

NEW CHOICES. NEW TREATMENT. NEW TIMING. NEW *HOPE.*

A Guide for Faith Leaders and faith communities to bridge the gaps in HIV testing, treatment, care and support for men and children.



FAITH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE





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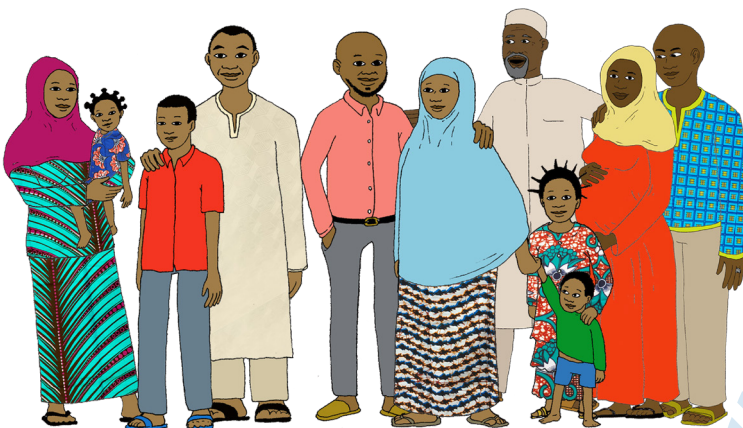
The **New Choices. New Treatment. New Timing. New Hope Guide** offers basic information about HIV and it celebrates the good news about HIV for 2020 and beyond.

The Guide shows several examples of new messages of hope to share in faith communities. Indeed, faith leaders have such an important and unique role to play in stopping the spread of HIV: by sharing messages about the value of testing, the importance of adhering to treatment; by building strong relationships with families and partners; and by impacting their communities with stories of hope.



Over the past years, faith communities and faith leaders from 10 sub-Saharan African countries have been involved in discussions on how to end the HIV epidemic and ensure the future health of our children, adolescents, men and women. These examples of messages are the result of both research and of the critical discussions during which local leaders have proposed community-based ideas and solutions.

We are confident that the information and the *new messages of hope* contained in this booklet will inspire you to guide, support and accompany your faith community to bridge the gaps in HIV testing, treatment, care and support for men and children.



HIV: THE BASICS

What is HIV?

HIV (**H**uman **I**mmunodeficiency **V**irus) is a virus that attacks the cells that help the body fight infections. This then, makes it easier for a person to get sick from infections and diseases.

What is AIDS?

AIDS stands for **A**cquired **I**mmunodeficiency **S**yndrome. AIDS is the late stage of the HIV infection that occurs when the body's ability to fight off infections is badly damaged because of the virus.

HIV progresses to AIDS when people living with HIV don't take their medication to control the amount of HIV in their blood.



HIV: THE BASICS

HIV Transmission

Understanding how HIV is passed from one person to another provides us with the knowledge needed to help educate our communities and loved ones about HIV prevention. First, let's focus on ways HIV can be passed from person to person, which include:

- ▶ Unprotected sex with someone who has HIV;
- ▶ Sharing needles, or other injection or skin-piercing equipment with someone who has HIV;
- ▶ From an HIV-positive mother to her child during pregnancy, delivery or breastfeeding;
- ▶ In case of transfusion with HIV blood.

