

XVIII International AIDS Conference • Vienna, Austria • July 2010

# Lifeboat Germany

A Guide to *Positive* Motherhood

• Manuela Maiguashca, Amsterdam, and Harriet Langanke, Köln

# Why Lifeboats?

- Anasha (named altered) is a woman from Nigeria. When she learned a few ago during her pregnancy that she was HIV-positive, she was urged by her gynaecologist to have an abortion. She would have loved to have the child. Today, she is full of hate: »The Germans are killing babies.«
- Jasmina (name altered) already had two children, when she was diagnosed with HIV. Fearing she would pass on the virus, she stopped kissing them and even kept them emotionally at a distance. She cleaned and disinfected excessively.

Two out of numerous cases, these cited from the AIDS-Hilfe Düsseldorf newsletter

**Still, not everybody who should understand does so!**

# An international Project



- International Director:  
Manuela Maiguashca, NL
- German Producer:  
GSSG - Harriet Langanke;  
Carasana, Cologne
- German bodies:
  - Network Women and AIDS
  - AAWS / DAIG
  - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft  
Kinder im Umfeld von HIV

# Who needs more information?

- **Women with HIV**
  - pregnant women
  - women with a migratory background
  - their family and friends
- **Health professionals**
  - physicians: medical practice, gynaecologists ...
  - midwives; nurses ...
- **A wider community**
  - public, media, multipliers ...

# Addressing the public

- **The Mainstream Media and HIV/Aids**
  - “gatekeepers” of information about HIV/Aids
- **Multipliers**
  - NGOs, NPOs, CBOs, that deal with reproductive health and HIV are trying to redress some of these imbalances

# How we inform

- **A Collection of Short Films**
  - Shown at conferences, film festivals, as interstitials for television, social spots in cinematic programming, in gallery exhibitions, online, educational programming, etc...
- **Websites**
  - Offer films available for download as well as educational resources and links
- **Multimedia DVD**
  - Collates a selection of films with informational resources for use in workshops, training, counselling, etc...

# Lifeboats Films

- **Break Stereotypes**
  - Resist Reductive Narratives
  - Face Taboos
  - Create safe spaces in which to be heard and in which to listen
- **Use a Participatory Model of Filmmaking**
  - Disclosure is not a prerequisite for participating
  - Women and children drive the content
  - Filmmakers and media educators, working with families, help to conceptualise and record the imagery
- **Use Documentary and Art to Create Expressive Portraits**
  - Simple films - Complex portraits
  - Wider concept of documentary

# Public Health Issues

1. Authentic and reliable first hand information
2. Empowerment for women/families living with HIV and AIDS and their children
3. Making the issues of the DVD adaptable for mass media as well as for experts



# Where are the films screened and how are they used?

- **Use multi platform distribution model**
- **Films as social action tools**
  - Repurposing media for different audiences
    - » Women and children
    - » Health professionals
    - » Media and wider public

# What have we done so far?

- “**Lullaby**”, The Dream, The Game and The Oral History Project



- **Lifeboat Germany Dock 1**
- **Work in progress:**
  - **Built trust** with communities of women and children joining the Lifeboat project
  - **[www.Lifeboatfilms.org](http://www.Lifeboatfilms.org)**
  - **Lifeboat Germany Dock 2: The Young Perspective**

# Our first trust building meeting

## German Lifeboat Group



Bad Honnef  
March 2007

# Fund raising issues

- German Federal Ministry of Health
- Deutsche AIDS-Stiftung
- Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe
- Commercial partners
- We still need money...

# More to know?



Ein audiovisueller Wegweiser für **POSITIVE** Mutterschaft.

## Lifeboat

Deutschland

**1992 und kein bisschen weiter?**  
Das bundesweite Netzwerk Frauen und Aids weiß: Noch immer sind Schwangerschaft und Mutterschaft bei Frauen mit HIV Reizthemen. Viel zu viele Kinderwünsche sind buchstäblich untergegangen. Nur weil die, die es angeht, nicht gut informiert sind.

**Multimedia-DVDs klären auf und machen Mut.**  
Lifeboat ist ein Medienprojekt, bei dem audiovisuelle Beiträge gemeinsam mit HIV-positiven Müttern entwickelt werden. Mit Kurzfilmen wollen sie anderen Frauen mit HIV Mut und Hoffnung machen. Ziel ist es, ein Lifeboat – ein Rettungsboot – zu bauen, mit dem HIV-positive Frauen das Meer von Stigmatisierung und Diskriminierung überwinden können.

**Lifeboat – ein internationales Projekt.**  
„Rettungsboote“ wird es in vielen Ländern Europas und Afrikas geben. In Deutschland beteiligen sich das bundesweite Netzwerk Frauen und Aids, die Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder im Umfeld von HIV und Aids, die Sektion AAWs der Deutschen AIDS-Gesellschaft sowie die Kölner Videoproduktion Carasana an dem Projekt.

**Mitmachen!**  
Frauen und Mütter, die Ideen für die DVD haben, die die Kurzfilme gestalten wollen oder die sich generell an dem Projekt beteiligen wollen, können jederzeit einsteigen. Platzreservierungen bei Harriet Langanke unter Telefon 0221 – 340 80 40 oder per E-Mail an [info@projekt-lifeboat.de](mailto:info@projekt-lifeboat.de). | [www.projekt-lifeboat.de](http://www.projekt-lifeboat.de)

## Websites:

- [www.projekt-lifeboat.de](http://www.projekt-lifeboat.de)
- [www.lifeboatfilms.org](http://www.lifeboatfilms.org)

- Order DVDs at:

[www.carasana.tv](http://www.carasana.tv)