



# NEWSLETTER

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## MESSAGE FROM DAC SOUTHERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE

### COVID-19 EFFECTS FOR DEAF COMMUNITY

2020 has been a challenging year for the Deaf community due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19. The pandemic came like a tsunami and hit the local and international Deaf communities. Even though the information has been disseminated on TV news, radio and social media platforms, the Deaf community has not been able to access information widely due to their reliance on Sign Language. I urge the Deaf leaders to continue disseminating information using Sign Language. Also, organise awareness workshops via their Associations to educate the Deaf community about preventive measures of the pandemic. Let us unite. Wishing you a Merry Christmas. Tshepo Maseko, DAC Southern Region representative.



## SIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING

### South Africa August – November 2020

Sign Language training targeting Youth Cafés is an initiative of the provincial Youth Development Strategy and the Western Cape Government's new Provincial Strategic Goals, which calls for improving education outcomes and opportunities for youth development. DeafNET presented Basic South African Sign Language with a specific focus on NEET Youth (Not in Education, Employment and or Training) from Fish Hoek, Langa, Tulbagh, Villersdorp, Mossel Bay, and Swellendam in the Western Cape. Also, Sign Language awareness - raising took place in Ceres, Brak River and Wynberg, Western Cape



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## HIV AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN IN AFRICA

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the Deaf community in Africa is seen as high due to their inadequate access to the health care system. These communication barriers and access issues could result in poor knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission, making Deaf people vulnerable to contract the virus. In this context, DeafNET's regional representatives hosted workshops in Africa.

### Rodrigues Island

14 August 2020

Ms Irani Jankee, DAC Indian Ocean Regional Representative presented HIV awareness - raising at Care- Co, Rodrigues Island. 25 participants who took part in the presentation. The objectives of the awareness - raising workshop were to share information concerning HIV /AIDS infection, prevention and care to the Deaf community.



### Uganda 15 August 2020

Mr Bwire Edgar, DAC Eastern Regional representative presented an HIV/AIDS workshop for Deaf persons in Jinja, Uganda. DeafNET's HIV toolkit with supporting visual and informational material were used and distributed during the awareness-raising. 25 Deaf participants took part in the awareness-raising campaign.





## Kenya 18 August 2020

DeafNET through its Eastern Regional DAC member Mr Bwire Edgar, carried out another HIV awareness workshop in Mumias town, Kakamega county, western Kenya. The workshop attracted 22 members and the HIV/AIDS knowledge was instilled in members through various topics.



## Congo 10 October 2020

Dr Olivier Tuyinama, an Emergency specialist at CMK Hospital (Centre Medical de Kinshasa), Marie France Kindambu Pharmacist / World Health Organization together with Ms Marie Louise Kanda Central Region representative and DAC Governing Board member, facilitated a day workshop on "Awareness of Deaf People" on HIV/AIDS.



## EQUIP TO SERVE AND LEAD

DeafNET's Social Competence in Leadership also called "Equip to Serve and Lead" is designed to develop the potential of Deaf leaders through guidance, training and inspiration/motivation. This training program is designed to give training in Social Competence in Leadership, help potential Deaf leaders to develop skills, including personal skills like self-awareness and social awareness, organize, deliver effective training and to know how to assess the impact and success of the training.

### Ethiopia 26 – 30 October 2020

Ms Woinshet Girma, Mr Innocent Djonthe and Ms Marie Louise Kanda, DAC board members, facilitated a workshop on Social Competence in Leadership called "Equip to Serve and Lead", to develop potential Deaf leaders through guidance, training and inspiration. The workshop was presented to 25 potential Deaf leaders in Ethiopia, as part of an effort to strengthen leadership.



## RED STAR PROCESS

The Red Star Process (RSP) is a training method that was developed to bridge the gap between Sign Language and reading-writing competence and bilingualism in learners living with deafness or hearing loss. The method has proven to be particularly useful in raising the reading and writing levels of proficiency of Deaf learners and improving their ability to express their emotions and thoughts, improving their communication skills in Sign, writing and reading.



## South Africa September 2020

DeafNET in partnership with DG Murray Trust hosted 2 days of the Red Star Process training for teachers and learners from Carpe Diem School, in support of the division for deaf and hard of hearing learning that's being implemented at the school to give access to such learners in the area.



