

## SUCCESS STORY – SMALL STEPS TOWARDS BIG CHANGE: COMMUNITY LEADER IN RIBÁUÈ STIMULATES DISCUSSION ON STIGMA AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WITH SCIP SUPPORT

Since the end of 2011, the Behavior Change Communication team of the SCIP project has been implementing community-level discussions to sensitize and raise awareness on Stigma and GBV. In Ribáuè, the community of Ratane (Chica Locality, Namiconha Administrative Post – 30 km from district headquarters) stands out for their implementation of the activities with the 350 households and 1,397 inhabitants in the community.

Ratane, under the guidance of Community Leader Abílio Chande, has been very successful in developing and implementing community discussions on stigma and GBV with significant dissemination of lessons learned to the local population.



According to Mr. Chande (who also serves as discussion facilitator), prior to the SCIP intervention, the community of Ratane lived in an atmosphere of prejudice: both discrediting or rejecting individuals/groups of individuals because they were seen as different from the others as well as tolerating the behavior of men who assaulted women. After a series of courses given by the SCIP team, these issues diminished and GBV became less of an issue in the community.

Abílio believes that “Efforts to address GBV and stigma will be unsuccessful if we continue to remain silent and believe that sex equality is a myth. All who are concerned with issues related to Stigma and GBV should look for ways to overcome the barriers to adopt more appropriate and less discriminatory behaviors. We must also be pro-active as elements of a process of change initiated within the community.”

According to Abílio, everyone is vulnerable to HIV and GBV. Therefore, it is critical that everyone take responsibility for their behavior and their lives: “There is a need for behavior change both in men and women...”

In the community of Ratane, the Community Leader Council is strengthening and providing leadership opportunities for women in order to improve their options, opportunities and bargaining power within and outside the home, thanks to the exemplary work of Abílio Chande, community leader and facilitator of Stigma and GBV discussions, with the technical support of SCIP.