

# YEZINGANE CHILD PARTICIPATION PROJECT

Dear Yezingane members

We embrace the practice of child participation once again in 2012. During 2011 we had over 400 children participating in workshops, forums, and community dialogues around the country. The 'Children Say', briefs which outline what children have said on different issues, are now on the Yezingane website. The cell phone project was most successful in getting in over 100 000 call-in's over the 10 surveys. The report is soon to be completed and will also be on the website.

The child participation efforts of Yezingane member organisations still need to increase and become a habit of our processes!! Once again during 2012 we invite you to engage with your children and hear what they have to say on HIV and AIDS issues.

## CHILD PARTICIPATION CHALLENGE...

Going beyond just hearing.

We have a lot information from children. This needs to be formulated into statements, even demands and forwarded to the appropriate duty bearers who can respond to it. Over the next few weeks we will put statements together that can be used when advocating for children in planning sessions in your provinces.

The NSP, is going into a practical phase of planning and implementation. There is room at every level for children to have their say on the things being planned for them. Either you could facilitate them saying it for themselves in different situations or use the statements from the national child participation project to promote their 'voice' and interests. It would support the child participation cause if you let us know what you were able to do. If you are able to organise community dialogues on issues and need support please contact us at the CRC office.

TO BE A NETWORK THAT REPRESENTS CHILDREN,  
WE NEED CHILDREN INVOLVED.  
EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO OPEN UP CHANNELS  
TO HEAR WHAT CHILDREN HAVE TO SAY...



## PLEASE PUT THIS ON YOUR REGIONAL AGENDA:

Every region, every province with Yezingane members, needs to facilitate a child participation activity. We need to mainstream child participation and make it a way of life in the Yezingane network. Can you do it?

**1. Do at least one 'listening to children' activity with your children, in your area and write up what they say and share it with the network. (see 'Children Say' briefs on web site)**

Need help to do this?

- see website for 'child participation' activities
- Look at issues in NSP and choose one to talk about.
- Read the cell phone results and verify and extend what children are saying.
- Contact CRC to talk through what you could do.
- Work together as organisations and host a 'hearing', even if for one or two afternoons with 2 or more reps from several Yez member organisations!
- CRC is able to visit and support a limited number of child participation projects- please contact Janet

**2. Identify 2-3 children who could be your regions children's representative.** In due course we will reference them on their peers opinions.

**3. Going further: Do a 'Make it Right' project**

We would like to pursue with 4 groups, 4 significant topics that concern children and not just hear what they say about it but work in partnership with children and adults responsible to make an inadequate situation 'right'! For example: address a safety issue at school, improve a clinic service for young people, improve HIV- AIDS policy in a school, a teen pregnancy project.

- There is training, resources and support to do this. Just phone in if you are keen to try it out.

Contact CRC - Janet at 031 3076075  
or [janet@crc-sa.co.za](mailto:janet@crc-sa.co.za) We are available to help and also to co-ordinate and put together all the messages being expressed by children.

Google: Yezingane network. Look under 'Key issues': 'Children Say'