

Hybrid Session

Strengthening South-to-South Collaboration and National Capacity Building to Advance HIV Treatment and Prevention Models: The Role of Faith and Community Leadership

Date: Sunday 3 December 2023

Time: 10:45 am – 11:30 am, Harare - Zimbabwe

Session Room Capacity: 600 people

Overview

This session is co-hosted by the ICASA Secretariat, UNAIDS-PEPFAR Faith Initiative, GHSD-PEPFAR, in collaboration with INERELA+ Kenya and the World Council of Churches.

Community leaders often have a deeply established and trusted community presence. In most countries with high HIV burdens, 60-75 percent of the population regularly attends religious services.^[1] Collaboration with faith and community leaders is strategic for reaching and sustaining UNAIDS priorities for 95-95-95 HIV treatment targets and 10-10-10 societal targets. These leaders have influential roles in closing country-specific treatment gaps in priority populations, such as youth, children, key populations, and men; and in advancing combination prevention. Engagement of faith leaders is essential for sustainably ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

This session will describe successful South-to-South collaboration, capacity-building, and replication of models that advance UNAIDS and PEPFAR priorities. Program developers will describe lessons learned in implementing collaborative models that engage faith community leaders, religious leaders living with HIV, and Faith-Based Organizations, to advance HIV prevention and care. This session will showcase models developed by African faith communities that close gaps, including the recent Compendium of African promising practices by FBOs on pediatric and adolescents HIV; faith-engaged community posts; demand creation for testing, prevention, and pandemic control; and stigma reduction approaches.

Session details:

Purpose: This session will provide an opportunity for developers and implementers of African faith-engaged models to share essential components and lessons learned for advancing high-performing approaches to HIV treatment, prevention, and combination prevention priorities. Faith and community leaders will discuss challenges and opportunities for replicating what works, as they showcase best-practices and solutions, and provide open-source resources for these programs.

Objectives:

- Summarize key promising practices identified in the recent UNAIDS *Compendium of Promising Practices of African Faith Community Interventions against Pediatric and Adolescent HIV*.

- Raise awareness regarding new data from the Lancet and Oxford University regarding the impacts of PEPFAR on children.
- Highlight south-to-south development and dissemination of “Message of Hope” communication prototypes for demand creation for case-finding/linkage/continuity, and b) raising awareness about the benefits and availability of PrEP for strengthening combination prevention of HIV.
- Describe components, impact (on case-finding, VLS (viral load suppression) and PrEP for prevention), replication approaches, opportunities for expansion, and resources for implementing faith-engaged community posts that close 95-95-95 gaps for children under 18 and other priority populations, and that advance combination prevention
- Raise awareness about the South-to-South New Foundations of Hope webinars as a vehicle for national capacity building for UNAIDS and PEPFAR priorities (accelerating HIV treatment and prevention; strengthening global health security; and ending stigma).

Proposed format:

- A panel followed by facilitated discussion
- The hybrid feature permits participation from global registrants.

Session details:

- **Welcome and Introduction:** Luc Bodea, ICASA Secretariat Chair (2min)
- **Panel (Total 28min):**
 - o **Introduction on Strengthening South-to-South Collaborations for Ending HIV/AIDS as a Global Threat – by the Co-Moderators:**
 - § Muleya Mwananyanda, Director Influencing and Partnership – PAC, UNAIDS, and Susan Hillis, Technical Advisor for Faith and Community Engagement at the US Department of State’s Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy (GHSD) – PEPFAR (4min)
 - § Dr. Susan Hillis Senior, Technical Advisor for Faith and Community Engagement at the US Department of State’s Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy (GHSD) – PEPFAR: **Overview of New Data from the Lancet and Oxford** (4min)
 - o **Faith-engaged Community Posts developer /Trainers:** Gibstar Makangila, Executive Director, Circle of Hope, Zambia; and Talent Maphosa, Public Health Specialist at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Zimbabwe (5min)
 - o **South-to-South Engagement of Religious Leaders Living with HIV in raising awareness and inspiring effective action for prevention and treatment:** Rev Jane Ng’an’ga, Coordinator, Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS, INERELA+ Kenya (5min)
 - o **Leadership of Religious Leaders Living with HIV, in Ending Inequalities of Access to Freedom from Stigma:** Reverend Canon Gideon Byamugisha, Episcopal priest, Uganda; first known religious leader living with HIV to publicly declare his status in 1991; founder of INERELA +, Uganda; Executive Director, Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation; Advocate for compassionate care for all (5min)

o **Stigma reduction study and interventions with religious leaders in Nigeria:** Deborah Ojonugwa Agbo (5min) TBC

- **Moderated Discussion** (13 min)
- **Closing by Co-Moderators** (2min)