

Giving a voice to the Miners



We had the privilege of conducting onsite HIV/AIDS Awareness workshops for 181 miners at the Petra Diamond Mine in Koffiefontein, Free State – during the week leading up to World Aids Day 2011. Workshops were conducted in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa and this is the feedback:

Please note comments are verbatim as written by participants

What did you enjoy most about the workshop?

- Presenters are friendly and they know what they are talking about, answering all questions we asked.
- Everything.
- The openness.
- Informative; up to date, practical and unusually explained. Appreciated the statistical information and the newest information.
- The way the instructor opened the condom package and blow air into it to burst.
- Openness of the explanation and clarity given.
- It was very informative and it answered a lot of questions.
- The interaction
- They explain everything I want to know about HIV
- Very educative and enlightening.
- The way in which it was explained.
- She gave us interesting information. It would help more if it happens to be a full workshop like more hours.
- It was so clear and I understand it.
- It is explained in a way you can understand. Enjoyed the cartoons.
- The presentations skills and the education this workshop brought us.
- The course was run professionally. The explanation was simple and clear and information was new.
- The way everything was explained in detail and step by step

- The presentation was clear. I have learnt a lot.
- The way Phumla lectured is was very clear.
- Learning that I am also affected by HIV/AIDS.
- The way it was presented distinctively, the fact that the virus start spreading in 2.6 days.
- The explanation on how does the HIV operate and changes its faces – its intelligent!
- Open discussion and explanation was very good.
- Presenter was white but did not have a problem. We learned a lot.
- It was practical and very open.
- Ek het die verduideliking en geselskap geniet.
- The explanation was very good about how to get HIV/AIDS.
- I enjoyed the detailed explanation and answers which was easy to understand.
- The presentation was good and they explain in a manner that made me understand very clear.
- It was nice to be open asking questions which will help me and the community.
- How does the virus start and what steps must we take.
- I enjoy everything that was explained.
- How the virus gets into your immune system
- I never knew that the virus gets into your body within 2.6 days and the ARV's are used for rape.
- A lot of the statements and facts that I never knew but do now that is actually life saving information.
- I learn things that I did not know before
- That if you stay to your partner you can live for a long time.
- Makes it clearer how the virus enters the body and infect the body
- The way the virus affects one's immune system.
- Blowing up the condoms, use Vaseline and explode.
- A lesson to stick to one partner, condomise at all times.
- It was very educational.
- Everything which was explained to me was clear. Questions asked were answered.
- The presenters should do more research on statistics in our country in order for us to concentrate on targeted.... (not sure what they mean?)
- The use of the condom by not lubricate it (Vaseline)
- This presentation is excellent.
- The truth and openness
- About using lubrication on the condom
- The presentation of the tutors was very informative.
- Being taught about what is right and wrong about HI Virus
- I did learn more of ssidney.
- To know about CD4.
- To know about HIV.
- I enjoy it is very nice and learned a lot.
- Lecturers are open to speak more politely with people about HIV/AIDS.

- The time the virus can affect you.
- The presentation , looking at material available
- They come with new information of which we never had a clue of.
- The trainers were well organised and I learnt a lot of things that I really did not know of.
- The presentation was nice and understandable and I have learned a lot that I didn't know.
- The openness of the speaker, the visuals and everyone being honest to educate people.

What would you like to see improved in the presentation of this course?

- Dept of health representative must come as well as we have a big problem with nurse or sisters in the clinics and hospitals.
- To show us videos.
- They should present it on TV so that we could see it better.
- Not the presentation but the effort to be sped up to reach more communities, especially the scholars.
- This must be a longer course because sometimes you can forget some questions.
- I would like to see more practical demonstrations
- More time – 2 -3 hours
- I would like you to come again and give another presentation.,
- Videos would make it more realistic
- Give more time – time was very short
- Language (Afrikaans)
- More participation from the people at the workshop
- I didn't know about this Ssidney.
- Presentation posters should be written in few different African languages
- I would like to have more presentations like this and it should be with our families.
- Excellent and will always use it when conducting workshops.
- No comment at all. Enjoyable.
- Time is not enough
- I would like to see audio DVD's
- Information pamphlets
- More pamphlets and video footage.
- At this stage good.
- More presentations
- Attendance is not so good.
- Get talks to satisfy everyone, Sotho, Xhosa etc.
- They should present more on television use CDs or videos.
- Nothing, so far everything was fine.
- Everything was fine for me because it was straight forward.
- Attendance is poor but presentation is ok.
- Nothing.
- Time should be extended. Media footage may be used.

- Bring pictures of people infected so people can see the seriousness of the disease.

What do you think of the concept of SSIDNEY?

- It was the first time to hear about it. It's a good concept. It explains it all.
- Concept is ok!
- Excellent.
- Very easy to understand
- It's perfect.
- Good and logically convincing.
- Gives a clear picture of how the virus is spread.
- It was the first time I learn about Ssidney.
- Volatile but I don't like it.
- I think it is very educational and quite simple to understand.
- It is good to understand the step of getting infected.
- I do this for the community as well for the youth. I enjoyed everything.
- Excellent
- Short and sweet and u can remember what's the meaning.
- It makes explanation very easy.
- It is educational, shows how our antibodies work.
- It is a great summary of the disease.
- You must come often to Koffiefontein mine so that our sisters and brothers can learn more about this dreadful disease.
- It was a good idea to break it up like that so that people can understand it easier.
- Excellent. It explains how the immune system is protected and destroyed.

Any further comments?

- None, but I would like it if they come every time if need be.
- Please reach out to our community to help them because they dead about aids. Please help!
- Keep up the good work, spread the information, and educate the masses as much as you can.
- Will make use of Ed-Unique in future.
- Please give us this training on a quarterly basis.
- It was nice to be there, because I learnt a lot of things that I didn't know before e.g. Vaseline breaks a condom if you apply during sex.
- From my understanding it is good to know your status at the early stage so that you can live longer.
- Must be advertised on notice board and in news papers how the virus gets to the immune system.
- I would like to learn more about HIV.
- Would like this course to be presented at least twice a year.
- Its fine the way its been presented.
- People must place notices on the billboards for everyone to know how long it takes before the virus enters your body. It is important.
- Thank you, This really helps a lot.
- No comments, the facilitators are good people.

- Ek dink dit is baie goed.
- Come again!
- Keep up the good work, spread the information, educate the masses as much as you can.
- Would love to get HIV/AIDS training on a quarterly basis.
- Thank you very much. I learn a lot of this today. The presentation was good. I enjoy it. Have a nice day!
- Thank you for everything and please come again.
- It's perfect.
- You can get people who voluntarily do the presentation who are living with the disease in order for people to see and understand the seriousness of the disease.
- Please let this not be a once off workshop. Do it more often preferably every month.
- Need more of this workshop about 4 times a year.
- To inspire more training at the workplace.
- If the community can be taught this I'll be happy.
- We need to have more of this workshops
- I would really like that this course should be presented every year as a refresher course so that people should not get relax.
- Always come with blood test before doing the presentation.
- This should be presented on a regular basis.
- Could you people come now and then for awareness?
- Only problem was time. I suggest we get enough time.
- People are ignorant about the disease and getting educated about it. Until everyone is willing to take part, there is only limited things that can be done.
- The teacher was friendly. I would like to volunteer with them and give some inputs.
- It was a good presentation.