

World Bank Group staff share their personal stories of how HIV has touched their lives in the hopes that by showing the “face” of HIV within the WBG we can foster a respectful work environment where open communication can take place.



From TTL to HIV Champion

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What started out as another work task for me has turned into a calling as I have become really passionate about arming our staff and their dependents with the information they need to protect themselves from HIV. It started in 2005 when I was nominated as the Task Team Leader (TTL) for a newly launched program addressing HIV in the World Bank workplace. I was a little worried in the beginning that I would not be able to get anything going as I did not know much about the topic, and I am not the kind of person who can talk easily to people – and this job would require me to be able to talk to staff both as a group, and on a one to one basis...about a difficult subject too!

So I started small by cutting out articles from local papers and pasting them in various places around the building. Those efforts progressed into presentations to staff during orientations, and other activities leading up to our 2006 World AIDS Day extravaganza in an ethnic market place, which brought together partner agencies – ILO and UNDP, Delhi Network of Positive People, and a whole lot of volunteers, not to forget NDO colleagues – Sarita, Sangeeta and Srinivas. This event attracted over 8,000 visitors including local community members, and UNDP and WB staff.

Along the way I have become a passionate advocate for this cause. A simple visit to a local shelter for women and children made homeless by HIV has turned into regular interactions with the residents and caretakers – it is very emotionally rewarding to visit them, share their thoughts and help with their needs. You don't need to be a public health expert to get involved, and every person has a role to play in ending the spread of HIV and in ensuring that those who are living with the disease have access to the resources they need. Every little bit helps, and even small changes in behavior can have a huge impact on people's lives.

In finding my way through this uncharted territory, I have been very fortunate to benefit from the abundant support that I have had from my Management, without which I may not have managed half as much. The challenge now lies in looking ahead to see how we can improve and build on the foundation we have laid.



Learn more about the World Bank Group's
HIV in the Workplace Program at <http://hivworkplace>