



ICASA 2017

NARRATIVE REPORT

Society for AIDS in Africa
Organizer of the International Conference
on AIDS and STIs in Africa



The Government Of Cote d'Ivoire

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------------|---|
| UNAIDS | United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children Emergency Fund |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| ICASA | International Conference on AIDS and STI's in Africa |
| ICASA 2017 | 19 th International Conference on AIDS and STI's in Africa |
| ICC | International Coordinating Committee |
| ISC | International Steering Committee |
| IT | Information Technology |
| SAA | Society for AIDS in Africa |
| CPC | Community Programme Committee |
| LPC | Leadership Programme Committee |
| SPC | Scientific Programme Committee |
| STI | Sexually Transmitted Infections |
| NAC | National AIDS Council |

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) is a biennial Conference that alternates between Anglophone and Francophone African countries. ICASA 2017, the 19th edition, returned to French West Africa, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 4th to 9th December 2017. This is the second time ICASA is being hosted by Cote d'Ivoire. The first was the ICASA 1997. The theme for ICASA 2017 was "Ending AIDS – Delivering Differently". The conference was attended by 6,030 delegates.

ICASA 2017 was organised by the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire represented by the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene. Since its inception, SAA constitute an inclusive stakeholder International Steering Committee to steer the ICASA. The Steering Committee includes representatives from SAA, the host country, the UN System, Regional National AIDS Councils, communities, international and national scientific institutions and representatives other international organisations.

The Conference Programme, including the abstract and non-abstract driven sessions was designed by three main programme committees: The Scientific Programme Committee, The Leadership Programme Committee and the Community Programme Committee. However all the three components of the program such as the Scientific, Leadership and Community developed the ICASA 2017. The Scientific Programme Committee was led by Prof. John Idoko (Chair) and Prof. Kakou Aka (Co-chair).

The committee reviewed 2,327 abstracts of which 139 were accepted for oral presentations and 1280 were accepted for poster presentations. Abstract-driven sessions and non-abstract driven sessions made up the ICASA 2017 programme. Abstract-driven sessions were divided into five tracks. The committee also organized non abstract driven sessions such as the plenary sessions, special sessions, satellite sessions and skills building workshops.

The Community Program Committee was led by Madam Helene Badini, representing Dr. Djibril Diallo and Madam Namizata Sangare. The committee actively mobilized and engaged community groups with the planning of the ICASA 2017 community programme. A total of 20% of scholarships were allocated to community applicants. The Community village programme was also organized by the committee. The Village provided an opportunity for implementing a wide range of community relevant activities.

The ICASA 2017 Leadership Program committee was chaired by Dr. Angela El-Adas and co-chaired by Dr. Djénéba Ouattara.

The ICASA 2017 conference was supported by a local Secretariat located in Abidjan – Cote d'Ivoire headed by Mr. Sylvestre Bedou under the leadership of the International Secretariat managed by ICASA Conference Director Mr. Luc Armand Bodea. The local secretariat served as liaison with the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and ensure local conference logistics, communication and accommodation support.

The ICASA 2017 International Secretariat is located in Accra, Ghana and is also the SAA Permanent Secretariat. It was in charge of the development of the programme, abstract book, the registration, design and implementation of the marketing strategy, exhibition and satellite, the fund raising and scholarship, and the design and development of the ICASA 2017 Website. It also managed the Finance and procurement for the conference according to the international standard practice provided by the ICASA 2017 Finance Policy and Procedure Manual.

Scholarship funding was provided by SAA, Government of Cote d'Ivoire, UNAIDS and UNFPA. A total of 601 scholarships were awarded. 48 fully funded scholarships were awarded and 553 partially funded scholarships. 300 scholarships were also provided for volunteers. For the first time in ICASA's history, total scholarships awarded was 1588.

We are grateful to our partners for their unwavering support to ICASA which is organized by the Society for AIDS in Africa with the Headquarters based in Accra, Ghana. We hereby acknowledge the support of the government of Cote d'Ivoire, UNAIDS, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank and many

others especially the pharmaceutical companies who worked with us to keep the flag flying. We are proud of our selfless council members, community activists and scientists who worked relentlessly to make sure that we kept afloat. We count on their continuous support to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa. To the entire international community, our delegates and our members, our host country team and government, we could not have done it without you.

