extrapolated to represent all trained facilitators).

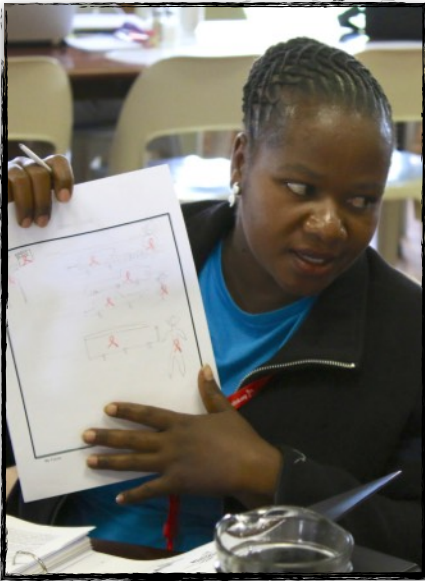
How many were reached?

Respondents were asked two questions. *How many people actively participated in an event?*, and *How many more people do you think were reached or influenced?*

In 2016, **2,939** people actively took part in events run by those who responded to the survey. If we extrapolate that figure to all facilitators then **28,802** actively took part in events in 2016 for which the COH Facilitator Training was the impetus.

The second number is harder to calculate. But a representative and somewhat conservative figure is that **20,917 people** were reached or influenced by the respondents. Again, when we extrapolate that figure to include all trained facilitators we can expect that about **204,986** people were impacted in 2016.





89% said that COH changed their understanding of stigma.

86% said it provided enough information for them to identify stigma.

91% said it changed the way in which they respond to stigma.

However, absent from this figure is one participant's response of reaching **2,000,000** by having a newspaper article published. If we included that it would skew the figures, but we do want to recognise the vast number of people who were reached by this article.

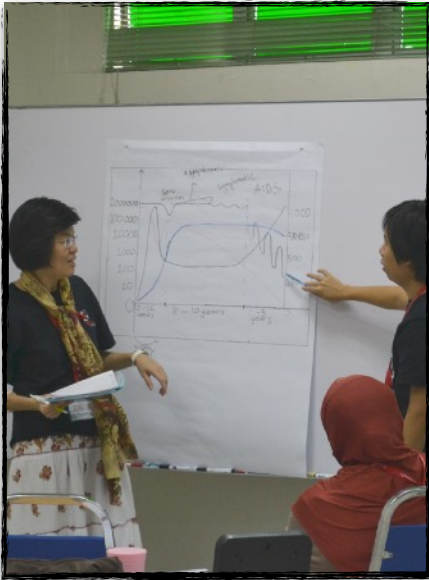
37% of the activities were workshop related. It is significant that 8% reported holding meetings with faith leaders, which demonstrates significant influence. 36% organised awareness events (e.g. for World AIDS Day).

There were a large variety of interactions, from sessions for a group of hearing impaired children in Russia, to meetings in prisons (in many countries), sessions for medical personnel in hospitals, to people proactively sharing on social media. Many of the interactions led to people being tested for HIV.

How would you describe the **ongoing impact** of the COH programme on your life and ministry?¹

- “ Being a voice... when talking to people who are ignorant or stigmatising.
- “ It has changed my outlook on living with HIV, motivating and equipping me in speaking about sexuality/sex-related ethics and morality and STDs.
- “ I work with an (HIV) support group. It is challenging to work with different personalities. The persons in the organisation are infected and affected. The training and my Christian upbringing is really helping me.
- “ (COH is) always in the forefront of my mind and I seek to engage fellow facilitators in integrating the information into their settings and capitalising on opportunities such as World AIDS Day.
- “ Doing seminars and doing research.
- “ This allows me the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of women, men and children. I feel truly privileged by God to be a part of the solution to this epidemic.
- “ I have a big heart to love and care for my beloved brothers and sisters who are affected by HIV, and I have been supporting and helping them. It has been one of the tools to work with local communities both in spiritual and social areas.
- “ I am visiting an HIV care-center for children regularly.

¹ Some responses have been edited for grammar and clarity.



- “ While counseling I often recollect the verses from the Bible about how to be compassionate and not judgemental.
- “ The facilitator training was especially helpful in my facilitation of (anti-human trafficking) programmes. It has helped me to be more confident as I facilitate groups of varying backgrounds, ages, genders, etc.
- “ I am part of “Hope on the Streets for Children” ministry, and able to include some of the information I learned at the workshop in our classes.
- “ Experiencing ABBA GOD among HIS people who are living with brokenness and yet can have a victorious life - seeing lives transformed in HIS grace & mercy.



