



CoBaSys



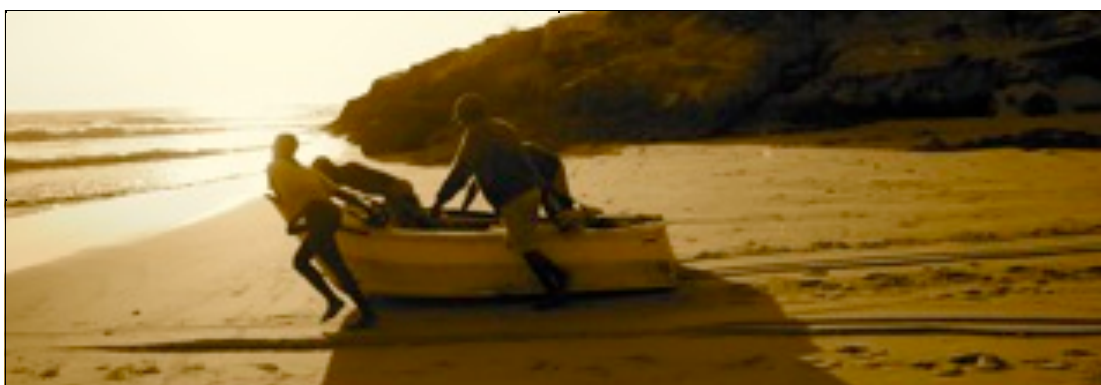
Community based system in HIV treatment



COBASYS

THE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTOR TO RESEARCH VISIT IN MOZAMBIQUE: ACTIVITIES, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATION

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1. Background From the 30th of May to the 14th of June UNIMORE's European Research Contributor, Francesco Guaraldi, was based in Mozambique. This visit was agreed and shared in advance with the local partner UEM. It was judged that this was a pertinent time for visiting the Mozambique Partner in order to follow the development of the WP2 activities here. It was thereby considered that it was important to participate to the implementation of the starting of the PRA meeting in Maluana, in Manicha district, to share with them the experience developed in the first CoBaSys' focus group of Kariba. Moreover it was considered, that it was necessary to start to discuss with UEM, their ideas on how to develop the stakeholder fora, as they are the WP 4 leader.

2. The main **general objective** of the visit of the European contributors to research was to create and maintain a constant network between Europe and Africa.

3. The **specific objectives** of the visit were the following:

1- Assist to the implementation of at least one PRA meeting.

2- Increase the communication between the partners and strengthen the relationship between UNIMORE and UEM.

3- Research of possible stakeholder to invite during the national roundtable (WP3).

4- Start discussion on the WP4 activities

5- Contribute to the publication of the CoBaSys newsletter

6- Collect documents about Best Practices, HIV policies and National Plan Strategies.

4. Activities

Referred to the deliverables planned and thanks to the indispensable contribution to the local partner, UEM, the European contributor to research, Francesco Guaraldi was able to:

4.1- Assist to the first part of the PRA meeting in Maluana, in Manicha district.

The development of the first PRA meeting (1 day and a half) in Maluana was planned on the 11th and 12th of June 2010. The UEM staff had previously concluded two planned visits, so to organize the logistics of the PRA meetings and meet two local stakeholders (PROMETRA, AMODEFA). The community leader informed the UEM team that due to the bidding nature of the farm workings the community members were unable to participate in a full day of PRA meetings but they preferred that the PRA meetings would be divided in different afternoon short sessions (from 2pm to 6pm). On the 11th all the UEM team, composed of 5 members (prof. Ana Lo Forte, Alexandre Mate, Aderito Machava, Emidio Gune and a former student that had previously

developed her thesis on HIV/AIDS in this community) was present at the afternoon PRA meeting. The meeting held in the yard, lasted just few hours, from 3pm, to 6pm, as in winter time it gets dark pretty soon. The meeting was all held in Shangana, and not everyone in the community could understand Portuguese. Moreover on the 11th the community leaders told us that they were not able to participate in the PRA meeting organized for the day after, as they had to celebrate a funeral. The UEM mediated the development of the PRA dividing the first PRA meeting into 5 afternoon sessions.

- **4.1.1.Risk**

The risk of this is that multiplying the PRA meetings in so many short sessions will cause a lack of quality in the data, as the people may not be the same at the different meetings, or they will miss the consequentiality of the tools described in the protocol.

- **4.1.2.Recommendation**

Considering that all the 3 focus groups are planned to be developed in this Manicha district, in different villages, developing for each PRA meeting so many short sessions, represents a risk that can determine a bias in the research (in fact all the tools are pretty linked to one another, there is the possibility of an inhomogeneous composition of the participants, moreover the realisation of the focus will become more time consuming and more expensive. In order to develop a more representative and scientifically based research, UNIMORE, contributor to the research suggested UEM partner to diversify the area and the population to develop the next focus groups.

