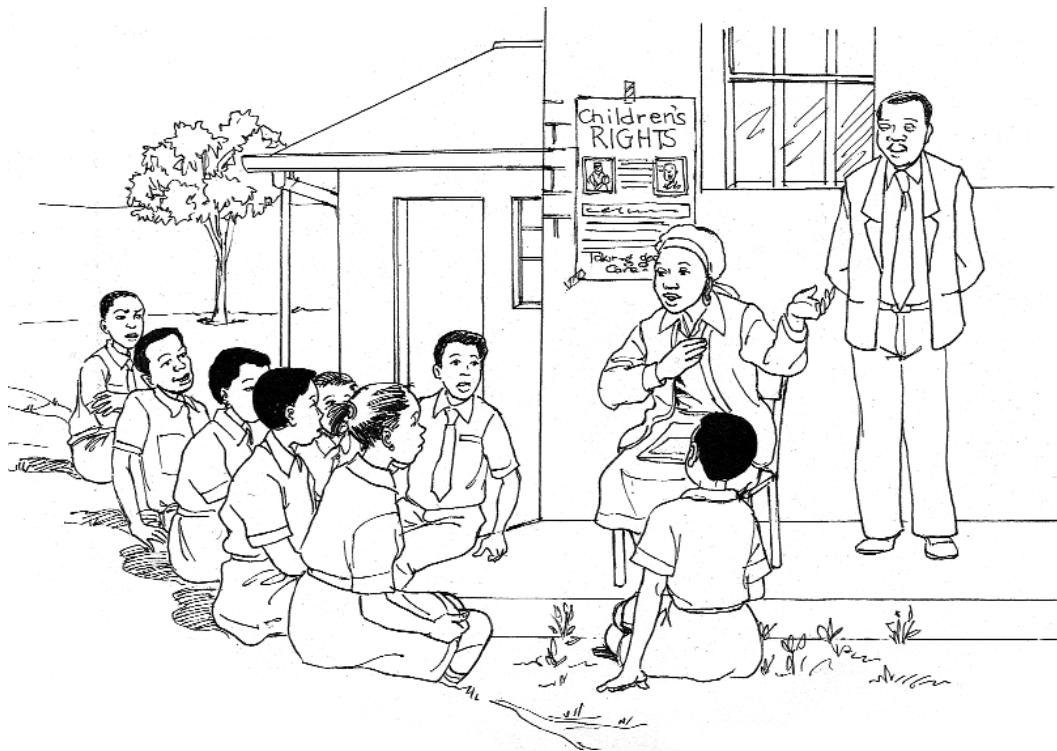


SESSION 9

HOW TO USE THE CIRCLES OF SUPPORT DIARY



INTRODUCTION

The aim of this session is to help Circles of Support groups to understand what the Circles of Support diary is and how to use it.

This session has been written as a guide for facilitators. It provides an outline of a process that participants, with the help of a facilitator, can work through in order to do the following:

1. Understand what is in their diary.
2. Be aware of why the diary is important in the project.
3. Read and sign their personal pledge.

This process has been divided into three steps:

- **Step 1:**
Get to know your Circles of Support diary (page 78)
In this step, participants will become familiar with their diary and what is in it.
- **Step 2:**
Understand why this diary is important and what to do with it (page 79)
In this step, participants will look at reasons why the diary is important for the project and how to use it.
- **Step 3:**
Read and sign the Circles of Support pledge (page 80)
In this step, participants will read and sign their Circles of Support pledge that says what they commit themselves to doing for the project.

At different stages in this session you will see a box called **Main teaching points**. The points that are written here are the most important messages that you should be thinking about and discussing with participants in this session.



