



**Botswana Network of
People Living with HIV and AIDS**

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**ANNUAL REPORT
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SUBMITTED

TO



NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING AGENCY

**Prepared by
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1.0 Introduction

The idea of a network of people living with HIV/AIDS was conceived in early 1995. A lot of consultations and need assessments were carried out notably with the financial and technical support of the AIDS/STD Unit, Ministry of Health and other development partners such as the UNDP and NGOs such as Ditshwanelo, BONASO to discuss the form, and functions of such a network. The dream came true when it was able to registered in 2000. Now the network is affiliated to the Network of African People Living With HIV/AIDS.

The importance of integrating People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs+) into the national response strategies for the reduction of the incidence and impact of HIV/AIDS has been long recognized at both the national and international levels. Already by 1999, UNAIDS had come up with the Best Practice Collection on From Principle to Practice: Greater Involvement of People Living With or Affected by HIV/AIDS. National AIDS Policy 1992, MTPII gave a broad scope of opportunity for the involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS in prevention, care and support into the national response.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic which has succeeded in making Botswana stand out with the unenviable reputation of being the country with the highest reported HIV prevalence rates in the world - an estimated 300,000 Batswana (out of a population of 1.6 million people) are now living with HIV and AIDS. Estimates of HIV prevalence vary but they all bring the same message: the epidemic has reached crisis proportions. The President has declared a war situation – *ntwa e Bolotse*. **“We are threatened with extinction. People are dying in chillingly high numbers. It is a crisis of first magnitude,”: Festus Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana (2001).**

Botswana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (**BONEPWA+**) has joined hands with other stakeholders in fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic

Mission, Goals and Objectives

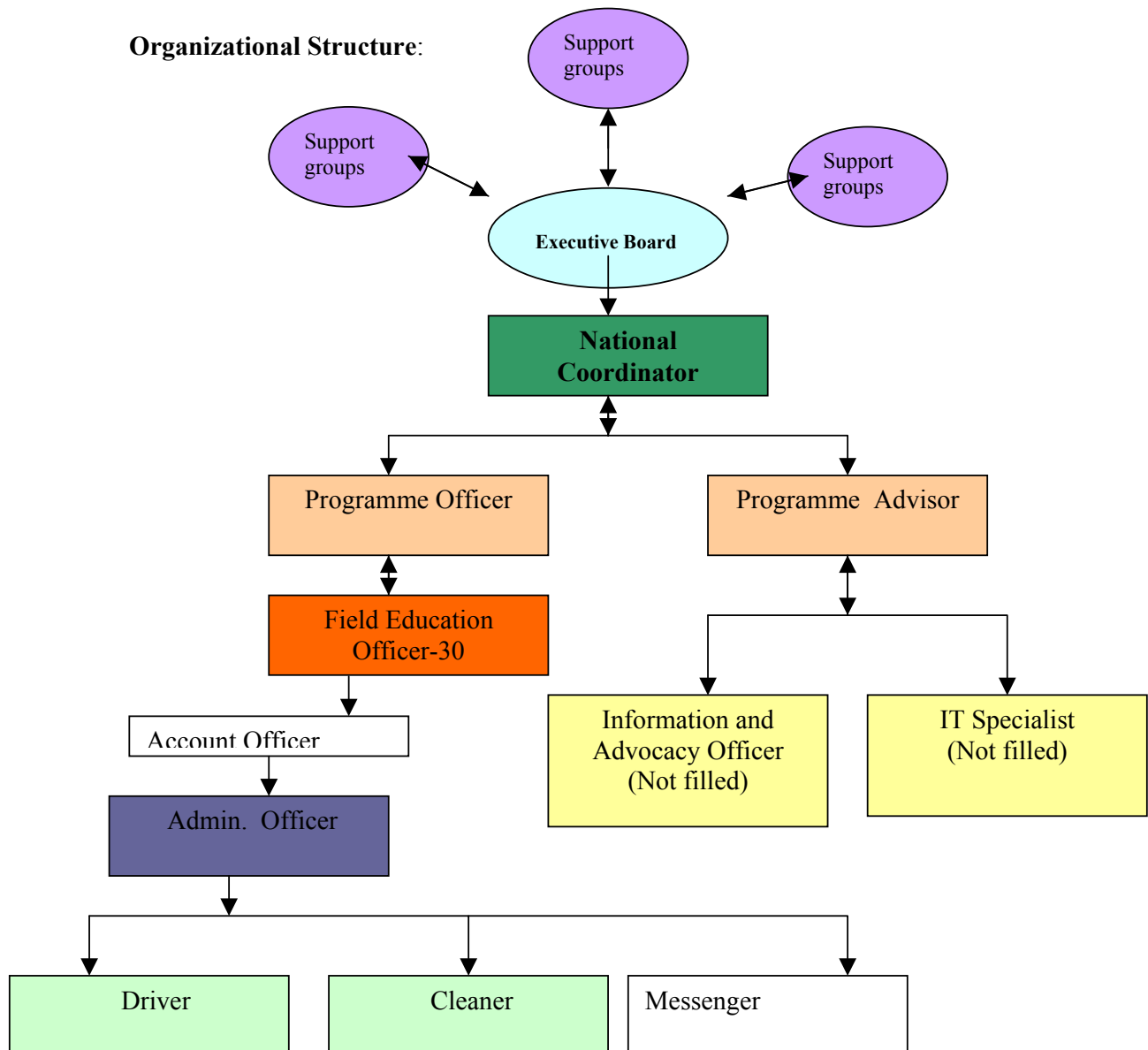
As **BONEPWA+**, we exist to improve the well being and quality of life of all people living with HIV/AIDS and to protect the nation of Botswana from further infections by promoting positive living, self – reliance, reduction of infection rates through HIV/AIDS education, prevention and care. In achieving these, we strive to maintain the following principles:

