

# THEMBA

COMMUNITY SCREENINGS



## TALK GROUP GUIDE

### What is Themba?

Themba is a powerful 104 minute film about a boy who dreams of becoming a football star but who faces challenges, like many of us do, because he lives in a rural community challenged by unemployment, poverty, family breakdown and HIV. The film is truly inspiring as Themba finds out how pain, stigma and prejudice can be temporary, but courage is forever. His triumph is a personal one as he learns that HIV can be managed, prevented, a normal life lived and that dreams can be realised.

### What is our goal?

Themba will bring its message of hope to your community – but it can do more than that. The film is also a starting point for important discussions on issues of poverty and HIV, and what is being done to end the suffering.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are all about ending poverty and suffering. They are goals that 189 countries throughout the world have come together to say – ‘we are committed to reaching these goals by 2015’. There are 8 MDGs that cover wide areas of health and development but most important for our discussion are:

- The goal of ending extreme poverty and hunger
- The goal of giving everyone primary education
- The goal of combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- The goal of promoting gender equality and empowering women

Are people in your community affected by issues like poverty, hunger, poor access to health services, gender inequality and HIV? These issues are directly related to the MDGs. Our governments have committed to reaching these goals but what do we as the people on the ground think and what is our experience? By helping people to talk about what these goals mean to them, we can all start to add our voice and stand up against poverty, HIV and suffering. By using this film as a ‘talk group’ starter we hope people in our communities will begin to ask the people in power to do something, and stand up themselves to help us reach these goals.

### What is a talk group?

A talk group is when a group of people get together and talk about an issue that affects them. But it’s not just an informal chat – a talk group can actually inform people about an issue and raise awareness. It also gives people a chance to discuss their ideas and opinions. This means that in a talk group people need to show each other respect, everyone should have the chance to speak if they want to, and it should be a relaxed and flexible environment where people feel comfortable. This is where your role comes in – you will facilitate the talk group.

### What is your role?

As a facilitator/ peer educator you will lead a talk group after this screening of Themba with youth and other community members in a classroom, youth centre, community centre, church, or even someone’s home. If you are screening the movie to hundreds of people – you will split up into smaller groups to have your talk groups, and different facilitators will work with these different groups. Your overall role is to help the group discuss how the movie made them feel, what issues it raised for them personally and their community, and how it links to the MDGs.

### How to run your talk group effectively

A talk group is a chance for everyone to have their say and learn from each other, but you have an important role in guiding them through the process. To do this:

1. Welcome everyone to the group, introduce the film, and then explain that there will be the option to stay for a talk group afterwards.
2. Ensure that your register is being filled in!
3. After the screening, thank people for their attention. Explain that this talk group is happening simply



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- to let them talk about this film, what it meant to them, and some of the issues it raises.
4. Encourage everyone to participate, and make it clear from the beginning that this isn't a place where people will be judged or made fun of.
  5. Use the information in this guide to share with your group what the MDGs are – and why we are talking about them in this talk group.
  6. Try to make the group feel comfortable but using humour, keeping eye contact and having a relaxed manner – they will take the lead from you!
  7. Use these discussion questions to guide your talk group. Don't feel that you have to cover them all, use the ones you think are most important for your group:

### The film

- How did you feel as you watched this film?
- If you were Themba, would you have done anything differently?
- What do you think was the most important message from this film?

### The MDGs

- What does/do the selected MDG/s for our discussion mean for us in our community?
- How do we think our country is doing in reaching this/these MDG/s?
- What are the most important things that need to change for us to reach them?
- How can we be a part of reaching this/these MDG/s?

### Hope

- What does the film say about hope?
- How could you give hope to your community?

### HIV

- What does the film say about HIV?
- What are the messages that the film shares about HIV that you would like to share with your community?

### Stigma

- What does the film say about stigma?
- Is stigma an issue in your community?
- How do you think you could tackle the issue of stigma?

### Having a dream

- What does the film say about working towards a dream?
- How can you reach for your dreams and help others to do the same?

8. When you reach the end of the talk group, wrap up by briefly summarizing some of the things you talked about as well as some of the ways they talked about taking action to make changes in their community.
9. To close the group thank everyone for their time. End with a positive and encouraging statement that shows the message of hope that the Themba movie brings us. Also encourage them by letting them know that just by being part of this talk group they are lending their voice to the call for action to end poverty and suffering.

**Thank YOU for facilitating this talk group and bringing this message of hope to your community!**

