

Research Proposal

To:

From: Gabriel Ziyambi, Director, African Fathers Initiative

Date: 18 April 2011

Subject: Research proposal

Proposed Research Topic: Fathers' efforts to secure the future of their children in the context of multiple stresses involving HIV and AIDS

Research question

What are some of the present barriers to and successful determinants of fathers involvement and support for women and children living with and exposed to HIV & AIDS in Zimbabwe?

Purpose:

Global research around the value of involved fathers care for their children and supporting mothers against the background of HIV and AIDS is growing. Studies in other parts of Africa are gradually being carried out on male engagement themes including fatherhood yet in Zimbabwe there has been no available research done so far.

Our proposal will make a start on this and may be strategic in provoking other research into this area of mainstreaming gendered analysis and approaches.

Apart from anecdotal information and reports we don't know if and how fathers support can positively affect the family care environment in dealing with HIV and AIDS, in particular for supporting women and children in Zimbabwe, for the better. We need to build up a local evidence base, including widely accepted indicators and MOVs that gives us the ability to make informed decisions about, proceed with and garner support for male engagement actions and interventions to be mainstreamed that may positively determine programming that can make a key difference in reducing the negative impact of HIV and AIDS on women and children in families and communities.

We hope to enrich the research on fatherhood efforts and impacts in one community , Chiredzi District and bring forward some of the factors that are involved in positive father support for women and children within families and communities for further examination and analysis.

We have chosen Chiredzi District because of our previous involvement with communities there, our institutional linkages with organisations such as Families Aids Counselling Trust (FACT), African Network for the Prevention and Protection of Children Against Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) and not least the District Management Administrator and his Team who have participated in our District Management Team briefing programme on Fatherhood and Families.

The outcomes of this will be better knowledge about the determinants for sustaining and increasing father involvement in families as a gendered driver of the efforts to reduce infections and better care for those in communities who are experiencing the burdens of living with HIV and AIDS with dignity and a better life. Knowledge of these determinants can help to