STEP 1

Get to know your Circles of Support diary

Who is involved: neighbourhood agents and school convenors

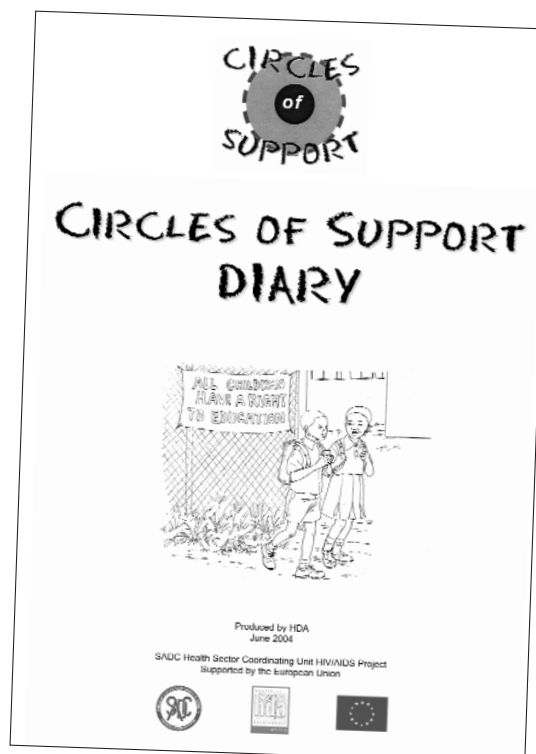
What you need: copies of Circles of Support diary

In this step participants become familiar with their diary by finding out what is in it.

TIME
30
mins

Activity

1. Give each participant a copy of the Circles of Support diary. Let them page through the diary to see what is in it.
2. Read aloud the introduction (pages 1 and 2) at the front of the Circles of Support diary. As you read aloud 'What can you find in this diary?' wait for participants to page through and find:
 - Introduction
 - Pledge
 - Information sheet 1 — ***Details of people in my Circles of Support group***
 - Information sheet 2 — ***Details of households in my Circles of Support group***
 - List of the five most important organisations that support children in your community
 - Information sheets about organisations that support children
 - Outline of a letter of introduction to the Circles of Support group and extra copies.



STEP 2

Understand why this diary is important and what to do with it

Who is involved: neighbourhood agents and school convenors

What you need: copies of Circles of Support diary

In this step participants will look at reasons why the diary is important for this project and how they should use it.

TIME
30
mins

Activity

1. Explain to participants that each neighbourhood agent or school convenor for the Circles of Support project will have a diary like this.
2. Ask participants to say why they think the diary plays an important part in the Circles of Support project.
3. Give participants a chance to say how they feel about using the diary and to ask any other questions they may have.

Main teaching points

The diary is important for the project because:

- It will help participants to feel that they are part of the project.
- It will help people in the community to recognise that participants are part of the Circles of Support project.
- It can help to show where there are problems.
- It can show what has to be done to improve things.
- It can show successes and make it easier to get extra support or resources to carry on the good work.

STEP 3

Read and sign the Circles of Support pledge

Who is involved: neighbourhood agents and school convenors

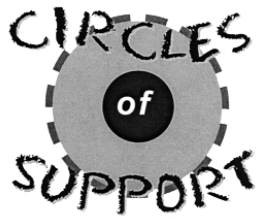
What you need: copies of Circles of Support diary,
copies of the pledge

TIME
30
mins

In this step, participants will read the pledge and sign it.

Activity

1. Explain to the whole group that making a pledge means thinking about what is expected of them by the programme and what they are able to do.
2. Read the pledge aloud and give each participant a copy of the pledge.
3. In the whole group, ask participants what they think of the pledge.
If they are happy with the pledge, tell participants to sign the pledge.
If they want to add or change anything, tell participants they are free to do so and then sign it.
4. Show participants where this pledge goes in their Circles of Support diary.



MY PERSONAL PLEDGE

I _____,
commit myself to help children by being an active member of
the Circles of Support group.

I will act professionally towards others by:

- respecting confidentiality and privacy
- treating others in the same way that I would like to be treated
- providing the best quality care and support that I can

I will help to build the Circle of Support project by:

- setting aside time for Circles of Support activities each week
- encouraging others to join the Circles of Support group
- attending project meetings
- keeping good records.

Signed _____

(Circles of Support member)

Date _____