

# Ombetja Yehinga Organisation

Annual Report 2013

## **Board members**

Dr Scholastika Ipinge (Chairperson) (University of Namibia (UNAM))  
Ms Sandy Rudd (Vice-chairperson) (College of the Arts Theatre School)  
Mr Charles Uarije (RACOC, Kunene Region) (outgoing)  
Ms Kathleen Newton (Finances) (Independent accounting professional)  
Mr Peter Watson (Legal) (Legal Assistance Centre)  
Mrs Carolin Anne Guriras (Marketing) (in-coming)  
Ms Mercedes van Cloete (PR) (in-coming)

## **Acronyms and initialisms**

AAC	AIDS Awareness Club
CS	Combined School
FNB	First National Bank of Namibia
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
HS	High School
JSS	Junior Secondary School
KAB	Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour
MGECW	Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare
MHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
MPYC	Multi-Purpose Youth Centre
NANASO	Namibia Networks of AIDS Service Organisations
NAPPA	Namibia Planned Parenthood Association
ODT	OYO Dance Troupe
OYO	Ombetja Yehinga Organisation
PMTCT	prevention mother-to-child transmission
RACE	Regional AIDS Committee in Education
RCC	Road Construction Company
SS	Secondary School
SSS	Senior Secondary School
UK	United Kingdom

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## 1 Message from the OYO Director

2013 was milestone for the Ombetja Yehinga Organisation (OYO) Trust as we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a non-governmental organisation (NGO). From its humble beginnings in 2003, when we had only five employees, to attaining over 110 000 contacts/interventions in 2013, OYO has been on an exciting journey. 2013 was therefore a year to celebrate, but also to remember and reflect.

It was again a challenging year for OYO, as obtaining funding is becoming increasingly complicated. The Global Fund Rolling Continuation Channel Phase I came to an end at the end of June. Phase II, due to commence in July, only commenced in November. This was a major challenge for OYO, and projects such as the magazine and the work OYO does with out-of-school youth groups suffered. However, OYO negotiated various short contracts and could allocate more time to each project. Three DVD productions were completed this year, but the OYO Dance Troupe (ODT) was not able to reach as many people this year as in past years.

Our biggest frustration this year was with Global Fund. Our 2013 budget, as per our contract for January to June, was N\$1 718 640; only N\$285 509.96 was received in April. Our budget for July to December was N\$ 2 754 196.10; only N\$ 81 632.75 was received at the end of August and N\$78 280.00 at the end of September (to cover salaries); a final disbursement of N\$1 226,751.17 was received on 21 November. This budget was very difficult to manage. Significant projects could be undertaken with such a budget, but unfortunately, disbursement amounts and timing were unpredictable, and as project planning could often only start after receipt of disbursements, the projects were compromised.

Other contracts OYO negotiated were, however, much more fruitful. Despite the fact that it is leaving Namibia, Save the Children, Sweden once again agreed to support OYO's project *My best interest*, and the third episode could be produced. OYO entered into an agreement with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation) (GIZ) for developing and supporting a youth group in Eenhana; while this project was challenging, it was also exciting and rewarding. The German Embassy was a particularly helpful partner of OYO, and *Magda*, our dance piece on the topic of so-called "corrective rape", could tour six northern regions. The Valentine Trust, a long-standing friend of OYO, continued with its support, and this year we could welcome one of its trustees, who visited OYO and spent some time at a school and witnessing some of our activities). Finally, UNESCO supported our World AIDS Day tour to the south at the end of the year.

OYO employs full-time dancers as performers – the first troupe in Namibia to do so. This, we feel, is a substantial achievement. In May, we received the exciting news that the ODT had been selected for the Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival, scheduled for July 2014 in Glasgow as part of the build-up to the Commonwealth Games. The Festival will celebrate the best of youth dance from across the Commonwealth, and will take place over three days and nights,

bringing up to 400 young people and 30 youth dance leaders from approximately 30 groups together. Only eight countries out of the 54 Commonwealth countries were selected. This is therefore an honour for Namibia, and a great achievement for OYO. Since the dancers taking part in the festival need to be 21 and under, OYO embarked on a nationwide selection process, supported by the First National Bank of Namibia (FNB) Foundation.

Once again, none of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff. Josua Homateni (Project Coordinator: Productions) worked tirelessly to manage all the tours and productions across the country. Ivan “Fly” Mueze (Project Coordinator: Youth Development) and Nyandee Mbarandongo (Production Assistant) continued to inspire youth groups all over the country. Cecilia Petrus (Project Coordinator: Operations) managed the logistics of all our projects with enthusiasm, at times simultaneously juggling three productions. Dancers reached a record number of over 68 000 people this year. And all the administrative staff in Windhoek ensured the smooth running of all projects. I am blessed to work with such wonderful people, and enjoyed every moment I spent with them.

While 2014 will certainly come with its own challenges, I have no doubt that as in past years, much was learnt in 2013, and that OYO will be better prepared to face these challenges in the years to come. Realistically, we will need to take on more projects in 2014 to sustain ourselves, but I am confident that we are ready for this challenge. We have continued to make a difference in the lives of many young people throughout 2013, and we are more motivated than ever to continue doing so in 2014.

Philippe Talavera (PhD)  
Director: Ombetja Yehinga Organisation

## **2 Background information**

OYO is a Namibian Welfare Organisation (WO 199) established in December 2002, and officially launched in March 2003. It registered as a trust with the High Court of Namibia in 2009.

The organisation aims at using the arts (both visual and performing) with young people to create social awareness and mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other social problems such as domestic violence, rape, and the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

OYO’s vision is to develop a society in which there is broad access to information and the arts. By developing their creative skills, young people enable themselves to make better choices, and thus to become more prosperous, to increase their life expectancy, and to improve the quality of their lives.

The organisation’s values are:

- to be a listening and responsive organisation;
- to lead by example, striving for the highest standards;
- to be inclusive, regardless of race, gender, religion, ability, HIV status or sexual orientation;
- to retain our freedom to give accurate and relevant information, and to do so to the best of our ability;
- to behave in an ethical manner and to fight corruption and dishonesty;
- to support and encourage all people to assert their right to a voice;
- to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn;
- to promote creativity and innovation;
- to promote human rights for all;
- to promote excellence and pride in success; and
- to be apolitical, secular and non-judgmental.

*OYO's application of a highly participatory ... and learner-centred pedagogy represents a model of excellence and best practice.*

***Hon. Nangola Mbumba, Minister of Education, September 2009***

### **3 History of the Ombetja Yehinga Organisation**

The origins of OYO lie in the Kunene Regional Council. In 2000, teachers requested support for their attempts effectively and efficiently to integrate HIV/AIDS-related information into their school curriculum. In January 2001, the council officially launched a programme called Ombetja Yehinga, as part of the activities of RACOC (the Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee), Kunene Region. The project was extended for one more year in 2002. By the end of 2002, the programme had been so successful that requests were received to expand it to Erongo Region and Khomas Region. With this end in mind, the Ombetja Yehinga programme registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS) as an NGO, and focused on the development of a proper work plan and philosophy, characterised by the slogan: *Using the arts with young people to create social awareness*. With the establishment of a Head Office in Windhoek and two regional offices (in Erongo Region and Kunene Region), 2003 was therefore a milestone in the life of OYO.

Between 2003 and 2012, OYO was responsible for the following productions and publications:

- the magazine *OYO, young, latest and cool*;
- regional tours and annual youth festivals with youth groups;

- the plays and DVD series *The hostel monologues* (2006), *Five minutes of pleasure* (2007), *We were young* (2009), *Sex and chocolate* and *Teddy bear love* (2010);
- the dance shows *The Namibian Odysseus* (2008), *Fallen masks* and *Modern love* (2009), followed by the creation of the ODT, which has toured nationally and internationally (in South Africa, the United Kingdom (UK) and Germany); the production of *Should I know?* (2010), *Ongumi* (2010), *Don't leave me* (2011), *Magda* (2012), *I'm not alone* (in collaboration with Zimbabwean musician Leonard Zakata – 2010), *If only* (2012) and *unwanted* (2012);
- the DVDs *A crack in the wall* (2008), and *One night* (2011), and the mini-series *My best interest Episode 1: Left alone* and *Episode 2: Stinky boy* (2012).
- the fashion theatre extravaganzas *The fashion disease* (2003), *Isolation* (2003), and *Eros and Thanatos* (2005);
- the books *Challenging the Namibian perception of sexuality* (2002), *The hyena's disease* (with children from Kunene Region – 2003), and *Our dreams, our hope* (with Braunfels Agriculture High School (HS) – 2004);
- the CDs *Maturwisa ehinga* (with the Putuavanga AIDS Awareness Club (AAC) – 2003) and *Vital* (with Namibian artists – 2004);
- the photographic projects *The caring Namibian man* (2005), *Still life* (2007), and *There's no such thing* (2010); and
- the condom exhibition *Rubber soul* (2006).

OYO was also involved in various international youth exchange initiatives, culminating in 2008 with a performance at the renowned Peacock Theatre in London.

Awards and recognition include:

- the 2009 AfriComNet Chairman's Award to OYO's founder and Director for "his outstanding contribution in HIV and AIDS prevention and impact mitigation through communication";
- the Special Youth Prize at the Lola Screen Festival, 2011, for OYO's DVDs *Make a move* (2010), *Sex and chocolate* (2011), and *Teddy bear love* (2011); and
- the award for Second-Best Youth Film at the Lola Screen Festival 2010, for OYO's DVD *We were young* (produced in late 2009 and released early in 2010).



## 4 OYO's tenth anniversary

The Ombetja Yehinga Organisation was created in 2001 by Dr Philippe Talavera, and became an NGO in 2003. To celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, OYO presented a retrospective of its work in the parking lot of the Theatre School. Over 200 guests attended the event.

In his opening speech, Talavera explained, “In 2001, when I started OYO as a project in Kunene Region, I had no idea that in 2003 it would become an NGO. I started OYO on my own, voluntarily, with support from the Kunene Regional Council. It was just meant to be a small project to help schools in northern Kunene Region to integrate HIV education in their curriculum. The project was successful, and when we registered as an NGO, I had no idea that 10 years later I would stand here, together with you, to celebrate a decade of OYO – a decade of fantastic projects with amazing young people.”

The evening was a retrospective of OYO's projects over the years, with testimonies from young people who had taken part in those projects. Videos by Ruusa Ntinda (2003, *Maturwisa*), Valerie Tjirimuje (2003, *Isolation*; and 2004, *Eros and Thanatos*), Loide Imasa (2008, *A crack in the wall*) and Elizabeth Katjiveri (2007, from the Outjo Youth Group) allowed the audience to learn from their experiences. Julien Geirises and Johannes Magongo (2008, *The Namibian Odysseus*) and Bergo van Wyk and Barnabas Ochurub (2008, *A crack in the wall*) paid tribute to the ODT and OYO's film productions. Early works of OYO involved the use of fashion and movement to create awareness. Extracts from *Eros and Thanatos* (2004), *Rubber Soul* (2006) and *The Namibian Odysseus* (2008) were presented, thanks to the support from fashion designers Maria Caley and Chakirra Claasen. The ODT presented *The Dark Medea* (2013) and a tribute to the OYO magazine (started in 2002), while the Rundu and Grootfontein youth groups closed the event with songs from their repertoires (2007 to 2013).

