

Concept Note -

ICASA 2023 High Level Meeting.

Addressing Domestic Financing of the HIV Response to Reach the United Nations 2025 Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063 Aspirations

2nd December 2023, Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Introduction

Globally, governments have made giant strides to fight the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). In the past 20 years, national governments, major disease funding donors, and civil society have made significant progress in supporting country programs to expand access to life-saving antiretroviral treatment and prevention options in the fight against HIV. There have been programs, coupled with increased awareness, prevention strategies, and advancements in treatments that are geared towards reducing new infections and improving the quality of lives and health of persons living with HIV and AIDS.

The year 2025 is a very important year for the global community and world-renowned health agencies (multilaterals and bilaterals) as it marks a milestone in the global HIV epidemic response. The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has set ambitious targets known as the 2025 goals. One of the core objectives of this program is to lead and inspire the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2030.

On the other hand, the African Union has developed a long-term development framework called **Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want** which is a “blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future”. It is the continent’s strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance. The agenda, among others, prioritizes the need to strengthen Africa’s healthcare systems and sustain financing to address public health challenges such as HIV/AIDS.

While progress continues to be made, the fight against HIV/AIDS, one of the world’s leading diseases, is not due to end yet, with the world now trying to address the disruptions in health services caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Continued funding for the fight is more than paramount.

Several countries depend on external resources such as donor funding to sustain HIV-related programs. and this global support has played a key role in the HIV response program. However, they are subject to fund prioritizations by governments, or face backlash which in turn puts integral HIV programs and services at the risk of halting abruptly.

Several countries have made attempts to increase domestic funding for HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, this is becoming more challenging. The complex financing landscape in Africa is especially critical, with slow growth, high inflation and challenging debt situations converging in some countries with a high HIV burden and debt distress. UNAIDS has reported for a third year in a row a 2% reduction in domestic financing for HIV. Indeed, the World Bank has forecasted a decline in health investments that would lead to two thirds of the countries in the African region investing the same or less in their health systems than they invested pre-COVID19 unless serious action is taken forward.

The above call for committed and sustained efforts to enhance domestic financial support for the fight against HIV/AIDS in line with the African Union's Agenda 2023 objectives. Concrete actions and recommendations are required to strengthen the sustainability and national ownership of the HIV/AIDS response, including mobilizing high level political commitment for the needed additional resources, and reducing donor dependency, while taking into consideration the slow growth, high debts and scarce revenues in countries.

This concept note aims to bring sustainable and domestic resource mobilization as a key component of discussions during ICASA 2023. It also hopes the HLM will outline strategies to enhance domestic financing of HIV programs in order to achieve the goals set for 2025 and align with the 2063 African Union (AU) Agenda.

Goal

The goal of the High-Level Meeting is to explore strategies for increasing domestic financing for HIV programs in Africa¹.

Objectives

At the end of the engagement, the high-level meeting is expected to achieve the following:

- Identify ways to expand domestic funding for HIV/AIDS programs.
- Conceptualize pathways to enhance domestic funding for HIV programs and services, in partnership with civil society organizations and the private sector.

Targeted Participants

It is expected that the HLM will be attended by:

- Government Officials (Ministers of Finance from the Economic African Zones/Regions, Director-Generals of State Financing Institutions)
- International Organizations (EU, The Global Fund, AU, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNDP, ADB, WORLD BANK, PEPFAR, AFRIMEX, CDC and Africa CDC)
- Private sector and philanthropists
- Civil Society Organizations and Key Members of Communities Affected by HIV (people living with HIV, men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender individuals, and people who use drugs, persons with disabilities etc.)
- Local and International Media.

¹ <https://www.saafrica.org/pages/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/AI-SAA-Africa-HIV-Financing-Scorecard-05112020.pdf>

Draft Agenda

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker
2:30 – 3:00PM	Registration/Cultural performance	ICASA Secretariat
3:00-3:15PM	Welcome and introduction	Hon. Dr. David Parirenyatwa, SAA President (7 minutes) Hon. Mthuli Ncube , Minister of Finance, Zimbabwe – 8 minutes
Keynote Address: Promoting financial sustainability for the HIV/AIDS response in Africa; Maximizing innovative domestic financing mechanisms		
3:15-3:22PM	Overcoming fiscal and debt constraints; towards a sustainable HIV response and stronger health systems beyond 2030	- UNAIDS EXD, Winnie Byanyima
3:22-3:29PM		
3:29-3:36PM (21 minutes)		- GF EXD, Peter Sands
	PEPFAR's Role in Sustaining the HIV Response	- PEPFAR EXD, John Nkengasong
3:37-4:37PM (60 minutes)	Mobilizing domestic funding for HIV/AIDS Programs, as part of national efforts towards Universal Health Care and the prevention and response to epidemics in Africa - Country perspectives	Facilitators: Jaime Atienza, UNAIDS Dr. Tajudeen Oyewale, UNICEF
	Western Africa Minister of Finance / MOH	Hon. Ken Ofori Atta, Minister of Finance, Ghana
	Southern Africa Minister of Finance / MoH	- Hon. Mthuli Ncube , Minister of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe. - Hon. Peggy Serame , Minister of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Botswana. - Hon. Enoch Godongwana , MP, Minister of the Republic of South Africa.
	Central Africa Minister of Finance / MoH	- Hon. Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana , MoF of the Republic of Rwanda. - Minister of Finance – DR Congo
	Eastern Africa Minister of Finance / MoH	- Hon. Pr. Njuguna Ndung'u , Head of the National Treasury and Planning of the Republic of Kenya.
	Northern Africa Minister of Finance / MoH	MOF – Egypt MOF - Morocco
	Discussions	Participants
4:37-4:47PM	Cultural performance	
4:47-5:47PM (60 minutes)	Creating an enabling environment for African philanthropists and the private sector to support domestic financing for the HIV/AIDS response.	Facilitators: H.E Dr. Jean Kaseya CEO/DG Africa CDC Dr. Izukanji Sikazwe, CEO, CIDRZ
(10 minutes)	Setting the Scene: The role of the African Development Bank in the creation of an African domestic financing mechanism towards and AIDS-free continent.	Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, African Development Bank (AfDB)
(30 minutes)	Moving towards the 2030 targets - The role of African philanthropists and the private sector in the mobilization of domestic financing for HIV/AIDS programs in Africa	3 – 4 Philanthropists to be invited: Suggestions: Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe - Aliko Dangote - Mo Ibrahim

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strive Masiyiwa - TY Danjuma Foundation - Prince Arthur Eze Philanthropy and Empowerment International - Tony Elumelu - Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Founder of Umlambo Foundation, Former Executive Director of UN Women. - Dr. Precious Moloi-Motsepe, Cofounder and CEO, The Motsepe Foundation. - Angela Muriithi, Director, East and Southern Africa, PLAN International (Private Sector)
20 minutes	Discussions	Participants
5 :47-5 :57PM	Wrap-up of session and commitments	Facilitators (10 minutes)
5:57-6:02PM	Closing remarks	Hon. Dr. David Parirenyatwa (5 minutes)