




local activism

community action groups

action



In the Action phase, continue to build on each action group's skills for activism.

Remember that activism will look different for each group and each person. All types of activism are needed in order for new ideas to take root. Work with your action groups to help them discover and excel in using their own style of activism. Celebrate their successes, both big and small!



Security Action Group

By now, this group has taken considerable steps in strengthening their understanding of and response to violence against women. In the Action phase, work with the group to expand their prevention of violence against women in the community.

Recommendations for Action

1. Conduct the *SASA!* Action Training Module with leaders and front-line staff.
2. Meet with leadership and help them understand the importance of *preventing* violence. Explain how investment in prevention will ultimately free up human and financial resources within their security work. Brainstorm practical ways that security officials could be involved in prevention.
3. Work with community outreach or liaison officers who spend time in communities. Give them different *SASA!* activities they could conduct in the community (e.g., quick chats, communication materials, etc).
4. Work with officials responsible for managing the welfare of staff and officers. Encourage them to hold film screenings, invite spouses to seminars on violence and HIV/AIDS, and offer supplementary training.
5. Advocate for mandatory training on violence against women and HIV/AIDS to be part of their group or institution (i.e., police academy, training schools, job orientation, etc). Support the group in creating modules or adapting *SASA!* modules for this purpose.

Health Care Action Group

In the Action phase, support the health care action group in solidifying the enhancements to their services for women. Help them extend their reach into the community and to other areas of the health services system.

Recommendations for Action

1. Meet with the leadership of your health care action group. Discuss progress made on addressing violence against women and HIV/AIDS. Identify areas of success and those where additional support and action could be useful.
2. Conduct the Action Training Module with leaders and health care providers.
3. Advocate for the inclusion of mandatory training on violence against women and HIV/AIDS in the health care providers training schools (medical schools, nurses colleges, etc). Help teachers develop new modules or adapt *SASA!* modules for this purpose.
4. Encourage the action group to reach out to additional departments within health services—such as casualty, obstetrics and gynecology, dentistry and general practitioners. Suggest that they conduct training for these colleagues about violence and its connection to HIV/AIDS.
5. Encourage the action group to strengthen the prevention efforts of health care providers. They could engage in community outreach activities, such as holding a *SASA!* fair at their clinic, holding film screenings in waiting rooms, conducting quick chats and health chats in the clinic or homes in the area, and distributing communication materials.
6. Join forces with the health care provider leadership to advocate at higher levels within the national health services to ensure provision of post exposure prophylaxis, emergency contraceptives, free services for women experiencing sexual assault, etc.

Faith-Based Action Group

Faith-based communities have a great capacity to generate interest, commitment and focus on the issues important to them. Tap into this energy and potential. Help the faith-based action group become an even stronger group of united *SASA!* activists.

Recommendations for Action

1. Meet with the religious leaders and discuss the progress made to date: how they are experiencing *SASA!* and what areas have potential for further growth.
2. Conduct the Action Training Module with leaders or congregation representatives/members.
3. Create a study group where religious leaders can sit together and identify verses and passages in critical religious texts that support mutual respect between women and men, non-violence and peace. Help religious leaders incorporate those into sermons and teachings.
4. Encourage religious leaders to distribute *SASA!* materials in their church or mosque.
5. Encourage the leaders to meet with religious leaders of other faiths who are not part of the faith-based action group. In these meetings they can discuss ways to work together to promote healthy and happy relationships and families. They can explore options for holding joint events and providing space for members of their congregations to mingle, mix and learn from each other.
6. Encourage religious leaders to create new faith groups for their congregations, where community members can further explore issues of power, violence and HIV/AIDS. These could include parenting groups, couples seminars, youth groups, or women and men's groups. Encourage the religious leaders to engage these new faith groups using any of the *SASA!* activities (e.g., the film, soap opera, community dramas, training sessions, etc.).

Local Leader Action Group

Often, policy or law reform processes take time. Be patient but not complacent. Keep engaging local leaders to ensure passage of important new measures. And remember, it doesn't stop there, *SASA!* activism requires making sure that new policy/law reaches those it was intended to help. Seek to ensure that commitments made on paper become reality.

Recommendations for Action

1. Conduct the Action power point presentation with the selected leaders.
2. Facilitate select sessions from the Action Training Modules if feasible and appropriate.
3. Advocate for a new policy/law/plan of action that directly responds to the issue of violence against women and its connection to HIV/AIDS. This could be a new community bylaw, inclusion of violence

against women in local or traditional conflict resolution bodies, an earmark of funding for violence prevention.

4. Spearhead public gatherings and offer local leaders the opportunity to speak out against violence against women and its connection to HIV/AIDS.
5. Support the implementation of any new policy/law/plan of action that has been passed. Conduct public education campaigns and encourage community members to monitor the success of implementation of the law/policy/plan.
6. Identify civil society organizations, community members or other leaders to be 'watch dogs' ensuring that the leaders promises are kept.
7. Publish newspaper articles, go on radio and invite local leaders on these media programs to speak directly about the issue to the public, or hold public rallies to help community members stay informed about promises kept (or not!).

Business Action Group

Increasingly, business owners and unions are conscious about their identity. They do not want to be seen as simply taking from the community. They also want to be known for giving back. Help the business action group put structures in place for sustaining their activism.

Recommendations for Action

1. Conduct the Action Training Module.
2. Encourage business owners to donate goods or services to the local women's shelter, HIV/AIDS clinic, etc.
3. Encourage the action group to ensure there are free male and female condoms in all the toilets at their offices.
4. Encourage the action group to make training on violence against women and HIV/AIDS mandatory for all employees. Invite them to use or adapt the *SASA!* modules for that purpose. Encourage them to hold sessions at least once a year for new employees and as a refresher for existing staff.
5. Guide the action group in creating a special fund for women experiencing violence.
6. Suggest that they encourage all employees/members not in the action group to become involved. They could provide them with materials, activities and space to meet, fostering their activism inside the company and in the community.
7. Encourage the action group to be a leader among other businesses/unions, sharing how they are supporting the prevention of violence against women and HIV.

Peer Action Group

In the Action phase of *SASA!* encourage peer action groups to extend their activism to the wider community. Help them gain the confidence and conviction to take action in their communities to prevent violence against women and HIV.

Recommendations for Action

1. Facilitate the Action Training Module with group leaders/representatives (for them to then go back and repeat the module with other members).
2. Encourage them to plan community wide actions with other action groups. They could work together to hold a march, a rally, or a contest for the best and brightest idea for promoting non-violence and safety in relationships and families.
3. Suggest that they organize events at schools—with school administrators and teachers, parents, support staff and other students. At these events they

could discuss ways the school can support equality between girls and boys, ensure protection from any type of violence and foster healthy problem solving skills among students.

4. Encourage them to join with other groups and advocate for changes made by local leaders. They could advocate for a new bylaw, new street lights, a policy that drinking joints/bars do not allow men to bring in underage girls, etc. Encourage them to identify their priorities and to create a plan for making them a reality!
5. Encourage each peer action group to create a small neighborhood watch group on nearby streets. This is a group of people who are watching out for violence in families and who will organize and take action to prevent and respond to violence.
6. Encourage the peer action groups to continue working with *SASA!* activities in the community – and to encourage and inspire other groups to get involved!