One member of the audience noted, “While last night was amazing and fun, I must say that watching *The Dark Medea* was excruciating. I found it so moving and so painfully beautiful. Young people need to see this! Thank you for last night, but also thank you for all the lives OYO has changed over the last 10 years. Incredible!”

Another guest said, “I must thank you for the invitation. I brought along my 16-year-old daughter, and the whole event was such a great inspiration for both me and my daughter. As I was sitting there, I thought ‘If only the whole of Namibia could see this tonight!’ At the same time as being entertaining, it was touching, inspirational, educational and most of all, encouraging not only for the youth, but for everyone!”

Over the past decade, OYO has achieved over a million “interventions” that have touched the lives of Namibians. It used its tenth anniversary as an opportunity to rebrand itself, and the new OYO logo was unveiled by OYO trustees Sandy Rudd and Kathleen Newton.

According to Talavera, the evening was “a great success and an opportunity to celebrate all the people who have shaped OYO to become what it is now. Former staff members Evelina Ashipala, Rikondjerua Mutambo and Alfa Sililo, who worked tirelessly in the early years of OYO, were present at the event. Current staff members Joshua Homateni, Cecilia Petrus, Ivan Mueze, Nyandee Mbarandongo, all the dancers and all the supporting staff were called to the stage at the end of the proceedings to remind us that OYO is not a one-man show, but a team effort. We are proud to work together and to know that we are making a difference in people’s lives.”

OYO also made use of the opportunity provided by its tenth anniversary to update its website and to produce a series of YouTube links to present its work. The links were released on OYO’s website and OYO’s Facebook page.

<b>Link</b>	<b>Release date</b>
Philippe & Cecilia <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqJtYOsNa_U">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqJtYOsNa_U</a>	04/11/13
Tobias & Silas - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA-DM4kClNY">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA-DM4kClNY</a>	11/11/13
Jane - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VESkAbmGRb0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VESkAbmGRb0</a>	18/11/13
OYO Magazine - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ie08U5M5tfc">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ie08U5M5tfc</a>	25/11/13
Ruusa - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmz8viT23T0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmz8viT23T0</a>	02/12/13
Philippe & Valerie <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEVNDPjxs0c">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEVNDPjxs0c</a>	09/12/13
Cecilia & Elizabeth - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn81tfPYVxc">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn81tfPYVxc</a>	16/12/13
Mrs Nghilongwa - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeqTPNUfLVA">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeqTPNUfLVA</a>	23/12/13
Rodney - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKn-4itykaA">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKn-4itykaA</a>	30/12/13

## **5 Component 1: Activities with learners**

One of the principal focuses of OYO has been the development of information, education and communication materials by young people, for young people, using performing and visual arts media, in order to disseminate important information regarding HIV transmission and prevention, and social equality issues. In particular, OYO aims at supporting learners at school by providing them with relevant information and engaging them in meaningful activities.

Since the restructuring of OYO in 2012, the focus of this component has shifted to the preparation and facilitation of the OYO magazine.

The magazine *OYO, young, latest and cool* used to appear every second month. Each issue addresses a different topic related to HIV/AIDS or sexual health. Assistants arrange meetings with the AACs to deal with the selected topic; they organise debates, create plays or hold discussion sessions as appropriate. They help learners to gain a thorough understanding of the topic and encourage them to express their views or concerns by making individual contributions in the forms of essays, poems, stories or drawings.

Contributions are evaluated first by the assistant, and then again at the OYO Head Office, on the basis of their originality and content; the chosen work, together with expert opinions and other pertinent inputs, is then published. The published magazines are distributed free of charge to schools, and assistants then visit each school twice to ensure their optimal use.<sup>1</sup>

2012 was a difficult year, and the magazine suffered from the absence of timely disbursements by Global Fund. The magazine team was officially terminated on 20 August 2012. OYO then started to work with freelance facilitators.

2013 appeared to be equally difficult and frustrating. A disbursement was received in December 2012, so the year started well, with two magazines being printed and facilitated. Between April and November, however, no disbursements were received. The May/June issue was ready by April, but had to be kept on hold, and could only be printed in December, for distribution in 2014.

### **Issue 55: Friendship and behaviour**

This was the first magazine of the term. It was a fairly straightforward topic, with the aim of encouraging learners to choose good friends at the beginning of the school year and to beware of negative “friends” who might influence them to make poor choices.

### **Issue 56: Self-esteem**

Self esteem remains an important topic for teenagers. The magazine was welcomed in schools, in particular by life skills teachers, who enjoyed the magazine and commended OYO for working on this issue at the beginning of the year.

### **Issue 57: Money, money**

Teenagers seem to be increasingly obsessed with money. Some young girls go for sugar daddies and effectively prostitute themselves. Some boys commit petty crimes such as theft, and end up in trouble. Children shouldn't need money, as their parents should provide for all their needs. The reality, however, is that children want money and items such as cell phones.

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<sup>1</sup> Facilitation 1: The new magazine is introduced, and one section is discussed with the learners. Facilitation 2: There is a recap of the first facilitation, and if there are questions, they are answered. The remaining parts of the magazine are discussed with the learners.

The text and layout of the magazine was completed, and the draft was sent to the National Institute for Educational Development (NIED). However, OYO didn't receive the anticipated disbursement in April, and had no choice but to put the magazine on hold until December, when it could finally be printed.

**Issue 58: HIV and young people**

The latest sentinel survey suggests that there has been a decrease in the prevalence of HIV amongst our young people. It is therefore important to assess how far we have come. Do young people go for the test? Can learners living with HIV take their medication freely at school, without risking stigmatisation? Do young people use condoms?

This magazine was originally scheduled for the July-August issue of 2013, but will in fact only be published in March 2014.

**Issue 59: Teenage pregnancy, abortion, adoption and baby dumping**

While the number of young people infected by HIV seems to be decreasing, the number of teenage pregnancies seems to be increasing. This is obviously a matter of concern. Teenagers who have fallen pregnant might attempt an illegal abortion, or resort to baby dumping.

This issue was originally scheduled for distribution in September/October 2013, but has been delayed till later in 2014.

**Table 1 Magazine preparation and distribution during 2013**

Topic	Preparation		Distribution/facilitation	
	Number of schools participating	Number of contributions	Facilitation #1 No. of learners reached	Facilitation #2 No. of learners reached
Friendship			4 430	3 383
Self-esteem			3 633	2 721
Money, money				
HIV & young people	92	4 868		
Teenage pregnancy	73	3 367		
<b>Total</b>	165	8 235	8 063	6 104

**Technical features of OYO, young, latest and cool for 2013**

Director/editor

P. Talavera

Layout designer

F. Mbedeka

Language editor	W. Hofmeyr
Office assistant/ typist	K. Katumbo
Assistant editor	C. Petrus
Distribution/ Otjiherero language editor	E. Jameka
Finance coordinator	P. Mamhare
Freelance facilitators	A. Auwanga, R. Boois, C. Goaseb, G. Kambonde, J. Motinga
Production team (working with out-of-school youths and facilitation during tours)	J. Homateni, I. Mueze, C. Jacobs, N. Mbarandongo
Printed by John Meinert Printing (PTY) Ltd	

## 6 Component 2: Activities with out-of-school youths

### 6.1 Overview

A central focus of OYO is the development of activities with out-of-school youth groups. Each year, OYO selects three or four groups to work with more intensively, although it continues to reach additional groups through the OYO magazine. Traditionally, OYO organises four tours per year. In the absence of disbursements from Global Fund, however, OYO could only organise three tours in 2013.

OYO took this opportunity to reflect on the work it is doing with youth groups, and revise its programme. The youth development team came up with a new structure for the five week-long workshops organised with the youth groups. This structure is more comprehensive and responsive to the needs and the level of the youth groups OYO works with.

Activities in 2013 focussed on:

- the production/distribution of five issues of the magazine *OYO, young, latest and cool*;
- the production of three regional shows with the Global Fund grant;
- the management of a challenging but interesting project in Eenhana, thanks to support from GIZ.

The same magazines that were used with schools were facilitated and/or prepared with the youth groups. Youth groups were invited to contribute to the issues on:

- “Young people and HIV”: only the Keetmanshoop Youth Group contributed 13 texts.
- “Teenage pregnancy, abortion, adoption and baby dumping”: four groups contributed 59 texts.

The magazines on “Friendship” and “Self-esteem” were only facilitated with the Eenhana and Keetmanshoop youth groups.

## **6.2 Youth groups and regional shows**

During 2013, four new groups were trained and encouraged to create shows relating to HIV/AIDS and other social issues. These groups subsequently went on regional tours.

### **6.2.1 Keetmanshoop Youth Group**

Rehearsals with the Keetmanshoop Youth Group started in January. The group had been extremely active in 2012, and OYO decided to continue supporting them. They call themselves the “Dream Team”, and are well-known in their region. The management of the Keetmanshoop Multi-Purpose Youth Centre (MPYC) should be congratulated for their ongoing support to this group of young people.

The group rehearsed with the production team and a guest choreographer from the UK, Helen Linsell, from 14 to 18 January 2013. They further rehearsed with one of the production assistants from 21 to 25 January, and 4 to 9 February. This culminated in performances at two secondary schools. It was a good test for assessing the group in front of audiences. Some members were confused and stressed during the first show, but performed more confidently in the second show.

The group then visited Otjozondjupa Region from 11 to 17 February 2013. The tour ran smoothly. It was an opportunity once again to visit the Osire Refugee Camp, where OYO had done some work in 2011. The group members behaved very well and were easy to manage. All the members enjoyed the tour and the message was well received by all the audiences.

*I learnt that some mothers are selling their children for money, but if I were in Asmara shoes (the girl that is given to a sugar daddy), I would tell my teachers.*

**Alfons Street, community member, Okakarara**

*Instead of selling Asmara, [her mother] could have told her father that the money was not enough. If I were in Asmara’s shoes, I would have reported it to my neighbours or to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare.*

**Michelle Kandjingua, 17-year-old learner, Okamapati Combined School (CS)**

*I learnt that there is often unfair treatment from a stepmother, and that we should always report any type of harassment. In Asmara’s case I would have told my father and gone for counselling.*

**Tangi, 15-year-old learner, Grootfontein Secondary School (SS)**

During the tour, it was also possible to organise two workshops with the AACs; 50 learners attended the workshops, contributing 52 texts for the magazine on “HIV and young people”. The production team also used the opportunity to organise five DVD shows in Otjozondjupa Region.

Following the tour, OYO kept on interacting with both the group and the Keetmanshoop MPYC. The centre requested that the Project Coordinator: Youth Development support the Youth Against Crime team from 17 to 21 March with the creation of a new drama. They also asked for the Project Coordinator: Youth Development to go with the Dream Team on 23 and 24 May to Lüderitz, and to train the Lüderitz Youth Group. The aim was for the two groups to meet and for the Dream Team to motivate their colleagues from Lüderitz.