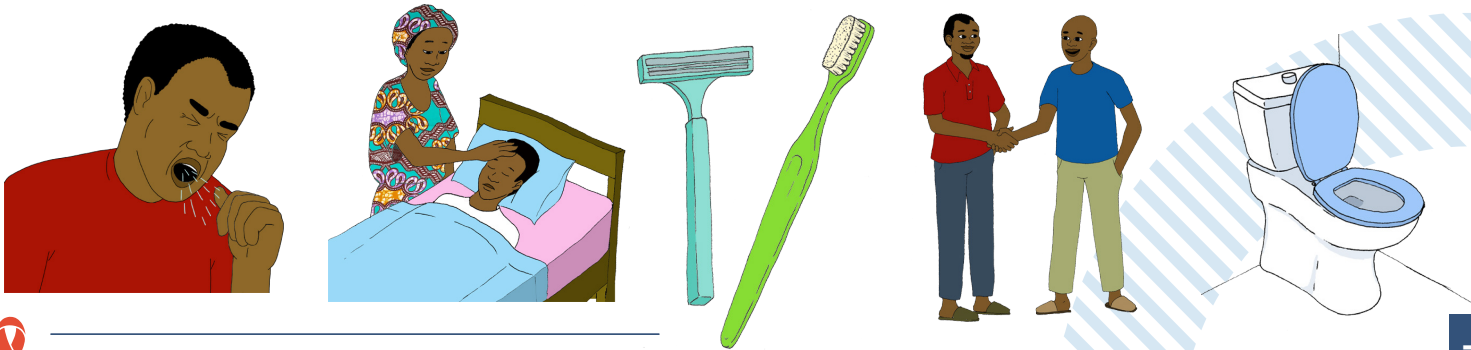


HIV: THE BASICS

As important as it is to understand how HIV is transmitted, we also must understand how it is **NOT** transmitted to both help educate our communities and help reduce negative stigma about HIV.

We know HIV is **NOT TRANSMITTED** through:

- ▶ Tears, sweating, coughing or sneezing;
- ▶ Caring for someone with HIV;
- ▶ Touching or sharing objects such as toothbrushes;
- ▶ Shaking hand or hugging;
- ▶ Touching or sharing surfaces or objects such as toilets, towels, dishes or clothes.



ADDRESSING GAPS

Addressing Gaps to Control HIV

As we think beyond 2020, our goal is that 95% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; that 95% of people who know their status are treated with ART, the HIV medication; and, finally, that 95% of people taking HIV treatment will have an undetectable viral load. This means that they will be able to live healthy, productive, active lives and they won't transmit HIV to others.

How can we reach our goals? Where are the gaps in controlling HIV?

To achieve epidemic control, unreached populations must be diagnosed, linked into care, and retained in care. This is why we want to highlight some key strategies that have proven very successful in reaching populations that have been missed in HIV testing and treatment programming. Without diagnosis of these populations, we cannot succeed in reaching HIV epidemic control.



TRUSTED FAITH
LEADERS CAN
TAKE INNOVATIONS
AND SOLUTIONS
TO THEIR
COMMUNITIES,
TO ADDRESS THE
CORE GAPS
IN HIV TESTING
AND TREATMENT



THERE ARE GAPS IN TREATMENT FOR: MEN

There are Gaps in Treatment for Men

Globally, antiretroviral treatment (ART) coverage for men 15 years and older was 55% in 2018, compared with 68% among adult women (UNAIDS, 2018).



THERE ARE GAPS IN TREATMENT FOR: CHILDREN + ADOLESCENTS

There are Gaps in Children and Adolescents

Globally, only about half of the children and adolescents living with HIV are receiving Treatment.

These figures illustrate that there are serious problems in reaching and engaging men, children and adolescents.





THERE ARE GAPS IN TREATMENT FOR: TUBERCULOSIS

There are Gaps in Treatment for Tuberculosis

People living with HIV are still dying from tuberculosis (TB). Nowadays, TB is the leading cause of death in people living with HIV. This in spite the fact that TB is both preventable and totally curable.

TB CAN BE PREVENTED!

EVERYONE WITH TB SHOULD LIVE CURED!

NO ONE SHOULD DIE FROM TB!



BARRIERS THAT KEEP MEN FROM ACCESSING HIV SERVICES:

To close the gaps in HIV diagnosis and treatment for men, we must recognize and address barriers to care. Research shows there are many barriers that keep men from accessing HIV services. These can include:

- ▶ Fear of testing positive and of disclosure of status
- ▶ Fear that others will no longer view them as masculine and strong
- ▶ Stigma
- ▶ Lack of access
- ▶ Lack of trusted health care
- ▶ Lack of male-centered care

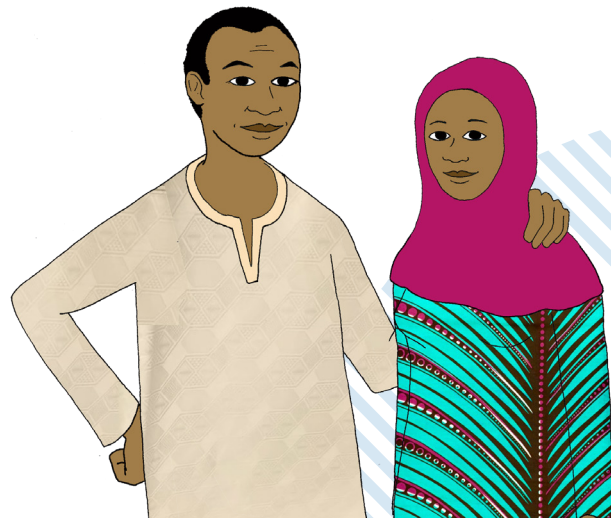


STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE MEN

The following strategies have been effective in addressing barriers that keep men from accessing HIV diagnosis and cares:

