



Glocon

...the Global and Local Community Conversation

WEEK 10
Mbabane, Swaziland
29th April-May 3rd 2012

Foreword: appreciating, encouraging and sharing local community story.

Swaziland is the ninth country for Glocon. This is a synthesis of 2 local community stories, adding to 21 other local community stories so far. Each community location has a synthesis so that we can accumulate insight on local and global patterns of community response and transfer, and organisational adaptation. The ‘themes and sub themes that matter to us’ are the core of the Glocon learning. We offer sincere thanks to local and country hosts, and to the local communities, which show us the future.

The **background to Glocon** is described in the concept note, on ‘Affirm’ website.



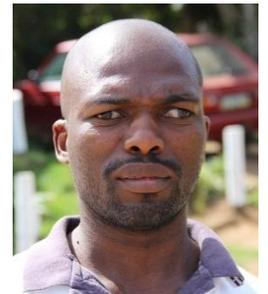
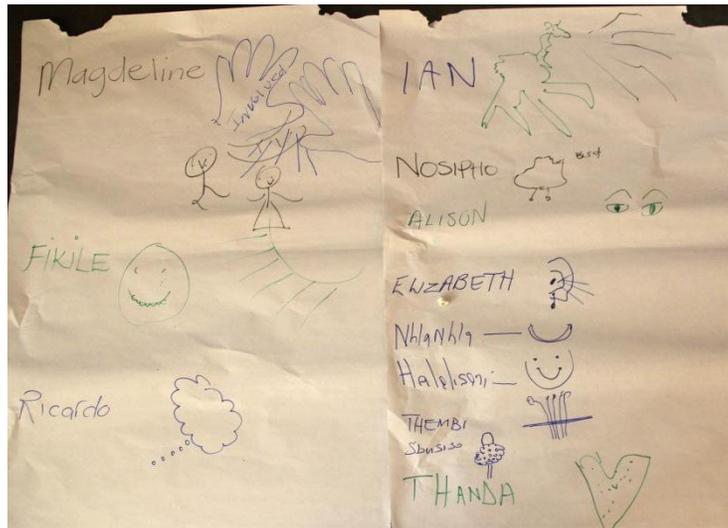
See www.affirmfacilitators.org;
www.facebook.com/glocon.affirm;
www.facebook.com/Glocon Participants

From beginning March, the first Glocon Update is available through the www.affirmfacilitators.org website, the facebook page, and facebook group. Email robin@radermail.net to receive the Glocon Update directly to your email address

Key Sections

- *Glocon visit team members*
- *Glossary*
- *Process*
- *Where are we now? Future?*
- *Transfer*
- *Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us*

Glocon team members



Glossary

TSA-The Salvation Army
GP-Glocon Participants

ART-antiretroviral treatment (for HIV)
SALT-Support and Learning Team
HBC-Home Based Care

Background and process

Day 1 –Sunday 21st April, 2012 -greetings and process discussion

Greetings with hosts Magdeline Phore and Elizabeth Garland. Clarification of purpose, to re-visit local communities near Mbabane.

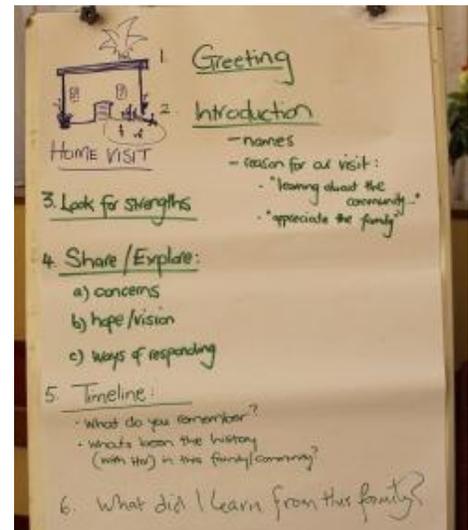
In 1991 a group of commercial sex workers could 'self include' by discussing regularly around the 'holiness table' of the local Salvation Army church. They met to design and make a remembrance quilt with names of friends who had died from AIDS.



