

Glocon

...the Global and Local Community Conversation

WEEK 13
Estonia

June 9-15th, 2012

Foreword: appreciating, encouraging and sharing local community story

Estonia is the 12th country for Glocon. This is a synthesis of several local community stories, and personal initiatives, adding to 28 other local community stories so far. Each shows responsiveness of people and organisations. 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 was 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

Clockwise from below: Evelin Aavik, Mihail Baglar, Jan Howlin, Liudmila Baglar, Alison C., Svetlana Ledovskaya, Ian Campbell



Glossary

SALT-Support and Learning Team

TSA-The Salvation Army

ART – treatment for HIV

Background

Since 2003 the Salvation Army in Estonia has been responding to issues of drug and alcohol addiction, HIV and family impact, together with partners including UNAIDS and the national AIDS authorities. The entry point was education in schools, and accompaniment of people living with HIV, with their families, in homes, networks, support groups, and health facilities. In the past seven years (since 2005, when TSA Estonia hosted a Europe regional consultation), HIV links have lessened, although the issues of addiction and HIV in the city have intensified. Salvation Army friends in Narva continue to engage with people who face a diverse range of critical challenges with family and friends.





The purpose of the Glocon visit was to thank the local communities, to encourage, and to share progress in response to family wellness and other concerns.

We were hosted by Mihail and Liudmila Baglar

Process

Day 1 –Sunday 10th June, 2012 –greetings, process discussion, travel from Tallin to Narva, worship, community conversation.



The Glocon team met with Evelin Aavik and Svetlana Ledovskaya, from The Salvation Army regional office of Estonia. During the journey to Narva by car, the HIV history in Estonia was discussed, with links to drug use and family impact. The people of Narva (population 60,000) are ethnic Russians, mostly, and many do not have any citizenship status.

A family HIV story was shared by Lyuba. One of her daughters is known to Alison and Ian from previous visits to Narva. A circle of shared confidentiality was made wider as she included several 'newcomers' in the conversation.





I had crises in the family. Then I began to drink too much. I thought everyone hated me, because I hated myself. Then I came to God. I became friends with a young man who was living with HIV. I used to visit him and he came many times to my home as well. He died a year ago. I miss him, but thank God he was in my life. (Lyubov)



Day 2- Reflection on strategy and approach to community conversation; Home visit



Question from local team member: How to motivate those who do not want anything to do with people who have HIV?

Responses from group:
–Begin with ourselves; believe in the strengths people have; believe that God is already there, in the circles of relationship; learn how to have the conversations; and we find people together respond.



(Narva is an Estonian border city with Russia across the river)



I lost two sons. (Babushka)

I've had HIV for ten years now, but it took time before I could say it out loud. (Sveta)



Home visit to a family

with challenges, and striving to raise the grandchildren into a good future.



We saw strengths of welcome and keeping together. We saw creativity.
-Luda



With marriage over 30 years, things smooth over so you don't find too many threads to pull. -Gala



There were 15,000 people employed at the fabric mill. All closed now. Where are the jobs? -Eugenii

My hope? That my daughter will do well at school-that she will learn 4 languages-that she will move to Europe-that she will find the right man.
-Natasha



The debrief...



I had the privilege to see what the (SALT) home visit looks like in a family that has problems. When we have this type of visit, usually the visitors try to teach the people how to live, like 'you shouldn't take drugs' or 'don't drink so much'.

I saw a different way, that we can come and share with the family. I looked at Natasha yesterday, did not know she took drugs until I heard she is the mother of Leira, because I know Leira, and that Leira's mother is addicted. No matter what, there was this hospitality and communication, showing her history of awards for sport, and handicrafts, and how she is accepted at home.



I did not see her as an addiction problem. I saw her as a person. It wasn't the same feeling as before, and when I left I stayed in the house until the very last moment so I could shake her hand. No matter her problems, I have a real respect for her. -Sveta



People can feel that they are failing all the time. They can feel that we see them that way. They think they cannot love themselves, and so God cannot love them. When we see them as people they also can respect themselves, find their way and feel friendship with God. -Ian

This is called integrated mission because we integrate ourselves into the life of people, and the grace of God. -Ian

Day 3-Tuesday June 12th, 2012-community conversations: food program and home visit



I feel we must do something about HIV in Narva. -Eugenii (left)



I cared for three elderly people and fell in love with them. -Anya

We enjoy coming here, and the food parcels and clothing help our families. It is very difficult to find a job, especially those of us who have disabilities. -Nadja with her daughter



(distribution of food and clothing)



I have been working with visually impaired people in Narva since I left 8th grade.(coordinator of the association for visually impaired in partnership with TSA)

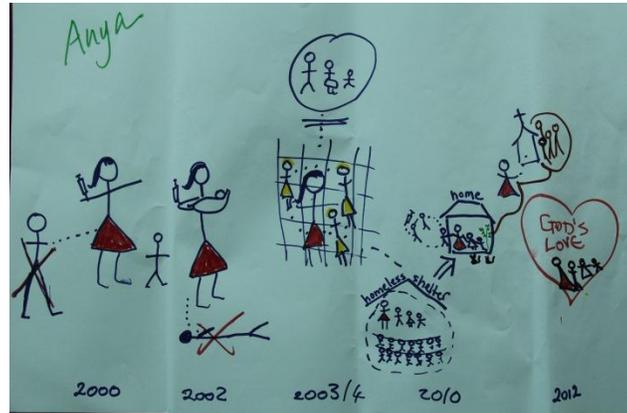
Home visit to Anya and family

I have a big dream, that I will be able to help other people. When I was in prison I formed a group with some other women, we used to meet to encourage each other. I came out of prison and got my children back. They are ok now, but I am afraid that my oldest son has the wrong friends, already in trouble with police. -Anya



Anya is a careful housekeeper; she saves for special times for her three children. No time to waste in catching up lost years. –Jan

Anya has a gift for communicating.
-Evelin



A Narva timeline -3 stories of care, community, change, and hope



People don't always know they have a choice - circumstances block them. Sometimes our view of ourselves needs healing, so we can make healthy choices. -Ian



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

Note that each visit will add to the analysis of a theme or themes

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
- Health and social and community change

Care to change

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

Week 12:Narva, Estonia

We shared our reason for returning to Narva with a small worship group on the Sunday morning. Acknowledgement was made that HIV had been encountered in 2004, affecting and engaging the congregation. Some families of the group had experienced and accompanied their friends with HIV. Immediately a woman stood and shared her critical transformative experience of learning that her daughter had HIV and that she had befriended a young man with HIV who died recently.

There was more to the story...but the point is that she chose to share publicly what most in the group already knew. She felt safe and truthful and connected to our previous visits. She trusted the group and the group respected her word. We all listened intently and felt able to ask her for a personal conversation, which happened straight after the worship group had finished. Personal confidential details were then shared .The two contexts –issue centered group reflection, and person centered ‘intimacy’ -reinforced and supported the emergence of normalization.

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

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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