- ▶ Deliver messages of hope!
- ▶ Integrate HIV with other health care services
- ▶ Offer accompaniment and support
- ▶ Offer choices in testing

- ▶ Offer support groups for HIV-affected individuals
- ▶ Remove gender inequality, stigma and discrimination
- ▶ Engage faith leaders to encourage couple's and family testing



REACHING CHILDREN WITH LIFESAVING TESTING & TREATMENT

Given the burden of undiagnosed HIV infections amongst young children and the poor historic access to care and treatment for this population, strategies to identify, test and link children to HIV care and services are critical to have in place. They include:

- ▶ Encouraging pregnant women to get antenatal care and to get tested for HIV;
- ▶ Encouraging HIV-positive pregnant women to take their ART;
- ▶ Encouraging breastfeeding women to take their ART;



- ▶ Encouraging male partners to support and accompany their wife/partner to access to antenatal care while pregnant and after delivery; to get tested for HIV, including as a couple and with other family members; and if HIV positive, to take and remain on HIV treatment during pregnancy, after birth and for the rest of their lives;
- ▶ Offering HIV testing for infants exposed to HIV within the first 2 months of life;
- ▶ Offering HIV testing for children of adults living with HIV or whose parents have passed away.



NEW MESSAGES ABOUT HIV TREATMENT OF CHILDREN

In the past, 33% of HIV positive children who did not receive treatment were likely to die before their first birthday; 50% likely to die before age 2; and 80% likely to die before age 5. Today, however, there are new messages of Hope for Treatment that change the future for all HIV positive children.

The good news for children living with HIV include:

- ▶ All children with HIV can take treatment;
- ▶ We have better and better medications for babies and children;
- ▶ Most children who start ART right away can look forward to growing and developing normally, going to school, and making friends.



HOW TO ADDRESS GAPS IN CARE FOR ADOLESCENTS

Strategies to effectively reach and engage older children and adolescents are different from those used to engage younger children. Proven strategies to better address adolescents' needs in HIV service provision include:

- ▶ Youth engagement in support groups;
- ▶ Address and reduce gender-based violence;
- ▶ Mobilize community for change (schools, churches, mosques, etc.)

- ▶ Education programs for caregivers;
- ▶ Support appropriate disclosure;
- ▶ Prevention efforts to reach youth before age 12.



ENDING HIV-RELATED TB

We must ensure that people who test positive for HIV are also screened regularly for TB disease and then treated appropriately.

In fact, we know that we can end deaths from TB by ensuring that people living with HIV:

- ▶ Get tested for HIV and start ART at once;
- ▶ Receive TB preventive therapy;
- ▶ Get screened for TB regularly so they can be diagnosed and treated early.



**YOU can help by
referring people with
these symptoms of TB
disease to a clinic:**

Persistent cough;
unexplained weight
loss; fevers; extreme
sweating at night.



NEW CHOICES ABOUT HIV TESTING



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NEW CHOICES ABOUT HIV TESTING

What are some opportunities to address these gaps? What is the Good News about New Choices available in HIV testing?

Today, we have New Choices available for HIV testing. With these options, individuals have more choice, privacy and control over how and where they are tested.

An example of this is HIV self-testing.

WITH LIFE AT ITS BEST, YOU CHOOSE HOW TO TEST!



HIV SELF TESTING

Many men avoid HIV testing because:

- ▶ Fear of discrimination, and
- ▶ Concerns about confidentiality

HIV self-testing is safe, accurate, and easy to use!



“

Now, in many countries, there are tests called self-tests, that people can take in the **privacy** of their own homes.

”



NEW CHOICES FOR HIV DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

An HIV diagnostic test is the initial testing that individuals take if they want to know if they are HIV positive or negative.