Consultation: Nothing for us without us
 Transparency
 Accountability
 Confidentiality
 Community participation
 Non – sexist and non – partisan

BONEPWA+ seeks to achieve its mission by:

- Facilitating the sharing of information, ideas, experiences and resources between and amongst support groups in Botswana;
- Facilitating the formation of support groups nation wide;
- Promoting and supporting networking and partnership building in HIV/AIDS programmes among people living with HIV/AIDS with other organizations locally and internationally;
- Facilitating the coordination of support groups' programmes on HIV/AIDS in order to reduce duplication, enhance their role and impact;
- Providing leadership and a common forum for concerted advocacy efforts and for appropriate policies, legislation and human rights for PLWAs;
- Engaging in empowerment and enterprise development activities that will improve the quality of life of PLWAs;

Organizational Structure:



An Executive Board has been set-up to provide vision, oversight and direction to the network. This structure ensures that the programmes of the network are relevant to the needs of the constituency, that is PLWAs.

A Secretariat has been set up and full time staff; National Coordinator, Programme Officer (Monitoring/Evaluation) and UNV-Programme Advisor (UNDP), Administrative Assistant, Driver, Messenger and cleaner are hired. They have been given adequate job descriptions and are busy setting up systems and procedures for establishing a credible and efficient network.

Achievements in the Pasts:

National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA) is being a major and regular partner; BONEPWA+ is supported for Advocacy, Institutional Capacity Building, Networking and support to support groups. Strategic plan for 2001-2004 was in place. A major theme for **BONEPWA+** has been the Integration of People Living With HIV/AIDS into mainstream Design, Planning, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation of the HIV/AIDS Response in Botswana. **BONEPWA+** is equally concerned with **Integrating gender into HIV/AIDS Interventions for/by PLWHA's**. **BONEPWA+** is a member of National AIDS Council. It is taking part in significant role in advocating, mobilization of PLWAs in many of the sectors strategies and the activities. Mobilization of Membership and rationalizing the criteria, benefits, rights and obligations of members has been initiated. 27 support groups were affiliated to BONEPWA+ till 2002.

Partnership and networking relations were built up with a number of government departments, international AID Agencies, such as the UNDP, **UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO** other **NGOs** and private sector representatives.

UNICEF has been a partner with BONEPWA+. A project “ **Improve schools to be child friendly community education outreach centre for HIV/AIDS information and services**” is an on going program, 30-field education officers are trained in November 2002. The program was intended to cover Six Hundred and Seventy primary schools within one year.

World University Service of Canada (WUSC) supported for series of sensitization seminars as a follow up to the advocacy and mobilization exercise undertaken earlier, in five districts across the country. These seminars managed to bring together, on average, 20 PLWAs per seminar facilitated by a PLWA. The following were the districts covered: Kasane, Masunga, Hukuntsi, Selibe Phikwe, and Ghantsi.

HIVOS

HIVOS International supported for the period of September 2001-December 2002 BONEPWA+ for administrative support, purchase of equipments and a reflection workshop. As BONEPWA+ has ended up with the project with HIVOS, there is strictly need of administrative support to run the National Network.

ACHAP

BONEPWA+ has a partnership with ACHAP to support BONEPWA+ to cover two main areas; PLWAs in support groups throughout Botswana are educated on prevention, basics on treatment and care, nutrition, counselling and build-up institutional capacity building of BONEPWA+ establishing and strengthening of more PLWAs Support groups in the communities. The project is on-going.