Finally, OYO was approached by the University of Lapland, Finland to help them organise a workshop with the theme “My dream world”. The Project Coordinator: Youth Development visited the Dream Team on 22 May and organised a pre-workshop event. Participants were asked to write about their lives and their dreams. The team from Finland then arrived on 15 June and had a meeting with the OYO Director. On 16 June, they travelled to Keetmanshoop, where they were joined by one of OYO’s production assistants. The workshop took place from 17 to 20 June. OYO’s role was to assist with the youth group, while the members from the Finnish team were facilitating the workshop.

*We were really happy about the workshop. The only downside was the other event taking place during the same week, but I think that we still managed a lot. We hope to continue the project and invite some participants to Cape Town in 2014 to join the workshop there as part of the World Design Capital 2014 programme.*

**Satu Miettinen, workshop coordinator**

This group has huge potential, and OYO often refers to it as the ideal youth group to work with. Participants are motivated and receive great support from the MPYC. As a result, OYO can see the young people developing. The group is reliable and has the potential to have a positive impact in their community.

## **6.2.2 Grootfontein Youth Group**

OYO had worked with the Grootfontein Youth Group in 2012. The group was extremely committed during the first term and went on tour twice. However, after the second tour, when members knew there wouldn’t be a third tour, motivation dropped, and the group collapsed. There is no MPYC in Grootfontein and no structure supporting the group. This was a disappointment for OYO. Early in 2013, the group saw the Keetmanshoop Youth Group perform, and approached OYO again. A first workshop was organised by the Project Coordinator: Youth Development from 29 March to 7 April, and many group members attended. A production assistant then

visited the group from 15 to 26 April, and reported good progress; the same production assistant visited again from 13 to 17 May. Finally, the group was visited by the Project Coordinator: Youth Development from 26 to 31 May to finalise the performance before the tour.

The group then visited Erongo Region from 2 to 8 June 2013. Some challenges were experienced during the tour, particularly at Duinesig Junior Secondary School (JSS), which was disorganised (the group was asked by a teacher to set up outside in front of the classes, then after the set up had been completed, to rather go and set up in the hall); and at Kolin Foundation (most learners wanted to leave and were creating a disturbance). The performance for the Omaruru community didn't really work, as most audience members were drunk. The rest of the tour ran smoothly, however, and provided the opportunity to visit two jails and perform for inmates, first at Walvis Bay Prison, and then at Omaruru Prison.

The group was very motivated during the tour and enjoyed performing. The performances in jails touched them. At first in Walvis Bay, the youths were a bit scared to enter the prison and be among so many inmates, knowing that some of them are murderers and rapists. As the performance progressed, however, the group relaxed and began to enjoy their time on stage. The second prison performance, in Omaruru, was easier, as it was a smaller prison, and most offenders were young adults.

*The girl who took a sugar daddy became pregnant and it might be that he was HIV-positive. I learnt a lot of things: it was very clear that I must not have more than one partner.*

**A. Amunyela, a 17-year-old female learner, G.K. Wahl SS**

*To have more than one partner places you at risk of spreading sexually transmitted diseases, and also of being infected yourself. The show was really excellent.*

**Petra Keimses, a 29-year-old female inmate, Omaruru Prison**

*Partners must share what belongs to them and they must treat each other equally, and with respect. We learnt how infection is happening and how it affects the community. It was really excellent.*

**Promise Tjerivange, a 13-year-old female learner, S.I. Gobs SS**

OYO organised two workshops with the AACs; 88 learners attended the workshops, contributing 78 texts for the magazine on the theme "Teenage pregnancy, abortion, adoption and baby dumping". In addition, five DVD shows were organised during the tour.

Since the tour, the group members have been discussing how they can prevent the youth group from collapsing, as it did in 2012. Various rehearsals have taken place, and the group was invited to perform at the OYO tenth anniversary celebrations. In addition, some members were invited to join the dance troupe workshops. It is hoped that these ongoing activities will keep the group together.



### **6.2.3 Eenhana Youth Group**

OYO embarked on a new project with GIZ, aiming at creating the first youth group in Eenhana and empowering the Eenhana MPYC. OYO's Director, Philippe Talavera, Project Coordinator: Productions, Joshua Homateni, and Project Coordinator: Youth Development, Ivan "Fly" Mueze, travelled to Eenhana on 14 April and met with Jan Puttfarcken from GIZ, Nicco Aipumbu, Youth Officer from the MPYC, the Regional Director from the MHSS, Mrs Kaino Pohamba, and a representative from the local radio station. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the various participants to one another and to discuss the plan, in order to make sure that everybody was clear about planned activities, expectations and responsibilities.

Following the meeting, the MPYC started advertising for the workshops, encouraging young people to register.

Ivan "Fly" Mueze and Chris Jacobs, AN OYO production assistant, travelled to Eenhana on 9 June for a two-week workshop. The workshop started on Monday 10 June, and 13 youths attended. As attendance was lower than expected, efforts were made during the week to attract new members. Members were encouraged to inform their friends. Ivan Mueze, Chris Jacobs and Jan Puttfarcken went to the local radio station on 13 June and talked about the group and the workshop, but this didn't have much impact. By the end of the first week, there were 14 members present. However, the second week saw a maximum attendance of 13, with only 11 members attending the final day. The gender balance of the attendees was also unsatisfactory, with eight of the 11 committed members being girls.

Between 23 and 28 June, the group could meet with the ODT, which was on tour in the region. The troupe tried to motivate members to work harder and recruit new members. Again, this didn't help much.

Ivan "Fly" Mueze and Nyandee Mbarandongo, a production assistant, then travelled on 14 July. The third workshop started on 15 July. The facilitators were disappointed to see only nine members on the first day. A tenth committed member joined on the second day. During the week, two new members joined. By the end of the week the group was back to 12 members.

As with the first two workshops, those present were extremely committed, even rehearsing on their own after hours. However, two of the members come from as far as 10 kilometres out of town, and four other members come from locations that are far away from the centre. They consequently could not come in and go back every day. The Eenhana MPYC accommodates them for free, but they do not have food. This will therefore be a problem when trying to sustain the group.

The group then had the opportunity to participate in a workshop with three members of the ODT. The workshop started on 5 August and ran for a week. Attendance at the workshop was again disappointing. Most members who had been trained from the first workshop were no longer present. Many new

members joined for this workshop, and between nine and 10 youths attended. While they were motivated and full of energy, they had not been trained. The ODT therefore found it extremely difficult to work with the group.

The ODT was tasked with teaching the group a simpler version of *Stigma*, which tells the story of a young boy who is HIV-positive and discriminated against. It had been presented in schools during the troupe's tour. The idea was to have a shorter version to be presented again in schools during the youth group tour, to reinforce the message being conveyed. Unfortunately, this didn't work well.

A fifth workshop was organised immediately after the dance workshop. To some degree, this proved to be a good idea, as some more young people started participating, with 14 to 16 members attending at times. However, most were new members. The turnover of this group was extremely high, and making it difficult to progress from week to week.

During the workshop, it became clear that the new group (by this time none of the members from the first workshop were still present) was more talented with drama than with dance. This workshop therefore focused on their drama and songs. Halfway through the week, it was agreed to give up on *Stigma*, as it looked unlikely that the group would pull off the piece. Instead, the group was tasked with preparing a second short drama for International Youth Day, to start showcasing their talent.

Ivan "Fly" Mueze and Nyandee Mbarandongo finally travelled on 29 August. Since it was the last workshop and lots still had to be achieved, it was decided to keep the youths for the whole day, from 09h00 to 17h00, and to provide lunch for the participants. Upon arrival, some of the youths who had attended the fifth workshop were not present, and again some new members had joined. Twelve members registered for the workshop.

The team looked at the existing material and realised the group would be unlikely to go on tour with the material they had. It was planned that OYO's Director would visit from 2 to 4 September to advise the participants. During the first three days they worked mostly on the dance *It begins with me*, the group's drama piece (which had to be learnt from scratch again, as key actors were no longer present), and songs.

On the morning of 2 September, the OYO Director looked at the material, and made the following observations:

- parts of the dance *It begins with me* were fine, but whole sections were missing;
- the group could only present two scenes from the drama; and
- the group had no first voice (female soprano), and the songs were therefore extremely difficult.

An emergency meeting was called, and despite the financial implications, the OYO Director called on four members from the Grootfontein Youth Group to

join in. They hiked that same day from Grootfontein to Eenhana, and arrived during the night.

On 3 and 4 September, the OYO Director worked extremely hard with the group to salvage the sections that could be saved from *It begins with me*, finish the drama, and put the songs together. On the afternoon of 4 September, a 20-minute show was presented to staff from the MPYC and the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA), as a test; the show was well received.

From 5 to 7 September, the group polished its performance, learning from the members from the Grootfontein Youth Group. It proved to be an excellent initiative, since it did boost the energy of all members, who could relate to their colleagues.

The group was then ready to go on tour. The idea was to visit the same schools that had been visited by the ODT. All schools were contacted, and a schedule was agreed upon with the Regional AIDS Committee in Education (RACE) office and the school principals. The tour ran mostly smoothly, except at St Mary's HS. Although the principal had agreed to the performance, she had not informed the teachers or learners. When the team arrived at the school, nobody was ready, and the teachers refused to let the group proceed with the performance. The principal was in a meeting, and her phone was off, so it was not possible to reach her. The team had to turn back.

The youth performances worked very well in schools and communities. Part of the drama was in the local vernacular (Oshiwambo), so community members could easily follow what was being said. The message was simple and therefore clear to the communities: don't discriminate against people living with HIV, in particular orphans.

Day by day, the youth group improved their performance. While most members were a bit nervous with the first shows, they relaxed after a while, and could focus on their performance. The show being well received boosted their energy; positive feedback was received.

It was once more possible to organise three workshops with the AACs. Sixty-eight learners attended the workshops, contributing 67 texts for the magazine on "Stigmatisation and discrimination", focusing on the subtopic "How does HIV make you sick?"

### **Evaluation of the project in Ohangwena Region schools**

This component was evaluated through a pre- and a post-event questionnaire. The main conclusions were:

- 1) Learners from eight schools in Ohangwena Region benefited from two interventions:

- a performance by the ODT focusing on HIV testing, stigmatisation and discrimination; and
- a performance by the Eenhana Youth Group also focusing on HIV testing, stigmatisation and discrimination.

Both interventions used two media: dance (non-verbal communication) and drama (verbal communication). By the end of the project, it was clear that the knowledge of the participants had improved. Both questions about the window period and self-efficacy/referral systems were answered significantly better after the project than before.

2) Was the project able to change learners' attitudes? This is more difficult to assess:

- Question 2 of the Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour (KAB) test and all questions relating to stigmatisation show a significant change in attitude.
- Questions 4, 7 and 8 of the KAB test show a small change in attitude.
- Questions 5 and 6 of the KAB test didn't show any significant change.

The project focused on stigmatisation and discrimination, and it seems that it succeeded in bringing about a change in attitude regarding this specific issue. However, more in-depth research would be needed in order to come to a firm conclusion.

3) Was the project able to change learners' behaviour? This is an even more difficult question to answer, particularly in view of the fact that questionnaires were not anonymous.

- Question 12 of the KAB test showed a significant difference.
- Question 11 of the KAB test showed a small difference.
- Questions 9 and 10 of the KAB test didn't show any meaningful difference.