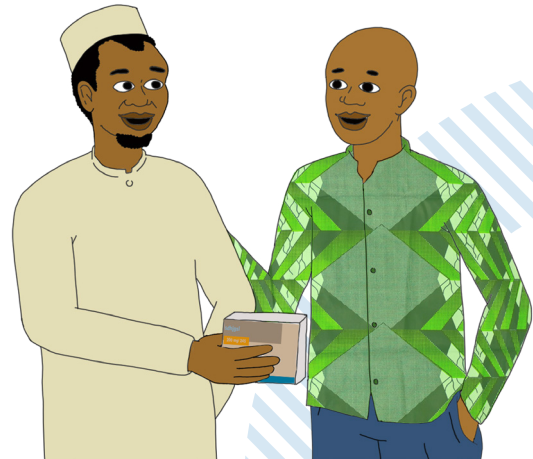
There are different kinds of HIV tests including blood tests and oral fluid tests. Some tests are performed by healthcare workers. In many countries, there are HIV tests that individuals can do themselves in their home.



FBOS ARE WORKING TO INCREASE IDENTIFICATION THROUGH HIV SELF-TESTING

Faith community leaders, and FBOs can help reach people who may feel more comfortable with using a HIV self-test for initial testing, with confirmatory testing taking place at the clinic. In addition they can support those testing with “buddies” who accompany them to the clinic.

Training local leaders and organizations on how to use HIV self-tests is essential to reaching those who are in need of knowing their status.



INDEX TESTING

Another strategy for diagnosis is index testing.

Who is the Index Client?

An index client is anyone who tests positive for HIV. The person who tests positive is referred to as the index client.

What is Index Testing?

Index testing is a voluntary process whereby counsellors or health care workers ask people who test positive for HIV to list all of their sexual partners, injecting drug partners, and biologic children.

The goal is to test these contacts. If the person who tests positive for HIV is a child, a health care provider will list their biological parents and siblings as well.

Why is index testing important?

- ▶ Index testing is an important way to help identify those who were exposed to HIV and link them to care quickly if they test positive.
- ▶ This strategy has proven to be very effective in finding, testing and treating HIV positive individuals in communities. Ultimately, this strategy can help us identify those who need to access HIV services, bringing awareness of HIV status to those who are HIV positive.





NEW TREATMENT EASIER, BETTER, SAFER



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NEW TREATMENT

In the past, HIV treatment required many pills that had to be taken often throughout the day. Those medications had multiple side effects and individuals weren't able to eat a number of foods with them. Also, old medications sometimes stopped working after a long-term use.

Now, new treatments are easier, better and safer than ever before. Individuals with HIV usually only take a single pill once daily. Side effects are uncommon, and this medication doesn't interact with many foods. In addition, newer optimal medications continue working with ongoing use and allow for faster viral load reduction than with older medications.

THEN

- Many pills
- Severe side effects
- Multiple times/day dosing
- Could stop working
- Food restrictions

NOW

- Often as a single pill
- Side effects uncommon
- Once daily dosing
- Keep working
- Faster viral load reduction
- Few food restrictions



MORE CONVENIENCE:

HIV treatment on your terms

People with HIV have many more New Treatment options today. Not only has the medicine changed from many pills daily to one pill daily, but also instead of visiting the clinic every month, clients can visit once every three to six months. This dramatically reduces the patient cost of transport, but also ensures their self-reliance to bolster their own health and well-being. This change facilitates male clinic visits in the local community where hours can be tailored to their work schedules and address their specific concerns.

Taken together, all these changes lead to faster viral load suppression.

THEN

Frequent (monthly) visits to the clinic

Long wait times, which kept men away

Clinics seen as spaces only for women, not for men

NOW

Treatment supplies given for 3 to 6 months often taken to communities for easy access

Tailored men-only clinics

Faster viral load suppression



TB PREVENTION AND TREATMENT FOR TB DISEASE

HIV diagnosis and treatment are keys to a person's well-being and to a long, healthy life. The enormous toll tuberculosis takes on people living with HIV must also be recognized. TB is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, yet it is preventable and treatable. TB prevention and treatment are and will remain a critical and core part of HIV and AIDS treatment and care.

TB preventive treatment is:

- ▶ Widely available for all persons living with HIV
- ▶ Available as a short regimen - just once a week for 12 weeks, with few side effects.

**New medicines for
treating TB disease
are now very effective,
and build strength and
health.**





aidshealth.org

TUBERCULOSIS AND HIV

IN 2017, 10 MILLION PEOPLE DIED
AS A RESULT OF TB. 1.5 MILLION DIED
AS A RESULT OF HIV. 1.5 MILLION DIED
AS A RESULT OF TB AND HIV CO-INFECTION.

People living with HIV are
up to **20 times** more
likely to fall ill with TB.