Annual Plan of Action of BONEPWA+ for 2003 supported by NACA

In line with the mission of BONEPWA+, it has set following objectives to be achieved by 2003 through NACA support.

1. Objectives:

1. Strengthening its own ability to implement the strategic plan.
2. Mobilization and networking of support groups through out the country.
3. Capacity building of support groups for expanded services based on PLWHA's+ needs assessments.
4. Strengthen Information, Education on prevention, care and support.
5. Carryout Research /Studies/Evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes .

2.0 Activities

- 2.1 A leadership and governance refresher course will be carried out for the executive board members to strengthen BONEPWA+ for the accomplishment of strategic plan.
- 2.2 Executive Board meeting will be held quarterly and annual general meeting will be carried out.
- 2.3 Strategic plan 2001-2004 will be reviewed and revised in line with National Strategic Framework and revised National AIDS policy.
- 2.4 Office set up will be strengthened for effective running of the Network.

- 2.5 A nation – wide mobilization initiative covering all districts will be carried out for the formation and strengthening of support groups.
- 2.6 IEC materials on BONEPWA+ will be developed and disseminated; (newsletter, Brochure, Web page)
- 2.7 Capacity building of BONEPWA+ and support groups by attending/presenting in various workshops, seminars and conferences.
- 2.8 Capacity building of support group members for well-being through various skill oriented trainings for income generation activities.
- 2.9 Evaluation of BONEPWA+ Programs and Annual Plan Development Workshop.

3.0 Target Achievements 2003:

As per planned plan of action BONEPWA+ completed following activities.

1. Upgrade office computers with Norton Anti-Virus program.

With the technical support of World University Service of Canada and financial support of National AIDS Coordinating Agency, BONEPWA+ Upgraded its three computers with latest version (2003) of Norton Anti-virus program to make the computers, its programs, files, folders safe from latest defined virus.

2. 2 Days refresher course for Board members on leadership

Two days workshop was carried out on 25th Jan 2003 in Abjaterskop, South Africa. Nine board members participated in the workshop facilitated the workshop on leadership. The leadership, types of leadership, role of leaders, networking, problems, and constraints were discussed during the workshop. The workshop came up with resolution that BONEPWA+ board should include fund raising sub-committee, disciplinary committee, Suggested Board members to involve in BONEPWA+ activities and meetings related to it, National Coordinator to take appropriate decisions on BONEPWA+ related activities, programs and financial reports to board on quarterly basis.

Board members welcomed Mr. Jagdish Shah from CA Sales and Distributors, to the BONEPWA+ as patron.

The board suggested starting to mobilize the support groups before AGM. For mobilization Board members were assigned districts.

The workshop also decided to hold 2nd National Conference on PLWAs.

3. Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting was planned for first quarter 2003. As the support groups had to be mobilized and oriented on BONEPWA+, the Board decided to postpone the Annual General Meeting from 1st quarter 03 to 2nd quarter 03. The amount allocated and released for AGM was not sufficient so the board decided to postpone it and mobilize sufficient amount for this activity. Later looking at the opportunity at 2nd National Conference the board decided to hold the AGM during that time. During 2nd National Conference on 29th November 2003 board consulted with support groups coordinators regarding the AGM. Support groups coordinators suggested giving support group sufficient time to consult with the members and going through the constitution. They suggested to hold AMG on February 2004.

4. Production of IEC Materials.

Administrative and Financial Manual have been developed for BONEPWA+ and printed. BONEPWA+ brochure was updated, printed and distributed.

5. Launching of Website:

With the technical support of VSO/WUSC a web page has been developed and BOTSNET has also graciously provided the network with web hosting services to allow BONEPWA+ to be "on-line".

BONEPWA+ web page have been designed and developed. World University Service of Canada, Botswana, provided the technical support. Two VSOs, Ms. May Diep and Mr. Daug volunteered BONEPWA+ . Mr. Daug set up computers and trained BONEPWA+ Staffs on basics of computer. Ms. May Diep designed web page and also trained staffs on various programs.

The volunteers were accommodated in pool house of BONEPWA+.

The website was launched on 25th of Feb 03 by Honourable Minister of Health, Mrs. J. Phumaphi in Tlotlo Conference Hall. Mrs. Rose Mandevu as MC conducted the launching. Other Speaker were Mrs. Helen Mhone, Vice Chairperson of BONEPWA+, Ms. May Diep presented about the web page. Vote of thank was given by Mrs. Sadibo Monche , Red Cross, Botswana.