Behaviours are complex, and change doesn't usually occur overnight. Trying to evaluate a change in behaviour at the end of a project, before beneficiaries have had a chance to fully reflect on their experience, is unlikely to yield accurate results. Although it seems that the project had an impact on learners, it is too early to assess the extent of this impact.

4) The survey also pointed to interesting factors that should be taken into consideration for future programming:

- Learners do not all feel that that children under the age of 16 should know their status. This could be an interesting project for the Ministry of Education. OYO feels that learners under the age of 16 should know their status before becoming sexually active, as a negative result could encourage them to remain HIV-negative.

- A substantial number of young people would break up with their partners if their partners were HIV-positive. This might be a factor contribution to young people not knowing their status (out of fear of rejection by a partner). It also shows that young people don't discuss sensitive issues freely with their partners. More work is probably needed in this regard.
- While more learners now know where the NAPPA youth-friendly clinic is, some still do not. More efforts should be made to ensure that all learners know about this facility.

#### **6.2.4 Rundu Youth Group**

OYO first worked with the Rundu Youth Group at the end of 2012. At the beginning of 2013, the group was visited by the ODT, and learnt the piece *Sugar babes*. It was a large group that was relatively inexperienced, but the members were committed.

Following the workshop, OYO agreed to continue supporting the group. Workshops were organised by the Youth Development Team from 25 March to 13 April, 5 to 10 May, 24 to 28 May, and 24 to 28 June. Their tour was originally scheduled for July, and they were very excited. However, it soon became clear that the Global Fund disbursement would not materialise in time, and members started to quit. At the end of June, it was announced that further workshops and the tour were postponed till the Global Fund disbursement; thereafter, the group became demotivated.

The next workshop took place from 9 to 13 September. To reignite the group's motivation, two announcements were made: they would go on tour to Omaheke Region, and take part in OYO's tenth anniversary celebrations. Further workshops took place from 30 September to 4 October, and from 7 to 11 October.

It was too late for a tour in October to reach secondary schools, as they were all busy with exams. OYO therefore decided to organise a tour to primary schools, focusing on sugar daddies and abstinence. The Regional Director and RACE from Omaheke Region were approached, and expressed interest in the idea. The group then visited Omaheke Region from 13 to 19 October 2013. The tour was a success, and schools enjoyed it tremendously.

The group was very motivated during the tours, and enjoyed performing. At first, they were shy on stage, but they gained in confidence. The message was clear and adapted to primary school learners. Most schools were excited by OYO's visit, as OYO tends to prioritise secondary schools, and most primary school learners feel neglected.

*The message was clear and understandable. The play and dance were very attractive. We all enjoyed it.*

**V. Totong, Principal, Epukiro Roman Catholic PS**

*It was a well-planned activity with a meaningful message.*

**M. August, teacher, Rakutuka PS**

No AAC workshops were organised since it was the end of the year, and OYO had limited time with the learners.

After the tour, four members were invited to take part in a dance workshop in Windhoek, to assess if they could join the ODT in preparation for the Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival (for this festival, all members are required to be under 21 years old). Two qualified, and joined the World AIDS Day tour. Unfortunately, they both indicated that for personal reasons, they would not join the troupe in 2014.

Another workshop was organised from 21 to 25 October to prepare the group for OYO's tenth anniversary celebrations.

### 6.2.5 Other youth groups

OYO also organised one-week workshops in Otjiwarango, Stampriet, Outjo, Outapi, Okahandja and Rehoboth. These workshops were an opportunity to assess the progress made by groups OYO had supported during the previous year, and to reconnect with potential partners.

**Table 2 Audiences for the youth group tours**

Tour	# of children/ learners		# of youths		# of adults		TOTAL	# AAC work- shops	# AAC w/shop partici- pants
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male			
<b>Keetmanshoop YG to Otjozondjupa Region</b>	2 056	1 717	223	211	331	231	<b>4 769</b>	2	52
<b>Grootfontein YG to Erongo Region</b>	2 043	1 567	162	175	248	871	<b>5 066</b>	2	88
<b>Eenhana YG to Ohangwena Region</b>	3 463	2 597	217	178	235	740	<b>7 430</b>	3	68
<b>Rundu YG to Omaheke Region</b>	3 243	2 443	38	45	141	84	<b>5 994</b>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	10 805	8 324	640	609	955	1 926	<b>23 259</b>	7	208

A total of 23 259 people were reached through the four tours in 2013 (against 33 349 in 2012, when six tours were undertaken). The component proved to be very successful thanks to the commitment and hard work of the production team.

## Technical features of the regional shows

Producer	P. Talavera
Project Coordinator: Youth Development and Director	I. Mueze
Project Coordinator: OYO Productions	J. Homateni
Logistics	C. Petrus
Finance Coordinator	P. Mamhare
Production Assistants and co-directors	N. Mbarandongo, C. Jacobs

## 7 Component 3: OYO Dance Troupe

This year, the ODT once again enjoyed great success. Unlike other components, it doesn't rely exclusively on donor funding, but manages to raise enough money to help sustain itself through commissions and paid performances.

### 7.1 *Sugar babes and Choices*

OYO entered an agreement with the US Department of State to strengthen the ODT while supporting its efforts to refocus its work to promote HIV prevention through dance.

As part of the project, the ODT created two new pieces, *Choices* and *Sugar babes*.

- *Choices* focuses on creating awareness about prevention of mother-to-child transmission). While all efforts are being made to ensure young girls don't fall pregnant, it has to be acknowledged that some learners are sexually active and indeed fall pregnant. During the 2012 sentinel survey, 1,382 teenage girls reported pregnant at ante-natal services over 25 weeks. It is therefore important to educate young girls about prevention mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). The story looks at three girls who fall pregnant. Two test HIV-positive; one accesses PMTCT services, while the other doesn't. It illustrates the importance of making the right choice.
- *Sugar babes* focuses on the issue of sugar daddies and peer pressure. Sugar daddies are a common phenomenon in Namibia, and much is being said on the topic. Nevertheless, many girls disregard the available information. The story looks at a girl who is being pressurised by her friends to have sex with a sugar daddy, and who ends up HIV-positive.

Both stories focus on issues affecting girls. This was a conscious decision on OYO's part, as its 2011 project focussed on issues affecting boys (boys and testing, boys and condoms, and boys denying responsibility for impregnating their girlfriends).

The two pieces were prepared between December 2012 and January 2013. The original intention was that the pieces would go on tour in March, but following negotiations with the Ministry of Education and the regional directors, and to avoid clashing with another programme, the decision was made to bring the tour forward to the end of January. This put pressure on the team to finalise the pieces on time.

It was originally suggested that the two new pieces would be presented alongside *Should I know?* on HIV testing. However, in January 2013, the ODT had a chance to work for a week with British Choreographer Helen Linsell, who sponsored her own trip to Namibia. With Helen, they devised *It begins with me*, also on HIV testing. It was therefore decided that the tour would focus on *It begins with me*, *Choices* and *Sugar babes*.

The troupe left on 26 January 2013. The tour went very smoothly in Kavango Region, but less so in Caprivi Region (now Zambezi Region). One dancer got sick and had to step down for two days (the other dancers quickly reorganised the pieces so that they could perform in her absence). Communication with schools in the region was also more challenging, as most schools didn't have access to phones (phone services had been disrupted by weather conditions). Nevertheless, 28 shows were performed to a total of 10 252 people.

All shows were followed by a facilitated discussion with a trained facilitator. During the tour, eight workshops were organised with the AACs; 421 learners attended, making 397 contributions to the topic "HIV and young people". In addition, eight DVD shows were organised in the evenings.

After the tour, three workshops were held. The aim of the workshops was to teach *Sugar babes* to the groups, so that they could continue to use the piece in their communities:

- In Rundu with the Rundu Youth Group: This was a large group, with an average of 32 youths attending the workshop. Dennis !Kharuchab and Rodney Isaac from the ODT facilitated the workshop, and reported good progress.
- In Grootfontein with the Grootfontein Youth Group: A daily average of 19 youths attended the workshop. El-Juanita and Jacky from the ODT facilitated the workshop. According to El-Juanita Philander, "The group was actually very nice, because they were fast learners and they understood what we had to teach. They loved the dance ... The main challenge was to teach up to 21 people a piece which was created with seven dancers, so positioning was a challenge."
- In Keetmanshoop with the Dream Team: A daily average of 19 youths attended the workshop. Vetunjona 'West' Uarije and Jessica Augustus from the ODT facilitated the workshop. West reported that the Dream Team are "a good youth group to work with, because they are motivated in what they are doing and they want to change for the better. They are very energetic and they never complain. They don't give up, and they push with their best energy till the last day."



At the end of the workshops, the groups were tasked with presenting the piece to their communities:

- In Rundu, the group performed at the open market to 175 people. It was linked to a small drama, to make it more interesting to the audience. The show was well received. According to Dennis !Kharuchab, Project Coordinator: ODT, “We motivated and encouraged our group to really enjoy their first-ever performance and the result of their five days of hard work ... The show was good – it was funny, and the people that were watching got the story and reacted to it.”
- In Grootfontein, the show was performed at the Luiperdville PS to an audience of 523 learners and 14 teachers. It was also linked to a drama and songs. “The performance was great”, reported El-Juanita Philander “and we could see that they got a clear message, even though it was a primary school.”
- In Keetmanshoop, the show was performed at the W.K. Roffer Hall to an audience of 105 female learners, 75 male learners, 37 female youths, 40 male youths, seven female adults and three male adults. Again, it was linked to dramas and songs. Jessica Augustus reported that the show was very good. “We enjoyed it and the performers also enjoyed it, as they couldn’t wait to show the community what they had been busy with during the past days. We had many audience members, and they gave positive feedback about the show.”

Youth group members clearly benefited from the experience. Denzilius Boois from Keetmanshoop Youth Group explained, “We should go out to the community and schools in the entire Karas Region to educate people, especially in the rural areas, to abstain from sugar daddies. It was very, very nice, because the community got the message and they were having fun. It was good for me to showcase the dance.”

Josef Ortmann from the Rundu Youth Group explained, “It feels so great when you have the crowd watching you presenting the most valuable and educational dance ever in the community. People watch you – they learnt from me, and I had the chance to contribute to change in my community.” At the end of the performance, audience members were asked to fill in a short questionnaire to assess their understanding of the dance and the impact it might have. Ten people from Grootfontein, 13 from Rundu and 11 from Keetmanshoop answered the questionnaire.

OYO received good support from the press, and articles appeared in *New Era* (24 April), *The Namibian’s Youth Paper* (30 April) and *Republikein* (2 May).

Following the workshops in the region, promising young dancers were invited to a two-week intensive workshop in Windhoek. After lengthy discussions, it was agreed that the young people from Rundu were still too inexperienced to attend the workshop, and only participants from Keetmanshoop and Grootfontein were invited. Three girls and two boys from the Dream Team

(Keetmanshoop) and three girls and two boys from the Grootfontein Youth Group were invited to attend. All participants arrived in Windhoek on 8 May.