ANNUAL GLOBAL FUNDING
FOR TUBERCULOSIS IS
US\$ 3.5 BILLION
SHORT OF WHAT IS REQUIRED.

▶ **TB IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH
AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV**

UNAIDS IS
WORKING WITH PARTNERS
TO REDUCE TB-RELATED
DEATHS AMONG PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV
BY 75% BY 2020

TB IS CURABLE:
45 MILLION
LIVES HAVE
BEEN SAVED
SINCE 2000

CRITICAL, AFFORDABLE AND EFFECTIVE TB PREVENTION

IN 2017, approximately
300 000 people died
from AIDS-related TB.

STOP TB



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NEW TIMING **EARLY INITIATION** **OF TREATMENT**



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NEW TIMING

Starting HIV treatment (ART) at once for All People Living With HIV

Research has shown that the earlier an HIV-positive individual begins treatment, the better their overall health and lifetime outcomes. We used to measure the severity of HIV and only gave treatment to those whose body immune systems had been nearly destroyed. Now, however, we have learned it is much better to give treatment immediately following an HIV positive diagnosis, even when the body's immune system appears totally healthy.

Test and Start

Test and Start means that we start ART as soon as someone tests positive for HIV.

Early treatment allows people living with HIV to have a long, healthy, productive life and protects their partners and children from getting HIV.

People with HIV should also receive treatment to prevent TB disease.



MESSAGES OF HOPE



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NEW MESSAGES OF HOPE ABOUT HIV

New Hope: When people living with HIV start treatment as soon as they are diagnosed and then takes their medication regularly as prescribed, they live long, healthy and productive lives. This brings them NEW HOPE for their own health.

And they also can have NEW HOPE for helping protect their families, their communities, and those they care about, because those who take their medication regularly as prescribed cannot pass on HIV to their loved ones.

Faith and community leaders can help spread the good news by adapting messages like this one:

“Stay on treatment and
you won’t spread HIV to
people you care about!”

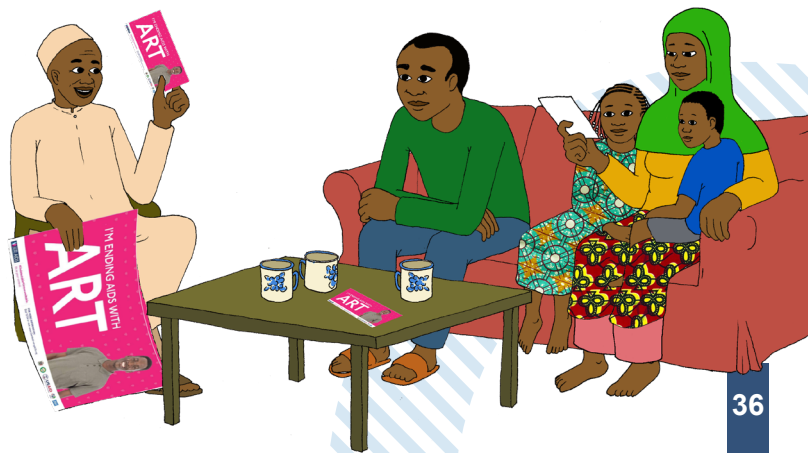


A LONG, HEALTHY LIFE — WITH HIV MEDICATION & UNDETECTABLE VIRUS!

The tremendous progress made in testing and treatment regimens has given us New Hope!

- ▶ A long, healthy life is possible with HIV medication and an undetectable viral load

- ▶ Treatment for HIV will prevent progression to AIDS
- ▶ With regular treatment for HIV, we can stop the spread of HIV and END AIDS.



UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOAD = UNTRANSMITTABLE HIV (U=U)

This is a message of hope for those living with HIV, and in country after country, this message is being adapted to the local contexts. It is the message that when taking HIV medication regularly as prescribed, a person living with HIV will not transmit the virus to his or her partner or partners. U=U means that people living with HIV no longer need to feel like a threat to those they love; it empowers them and gives them the confidence and tools needed to protect themselves and their loved ones.



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VIRAL LOAD TEST & UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOAD

Viral load tests are only used by people living with HIV.

- ▶ A viral load test measures how well a person with HIV is responding to treatment by looking at how much HIV is present in their blood.
- ▶ This viral load test is a different test than the one that shows whether someone is infected with HIV or not.

- ▶ If a person takes their HIV medicine correctly every day as prescribed, HIV treatment makes the amount of HIV in their blood go down until a viral load test shows that there is not enough HIV in the blood to be measured.
- ▶ When the viral load test shows no measureable HIV in the blood, this is called “undetectable viral load” or “viral suppression”.

