

WTE: Education and Responsibility to the Community

By: Logan Cochrane

Contributer: William Chu Kwan

As a student and inhabitant of the refugee camp Lugufu, Edward has taken on the role of the community leader, educating 33 leaders of other villages about HIV/AIDS. Edward is one of those selected to participate in the seminars about HIV/AIDS and he will continue to educate others. This method guarantees that valid and correct information will be delivered to everyone. This information will reach personnel involved in churches, schools, conventions and other seminars.

In all the WTE projects there is the desire to provide the local authorities with self sufficiency. During the planning phase, the local authorities designed and created initiatives that can be easily implemented into their own localities. During the implementation phase, the local authorities were in charge of the management and were responsible for the financial aspect. Upon completion of the projects, the responsibilities and duties are under the command of the local authorities; in this way, the local authorities do not depend on external organisations.

One of our associations is the ACDA (Agoro Community Development Association). Similarly to many other non-profit organisations, the directors of ACDA are volunteers. This scarcity in financial resources occurs in many of the organisations associated with WTE. These organisations have been created with the needs of the local community in mind. Initially, ACDA was created as an organisation that collected money to recover the bodies of persons assassinated by the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) and to give them a holy burial. Working in a region that has been destroyed by war has not destroyed the spirit of the 78 volunteers. Recently, ACDA has opened a child care centre with the assistance of the United Nations. This child care centre has a capacity of 1400 children, and it contains a vocational school and an IT centre, courtesy of the donations made by RESPECT International.

Despite ACDA's ambitious vision for the future, they have always lacked the finance and qualifications to realise it. WTE collaborates with ACDA to make these projects a reality. One of these projects is the educating people about HIV/AIDS. The self-sufficiency of the organisation is not possible by means of just a seminar and educational material. Hence, a member of the community is selected to educate and provide constant support. This mediator makes the expansion of the centre possible. Major expansion occurs when an educational centre is created. This is how the self-sufficiency of the community is created and it means that the community no longer needs to depend on foreign organisations. Additionally, these projects create a sense of community and union. The final goal of WTE is to make a change and a lasting impact on the community.