



# Code LINKS

## hello!

Hello from  
the Code Secretariat!

Welcome to the third edition  
of Code links.

More and more organisations  
are signing on to the  
Code, and we are working  
constantly to find additional  
ways to make the Code work  
for you.

If you haven't visited our  
website recently, be sure  
to check out the new self-  
assessment tools and real-  
time news feeds from Eldis  
and the AIDSPortal. Also  
take a look at the updated  
signatories' page; with the  
Code rapidly approaching  
over 400 signatories, this is  
an exciting time for everyone!

We hope you enjoy reading  
this edition of Code Links  
and encourage you to  
share the Code with your  
colleagues today!

## Call for Action Plans!

The Code is calling on all signatories to send in their action plans this month. Completing your action plan is now easier than ever. Our new electronic versions allow you to complete your self assessment module and action plan on line and email it directly to the code.

**So what are you waiting for? Submit your action plan today:**

- Simply go to the Code website ([www.hivcode.org](http://www.hivcode.org)) and select the self-assessment checklist most relevant to your programmes.
- Complete one of the checklists online & create a short Action Plan highlighting how you will improve your program in the next year.
- Save it and email your Action Plan to the Code Secretariat at [info@hivcode.org](mailto:info@hivcode.org)

**The Code will highlight NGOs who complete an Action Plan by:**

- Sending you a credit as an 'Implementing' NGO and full signatory to the Code!
- Sending you an official certificate with your new status!
- Emailing you a new logo that you can use on your website and communication materials to promote your new status!
- Highlighting your NGO on our website as an Implementing Organisation.

We look forward to receiving your action plan!

## PASS IT ON

Help us to inform others about the Code.  
Forward this newsletter to 5 of your colleagues.

A united response  
to a global challenge



Read on to see how these two organisations are proactively implementing the Code in their daily work!

# Code Champions Spotlight

## Afghan Family Guidance Association (AFGA)

Founded in 1968, the AFGA has worked in the field of Reproductive Health and Rights since its inception. Today the organisation's services include VCT for prisoners at 19 centres throughout Afghanistan. AFGA endorsed the Code in 2008 and immediately began to meld the Code's principles on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention into its existing programmes. They achieved this through an initiative aimed at increasing awareness to prison populations (both prisoners and prison staff) on the availability of their confidential HIV/AIDS prevention services. Through this initiative they were able to reach 42 staff and 40 prisoners via awareness workshops. The AFGA also undertook the translation, design and distribution of educational materials in the local language (Dari), including the Code's executive summary and principles page, which they also advertised on the AFGA website. Additionally, AFGA produced a VCT poster highlighting information on local VCT services, which has been distributed to all AFGA centres and partner NGOs. Finally, AFGA were inspired to take on a Code leadership role, hosting a meeting with 10 partner NGOs to share their materials and knowledge about the Code of Good Practice.

## Lutheran World Federation/ Department for World Service (LWF/DWS) - Eritrea Program

Seeking a way to share LWF's commitment to the Code, the organisation sought to tackle the difficult problem of stigma and discrimination for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) within their community. Through their organisational efforts, they decided to run a 'training of trainers' workshop for ten people living with HIV.

Demonstrating a productive relationship with the government, LWF arranged for an expert from the Ministry of Health to speak for five days on strengthening organisational capacity and eradicating self-stigma. The workshop participants then provided the leadership for a sensitisation workshop directly reaching 250 community, religious and union leaders as well as police, youth and women's associations. The PLHIV volunteers engaged the participants via drama, poems, and discussions about HIV and the disclosure of their HIV status. Feedback from the community noted that the prominent involvement of PLHIV in the workshop was very effective in strengthening the impact of their message.

Following the workshop, the PLHIV group received numerous invitations from organisations and unions to conduct similar workshops in neighbouring communities. The LWF notes that the results of this project went well beyond their expectations and through the support of the Ministry of Health, LWF and BIDHO, the PLHIV trainees have now organised themselves as a group - 'The Children of Love' - and are committed to continuing their community sensitisation work.



# Tips on

## how to use the Code

1. Use the Code to frame your strategic or organisational plan
2. Use the Code to inform an advocacy discussion or policy paper
3. Include the Code as a line item for building organisational capacity and quality when applying for funding
4. Use our self-assessment tools to ensure your programmes & policies are evidence based
5. Use the Codes PowerPoint presentation to introduce the Codes principles to your staff.
6. Use the Code to develop a workshop on good practice.
7. Promote your endorsement of the Code by
  - Creating a link to the Code from your Website
  - Using the Code logo on your communications / marketing materials
  - Using the Code to inform a workshop or discussion at conferences and meetings

**How is your NGO using the Code?**  
Write to [info@hivcode.org](mailto:info@hivcode.org) with your Code tips!

# Introducing our Steering Committee



### Sumita Banerjee

Sumita is a Senior Program Manager at ICASO. Sumita and her team actively promote the Code throughout the ICASO network. One of the outcomes of this has been the incorporation of the Code into the ICASO Strategic Framework. Furthermore ICASO in collaboration with its Regional Secretariat in Africa (AfriCASO) organised a workshop in Mali to promote and build awareness on the Code among sub regional aids service organisations and national NGOs from Western and Central Africa.



### Madhu Deshmukh

Madhu provides leadership to CARE's HIV and AIDS response as the Director of the HIV/AIDS team. Madhu has championed the Code throughout CARE and successfully initiated endorsement of the Code by all twelve International members. The Code is also being used as a reference tool to look at issues of program quality and accountability for CARE USA's broader programs.

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