The workshop took place from 9 to 23 May 2013. It was intense, with participants challenged to learn *Choices*, a more technical piece on PMTCT. One girl from Keetmanshoop dropped out on 13 May, saying the workshop was too difficult for her, and one boy from Grootfontein had to leave on 21 May because of another commitment. The remaining eight participants attended till the end.

ODT dancers managed the workshop themselves, with input from OYO's Director only on 15 May and for the last four days. Dennis !Kharuchab reported, "The past two weeks were fun, although it was a lot of hard work. We only had two weeks to prepare a big show, and that was hectic. But luckily all the participants were hard-working and learnt fast, and we made progress every day.'

"The best part was that they enjoyed it", said El-Juanita Philander. "They were happy and could not wait to come and dance. They are very motivated people, with a passion for dancing."

Youth members who took part in the workshop enjoyed the experience. "It was great to have the two best youth groups together", said Anthony Swartboo from the Dream Team. "We made friends and we had fun."

Denzilinus Boois from the Dream Team said, "For me, the most challenging part was to get up every morning with pain, and still to come to the same hard practice ... But I love my character in *Choices*. I don't give up our child, even though the child is HIV-positive and the mom rejects it at first. I never give up on it, and I could relate to the emotions of this dad. I learnt a lot."

Liza Uwu-Khaes from Grootfontein said, "I had fun. The dance troupe know how to work with people. It was tough, but I made it."

At the end of the workshop, the group could present its work in conjunction with the premiere of *Stigma*, which was sponsored by GIZ. What was originally thought of as a small end-of-workshop presentation quickly became a major event. On 22 May, 150 people poured into the hall at the Goethe Centre. We only had 116 seats, so people had to sit on the floor or stand at the back. Some people shared chairs. The audience was very diverse, ranging from high-ranking officials to children from Katutura, who could attend thanks to the assistance of KAYEC and the Phillipi Trust.

The show was extremely well received by the audience. Workshop participants presented *Sugar babes*, which they had learnt during the regional workshops, and *Choices*, which they had learnt during the intense workshop, alongside the ODT dancers. Since one dancer was absent, three of the participants joined in for the premiere of *Stigma*. The evening was a great success, and much positive feedback was received.

Dephny Naibas from the Grootfontein Youth Group said, “It was very exciting and overwhelming to dance with the dance troupe. Those guys are amazing – wow! I was so happy to dance with them. And I’m glad and proud that I was part of this wonderful workshop.”

Anthony Swartbooi from the Dream Team said, “It was so good to perform with the dance troupe. It was an honour, and they make you feel as if you are a pro, like them. It is the best thing that can happen to a dreamer like me.”

An article appeared in The Namibian newspaper on 28 May. The results achieved through the performance exceeded our expectations. Two of the trainees particularly impressed OYO during the workshop. They were Melissa Steidwolf from the Grootfontein Youth Group and Silivia Plaatjies from the Dream Team. They were both invited to join the ODT as understudies. Unfortunately, Melissa is taking classes with Namcol, and had to decline the offer, as she wishes to further her studies first. Silivia accepted the offer, and is our newest recruit. “I want to train more. I love dancing, and I am so happy”, she said. She started working with the ODT on 27 May.

## 7.2 Stigma

Following the experience with the American Cultural Centre project, it was felt that the ODT could act as a catalyst for the youth members in Eenhana, and positively contribute towards the success of the project piloted with GIZ.

The ODT, under the direction of its choreographer Philippe Talavera, worked on the piece *Stigma*. It is a touching piece about a young boy who is isolated because of his HIV status. He is stigmatised in his community, at work, and in school, until he finally contemplates suicide. A young girl intervenes just in time, and helps him to be accepted by a new community.

The troupe then presented its performance in Ohangwena Region. Besides *Stigma*, the troupe also presented *Sugar babes*, on HIV and sugar daddies, and *Choices*, on testing and PMTCT.

Eleven schools were visited, and most of the shows were a success. In Mwadikange Kaulinga Senior Secondary School (SSS) there were posters in the school advertising the performance. In Ondobe SSS, learners were joined by 150 students from NAMCOL and 50 learners from the local primary school. The audience was only difficult in Haimbili Haufiky HS. This is a massive school in Eenhana with over a thousand learners, and controlling them was difficult. In Enyana CS, learners were shy, and so the facilitation was difficult. In the other schools, however, the facilitation worked extremely well. Special mention should be made of Sheila SSS and Mwadikange Kaulinga SSS, where learners displayed a high level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS and were able to answer questions about the window period correctly.

Besides the school shows, two community performances were organised; 7 577 people saw the school and community performances.

A workshop was also organised with the AACs; 34 learners attended, making 34 contributions on the topic “Teenage pregnancy, abortion and adoption”. Five DVD showings were organised for the evenings.

### 7.3 Tour to Hardap Region and Karas Region

For some years, disbursements from Global Fund have been very difficult to manage. After waiting for a long time, OYO received a disbursement in December. The first school term, in particular the months of February and March, are ideal for organising tours, as schools are available. However, because OYO had to place some activities with young people on hold, only one youth group could be ready on time. OYO therefore decided to organise another tour with the ODT, in an attempt to help reach targets.

Schools and communities were visited in Hardap and Karas regions between 10 and 26 March. During the tour, three pieces were presented: *It begins with me*, on HIV testing; *Choices*, on PMTCT; and *Sugar babes*, on sugar daddies. The performances were well received. In Oosterheim JSS, the life skills teacher congratulated the team, as she could see her learners paying attention. She concluded that learners concentrate better when watching a live performance, and she expressed her intention to involve arts in her classes in the future. A total of 10 433 people saw the performances.

### 7.4 Tour to Omusati Region

In June, OYO was under pressure from Global Fund to complete activities and improve on targets. Since the ODT was going to Ohangwena Region with the GIZ project, it was decided to extend the tour by one week and also to visit Omusati Region.

Schools and communities in Omusati Region were therefore visited between 16 and 22 June. During the tour, three pieces were presented: *Sugar babes*, on sugar daddies; *Unwanted*, on teenage pregnancy; and *Stigma*, on stigmatisation and discrimination. A total of 10 058 people saw the performances.

The performances were well received. The RACE coordinator in Omusati Region was particularly supportive, helping with organisation at the schools and ensuring that the tour was running smoothly. She was impressed by the pieces and the clarity of the messages. During the week she requested an additional performance at Ekangolinene CS, as there was a pregnant girl at the school, and a rumour had been doing the rounds that she wanted to have an abortion. The RACE coordinator took the opportunity presented by the performance to talk to learners in their vernacular language and reinforce the piece’s message.

Finally, the group also performed for staff members at the regional office of the Ministry of Education.

During the tour, four workshops were organised with the AACs; 185 learners attended, making 185 contributions on the topic “Teenage pregnancy, abortion, adoption and baby dumping”. In addition, six DVD shows were organised for the evenings.

### 7.5 Performing for the Namibian Children’s Parliament

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) sponsored activities for one evening when the Namibian Children’s Parliament met in May. The ministry wanted to discuss harmful cultural practices, in order to prepare members of the Parliament for the Day of the African Child. OYO was approached by the MGECW to perform for the young parliamentarians.

OYO suggested that it present *Magda*, the piece on “corrective rape”. This is a difficult piece, as it deals with homosexuality, forced marriages, and rape. However, it was relevant to the theme. The evening was attended by the children and by representatives from the MGECW, including the Minister. The piece was well received by the children, bringing some to tears. After the dance, OYO presented boards depicting known harmful cultural practices. Children were divided in groups to discuss the practices and make suggestions for stopping them. The groups then reported to the plenary, and their findings were then collated.

OYO later had the opportunity to meet with some members of Children’s Parliament. Excellent feedback was received from the evening. While *Magda* may be more problematic for many of the older generation, it was encouraging to see that the younger generation is ready to discuss issues related to universal human rights.

### 7.6 Celebrating the Day of the African Child

In collaboration with the Child Rights Network of Namibia and the MGECW, OYO was performed for the Day of the African Child. The following events took place:

- With Young Voices and Positive Vibes: OYO performed *Sugar babes* on 6 June at Zoo Park in Windhoek. The event wasn’t well attended. Despite being outdoors, it didn’t attract only 28 audience members.
- Namibian Children’s Home: OYO performed *Sugar babes*, *Choices* and *Unwanted* on 11 June to 40 girls, 20 boys, five female adults and three male adults. The group was well received.
- KAYEC Trust: The group performed *Sugar babes*, *Unwanted* and *Stigma* on 12 June. The event was attended by 81 female learners, 67 male learners, 90 female youths, 131 male youths, 20 female adults and 25 male adults.

- Philippi Trust: The group performed, *Sugar babes*, *Choices* and *Stigma* on 15 June to 170 female learners, 130 male learners, 27 female adults and 23 male adults.

Finally, the group performed at the main event on 15 June. The main event was originally to have been organised by the Child Rights Network of Namibia. Later, it was combined with the event organised by the MGEWC. Unfortunately, the event was disappointing. It took place in a hall of the MGEWC and was a succession of speeches delivered by representatives of the Embassy of Finland, UNICEF and the MGEWC, and by H.E. the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, Madam Penhupifo Pohamba. Only once the official proceedings had concluded could the audience move outside, where the ODT performed *Unwanted*. The piece was well received, although unfortunately, most officials had departed prior to the performance. Nevertheless, an estimated 200 children, 60 youths and 110 adults saw the performance. A photo of the performers was published on the front page of the *Republikein* newspaper of 17 June.

### 7.7 Internship project and *The dark Medea*

Every year in July and August, OYO organises a five-week internship project. This activity was initiated in 2011 by Claire Crowley, a VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) volunteer. In 2011 and 2012, three interns were selected. Three interns (two from the UK and one from Finland) were also selected for 2013. However, the intern from Finland declined the invitation, as she had another opportunity. OYO tried to select a third one to replace her, but could not manage, as fewer requests were received for 2013 than for previous years. The logistical arrangements for the programme were then made. The internship programme started 22 July and ran for five weeks.

During the first four weeks, the piece *The dark Medea* was developed. The phenomenon of baby dumping (the abandonment of newborn babies, often in isolated areas) is becoming more common in Namibia. Babies are abandoned in dustbins, flushed down toilets or left to die in the veld. In 2010, UNICEF reported that in Windhoek alone, thirteen dead babies were found every month at the sewage works. But what can lead a mother to dump her baby, condemning her to a certain death? And why is this phenomenon growing in our society?

The killing of one's baby is also referred to as infanticide, or filicide. In Greek mythology, Medea kills her own children. But why did Medea do this? Was it an act of revenge against a husband who didn't love her anymore? Was it madness caused by a community that didn't care, or an act of despair committed by a lonely woman who couldn't handle it all on her own? Many theories have been put forward to explain the phenomenon, and many artists have interpreted Medea in their own ways. In Namibia today, it seems that the questions remain the same: What do you do when you are a teenage mother and there's nobody around you to guide you? What do you do when the father runs away, and the community blames you? What choices do you still have?

And why is it that the young women get stuck, while the young fathers go on, unpunished? *The dark Medea* follows on OYO's former works modelled on Greek mythology, such as *Eros and Thanatos* in 2004, and *The Namibian Odysseus* in 2008.

