



October, 2007

Colleagues:

The AIDSRelief team is pleased to share the "*Flipchart for Client Education*," an HIV/AIDS educational tool for people living with HIV (PLHIV), their families and their communities. This tool was developed specifically for Zambia, but can be adapted for use elsewhere. The tool is designed to be used by health facility and community health workers in both rural and urban settings. The flipchart presents comprehensive educational material on the topics of HIV prevention, how to live positively with HIV, HIV and pregnancy, and the use of Antiretroviral Therapy.

The counseling flipchart is based on an earlier WHO material, and now incorporates **comprehensive prevention information, i.e. "A" and "B" in addition to information on "C", as well as important information on adherence to ART.** The flipchart was developed in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, the Zambia Ministry of Health and AIDSRelief Zambia. The material has been pre-tested for use in rural and urban settings in Zambia.

All material in the Flipchart for Client Education is consistent with the CRS policy on prevention of HIV. The CRS policy was developed with guidance from the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) and supports **providing clients full and accurate information on all forms of HIV prevention.** As you know, **CRS does not finance, distribute or promote the use of condoms among clients,** but does respect the beliefs, policies and rights of our local partners regarding these issues. **CRS has chosen not to include the CRS or AIDSRelief logo on the flipchart, due to the potential sensitivity of the information contained in these materials among Church partners.**

The comprehensive and accurate information on prevention contained in this material is consistent with CRS policy, and we are confident that the flipchart will be useful in all settings, requiring only minor adaptations to ensure cultural competence. This material may also be useful for the Ministries of Health in your country, and we encourage you to share this with them as an example of a comprehensive counseling material being used in Zambia.

If you are interested in adapting these materials for your country, the electronic file of the flipchart is available at headquarters. Creative Services has the ability to make the changes and CRS has ownership rights of the document. Please note that **any changes to the flipchart must be consistent with CRS policy,** and therefore, it will be necessary to verify your proposed adaptations with Sister Phyllis Hughes in PQSD prior to printing and distribution. **CRS name and logo should not be included on any adaptations.**

Counselors and other program staff may find the following resources useful as background for these counseling materials:

1. A May 2007 CRS publication on AB programming, enclosed in this package
2. The October 2005 Fact Sheet #1 on Condoms



If you decide to share the flipchart with Catholic partners the following points may be useful to discuss with decision makers:

- Explain the CRS policy on prevention and how materials are consistent with CRS policy;
- Discuss the importance of sharing comprehensive educational information on HIV/AIDS, that was developed by a group of experts, including clinicians, counselors, and HIV/AIDS program managers, following a comprehensive needs assessment in both rural and urban health centers in high prevalence areas;
- Highlight the uniqueness of having educational materials developed using a faith-based lens, containing strong messages about abstinence and being faithful;
- Stress that materials provide full and accurate information about all forms of HIV prevention.

If you are concerned about the reactions of the Bishops and the Church in your country, we would be glad to provide you with support in presenting this information to your partners. Please contact AIDSReliefProgramming@crs.org to initiate this discussion.

Thank you for your interest in these important materials. We are confident that they will lead to enhanced capacity building and further empowerment of the communities we serve.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared M. Hoffman". The signature is stylized with several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the top.

Jared M. Hoffman
AIDSRelief/Chief of Party