BOTSNET hosted the website. BONEPWA+ appreciates the BOTSNET for its technical support.

6. Support to Support Groups:

53 support Groups have been formed all over the Botswana and number of affiliation is increasing.

Support Groups are supported for capacity building activities. Ngwaketse West, Molapowabojang, and COCEPWA Maun, Ika.....F/town were supported for conducting workshop on HIV/AIDS and Positive Living for Infected and affected

members and the community. Gabane, Moshupa, CEYOHO support groups were supported for fencing their plot and also supported during Miss CEYOHO competition. A matching fund along with BONASO was supported to Ntlo ya Botsalano support to purchase Porta Camp run support group activities in Otse. Boipoloko support group was supported to install security system in their porta camp. And Bosele Support group in Lobatse was supported to purchase fridge and gas stove. Bonna Lesedi support group Kanye was supported to purchase educational equipments for orphan care programme. HIV/AIDS Gospel Choir support group, Tlokweng was supported to establish income generation project. They came up with this project after Fabric Printing Training.

7. Printing of Feasibility Study:

WUSC also has contributed to BONEPWA+ for feasibility study of income generation activity (IGA). Based on the study lists of activity will be carried out during this year 2003 in the area of capacity building of PLWAs for income generation activities.

It is in the printing press and will be delivered shortly to BONEPWA+.

8. Review update BONEPWA+ Strategic Plan

Botswana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (BONEPWA+) had developed strategic plan for the period 2001-2004 of which the implementation is on-going with POA for 2003. With the development of various issues related to HIV/AIDS and positive living of the People Living with HIV/AIDS, it has to be reviewed and updated. In this connection this activity is planned for the second quarter 2003. A contractual service agreement has been made with Oakwood Associates (Pvt) Ltd. The process includes conducting a rapid need assessment, Review the current Strategic Plan, and based on review of the existing strategic plan and the results of the needs assessment, the present strategic plan is updated and extended its duration from 2003-2009 in line with the National Strategic Framework for HIV/AIDS 2003-2009.

9. Attend National Level W/s, Seminar, and Conference/Meetings./International Conferences

Mr. David Ngele, National Coordinator, visited South Africa, to attend SADC Summit which was scheduled for 30 June to 5 July 2003 and also went to USA invited by CSIS on 11-13 November 2003. He also attended Civil Society Organization Training Workshop on Leadership, organized by SANASO in Kenya from 19-23 May 2003. Ms. Basha Kesego, Treasurer, BONEPWA+ attended workshop on unpaid care work held on Pretoria on 23 May 2003. This program was organized by UNIFEM. ICASA conference was attended by Mr. David

Ngele, Ms. Ruth Baloyi, Programme Officer, and Ms. Elizabeth Montseng Mpule, Chairperson, Emma Mwesa, COCEPWA+.

Mr. Jolani Kraai and Ms. Cynthia attended HIV/AIDS conference in Kampala, Uganda. Ms. Grace Sedio and Ms. Elizabeth Mpule attended training of trainers on HIV/AIDS organized by Sisters 2 Sisters.

Ms. Rose, Phakalemasha Support Group and Ms. Herriet Kopi, attended conference in USA organized by Sisters for life.

Mr. Pilot Mathambo, from support group Selebe Phikwe attended training on Quality Health Care course in Uganda from 10-23 August 2003..

National AIDS Coordinating Agency supported BONEPWA+ to sponsor BONEPWA+ staffs and members to attend the conferences and workshops.

Ms. Elizabeth Mpule Montsheng chairperson BONEPWA and Ms. Segomotso Kalane, Member, visited Jwaneng, Township, organized by DEBSWANA. The two-member team along with support group in Jwaneng opened an exhibition stall in the Fair.

BONEPWA+ members and activists attended various organizations to present HIV/AIDS issues and positive living. Mr. David visited Debswana, UNDP, Lobatse High court, Botswana Housing Corporation to brief about BONEPWA+, and positive living. Likewise Mr. Tumelo visited Ikago Rehabilitation Centre and Red Cross Society. BONEPWA+ attended various Workshops and seminars; Ammunition, Leadership and management etc.

Various Teaching organizations such as Teachers from Teachers Training Centre Tlokwenng , Nano Kgang CJSS, Lenthweletau CJSS from Kweneng District visited BONEPWA+ to know about BONEPWA+ and its activities. They were briefed about BONEPWA+, its activities, support groups, discussed their role in the schools.