“ Being undetectable does not mean a person’s HIV is cured! ”



UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOAD = UNTRANSMITTABLE HIV


Having an undetectable viral load ensures that a person living with HIV will not transmit HIV to their partners nor to their children.

Being undetectable does not mean that a person's HIV is cured. Instead, it means that their medicine is working; that it is stopping the virus from growing; and that the amount of HIV in the person's blood is too low for a test to detect it.



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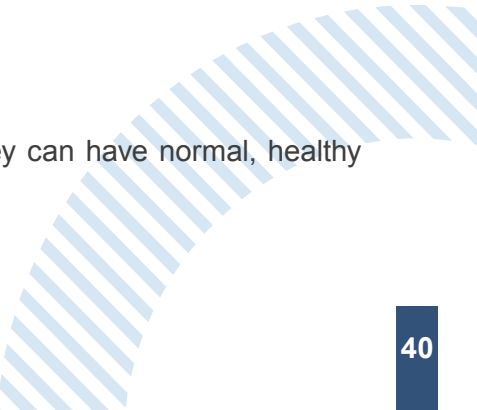


When people take their medicine daily, as prescribed, the medication can quickly reduce HIV viral load to undetectable levels on a viral load test. When the person living with HIV who takes his/her medicine daily and maintains an undetectable viral load, he or she will not pass HIV to their partner/partners nor to their children. We call this “untransmittable.”

Let's continue to share this message with our communities!

INDIVIDUALS WITH UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOADS WILL *NOT* TRANSMIT HIV TO THEIR PARTNERS

This message gives people living with HIV the confidence and hope that they can have normal, healthy relationships in which they can protect themselves and their partners.



BENEFITS OF TAKING ART TO KEEP AN UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOAD

There are many other benefits of taking HIV medication to keep viral load undetectable. The Benefits of Taking ART include:

- ▶ It helps people with HIV live a normal, healthy life, and to stay strong and productive;
- ▶ It prevents serious illnesses;
- ▶ It helps keep the brain healthy and the memory strong;
- ▶ It decreases the number of clinic visits for a person living with HIV;
- ▶ Undetectable HIV cannot be passed to partners through sex;
- ▶ Mothers who reach an undetectable level before pregnancy have a reduced risk of transmitting HIV to infant during birth or through breastfeeding.



SUPPORT YOUTH CHAMPIONS IN OUR PLACES OF WORSHIP!

As people of faith, we're challenged to listen to and engage with young people. It is our responsibility to support them to take action and become messengers of hope. Young people can be exemplars, peer educators and champions for issues faced by their peers. There is a strong evidence that adolescents living with HIV respond well to youth peer educators and champions. Young people are also more comfortable talking or asking questions to a peer than to an adult. Peer-support groups are safe spaces where experience, knowledge, consolation, empathy and sound advice are offered to all. It is our responsibility to create such spaces in our places of worship and to encourage our youths to lead them. Let's make our places of worship welcoming, supportive and empowering space for youths living with HIV!





**MEN
SUPPORT
GROUP**



**YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
DO
IT ALONE**



FAITH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

LIFE SAVING TREATMENT

A man was drowning. A fisherman in a small boat came by and said, “I will help you!” The man said, “No, thank you. I prayed. My faith will save me.” Another boat came to him and the man onboard said, “Get in! I can help you.” The drowning man said, “No, thank you. My faith will save me.” The man drowned. After he died, he asked, “Why didn’t you save me?” A voice said, “I heard your prayers and sent you two boats. You didn’t take my help.”

HIV Treatment, Adherence & and Faith Healing

Just as the boats in the story were the answers to the man’s prayers, for a person living with HIV, HIV medication IS the answer to the prayer for a healthy life. If people don’t take their medication they will become sicker and die. However, people who do take their medicine will be healthy, live a long life and won’t give HIV to their partners.



FAITH LEADERS

What you can do

Faith leaders can build health for their communities by spreading these essential facts about treatment for those living with HIV:

- ▶ If people DO take their medicine daily as prescribed, they will be healthy, live a long life, and won't give HIV to their partners.
- ▶ If people DON'T take their medication, they will become sicker and die.