- “ We work with people who are seeking healing through a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ from sexual and relational brokenness. I have been able to educate, mentor, and walk with men who live with HIV. Most of them have recently found out of their status, while others have neglected treatment due to lack of information and resources.
- “ I am able to love and care for people without any discrimination. I am able to do it because I remember the compassion Jesus had for the downtrodden.
- “ I am more focused in the work that I am involved with, especially in terms of providing care and support.... My confidence has been boosted. I am also more comfortable in working with others, and willing to share my expertise more easily.

- “ The ongoing impact is still my attitude towards people.



What was the **biggest highlight** you had as a Channel of Hope in the past year?

- “ Being able to set up a Halfway Home for people living with HIV and HepC. We did it with minimum financial support from outside supporters, trusting God whole heartedly.
- “ The biggest highlight as a Channel of Hope in the last year was doing training for Theology Students.
- “ Seeing the children at the care-center give me a hug as their big brother. That is one of the biggest things touching my heart, to be a big brother to them.



These reports come from a variety of countries, some with more HIV awareness than others!

Amongst the countries are:

Trinidad and Tobago
South Africa
Kazakhstan
Singapore
DR Congo
Myanmar
Barbados
Germany
Malaysia
Moldova
Jamaica
Uganda
Zambia
Belarus
Russia
Nepal
India
USA
UK

“ One of my highlights was to conduct a one-day prayer and awareness program with local church leaders and community leaders on the Global Aids day.

“ Interacting with HIV positive persons.

“ My biggest highlight was having my articles published by one of Jamaica's top newspapers (which covers the entire country). Organising (with fellow COHers) a conference for faith based leaders (Christians, Muslims, Hindus) for World AIDS Day. Title: *Human Trafficking and its Correlation to Abuse and HIV and AIDS*.

“ A highlight was working as one of the workshop facilitators, along with Natalie O'Brady on the ship Logos Hope.

“ One young man was living with HIV but didn't know much about the consequences, now he is on ART!

“ We received funding to carry out our work in trying to reach key populations and encourage them to be tested for HIV.

“ Highlight was to help a few guys living with HIV to find hope for tomorrow

“ A meeting was requested by the pastor who had heard of my involvement in HIV and AIDS through my initial meeting with the Chairman of the Ministers' Fraternal. He wanted to know more and to have me share with his youth ministry.

Channels of Hope Workshops

Comments on workshops/activities conducted by our facilitators.

“ The young people, and the teachers were very engaged and asked a number of questions. It seemed like they were genuinely amazed by what we were sharing with them and many expressed how misinformed they had been on the whole subject.

“ Awareness of Human Trafficking and the link to the spread of HIV, including the silence and not seeking treatment.

“ Based on emails received (after writing newspaper article), persons were encouraged and have made decisions to get tested.

“ People who took part in a micro-session were very impacted by the emotions they felt and shared that they felt moved to think and pray more for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

“ It was a great breakthrough, most of the faith leaders realised they need to allow HIV affected brothers and sisters to worship together in the fellowship.

“ Many people talked about their HIV status, some went for an HIV test. Most of all stigma was reduced

“ The students were able to see the generalisations that they were making about people who have HIV or AIDS.

“ I think that the students were made aware of the hurt and pain of losing a loved one who had died because of AIDS related causes.

“ I am thankful that (as a nursing sister) COH has given me a strong foundation to influence the attitude of Doctors, Nurses, Social Workers and Pharmacists to be accepting and have compassion towards patients and their significant others.

“ Medical staff got:
 -a better understanding of confidentiality management
 -reduced fear of infection during procedures
 -increased acceptance and compassion towards patients with HIV

“ Two participants who are living with HIV experienced great acceptance, love, courage to share.

“ Three guys decided to get tested for HIV. Two of them tested positive. Two others decided to resume treatment after understanding the importance.

“ The Pastor encouraged congregation members to go for an HIV test. He even offered to pay!

“ The attitude towards HIV positive individuals changed. One person came forward and promised to take care of a patient who is her neighbour.

“ Upon completion of each class there are more students that willingly enrolling in our volunteer programme.

“ The clients are empowered and do not consider themselves as powerless and stigmatise themselves anymore. They are now able to keep a job. Relationships with family members improved and their families increased their understanding and have a better response to the whole issue.

Submitted by Rosemary Hack



Training team in Malaysia comprising trainers from AIDSLink, CABSA and World Vision (all dressed for Thursday's in Black)