

Leading by example: Faith on the Fast Track?

International Network of Religious Leaders living with or personally affected by HIV and AIDS

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Outline

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- 3 . Cascading the Fast track agenda
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Introduction

- UNAIDS 2016 estimates: Only 17 million on ARVs by Dec 2015
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 700 000 in 2005, increased to 12.1 million in 2015
- Involvement of all sectors NB
- 2015 targets in the 2011 PD reached: 15 million people on ART.
- Introduction of Fast track agenda in 2015



INERELA+

- INERELA+ is a network of religious Leaders
- We currently have about 16 country networks in Africa.
- We have a presence in 5 countries outside Africa
- Our core business is the empowerment of religious leaders to be agents of change.
- Our Vision- a world without HIV and AIDS related stigma.



Fast track agenda

- Understanding of targets NB
- UNDP meeting in Bristol UK on SDGs
- Tanzania: 18 countries in ESA
- Call to action from Tanzania presented in NEW YORK, meeting hosted by World Bank IATF
- Religious Leaders's responsibility to uphold human dignity and protect life.
- Agreed to hold Govts accountable for Access to Testing and Treatment.



Fast Track Agenda(cont)

- RLWH shared their stories to promote messages of hope
- Encouraged people to be tested and referred them to clinics
- Promoted the Undetectable =Untransmittable message.
- Trained RLS using the INERELA+ SAVE Toolkit
- Religious centres used to promote testing.



Annual Training of UKZN students



Successes and challenges

- HIV openly discussed as a justice issue
- Use of evidence to show the importance of ART in ending AIDS
- Confronting all structural barriers including stigma- Higher than in 2005
- Opening of KP friendly centres for both Testing and Treatment eg. MSM, Youth and CSWs.
- Higher levels of treatment literacy within FBOs



HCT Campaigns



Successes and challenges (cont)

- Test and Treat launched in RSA in 2016. Not yet implemented in all provinces.
- Treatment Fatigue leads to lack of adherence
- Adherence clubs led by PLHIV and RLHIV.
- EMTCT programmes are yielding positive results
- Men still late presenters-transformative masculinities
- Availability of Paediatric ARVs and Viral load monitoring tools remain a challenge.
- Contribution of CHAs.





Religious Assets

- According to statistics we are not on track.
- We can do more:
- Task shifting
- Promotion of Human Dignity as an inherent gift from God
- Transforming faith spaces into healing spaces
- Demystifying HIV and AIDS
- Promotion of Food sovereignty. Nutrition NB



Religious Assets/Cultural Challenges

- Patriarchy
- Rituals: FGM, VT
- Early marriage- Rape
- Young women as carers – education:IAC 2016. high numbers of young women living with HIV
- Selective transformation

Sexuality is taboo



Religious Assets

- Use of sacred texts
- Creation Story
- Human rights vs dignity
- Procreation and recreation
- Religious fundamentalism
- Marriage: vulnerability
- Faith Healing



Being Prophetic

- We as RLWHIV have a lot of power; change perceptions
- We have been part of the problem: promoted stigma
- Religious Leaders: Promote the prevention and care messages. Psychosocial support NB
- Accurate information on ART, adherence etc
- Stop Moralising HIV
- Invite Health Practitioners to speak in our centres
- Development of positive theology. ART is a gift from God



The last day of the faith preconference
in Durban.

“Finish the Race!” Faith Communities recommit
to end AIDS.

My closing words together with sharing my story
were:

“We must continue in the fast lane, we cannot
return to the slow lane or go slow on the fast
lane!”



Words by Dr David Barstow at Faith
Preconference 2016

Ending AIDS by 2030 can be achieved if
we take full advantage of the
remarkable medical advances of the
past few decades.



Best Practices

- Books by WCC on HIV and healing
- SAVE Toolkit
- Channels of Hope
- CBS and Sharing of experiences
- Tamar campaign
- Transformative masculinity
- Intergenerational Dialogues on HIV
- Live the Promise Campaign by EAA



**LET US WALK
TOGETHER!!
90/90/90
CAN BE
ACHIEVED**