Faith Leaders have an important role in stopping the spread of HIV:

- ▶ Encourage people to get tested
- ▶ Encourage people living with HIV to take their medication
- ▶ Advocate for care and prevention for those living with HIV
- ▶ Pray for physical and emotional strength of those affected by HIV
- ▶ Call on communities and families to support people living with HIV



FAITH LEADERS

Faith leaders have such an important and unique role to play in stopping the spread of HIV: by sharing messages about adhering to treatment; by building strong relationships with partners and families; and by impacting their communities with stories of hope.

Messages Faith Leaders Can Use to Share the U=U News

Faith leaders can help decrease stigma about HIV, empower those living with HIV and bring communities together through adaptation of the U=U messages.

These are examples of critical and key messages:

- ▶ Remember! Treatment stops the virus from passing to anyone else
- ▶ Your life matters! Live productively, strong & long with HIV treatment for life
- ▶ The places of worship and community need men and women like you, so live well with ART: Start and Stay on Treatment!
- ▶ Diagnosis improves couples' communication so they can encourage each other and talk about health issues



PREVENTION

What should we do if an individual at risk of HIV infection tests HIV negative? What prevention strategies can help him/her to remain HIV negative?

AS LEADERS IN YOUR
COMMUNITIES AND PLACES
OF WORSHIP, YOU CAN HELP
SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS
ABOUT EPIDEMIC CONTROL.



PREVENTION

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision or VMMC is a prevention tool that can be accessed by men who may be exposed to HIV or are at risk of exposure. VMMC is the surgical removal of the tissue covering the head of the penis, which lowers risk of obtaining or transmitting HIV from sex.

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC):

- ▶ Lowers the risk of men acquiring HIV through sex
- ▶ Lowers a man's chances of getting or transmitting sexually transmitted infections or getting penile cancer
- ▶ Lowers a female partner's chances of getting cervical cancer

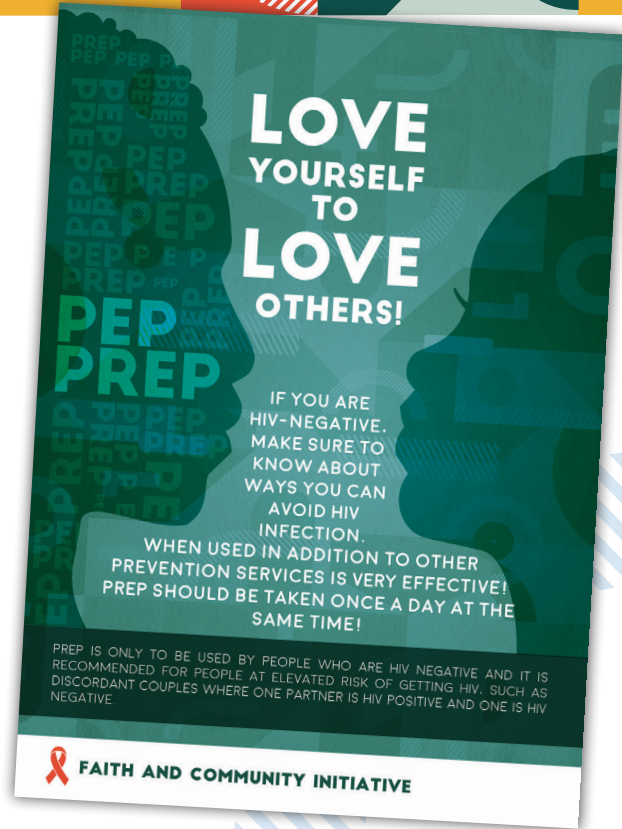


PREVENTION

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

Another HIV prevention strategy available to people who may be exposed to HIV or are at risk of exposure is called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis, or PrEP. PrEP consists in the use of anti-HIV medication that keeps HIV-negative people from getting HIV. PrEP has been found to be highly effective. HIV negative people who take PrEP every day can lower their risk of acquiring HIV by more than 99%.

PrEP is only to be used by people who are HIV negative and it is recommended for people at elevated risk of getting HIV, such as discordant couples where one partner is HIV positive and one is HIV negative. PrEP should be used in addition to other prevention services.



