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UNAIDS - nkcommob - March 2001

Slow Development on Women specific MDGs!!

- Women and girls account for more than 50% of the world's hungry people
- Ten million more girls than boys are out of primary school-2/3 of the world's illiterate young people are women-Africa's largest countries among countries not reaching the 50/50 target until 2025
- In Africa women continue to account for up to 65% of all young people living with HIV/AIDS
- Women and children in Africa spend 40 billion hours/year collecting water-equivalent to a year's labour for France's entire work force!!

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It is possible to “Empower” community for Health and Security:

- Individuals and groups become aware - in a detailed and realistic way - of their vulnerability to the situation
- They have knowledge and access to practical options they can take to reduce this vulnerability
- They are convinced and motivated to pick those options most applicable to them-to address their situation .

Characteristics of a “empowered community” (continued)

- They participate in decision making on what action to take, evaluate the results, and take responsibility for both success and failure.
- They take action within their capability, apply their own strengths, and invest their own resources - including money, labor, materials, or whatever else they have to contribute.
- They seeks outside assistance and cooperation when needed.

But there are Challenges/mistakes which can hinder process

- Defining “community” - who defines “community”?
- Nurturing and sustaining community momentum
- Time and energy expected from family and community members
- Rigid pre-set expectations of facilitators
- Pre-determined life-spans of projects/programs
- Incomplete participation /representation of community

Empowerment is only possible with

- Political commitment -example of Uganda and Senegal in responding to HIV/AIDS
- Openness at all levels-personal, family, community, National
- Leadership-charismatic leadership distinguishable from usual political leadership. “Leaders differ from ordinary politicians –leaders work for a legacy while ordinary politicians work for the next election”
- International solidarity- example of global solidarity movement generated around HIV/AIDS response, spearheaded by gay men in the North. The world is a global vilage.

MERCI!-ASANTE- THANK YOU!!!