*The dark Medea* was choreographed by Philippe Talavera and the dancers themselves. "The dancers created entire sections of the piece, investigating movements and emotions and translating them into solos, duets, canons and unisons", Talavera said. "It has been a collaborative production."

The piece was premiered on 21 August at the Goethe Centre, where it was extremely well received. Over 120 people packed the hall and gave the performers a standing ovation at the end. The piece was further presented at the University of Namibia's Space Theatre and School of Medicine, NEUDAM, KAYEC, and the Namibian Children's Home.

After the internship programme, the piece was "Namibianised". It was then presented again during OYO's tenth anniversary celebrations, and toured as part of the World AIDS Day tour organised at the end of the year.

## 7.8 *Magda* on tour

In 2012, the ODT worked on a piece on "corrective rape". This vile crime occurs in Namibia and South Africa – men rape lesbians with the aim of "setting them straight". They forget that rape is a crime that can never be justified. More than 10 lesbians are raped every week in South Africa. Fewer data are available in Namibia, but we know it occurs. The rapist is often a family member. Cases of girls of 13 years of age being raped because "to prevent them from becoming lesbians" have been recorded. *Magda* deals with this issue from a human rights point of view, placing emphasis on the fact that rape is a crime.

*Magda* complements other pieces the ODT have devised on human rights related issues, namely *Shoud I know?*, which looks at the importance of going for an HIV test, and the right to do so freely, and *Stigma*, which addresses the impact stigmatisation and discrimination have on people living with HIV, and the issue of dignity being a basic human right for all.

These pieces had been presented in Windhoek and in communities during OYO's 2012 World AIDS Day participation, but not in schools. The German Embassy in Windhoek agreed to support a tour of these three pieces to schools in six northern regions of Namibia.

The tour started on 14 September in Oshana Region. The three pieces were presented in 20 schools and reached a total of 9 978 people, of which 9 741 were learners.

Some schools could not accommodate OYO for the entire performance but nevertheless wanted to receive at least part of the message. This was because they could only allocate the 30-minute morning break time to the activity, or

because they wanted their learners to focus on exams and were only willing to let them attend a 30-minute extra-mural activity. In these cases, the ODT only presented two pieces, *Stigma* and *Magda*. At 20 such schools, an additional 8 247 people, of whom 7 724 were learners, saw these two pieces.

Finally, in Ohangwena Region, one school had already seen *Should I know?* and *Stigma*, but had never seen *Magda*. They asked us to come and present only *Magda* to their learners. Since OYO has positive relations with that school, we accepted, and an additional 925 people, of whom 920 were learners, saw *Magda*.

Each performance was followed by a facilitated discussion. The tour manager gave some interesting feedback:

- *Stigma* is particularly effective at getting the attention of learners and teachers.
- At Ekundu CS, after the last dance piece, the contact teacher focussed on the issue of corrective rape, saying that learners should report such cases to the teachers.
- In Haudano SSS, the learners enjoyed *Magda* very much. Their answers clearly showed that they understood that corrective rape is not the answer.
- A departmental head at Omundudu CS reported that the performance provided both learners and teachers with information on topics such as the right to education, to make one's own choices, and to strive for a better future in life.
- The principal at Oneheke CS reported that the performance was excellent, because the message it delivered is part of the curriculum.
- The principal at Ngendjo JSS reported that the performance was both educational and entertaining.

As part of the facilitation, when learners gave a correct answer, prizes were distributed. These included OYO magazines and items generously donated by the German Embassy, such as pin buttons, stickers, postcards, memory sticks and notebooks. Learners were delighted by the gifts.

For this tour, OYO tried to visit various schools it had never reached before. For some audiences, it was the first time they had seen an OYO performance. It proved to be an excellent strategy, as learners in these schools clearly enjoyed the performances. In Mafwila SSS in Zambezi Region, for example, a teacher said she couldn't wait to see the performance, as she had heard a lot about OYO. After the performance she was delighted, and wanted even more.

Furthermore OYO had the opportunity to perform for the RACE office in Oshikoto Region. It was felt to be important to show the regional staff what the work was about, to ensure their support for our visits to the schools.

Dr Romanus Kambungu SSS in Kavango Region accommodates some hearing-impaired learners. Since the performance is non-verbal, they enjoyed the experience tremendously.



Press releases were sent to various newspapers, which responded generously by publicising the event. Articles appeared in the Namibian Sun (11 September 2103), New Era (13 September 2103), Republikein (10 September 2103) and Allgemeine Zeitung (20 September 2103).

The evaluation of this project was mostly undertaken through questionnaires distributed to learners at the end of the performances. This evaluation tool can only assess the knowledge gained and the understanding of the performance. It cannot easily assess behavioural change, since behavioural change is a process that can take months and years, not just the duration of a dance performance. A total of 266 learners from 39 schools were asked to fill in questionnaires. These were evaluated, and a report (available on request) was prepared.

### **7.9 Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival and training of new young dancers**

In May, OYO received the exciting news that the ODT had been selected for the Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival, scheduled for July 2014 in Scotland. Various cultural events were organised around the games, including a youth dance festival. Only eight countries were selected, and Namibia was one of them. The festival would cover all local costs, but asked participants to help with fundraising by selling tickets internationally.

While OYO rejoiced at the news, it also received notice that all dancers needed to be 21 and under in July 2014. This is a limitation, as some dancers will be between 22 and 25 by then. This led to frustration within the ODT, and the subsequent departure of three dancers. OYO therefore needed to embark on a strategy that would allow it to meet this criteria. Proposals were submitted to the National Arts Council of Namibia and FNB. While the Council originally approved a grant, stringent conditions made it impossible for OYO to access this grant. The FNB Foundation, on the other hand, responded positively to OYO's request, and gave the project substantial support.

The need to have to recruit new, younger dancers impacted negatively on the morale of the troupe. This showed already in August during the internship project, when one dancer became particularly difficult. It further showed in September during the *Magda* tour, when dancers became unmanageable. After discussions, the ODT leader resigned in October, one senior dancer had to be retrenched in November, and one dancer didn't renew his contract at the end of December.

Various workshops took place with promising young people from the youth groups. Step by step, seven young dancers were identified, from Rundu, Grootfontein, Keetmanshoop and Windhoek. Of the seven, five are likely to qualify for the Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival (two are likely to go back to study in 2014). Training has been intense, and all participants have been working extremely hard.

## 7.10 World AIDS Day tour

In 2013, the ODT developed three new pieces:

- *Choices*, on PMTCT: This 15-minute-long piece follows the story of two young ladies who are HIV-positive and pregnant. One goes for PMTCT, and her baby is born without the virus. One doesn't, and her baby is born with the virus.
- *Stigma*, on stigmatisation and discrimination against people living with HIV: While a lot has already been done, it is a reality that some people still discriminate against people living with HIV. *Stigma* is also 15 minutes long.
- *The dark Medea*, on baby dumping: OYO received many requests during the year to address this issue. While not directly linked to HIV/AIDS, it is nevertheless a pressing social issue that requires urgent attention. *The dark Medea* is also 15 minutes long.

OYO proposed that it present its pieces in communities in the period around World AIDS Day. Each piece was to be followed by a discussion, to ensure that audiences understood the message and had learnt from the event. Two dancers couldn't make it, so OYO decided to replace them with some of the young dancers it was training at the time. However, instead of having only six dancers, this meant having to take eight dancers on tour.

The tour was divided into three parts:

- Tour to the north, from 17 to 29 November: The tour departed for Oshikango, and ended up in Walvis Bay. Nineteen shows were organised, in towns including Eenhana, Oshakati, Ongwediva, Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo, Omaruru, Usakos, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.
- Shows in Windhoek: OYO was invited to perform at the main event at the UN Plaza on 1 December. It further performed at various corporate events, including at the Bank of Namibia, GIZ, Government Park and NAMFISA (the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority).
- Tour to the south, from 4 to 10 December: Thirteen shows were organised. The first two days were shared between Windhoek and Okahandja. On day three, the group travelled to Lüderitz. Performances took place in Lüderitz, Keetmanshoop, Aranos, Hoachanas, Stampriet, Mariental and Rehoboth.

Performances took place in collaboration with the Ministry of Safety and Security (requests were received to perform in jails for inmates and personnel), the Keetmanshoop MPYC, and various municipalities.

All shows were well received. The rain threatened some performances, but only once, in Okahandja, did the group have to halt a performance due to heavy rain. At all other venues, performances could proceed as planned. In both Lüderitz and Keetmanshoop, the Keetmanshoop Youth Group, known as the Dream Team, performed alongside OYO. The tour manager reported that in Mariental, there was an excellent audience: "What an audience! The

audience was going crazy, pushing each other, because everybody wanted to see the show. There was no space because it was so full.”

The piece *The dark Medea*, is about baby dumping, and also about men impregnating women and running away. One inmate at the Hardap Prison was really touched by the piece and said, “If only I could turn back time, I would. But I can’t: I’m already here, in prison.”

In Rehoboth, after the performance of *Choices*, which is about PMTCT, an audience member who was a nurse explained more about PMTCT in Damara to the community.

At the end of the performances, audience members were asked to fill out a short questionnaire to assess their understanding of the dance and the impact it might have. A report (available on request) was prepared.

The tour was a huge success, at times exceeding expectations. OYO presented its pieces in numerous communities in the period around World AIDS Day. Each piece was followed by a discussion, to ensure that audiences had understood the message and learnt from the event. When possible, the facilitation was organised in the local vernacular.

### 7.11 Other performances

In 2012, OYO was invited by the Road Construction Company (RCC) to create awareness amongst its builders in Kavango Region. A year later, the RCC wanted to reinforce the message. The troupe travelled to Mpungu on 4 April and performed on 5 April. *I’m not alone, It begins with me, Choices, Sugar babes, Unwanted, and Ongumi* were presented to 62 girls and 47 males (mostly school learners), 70 female and 52 male youths (including some of the youngest workers), and 50 female and 68 male adults (mostly workers, but also community members).

The feedback received was positive, and the RCC was satisfied with the outcome. Unlike in 2012, it was not possible to involve the whole school, but many more workers attended the performance. The Site Safety Manager, Mr Johannes Uwu-Khaeb, who was in charge of the event, commented that formal training isn’t effective with their workers, but pieces such as the ones presented are highly efficient. He was confident that the event had been worthwhile.

ODT was invited by KAYEC to perform at the 1<sup>st</sup> National Children’s Forum on 1 November, where they performed *Sugar babes*. The ODT also performed for Lifeline/Childline and the Phillippi Trust, developing fruitful contacts with sister NGOs.

## 7.12 Conclusion

It is difficult to describe the work done by the ODT to people who have not seen them in action, but the fact is that the ODT has been OYO's main component over the period under review. It benefited from support from various donors, and performed several times. The invitation to the Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival is a significant honour for the ODT, and we anticipate that it will boost its credibility even further. It is the first troupe in Namibia that has been able to pay seven dancers full-time salaries. This in itself is a great achievement. Thanks to the Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival invitation, we will have the opportunity to select new promising dancers from the regions and expand our team.