MESSAGES OF *HOPE*



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TOPIC 1: HOW MEN FEEL

1. **TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR FAMILY!** — An HIV test may help you and your family stay strong and live well! With self-testing available you chose where and when! If you or someone in your family has risk or is living with HIV, make sure you and your partners and children get tested.
2. **ARV's are GOOD FOR YOU!** — Your life matters! Live productive, strong & long -- with HIV treatment for life!
3. **ARV's are GOOD FOR YOUR FAMILY!** — Treatment stops the virus from passing!
4. **ARV's are GOOD FOR YOUR FAITH!** — The COMMUNITY needs men like you, so live well with ARVs — start treatment at once and stay on treatment every day!
5. **TESTING can IMPROVE COUPLES' COMMUNICATION!** — Give each other courage to test together, or apart and disclose; when two become one, they are open about health.



TOPIC 2: ENGAGING MEN

1. **REAL MEN CELEBRATE HEALTH** in body and soul!
2. **REAL MEN SHOW REAL STRENGTH** by asking for help when we need it!
3. **PROTECT YOURSELF AND PROTECT YOUR FAMILY!** by taking your ARVs religiously, as prescribed! Prayer together with ARV adherence protects you and those you love!
4. **STRONG MEN STAND** together in health for body and soul, as we pursue our dreams for ourselves, our families, our congregation, our nation!
5. **WE RAISE A VOICE OF HOPE!** — with open arms to those living with HIV!
6. **BE A STRONG MAN! TAKE CARE OF YOUR FAMILY!**
7. **BE SMART! REALIZE YOUR DREAMS** by taking ARVs every day!
8. **WE ARE OUR 'BROTHERS KEEPERS'**— HIV affects us all, so we care for one another!



TOPIC 3: MEN'S PREFERENCES FOR HIV CARE

1. **'MEN-FRIENDLY' MEETINGS IN SAFE SPACES** open new doors of hope. Simple health education and HIV self-tests can be integrated into bible studies, peer-support groups, services, sports' events, conferences.
2. **LOVE ONE ANOTHER!** When a man has a partner, who may be at risk of, or living with HIV, it is important for both to test.
3. **WITH LIFE AT IT'S BEST — MEN CHOOSE WHERE TO TEST! —** at churches and mosques, it's easy, private, and fast!
4. **RESPONSIBLE MEN PLAN AND GET TESTED FOR HIV** because it is the first step to a healthy life and a healthy family!



TOPIC 4: HOW CARE PROVIDERS FEEL

1. **OUR TRAINED CARERS GIVE HOPE THROUGH ACCOMPANIMENT AND SUPPORT GROUPS**
for anyone living with HIV! Prayer together with ARV adherence protects everyone we love!
2. **IN THE FACE OF ANY CHALLENGE, WE STAND** in compassion, hope, and love!



TOPIC 5: HOW MOTHERS CAN HELP

1. TAKE CARE OF YOUR FAMILY!

- ▶ An HIV test helps you and your family stay strong and live well!
- ▶ If you are living with HIV, make sure that your partners and children get tested.

2. EVERYONE LIVING WITH HIV DESERVES TREATMENT RIGHT NOW!

- ▶ Treatment is free, and it works – for sons and daughters, for fathers and mothers, for brothers and sisters – for the whole family!

3. HIV TREATMENT PROTECTS YOU AND THOSE YOU LOVE!

- ▶ Everyone in your family can live strong with HIV treatment for life! Treatment stops the virus from passing!
- ▶ All children with HIV can take treatment, and most children who start ART right away can look forward to growing and developing normally, going to school, and making friends.



TOPIC 6: HOW CHILDREN'S & YOUTH LEADERS CAN HELP

1. CHILDREN CAN GET HIV, TOO

- ▶ Sometimes as babies, from their mothers — so if it's possible the parents of someone you know may have HIV, it's good for their children to get tested! Free ARVs will keep them healthy for life!
- ▶ All children with HIV can take treatment, and most children who start ART right away can look forward to growing and developing normally, going to school, and making friends.

2. EVERYONE LIVING WITH HIV DESERVES TREATMENT RIGHT NOW!

- ▶ Treatment is free, and it works for everyone – for children, for sons and daughters, for fathers and mothers, for brothers and sisters – for the whole family!



TOPIC 6: HOW CHILDREN'S & YOUTH LEADERS CAN HELP

3. HIV TREATMENT PROTECTS YOU AND THOSE YOU LOVE!

- ▶ Everyone in your family can live strong with HIV treatment for life!
- ▶ Treatment stops the virus from passing!

4. WE YOUTH LEADERS STAND STRONG FOR HEALTH!



**NEW CHOICES.
NEW TREATMENT.
NEW TIMING.
NEW *HOPE.***

www.faithandcommunityinitiative.org

Illustrations by Alice Müller



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