## Educators from Chad 09– 27 November 2019

DeafNET in partnership with De la Bat School hosted a Red Star Process (RSP) workshop for 4 representatives from Centre de Formation Professionnelle des Jeunes Sourds, Deaf schools in Chad. The Chad educators received hands on training in the Red Star Process in the classroom environment where the RSP has been in practice since 1997.



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## Follow-up in Benin

14 – 18 December 2020

DeafNET in partnership with De la Bat School for the Deaf in Worcester, South Africa trained three educators from King George IV Centre, Zimbabwe in the Red Star Process method in 2015. As part of our Monitoring and Evaluation Programme, a team from DeafNET visited Centre pour la Promotion des Initiatives des Sourds Du Benin (CPISB), Ecole des Sourds d'Agla, Cotonou, Benin between 14 – 18 December 2020 for a follow-up CPD (Continuous Professional Development) visit.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP Pastry Making

Mauritius – 12 September – 28 November 2020

Following the successful pastry making project in 2019, Ms Irani Jankee Indian Ocean Regional Representative decided to continue creating the same opportunities for more Deaf people. Consequently, DeafNET in partnership with the Aaleemee Society and the Deaf Association of Mauritius, hosted another training in pastry making, targeting 8 Deaf people to empower them with appropriate knowledge, skills and utensils.



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## ENTREPRENEURSHIP Beekeeping

**Uganda – 17 October 2020**

DeafNET through its DAC regional representative Mr Bwire Edgar continues to follow up and monitor the progress of this project, in Uganda. On the 17th October 2020, a workshop was held on ways to effectively promote honey to business in the region of Jinja supported by DeafNET. This is part of an ongoing process to continue to equip the Deaf beekeepers with the necessary knowledge, skills, marketing and management skills.



## NETWORKING

**South Africa 25 – 29 October 2020**

Dr Leoni Bouwer and Pastor Claude Jacques from Madagascar visited DeafNET to discuss Bible translation into Malagasy Sign Language. Rev Attie Smit, Chairperson of DeafNET, facilitated the meeting with the SA experts under leadership of Dr Rocco Hough that played a major role in translations for the Deaf in South Africa.



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## GHANA 17 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

The DeafNET Africa Committee Western Regional representative Mr Jonathan Amuah, collaborated with the Agora Ne Obra PA (ANOPA) project and hosted a 2 days' workshop to create awareness of educational and sports opportunities that are available for socially excluded people such as Deaf children and the youth.



## TANZANIA 28 – 29 September 2020

Mr Tumaini Ngajilo from Tanzania Empowerment for Persons and Gender Health Organisation hosted a 2 days' workshop on civic and voter education for Deaf people to promote social inclusion in the upcoming general election.



## FUNDRAISING

### South Africa 26 November 2020

Sincere gratitude to Gerrie van Zyl from Rodeberg Farm and Eddie2Race which donated funds to DeafNET for further development of the Deaf community in the field of HIV awareness - raising.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### DEAFNET HIV TOOLKIT 2

The new updated DeafNET HIV Toolkit, Toolkit 2, aims to provide information and guidance primarily to the Deaf communities in Africa. It will be designed and developed primarily to assist with HIV awareness-raising in the 6 regions in Africa namely Northern, Eastern, Western, Southern Central and the Indian Ocean Islands. The toolkit consists of 1 comic format information booklet, 1 DVD (International Sign) with subtitles in French and English, a pamphlet and an HIV poster. The project is in an advanced stage of planning.





## BEEKEEPING IN KENYA

This Beekeeping project is primarily concerned is to reduce poverty among rural Deaf community and providing sustainable income for Deaf people. DeafNET is looking to establish 20 beehives as a platform for training and establishing beekeeping practice for ten Deaf members of Kakamega Deaf Association. The project is in the planning stage and an example of over border out-reach of one deaf community to the deaf in a neighbouring country, facilitated by DeafNET.



## DEAFNET AFRICA CONFERENCE 2021

The 5th DeafNET Africa Quadrennial Workshop 2021 is a multi-stakeholder opportunity and platform aimed at bringing together researchers, build relationships with other Deaf organisations, create awareness of the needs and human capital of the Deaf community, facilitate networking and sharing of knowledge and expertise. The workshop is planned to be held from 9 – 12 August 2021, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Please visit our website for latest updates.





**THANK YOU TO DEAFNET'S MAIN SPONSOR:**

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**THANK YOU TO YOU, OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS AND CHAMPIONS.  
DEAFNET HAS BEEN ABLE TO ADAPT AND STRIVE FOR PROGRESS  
DURING THIS UNCERTAIN TIME.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021**

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