The purpose of the Glocon visit 21 years later was to thank the community, to encourage, and to share progress in response to HIV and other concerns.

The Glocon team met to debrief after each local community visit, to track the 25 year community journey with HIV.

Day 2: Monday 30th April 2012-Home visits and community conversation: Msunduzi community



After reflecting on the strengths we can expect to find in communities, the team went to the local community about a 10 minute walk from the clinic and church. Home visits in the morning were followed by a neighbourhood team meeting in Ezra's house.



There are issues that cause us to be worried. We are listening attentively, coming to a common ground to see how we can deal with it. If people don't talk, there's a problem. Talk is the key word. -Nhlanhla

We must take care for ourselves. We had not seen young people with HIV in the past, now we have seen it even in our friends. Alcohol and drugs used to be problems of the old people, now we see in 12-15 year olds. We are worried; we are changing. –Junior, with young people in Msunduzi



See the young people standing up for themselves and taking responsibility. If you shift the blame, you give up the power to change. -Thanda



If men could speak out pain, we would be able to deal with issues. – Sibusiso

My last born was born in 1971. I have lost five children, left with three. If people could adhere, we would not lose so many. At least my grandchildren come home and still find me. –old woman in pub



In the early days it was around, but we didn't know HIV by name till 1990. There is still pain. Everyone is sick. People are dying. –old man in pub



People are in community, in homes, stuck in grief for decades, because it has gone unheard. Meanwhile we can be stuck in programmes, not listening. –Ricardo

We think getting people to talk together is very difficult, but I was amazed at how easy the conversation was. –Thanda

We have heard, and now will be able to tell our friends – we will share because the discussion today has been an eye-opener. - Junior

You want us to be more alert to keep thinking of ways to avoid this thing. –Fortunate



Community conversation can be a challenge. Community can be afraid because of history – there will be tension, but truth will soften people, as we saw in the home today. –Ian

We went from home visits to a conversation between neighbours – it happened quickly, and at the end we sat still and saw the neighbours have their own conversation. –Ricardo



To the young people: In the community discussion today you have stood up together, and you can continue to do that. It may cause confusion, even discomfort, but keep going for the break-through. -Magdalene

Day 3: Tuesday 1st May 2012-Home Visits and Community Time line: Sidvashini

"...The power of love carries us into the unfamiliar. We don't know how far that love is distributed in the world until we get there. So, why not dive in? Why not go to discover it?" Ian

The team visited homes in Sidvashini together with local carers. Then they met with community members at the home of Mama Milembu, and traced a timeline of response in the area.



I have raised many children, and I am still raising children. –neighborhood grandmother



Through families and communities, even though struggling, children are shaped and have a future. Ian

It is fear that put us in this situation. Some [in our community] didn't want to test. Others didn't want to come out of their homes. We still need more education, especially our young people; and even amongst the old people – especially our men – who we encourage to test, but it's difficult for them to go. –Mama Milembu



There has not been a lot of change, but at least now some people are able to come out and talk about HIV. –Mama Netta

There is still a lot of anger. Some few people look for revenge, for a way to spread the virus. But many others are not like that; many are trying. -Soneliswe

Women are understanding now that it is not good for children when different men are in and out of the house. They are changing for the sake of the children. -Norinhlanhla

Looking ahead to the future, how can Sidvashini be by 2020?