4.2- Increase the communication between the partners, and strengthen the relationship between UNIMORE and UEM.

To solve the budget constraint. UEM declared that they were not capable of paying in advance for any expenses concerning the CoBaSys project.

- **Bilateral networking**

This visit strengthened the communication between UEM and UNIMORE. UEM is suffering more challenges, as Mozambique is the only African partner that is not English speaking, participating with the network poorly due to the language barriers.

4.3-Research of possible stakeholder to invite during the national roundtable (WP3).

The researcher had met and discussed CoBaSys with different stakeholders, among whom were:

Marco Hanitzch (CNCS Cunicacao-DED), Julia Achatzi (Programa Multisectoral do HIV (GTZ / ded), some members of NAIMA+, Ivan Zahinos Ruiz (Medicus Mundi), Mark Heffernan (IRD),Mariano Lugli (MSF-Suica), Celia Mindu (Solidar Med), Esmeralda Mariano (programa Desafio, UEM, VLIR), Diana Restrepo (ICAP), Ricardo Da Costa (Ministerio de Educacao) and lara Costa (Ministerio de Educacao), Laura Anselmi (minsterio de Salud), Nicola (UTL,CinemaArena)

- **Promoting dissemination and enlarging the social network of the local partners**

These meetings and discussions enriched the researchers' knowledge on the AIDS/HIV epidemic and responses in Mozambique. The main discovery was that the CNCS was not well coordinated with the Ministry of Health and there is a lack of collaboration among the different interventions on AIDS prevention, mitigation and reduction. All the persons that met were pretty interested in the PRA methodology developed during the CoBaSys focus group and the relation between the Universities Academic world and NGOs that this project had developed. For this reason we are sure that these meetings were a valuable opportunity to start to disseminate CoBaSys objectives empowering the social network of our local partners

4.4-Start to discuss on the WP4 activities

The importance of these meetings were mainly to try to understand the context in which our research is taking place, and at the same time trying to identify possible stakeholders to invite in the next years activities as for example at the National Roundtable. UEM as leader of the Setting up of the Stakeholders fora, is the partner in charge to coordinate the African partners and analyse, the national policies and the different best practices that the CBO had developed to face the HIV/AIDS epidemics in each CoBaSys' partners state.

4.5-Contribute to the publication of the CoBaSys newsletter

Even if I did not find at UEM a updated publication on HIV/AIDS, the faculty of anthropology is sure of the one with more experience. Apart from the team leadered by Ana Lo Forte, I had the opportunity to meet the researcher Esmeralda Mariano, that had developed a good deal of research on AIDS and sexuality in Mozambique. Most of these interviews and publications that they gave me is interesting material to be added to the CoBaSys newsletter.

4.6-Collect documents about Best Practices, HIV policies and National Plan Strategies.

On the 3rd of June the UNIMORE researcher organized a meeting at UEM with the CNCS Communication responsible at UEM Marco Hanitzch (CNCS Cunicaccao-DED), Julia Achatzi (Programa Multisectoral do HIV (GTZ / ded). During this presentation we became aware of a research that GTZ had developed on the best practice. We had so the opportunity to share the different methodology with whom they had collected their data and the one our partners are going to use.

Great importance was given to understanding the national health policy and the health system. The collection of the best practice are part of the national AIDS strategy jointly with prevention and mitigation campaigns.

5. The visit also revealed some possible challenges:

At UEM it seems to me that they still had not a very clear mind of each of the activities described in the different WPs to be developed by each CoBaSys African partner. This misunderstanding that was common to other partners before the kick off meeting we hoped was being solved when we explained the role of the WP leaders. On this regard the main point was

that they were willing to develop the PRA protocol in 3 different social groups (youth, men and women) composed of 8 people and then reproduce them in a final meeting where the 3 social groups were present at one. I advised them that this was not what was written and agreed with TARSC the WP2 responsible and was not possible.

The development of WP4 will require a good political analysis and strong networking capacities, we are sure that UEM has these capacities, but we hope that they can start to improve from now on.

6. Conclusion

The relationship between UNIMORE and UEM was positive, as UEM was in need to receive and conduct an assessment on CoBaSys activities and to strengthen the coordination with the other partners, the relationship between UNIMORE and UEM was enriched fully as understanding the problematic areas that they were focusing on during the focus group that was reflecting their anthropological point of view, was another opportunity for me to recognize the positivity to develop this research through a multidisciplinary approach.