BONEPWA+ is involved in HIV/AIDS related information, positive living, sharing experiences with various target group attending in their programs. Various Organizations invited BONEPWA+ for briefing about BONEPWA+ and HIV/AIDS related issues. Those were Botswana Police, UNDP, Debswana, Independent Election Commission, Old Pension Department, Botswana National Musium, Construction Industry Trust Fund, Rural Industries Company, National Archives and Records Services. Nanogang, Tawana Memorial School, Kopong CJSS.Camp Primary School Etc.

10.Sensitization, Mobilization and formation of support groups:

BONEPWA+ have been involved in advocacy and mobilizing community. National Coordinator as well as Board Members are visiting districts and to community level for this purpose. Serowe/Palapye, Machoro, Malashwai, Paje, Mabelaapodi, Masunga, Tutume, Tonota, Sowa, and Kasane, Shahe, Mapoka, Kudumatse, Paje, Serowe, Mahalapye, Serule, Selebe/Phekwe, Shashe, Masunga, Francistown, Nata, Mapoka, Tutume, Lethakeng, Manoku, Lentsaweletau, Kopong, Dibete, Mogoditshane, Gabane were visited to sensitise community.

DMSACs were sensitised on BONEPWA+, Positive Living and need of formation of support groups.

11. Mobilize VMSAC for community support for support groups::

Support groups were supported for advocacy/ and mobilization of community and VMSAC. They were

1. Boipoloko-Molepolole,
2. Bosele AA-Lobatse,
3. Family OAC-Moshupa,
4. Ganokacha-Ghanzi,
5. Tlhabano-Molepolole,
6. Tsogang-Jwaneg,
7. Boteti Network of SG-Boteti,
8. COCEPWA-Serowe,
9. Molepowabojang-Kanye
10. Ntlo ya bano-Otse
11. Machaneng Support group

12.Seminar with DMSACs, PLWAs, and other stakeholders for income generation of Support Groups.

This activity was conducted jointly during workshop on modalities of HIV/AIDS School out reach program on / / 03 as the target groups were same and to minimize the cost involvement.

13.Bakery, Horticulture, Fabric Printing and Hair dressing training:

Ten days Horticulture and Poultry training was carried out on 7-18 July 2003 with the technical support of Agri Business Centre.

Bakery Training was organized with technical support from RIIC Kanye from 18 August 2003 for 25 Days. 12 participants participated in the training program.

One from Moshupa and One from Gabane are trained on Hair Dressing/Beauty training. They have been enrolled in Decatec Institute, Gaborone. The course is for 6 months. (Name of participant attached).

With the technical support of RIIC, Kanye 8 participants from different support groups were trained on fabric printing from 1 September to 26 September 2003.

14. Proposal Writing/Report Writing Training:

Proposal Writing and report writing training was conducted from 17-19 September 2003 with the technical support of Mrs. Beauty Rakaantswana and team and financial support of NACA. A total of 20 participants from various support groups were trained.

14. Other activity carried out by BONEPWA+

a) **Outreach programme** to improve schools to be child friendly, gender sensitive, community education Centres for HIV/AIDS information and services, second phase of the project completed finalizing modality of the project. 2 days workshop was organized for Regional Education Officers, District AIDS Coordinators and PLWHAs. The third phase of the program i.e implementation of the program was carried out from September-November 2003. After the evaluation of the program UNICEF will mobilize the fund to cover rest of the schools.

b) **Networking:**

BONEPWA+ is consolidating its collaboration and cooperation with its different partners in the HIV/AIDS struggle. We continue to participate in different programmes by the UN family including UNAIDS, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF, BONASO, BOCONGO and other organizations.

c) A 2 days workshop on capacity building for coordinators of the support groups on 30 May and 5 June 2003 was conducted. Role of Support Group Coordinators discussed, Strengths and weaknesses were assessed and come up with suggestions in following areas.

- Management Training for executive committee.
- Counselling Training
- Workshop on Sex and Sexuality
- Peer Education

d) Training Trainers on HIV/AIDS and gender.

BONEPWA+ organized Training of Trainers on HIV/AIDS and gender from 8-12 December 03, in Lemepe Lodge Molepolole. A total of 20 participants from different support groups were participated. Ms. E. Montseng, Mrs. Grace Sedio who were trained on TOT in South Africa and a volunteer Mr. Boikano Pilane involved in the training programme.

16. Training on ARV therapy:

With the technical support of MASA, BONEPWA+ organized 3 days training program on ARV and mobilization. It was conducted in Royal Crystal Lodge, Gaborone from 16-18 December 2003. A total of eight participants were trained on this program. They are expected to be involved in BONEPWA+ ARV adherence program in 2004.