We are doing well preventing babies from being infected with HIV. -Testa

My dream is to see that people use their medication and condoms in the right way so that people won't become infected or re-infected anymore. –Mama Netta



I'd like to see that men and women teach each other in their relationships. We should trust each other, and both be faithful to each other. Both people need to go for [HIV] testing. -Busisiwe

I want us to encourage people to adhere to their treatment so that, by 2022, we see people who are healthy in Sidvashini. -Soneliswe

Working on these HIV issues will help to bring people together in our community. The leaders need to take these things seriously; then, they will be able to call the community together. – Mama Milembu

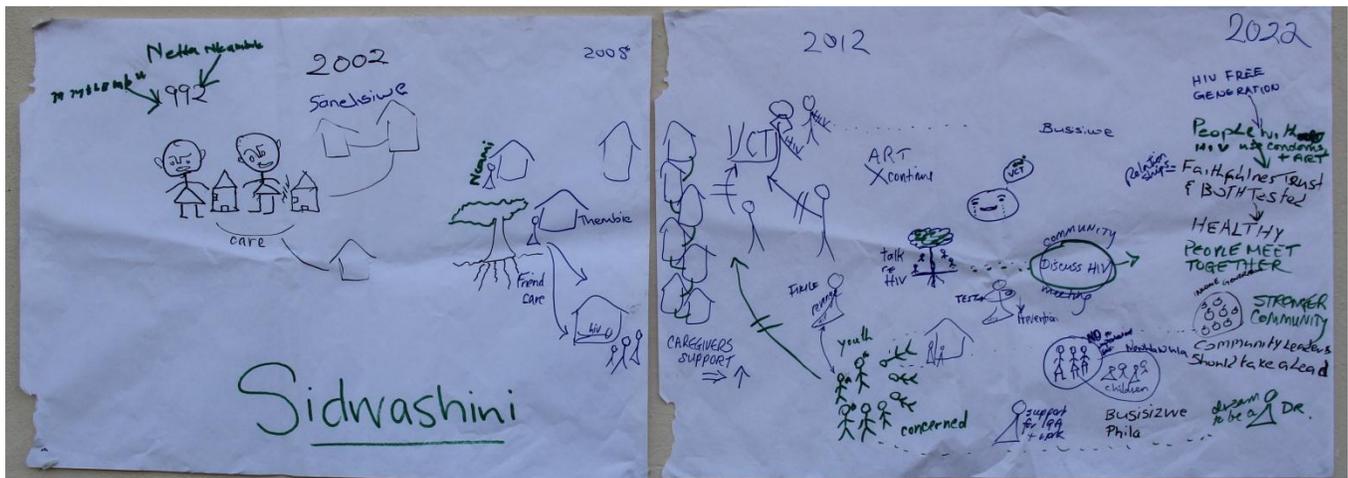




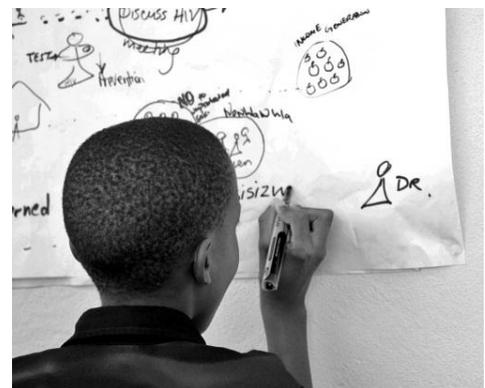
The youth need a space in the community meeting –even 10 minutes? -Firile

We have many concerns we would like to discuss, about the way we live together in this community. -Thembie

Timeline –Sidwashini community



The timeline is based on home visit conversations and comments from the group. Stories were shared after the home visits and details added by the group of about 25 people.



Team Reflections: What did this experience mean for us?



