



Anticipated Issues when Approaching HIV/AIDS: Analysis of DR Congo

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For a while now, AIDS has become no longer an issue for just the infected isolated individuals. It has become slowly an issue for families and the general public. It's stemmed from this epidemic that institutions that fight against this disease have opted for multisector actions, with the hope of unifying efforts between the public and private sector.

Efforts and the common planning for an answer to HIV/AIDS between the Government and the private individuals should be based around a National Plan of Action. Unfortunately, the communication for the actions and the provisions to collaborate are not perceived in a satisfactory manner between the official and deprived institutions. Indeed, certain constraints accentuated the propagation of HIV and AIDS in the rural mediums, and particularly in the Eastern provinces of DRC, specifically:

War: The rebel troops entered DRC through the eastern provinces and during their passage through raped women and young girls in the camps and fields where the women were looking for food for their families. They also took women for sexual slaves. These women had no way of protecting themselves against the rapists.

Poverty. Much of the population was involved in agriculture in order to become self sufficient because they wanted to isolate themselves to safeguard from others exploiting their minerals. This isolation was made worse by the falling apart of the transportation. Consequently they received less contact with the big centers and the rest of the world. Also volunteers and agencies could not get in there to help.

Culture. In most African cultures it is taboo to talk about sex. It is not discussed in public or within families, and neither in church or in schools. Many people can't avoid being exposed because a young man must marry the widow of his brother. This situation is aggravated by the fact that many men die in war. Having several partners exposes one to greater risk of contacting HIV/AIDS.



Ignorance. Because of isolation many do not have access to information. In the big cities there are seminars and conferences that are not offered in rural areas. Lack of information further promotes the spread of the disease. If there are a few articles on AIDS available many are illiterate.

Lack of Facilities. One means of limiting the spread of AIDS is the test. Unfortunately there are no centers where people can find out if they are infected and abstain or if they are healthy, to stay with one partner. The nurses are uninformed and preventative products are not available in the pharmacies.

Religion. Certain religious leaders believe it is not the church's duty to fight the spread of AIDS or the defense of human rights. On the contrary they believe it is God's punishment to non-believers.

AIDS is killing people in these areas. Some get examined in the cities, but most of them are already suffering from the disease. Others die quickly when they could have lived longer with help and care. Talking about AIDS and its mode of transmission is foreign to a part of this population and cause of concern for their well being. If ignorance persists this disease will continue to kill people in mass. It is high time the population is informed on the danger of this epidemic.