**Table 3 Audiences for the ODT tours**

Regions	Pieces	Learners		Youths		Adults		Total
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
<b>Kavango, Zambezi</b>	<i>It begins with me, Choices, Sugar babes</i>	2 742	2 641	1 395	1 465	239	842	9 324
<b>Kavango, Zambezi</b>	<i>It begins with me, Sugar babes</i>	202	159	215	175	89	88	928
<b>Ohangwena</b>	<i>Stigma, Choices, Sugar babes</i>	3 768	3 119	145	174	210	161	7 577
<b>Hardap, Karas</b>	<i>It begins with me, Choices, Sugar babes</i>	4 584	3 945	304	277	611	522	10 243
<b>Hardap, Karas</b>	<i>It begins with me, Sugar babes</i>	11	90	18	27	29	15	190
<b>Omusati</b>	<i>Stigma, unwanted, sugar babes</i>	5 016	4 540	92	55	205	150	10 058
<b>Northern regions</b>	<i>Magda, stigma, should I know?</i>	5 260	4 481	0	0	128	109	9 978
<b>Northern regions</b>	<i>Magda, stigma</i>	4 003	3 721	46	30	251	196	8 247
<b>Ohangwena</b>	<i>Magda</i>	500	420	0	0	3	2	925
<b>Hardap, Karas</b>	<i>The dark Medea, Stigma, Choices</i>	607	519	626	604	623	861	3 840
<b>Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjizondjupa, Erongo</b>	<i>The dark Medea, Stigma, Choices</i>	1 286	1 208	993	1209	830	1 784	7 310
		27 979	24 843	3 834	4 016	3 218	4 730	68 620

### Technical features of the ODT

Choreographer

P. Talavera

Project Coordinator: Dance

D. !Kharuchab

Troupe (till October)	D. !Kharuchab, V. Uarije, E. Philander, J. Augustus, S. Plaatjies, R. Isaac, J. Rooi
Tour Manager	J. Homateni
Facilitators	I. Mueze, N. Mbarandongo
Logistics	C. Petrus
Assistants (logistics)	K. Katumbo
Finance Coordinator	P. Mamhare

## 8 Component 4: DVD productions and shows

### 8.1 *My best interest*

#### **Facilitation of episode 1 (*Left alone*) and episode 2 (*Stinky boy*)**

The two episodes produced in 2012 were extensively used in 2013. They were presented to a total of 8 051 people over the year. As in 2012, the DVDs were extremely well received, and stimulated numerous discussions in schools and communities.

*The kids are the ones who decided that they want to live together and that they can afford to live on their own as long as they get assistance, so they did participate in the decision taken by the magistrate. The DVD has a very good message for the school children and it's very interesting. The language used is clear and understandable.*

**Tomas Martin, male, 17 years old, Ruacana HS**

*The DVD shows us what is happening to children in reality: the suffering of orphans facing neglect and the suffering of children treated badly by their stepparents.*

**Dina Hamutenya, female, 16 years old, Oshela SSS**

*James suffered severely with his stepmother. She beats him up and [gives him no food]. She abuses him [but he influenced the decision taken by the magistrate by telling him] about his condition, how he was living and how he was being treated.*

**Nasilele Sitali, female, 16 years old, David Sheehama SS**

#### **Broadcast of episodes 1 and 2**

The two episodes were broadcast on the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation in December 2013. Good feedback was received following the broadcast.

#### **Production of episode 3: *Why can't I be like everybody else?***

Save the Children, Sweden, had initiated the project in 2012. OYO had developed five potential scripts. Despite the success of the project, it proved to be difficult to secure additional funding. Despite the fact they were terminating

their activities in Namibia in 2013, they agreed to fund the production of the third episode.

Episode 3 tells the story of Johannes and Alex, both of whom are 15 years old. Johannes is trying to accept the fact he is attracted to boys. He is constantly bullied on his way to school, in particular by Jacky. He lives alone with his father, who cannot accept that his son might be a “moffie”. Alex is constantly teased at school because of his blue eyes. Learners call him a witch. His mother doesn’t understand the impact this has on his life. When the two boys meet at the riverbed, their lives change forever.

Auditions and crew selection took place in March. Rehearsals ran from March to May, and the shooting took place in May, during the school holidays. Following the shooting, OYO immediately started with the editing. Early in September, the film was ready. On 26 September, the film could be launched at the Warehouse, for an audience of over 120 guests. The Save the Children, Sweden Project Coordinator attended the launch and made the opening remarks. The films were extremely well received. Since the launch, the DVDs have been extensively used in schools. Previews are available on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKM0-H4dC3A> .

*At the bar [after the showing], I met the father of a boy who came out this year, and he came to understand what he was going through. He saw the advert for the show in the paper. So important that you reach out to the broader population*

**Audience member at the launch – feedback received by SMS**

The decision was made to wait until January 2014 to formally start using the DVD in schools. October and November are examination months in Namibia, and it was felt that a presentation in the new year would be more appropriate.

*[I liked] the interaction with my colleagues from different schools. It was quite easy to get along. We would make jokes when needed and when we had to be serious, it would be amazing to see. To be part of films that educate is the best thing ever. A film is more than just talking. It has both talking and action.*

**Tobias Naushanga, 19 years old, actor**

*I learnt that this movie is sending a message out to the people to stand up for themselves and I learnt that life is not always easy and that we, as children, must stand up and strive from what we want to be.*

**Joseph Matheus, 15 years old, actor**

The possibility of shooting at least one more episode in 2014 is being discussed.

## **8.2 *Now that I can talk about it***

In 2011, OYO organised a writing workshop at which young writers created two stories. One of these, *One night*, could be scripted and shot in 2011. The second couldn’t be used immediately, due to a lack of funding. With the

December disbursement from Global Fund, OYO had a budget for the short film, so the decision was taken to revive the second script and produce it.

The script tells the story of Sophie, who lives in Windhoek. During the week, she stays at the school hostel. One weekend, her mother, Monica, asks her to come and look after her little brother, as she has to attend a church gathering. Michael, Sophie's boyfriend, comes around. Then Sophie's stepfather, Tomas, arrives and finds her with Michael. Her life is about to change forever. The film deals with abuse committed by a family member, and its impact on the victim and the whole family.

OYO had little time to organise this shooting, as the film needed to be finished by end of June, when the Global Fund grant period expired. Auditions were organised in January to select the young cast. In January and February, rehearsals with the young cast and auditions for the adult cast were held, and the crew members were selected. The shooting took place from 23 February to 5 March, with support from Ella du Plessis SS, Pharmaccess (a mobile testing unit), Khan Truck Company and Katutura New Start Centre. OYO had rented a house for three days for the shooting, as many scenes are set in Sophie's house. Despite the owner of the house being very uncooperative, the required scenes could be recorded.

Editing started immediately after the shooting. Post-production took place in May and June, and by the end of June, the DVD was finished. The DVD was premiered on 30 July, and thereafter presented in schools and communities, reaching 8 232 people. The DVD was very well received, as learners can relate to the story and the message it conveys.

### **8.3 *Panado girl***

The new grant of Global Fund was supposed to have commenced on 1 July. Provision had been made in the budget for a production between October and December. As the disbursement was only received in November, however, it was difficult for OYO to go ahead with the production.

OYO wanted to work on the issue of ARVs in schools. While working on the magazine on "HIV and young people", several learners wrote that it is difficult for learners, particularly those in hostels, to take their ARVs at school, as they fear being discovered and discriminated against. There were even reports of learners living with HIV committing suicide. OYO invited a team of four young writers to write about the issue, getting their inspiration from articles in the OYO magazine and a report issued by Positive Vibes. Two stories were developed. One of these, *Panado girl*, had a simpler setting and could be developed at short notice.

*I learned how difficult it is to come up with a good script. One has to think and visualise all the characters and their functions, and put them in different scenes to make a meaningful story. The story should be clear and easy to understand. We wrote many drafts*

*before the final script. This taught me that even if I am writing an assignment at school, it is crucial to go through it more than once, make corrections, and write several drafts until everything makes sense. The workshop really helped me improve my way of drafting my assignments.*

**Johannes Magongo, Polytechnic student and young writer**

*The topic/theme was quite an eye opener. I was really not aware of the challenges faced by learners in hostels who have to take their ARVs.*

**Uzuvira Kambatuku, young writer**

Auditions were held and rehearsals with four young actors got underway without delay. The same crew from the previous production was reassembled, and shooting took place from 30 November to 9 December. Thanks are due to Concordia College for their important assistance. Editing will start early in 2014, and the DVD is expected to be released between May and June.

### **Technical features of OYO film productions in 2013**

Director	P. Talavera
Director of Photography	B. Curschmann
Sound	W. Majewski
Writers for <i>My best interest</i>	M. Gawanab, B. Jagger, C. Mamhare, L. Ndhikwa, S. Ndhikwa, M. Nelenge
Writers for <i>Now that I can talk about it</i>	Evelina Ashipala, Billy Jagger, El-Marie Kapunda, Dennis !Kharuchab, El-Juanita Philander
Writers for <i>Panado girl</i>	Fransina Alfeus, Junias Ayeshaantu, Uzuvira Kambatuku, Johannes Magongo
Gaffer	C. Hoeweb
Make-up artist	U. Hoebel
First Assistant Director	F. Schott (N. Mbarandongo for <i>My best interest</i> )
Editor	V. Mboku
Post-production	W. Majewski
Music	S. Majewski
Logistic and extras	C. Petrus
Art Director	P. Talavera
Rehearsals Assistant and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director	N. Mbarandongo
Best Boy	J. Homateni
Runner	I. Mueze
Assistant (logistics)	K. Katumbo



Lead cast for <i>My best interest</i>	E. de Wee, J. Molapong, Chops, T. Musukubili, C. van der Westhuizen, T. Petrus, J. Magongo, T. Naushanga, J. Mattheus
Lead cast for <i>Now that I can talk about it</i>	S. Kakololo, A. Louw, D. Engelbrecht, G. Kaliteke, S. Markus, J. de Villiers
Lead cast for <i>Panado girl</i>	Melissa Reed, Johanna Nelundu, J. Magongo, C. Tjikune, D. Ndjavera
Production driver	E. Jameka
Finance	P. Mamhare

#### 8.4 *One night*

This DVD, shot towards the end of 2011 and released in 2012, was still used in 2013.

*This DVD was excellent because it gives me advice for some of my difficulties and it gives me a clue on how to advise my friends when they are experiencing such problems or difficulties.*

**Tjikhonga Kamezuu, female, 17 years old, Mariental HS**

*The DVD is excellent because it shows everything the way it is. It doesn't make things look good. It just shows the truth for what it is.*

**Ashley Beukes, female, 18 years old, P.K. de Villiers SS**

*The DVD shows us how to handle things, and that a person can get infected with HIV in just one night by having unprotected sex.*

**Iitemby Lukas, male, 17 years old, Grootfontein SS**

Table 4 Audiences for the DVD shows

DVD	# of children / learners		# of youths		# of adults		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
<i>My best interest</i>	4 934	3 776	18	21	141	128	9 018
<i>One night</i>	3 250	2 725	29	31	74	73	6 182
<i>Now that I can talk about it</i>	4 549	3 738	183	153	200	130	8 953
<b>Total</b>							<b>24 153</b>

#### Technical features of the DVD shows

Project Coordinator: Productions	J. Homateni
DVD facilitators	I. Mueze, S. Jacobs, N. Mbarandongo
Finance Coordinator	P. Mamhare

## **9 Component 4: Institutional support**

### **9.1 Staffing**

2013 was again a challenging year. OYO had fewer employees than in 2012, and was easier to manage. The production and youth development teams were stable, and did a fantastic job.

