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## Lesotho Council of NGOs to convene a training on HIV and TB coinfection

In order to increase community engagement to support HIV and TB coinfection interventions, Lesotho Council of NGOs will convene a one-day training at Lesotho Association of Non Formal Education (LANFE) hall and at Mazenod Conference Centre on March 7<sup>th</sup> for LCN Volunteers.

This training will be an opportunity to share and discuss the findings of the dialogues from different districts of Lesotho which were held last year on TB and HIV Coinfection. The training will also give the opportunity to consolidate the findings from initial dialogues and to validate the information shared. Community perceptions towards TB and HIV Coinfection will be validated and factors inhibiting the response will be documented. In addition, the training also seeks to address some of the deficits regarding reporting of community dialogues undertaken by CSOs in different districts.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are one of the important agencies to address TB/HIV issues in the country by embarking on awareness campaigns as a way to promote health seeking behaviour and facilitate early diagnosis and linkages to treatment. Through this project, the targeted organisations within the project are used to conduct community dialogues on TB/HIV Coinfection within a period of three months (September- November 2015). During this period, 18 organisations were trained on HIV/TB Coinfection and health advocacy. The trained organisations were required to undertake community dialogues in their respective communities.

TB poses greater challenges in managing the HIV epidemic, as it remains the single most serious opportunistic infection for PLHIV. The World Health Organisation (WHO) notes that TB is a major cause of mortality in PLHIV, majority of deaths among TB patients occur in patients with HIV. In 2012, the TB/HIV co-infection prevalence was 75% among newly diagnosed TB patients with approximately 80% of new TB patients being tested for HIV.

This project is funded by the World Bank to Lesotho Government for implementation of the HIV and AIDS Technical Assistance Project (HTAP) through the Ministry of Health (MOH). The project is intended to build capacity of the government and civil society organizations from the national to the community levels to enable them to make meaningful contribution in the national response towards HIV and AIDS. The project had three components implemented by the respective institutions of the MOH, Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship and Parliamentary Affairs and the LCN. The latter was implementing Component 1 which focused on capacity building for the civil society organizations implementing HIV and AIDS services. LCN implements component 1 of the project which aims at improving institutional capacity of NGOs to implement HIV programs.

For More Information

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