

MeTA – Medicines Transparency Alliance

Report on MeTA Information Dissemination Assignment in Livingstone

Date: 30th October 2013.

1.0 Introduction

MeTA Zambia is a multi – stake holder initiative involving government, private sector and civil society organizations and cooperating partners whose ultimate goal is to improve health outcomes for low income and disadvantaged people in Zambia by increasing transparency in the selection, regulation, procurement, distribution, supply and use of essential medicines as well as improving equitable access to affordable essential medicines.

On 27th October, 2013 the Alliance invited and sent Mr. Ludovic Mwape a Public Relations Officer from the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority, a government agency and a member of MeTA responsible for the regulation and control of medicines in Zambia to represent MeTA Zambia and disseminate information on pilot phase studies conducted by MeTA to a focus group of representatives of different Civil Society organizations .and through radio at Radio Musi –O –Tunya in Livingstone, southern Province.

2.0 Composition of the Focus group

Mr. Mwape (ZAMRA) and Mr. Isaac Bwalya a Cameraman from TEVETA travelled to Livingstone from Lusaka on 27th October 2013 and on 28th October, 2013 met representatives of 5 Civil Society organizations whose composition was as follows;

1. Mr. Lloyd Bwalya - Network of people living with HIV/ Aids (NPZ+)
2. Ms. Christine M. Mutema - Young Women Christian Association
3. Ben T. Tembo - Platform for Youth Development
4. Mukendwa Malinde - KWENUHA
5. Moses Sakala - Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection

3.0 Radio Programme

Shortly after a presentation of the pilot phase studies and discussions with the focus group Mr. Mwape from ZAMRA and Mr. Bwalya from NPZ+ proceeded for a live radio presentation on Radio Musi – O – Tunya.

3.1 Issues Raised

The following issues were raised

- i. Stock outs of essential medicines was still a major concern
- ii. Rampant sale of herbal medicines on the streets
- iii. Increased number of unregistered drug outlets.

Prepared by; Ludovic Mwape
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