

UNAIDS STRATEGY REVIEW: Focus Group Synthesis template

Country: Kenya

Organizer: National AIDS Control Council (NACC)

Date of discussion: 20th August 2020

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Please use the template to organize your feedback from the session. Please keep responses succinct and as clear as possible to ensure our synthesis is a reflection of the focus groups hosted.

You can enter your report directly into a form on SurveyMonkey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HC9Q6M>

If you are not able to enter it on line you can send us a copy via e-mail strategy@unaid.org

Would you accept for UNAIDS to make your report publicly available: Yes

Section one: Information about the focus group (to be completed by host of Focus Group)

Organization leading discussion: UNAIDS Kenya Office

Date of discussion: 20th August 2020

Theme to be discussed: Kenya progress with Fast track targets

Participants (types of organizations participating):

- **Faith Organizations working on HIV programmes**
- **Faith Leaders Living and affected with HIV**

Country, regional or global focus: Country focus

Introducing the theme

Please enter the main characteristics of the theme being explored in 5 sentences (please share the presentation if possible by email)

- Challenges with implementation of current strategy – fast track targets
- What needs to be prioritized in the next 5 years?
- What are the barriers that COVID 19 has introduced in the response
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- ...

Section one: People centered response to HIV – key emerging issues

REACHING THE PEOPLE	
What has worked well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching out to AYP to access health and support • Faith sector did their best to reach out to men
Gaps and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching out to adolescent and young women that could have spiked the MTCT rate in the country • Supply chain of medication for PLHIV • Need to reach out to pregnant women on the relevance of going to seek antenatal care to prevent MTCT • Reaching out to rural communities with information on HIV
What was not done well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male engagement
What needs to be done differently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for government to partner with the faith sector for dissemination of information • Faith sector to work with government on the area of viral load suppression • To see how to introduce issues of sexual reproductive health in chaplaincy

STRUCTURES THAT RESPOND TO HIV	
What has worked well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level structures working well but there is a disconnect with different technical working groups • Faith sector has worked well with partners at county level • Faith sector has a well operationalized plan of implementation on Covid 19 • Service delivery in faith-based health institutions • Faith sector has worked well with UNAIDS and UNESCO. However, for other UN systems, they have not been felt by the faith sector
Gaps and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idea of multisectoral approach is being challenged thus leading to targets not being achieved – UNAIDS requested to support • Structures at county level having no connection with the faith sector
What was not done well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When faith sector is lumped up together with other state and non-state actors, especially in grant application processes, the sector does not have a voice to air out their issues and concerns • Faith sector's role/goal with GF was not clearly defined thus bringing friction with other constituents
What needs to be done differently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the faith sector and communities to document their work • To strengthen the capacity of the faith sector so that structure can continue to work well • To strengthen the faith sector at county level and connecting them with the national structure

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To put in place structures and measures that respond to epidemics in a proper way • Need to have separate platforms when engaging in grant application processes • Justice system needs to be engaged in the next strategy to fast track cases of violence against women and children • Need to think through on the social accountability/monitoring of principle recipients in the management of public resources • Need to have meaningful engagement in decision making processes especially in the areas of social accountability of resources
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CONTEXTUAL ENVIRONMENT	
What has worked well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith sector’s response in Covid 19 was swift
Gaps and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people have become afraid to go to CCCs to pick ARVs out of fear of infection of Covid 19
What was not done well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of community structures
What needs to be done differently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To see how to address the issue of referral letters when one is moves from a CCC in one county to the other in a different county • To have a national framework on how to respond to emergencies to avoid delayed communication in the context of HIV • To do a scan within the faith sector to know the kind of resources available within the sector to determine if faith-based health facilities can continue with services within an emergency • To develop a strategy that will enable programmes to continue during a crisis • To discuss on how capacity building of different faith communities can be done at grassroot level

RECOMMENDATIONS

What are the key recommendations back to UNAIDS in terms of the strategy specifically?	
CONTINUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of the multisectoral response by bringing all sectors in the response • Bring all sectors in the response • Continue with the issue of community dialogue • Strengthening male engagement programmes • Putting children at the core is important
STOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stop being reactive and prepare to give solution on issues such as SRH bill, traditional circumcision e.t.c
START	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having focus on rural communities, informal settlements, youth, and indigenous communities • Reporting on activities being done by the faith sector

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building capacity of the faith sector on how to document their interventions• Empowering religious leaders in indigenous churches on sensitizing their congregants on HIV• Capacity building Sunday school teachers on CSE within the religious setup that is age appropriate• Establishing social accountability structures at community level and faith sector to be part of it• Strengthening the capacity of the religious sector at county level by decentralizing the faith sector working group• Operationalization of GIPA/MIPA principles within faith communities• Having quarterly meetings between different technical working groups for better coordination• Emergency contingency plans that include emergencies that continuously exist in a yearly basis• Equipping ministers on how to address mental health issues in emergencies, after grief e.t.c.• Start largely thinking on investment of relief activities
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