Towards the end of the year, however, problems were experienced with the ODT. One dancer had to be released for misconduct, one resigned, and one decided not to renew his contract. On the positive side, however, these changes presented an opportunity to rethink the structure of the ODT.

In September the finance manager suddenly resigned, having been offered a better package by the Namibia Networks of AIDS Service Organisations (NANASO)/Global Fund. The post was advertised, but at first no suitable candidate could be found. OYO eventually identified Hendrietta du Plessis, who joined the organisation on 1 November. It was challenging for her to start at the end of the year, at a time when we need to close accounts and prepare numerous reports, but she did a fantastic job. The Head Office structure was stable, and remained unchanged throughout the year.

OYO contracted freelance facilitators for the magazine between January and June. The system worked in the beginning, but proved fragile when it became clear that the Global Fund grant scheduled for disbursement in July would not materialise.

Finally, OYO contracted young freelance dancers from September to take over from dancers who had left, or were leaving soon.

### **9.2 Transport**

No new vehicles were acquired during 2013, but a new trailer was purchased at the end of the year. OYO adopted a new vehicle policy and created a vehicle investment fund to allow for better fleet management and the replacement of old vehicles.

### **9.3 Offices**

Head Office is still situated at 4 Babie Street, Suiderhof, Windhoek. All other regional offices had been closed in 2012. This proved to be successful, as managing only one office was easier and more cost-effective.

### **9.4 Staff training**

#### **9.4.1 OYO quarterly training**

A staff training programme was held from 6 to 9 January 2013. During the training, OYO's structure was explained at length, and the new magazine and topic were discussed. Knowledge gained during previous years on HIV/AIDS,

tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections was recapped. Facilitation of OYO's DVD produced in 2012 was also revised.

Due to a lack of funding, it was not possible to organise a staff training programme for term two (usually held in May).

A short training programme was held from 26 to 28 August 2013. This was an opportunity to reflect on results obtained and to discuss the restructuring of the ODT. It was also an opportunity to prepare for OYO's tenth anniversary celebrations, and to train staff on OYO's new DVDs.

#### **9.4.2 Expert training**

OYO was privileged once again to welcome Helen Linsell, a choreographer from Dance United (Leeds, UK). Helen once again sponsored her flight and time in Namibia. She worked half days with the OYO staff, including dancers, from 7 to 9 January, and full days from 10 to 12 January, devising the piece *It begins with me*, which deals with HIV testing.

She then went with the youth development team to Keetmanshoop and observed Ivan "Fly" Mueze, Nyandee Mbarandongo and Chris Jacobs teaching *It begins with me* to the Keetmanshoop Youth Group.

#### **9.4.3 Training freelance magazine facilitators**

As discussed above, the magazine team had to be retrenched in 2012. At the beginning of 2013, OYO had funding to produce two magazines. It therefore had to train new facilitators. Eight potential facilitators from OYO's youth groups were identified. Only five, from Omusati, Otjozondjupa, Khomas, Hardap and Karas regions, were interested and available. They received initial training from 14 to 17 January. During the training, the structure of OYO and its code of conduct were explained. The objectives for visits 1 and 2 were discussed at length. Then the group received training on the new magazine and topic.

A refresher course was held from 10 to 12 March, to observe the facilitators, assess their progress, answer their questions, and train them on the second magazine and topic.

The facilitator from Hardap Region later found that the position was too demanding, and that his schools were not sufficiently cooperative, and he resigned in April. The facilitator from Otjozondjupa Region was motivated till April, but then lost motivation as OYO couldn't continue to produce the magazine.

Training freelance facilitators is time-consuming. This system has been a necessity for the past two years, given the sporadic production of the magazine. OYO is concerned that the need for training new facilitators will be ongoing, and wonders how this will impact on the quality of facilitation.

## **9.5 OYO trustees' meetings**

Full OYO Board meetings took place on 30 May and 19 September, with an additional meeting on 29 November (without a quorum). Regular meetings with Board members took place throughout the year.

Mr Charles Uarije, long-term trustee, resigned from the Board. Carolin Guriras and Mercedes von Cloete were invited to join the Board, and will formally commence their duties in 2014.

## **10 Other important activities**

### **10.1 Annual audit and report**

During January and February 2013, OYO's accounts were audited. As usual, the auditors were satisfied with the results of the audit and the way OYO had handled its finances in 2012.

Throughout the year, various Global Fund audits also took place.

The 2012 Annual Report was prepared in January and February. Language editing and layout were performed in March, and the report was ready for distribution by the end of March. It was subsequently distributed to all of OYO's partners and stakeholders.

### **10.2 Director's networking in the UK**

OYO's Director had undertaken a trip to the UK in July 2012. The most interesting outcome had been the selection of the ODT to take part in the Commonwealth Youth Dance Festival in Glasgow in July 2014.

In 2013, Jane Salmonson from OYO Scotland was more available. A trip to the UK was therefore undertaken, from 26 June to 6 July, with three objectives:

- to strategise for OYO Scotland and its relationship with OYO Namibia. In particular Jane had committed herself to helping the OYO Director to produce a business plan for OYO Namibia;
- to meet with potential donors, in particular the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the Sainsbury Trust; and
- to assess how we could use the ODT while in Scotland to promote the work of OYO and encourage potential donors to support us.

Twenty meetings were organised. The opinions expressed in these meetings all pointed in the same direction:

- On its own, OYO Namibia has little chance of raising funding within the UK.
- As matters stand, with only two volunteers, OYO Scotland is not able adequately to support OYO Namibia.

- The priority should therefore be to strengthen OYO Scotland (to eventually become OYO UK) to enable it to support OYO Namibia. Models such as Drama for a Change and Money for Madagascar are good models to consider.
- OYO needs to prove its impact, and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary would provide a good platform for this purpose.
- The ODT visit to Glasgow in July 2014 could be used to promote OYO's work in the UK.

A full report was presented to the Board for further discussion.

### **10.3 OYO Scotland**

Alan Hobbett, the founder of OYO Scotland, is still working on the windmill project that is expected to raise funding for OYO Namibia in the long term. However, the process is long and complicated. The first site identified for the project failed, and a new option is being investigated.

Meanwhile, progress has been made with Jane Salmonson in considering future options for OYO Scotland (including its becoming OYO UK). The following were achieved:

- We invited people with relevant expertise to join a steering group to act as an advisory committee. Six highly skilled and professional people agreed to join our steering group, and help us develop the idea further.
- One of the first comments from the steering group pointed to the need for OYO to revamp its website, and make it more informative for potential donors. This was done between September and December, and we are proud of the revised site: [www.ombetja.org](http://www.ombetja.org).
- A second comment related to the need for OYO to improve its impact. A start was made in this regard with the production of 16 short YouTube links in which beneficiaries, OYO staff members and partners testify about their experiences with OYO. The links were released one per week, and are available on our website and Facebook page.
- The group brainstormed on options for an impact assessment study, in particular through interviewing former beneficiaries of OYO's projects. The idea is to contact young people OYO worked with between 2003 and 2010, who are now young adults. Through in-depth interviews, we will try to assess what impact their participation in OYO's programmes has had. A proposal was drafted and presented to Comic Relief for consideration, but it was not approved. The proposal was re-worked on the basis of the comments received, and is now ready for resubmission. We are confident that this work will be conducted between May and August 2014.

While much still needs to be done, we are satisfied with this development and excited at the prospects it presents.

#### **10.4 Other fundraising strategies**

OYO has continued to submit proposals and approach potential partners. In the changing donor landscape in Namibia, however, OYO acknowledges the need to explore alternative sources of funding. This year OYO has successfully:

- developed income-generating activities (as is the case with the ODT, in particular through the internship project, consultancies such as that for the RCC, and the charging of a fee for performances at corporate events); and
- explored the possibility of developing proposals with like-minded NGOs and with OYO Scotland.

#### **10.5 Other events and meetings**

OYO joined the Child Rights Network of Namibia. This is a newly established network of organisations and individuals interested in children's rights issues in Namibia. Various meetings of the network members were attended either by the OYO Director or the Project Coordinator: Operations. OYO's Director, Philippe Talavera, was selected as the team leader for the Advocacy Working Group.

Various meetings were attended at NANASO, with the City of Windhoek and various government ministries. The OYO Director has dedicated some time to the preparation of the RCC Country Proposal Phase II, in particular the section on Social and Behavioural Change Communication.

OYO's Director attended the High-Level Advocacy Dinner on the occasion of the Day of the African Child, organised by the MGECW. OYO had a stand at the NGO Forum organised in May by NANGOF, where it could promote its work. The OYO Director also attended the closing ceremony of the Forum.

OYO's Project Coordinator: Operations, represented OYO at the celebration of the Day of the Namibian Child on 28 September, where OYO had a stand and where she organised activities with children.

### **11 Thanks to our donors**

OYO would like to thank all our donors and sponsors for their support, without which our work would not have been possible. OYO received financial support for its activities in 2013 from:

- the Namibia Networks of Aids Services Organisations (NANASO), through Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
- the Embassy of the United States of America / American Cultural Centre;
- the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ);
- the Federal Republic of Germany, through its Embassy in Windhoek;
- the First National Bank of Namibia Foundation;

- Save the Children, Sweden;
- UNESCO; and
- Valentine Charitable Trust.

We would also like to thank:

- the Goethe Centre, for supporting our rehearsals and the forthcoming visit by Stefan Baier (January 2014);
- the Road Construction Company and all the institutions that have approached the ODT for performances;
- the interns who came to Namibia and made sure the Summer Internship project was a resounding success;
- Helen Linsel, for sponsoring her second trip to Namibia to help us further develop our youth component;
- all the institutions and companies that supported the shooting of our DVD film project, in particular Concordia College, The Warehouse, Barbara Bohlke, Torga Optical Maerua Mall, The Ministry of Justice, the Magistrate's Court, Katutura, the City of Windhoek, Windhoek City Police, The Ministry of Safety and Security, in particular Kaap Farm Police Station, Hage Geingob SS, Ella du Plessis SS, Evelina Ashipala and family, Anna Johannes and family, Pharmaccess, Khan Truck company, and the New Start Centre, Katutura;
- the University of Lapland, Finland, for entrusting the preparation of the workshop in Keetmanshoop to us;
- the Katutura Community Arts Centre, for entrusting the facilitation of a workshop on self-esteem to us;
- Greiter Conference Centre, for their generous discounts for facilities for our training programmes and workshops;
- the City of Windhoek, for offering us rehearsal space;
- the Ministry of Education, in particular all the Regional AIDS Committees for Education that helped us organise our tours;
- and all experts who have contributed articles to the magazine *OYO, young, latest and cool*.

Finally, our thanks are also due to all the volunteers and youths who have, in one way or another, contributed to our projects.

**Annex: Report of the independent auditor**