What I see here is that these people have the potential to make a difference..... we can do it together- Nhlanhla

“The thing I’m personally taking with me is that the way forward is in the people of this community. They have a possible solution to this problem. It is possible for them.”
Fikile



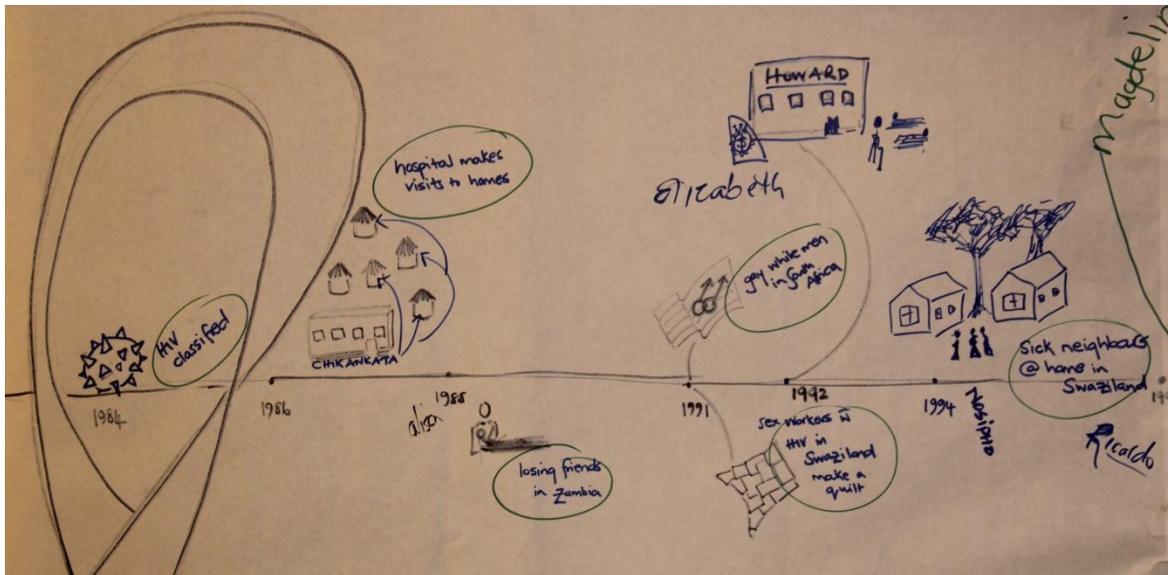
You have a great strength of care. It’s wonderful that people have been caring for more than twenty years. You have kept going and brought young people into the practice of care. People don’t tend to say thank-you enough, especially for the work given by women. It is special. I hope you realize just how much. -Ricardo

At the right time, this visit came as the foundation for our shift from provision to participation. –Nhlanhla

Glocon team timeline: South Africa, Swaziland, other places –personal and faith community



Team members added their personal 'entry' into the experience of HIV to a timeline that shows we are also part of this long journey and struggle that communities have been enduring over the past 25 years.





Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us

Note that each visit will add to the analysis of some or one main theme

Indicators of movement(s)

- Local community initiated action, self -assessment, and transfer
- Invitations back home
- Community to community transfer
- Adaptable organizational strategies
- Spiritual and faith motivated initiative
- Children, youth, family, adults, elderly: Inter-generational accompaniment

Care to change

- Ownership
- Home, suffering, hope, neighbourhood
- Caring presence which motivates expanding change

Transfer

- Community to community
- Global SALT
- Leadership acknowledgment

Faith foundations

- Caring by being with
 - God present in situation in grace
 - Responding to loss, pain –pathways to trust, faith, hope
- Week 11-Mbabane, Swaziland:

Extreme illness and death fatigue reflects accumulating personal, community, and national loss over 25 years, that imperceptibly provokes accommodation of words without action; neutralizes passion for life in its full potential; and accepts that service provision is the best that can be done.

Entering the relationships of home and neighbourhood with belief that people there can and will respond, if accompanied, does the opposite –it releases possibility and action for change, grounded in authentic love for family, and an urge to connect with neighbours and other communities. Hope surfaces-faith in the presence of God is affirmed, almost always- and the pain of loss is softened. Healing happens.

Facilitation team

- Organisational transition
- Discovering shared concerns with partners (common ground)
- Community as lifestyle
- Mentoring by participating

Learning from local experience (SALT)

- Humility-disposition and character
- Connecting local community and organizations
- Facilitating movements
- Based on strengths