B. ICASA 2017 AND ITS FOCUS

The 19th ICASA which was held at the Sofitel hotel Ivoire, Cote d'Ivoire from 4th December to 9th December 2017.

The Conference theme was “Ending AIDS – Delivering Differently”

The ICASA 2017 Conference was an opportunity, to renew, the global commitment, by drawing the world's attention to the fact that the AIDS epidemic was not over yet in Africa. Large number of new infections especially among key populations was a threat to the sustainability of the response. ICASA 2017 was a platform for the international community, and Africans, to commit to achieving an AIDS-free generation



ICASA 2017 President: Dr. Ihab Ahmed

The Conference was chaired by Dr. Ihab Ahmed, the President of the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) and co-chaired by Dr. Raymonde Goudou Coffie, the Minister for Health and Public Hygiene of Cote d'Ivoire.



ICASA 2017 Opening Ceremony Speakers with His Excellency, President Alassane Ouattara and the First Lady, Her Excellency, Dominique Ouattara and Former President Henri Konan Bédié accompanied by his wife and former First lady, Henriette Bédié and Miss. Asseta Yabyouré Asao, representing civil society and Her Excellency Kim Simplis Barrow, First Lady of Belize (Far Right)

The objectives of ICASA 2017 were to:

1. Promote innovation, partnerships to increase domestic investments to achieve 90/90/90 targets

2. Integrate approaches for sustainable responses towards ending AIDS, TB, Hepatitis and associated diseases
3. Translate science into action to maximize programme impact
4. Provide a platform to maintain and sustain Investment for CSO and FBO's.
5. Provide a platform to promote rights-based models to overcome structural and policy barriers towards universal access

C. OVERVIEW OF PRE-ICASA 2017 PREPARATION

1. ICASA 2017 ORGANISERS AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), the organizers of ICASA, and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire through the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene were partners for the organization of ICASA 2017.

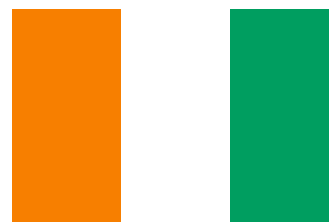
SOCIETY FOR AIDS IN AFRICA

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) was founded in 1989, at the fourth International Symposium on AIDS and Associated Cancers in Africa (now ICASA) held in Marseilles, France, by a group of African scientists, activists and advocates. The establishment of the Society was the result of advocacy by African scientists, started in 1988, for the ICASA Conference to be organised by Africans – a cause supported by the then Executive Director of UNAIDS, Dr. Peter Piot. This movement eventually led to the establishing of SAA, a non-governmental- and not-for-profit organisation. Founding members of the SAA were: Prof. Souleymane Mboup from Senegal, Prof. Kaptue from Cameroon, Dr. Okware from Uganda, Prof. Soyinka from Nigeria, Prof. Kadio and Prof. Gershey-Damet from Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Patrick and Dr. B. Owili from Kenya, Dr. Pelle from Congo Brazzaville, Dr. Kalenganyi and Dr. Kapita from Democratic Republic of Congo, Prof. Mhalu from Tanzania, Prof. Luo from Zambia, Prof. Latif from Zimbabwe, Dr. Abdulrahman Sow from Mauritania, Dr. Phyllis Kanki from the USA, Prof. Benslimane from Morocco, Dr. Mahmoud from Sudan and Prof. Zribi from Tunisia. (For additional information on SAA please access the website <http://saafrica.org>)



THE GOVERNMENT OF COTE D'IVOIRE

The Government of Cote d'Ivoire through its Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene were the co-organizers of ICASA 2017 Cote d'Ivoire.



ICASA 2017 SECRETARIAT STAFF

ICASA 2017 was organised in partnership between ICASA International Secretariat (SAA) and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire provided the in-country Secretariat in Cote d'Ivoire based in Abidjan while the international Secretariat operated from the SAA Offices in Ghana and coordinated all activities with regards to ICASA 2017. PACCI provided the in-country Secretariat with fully furnished office space.

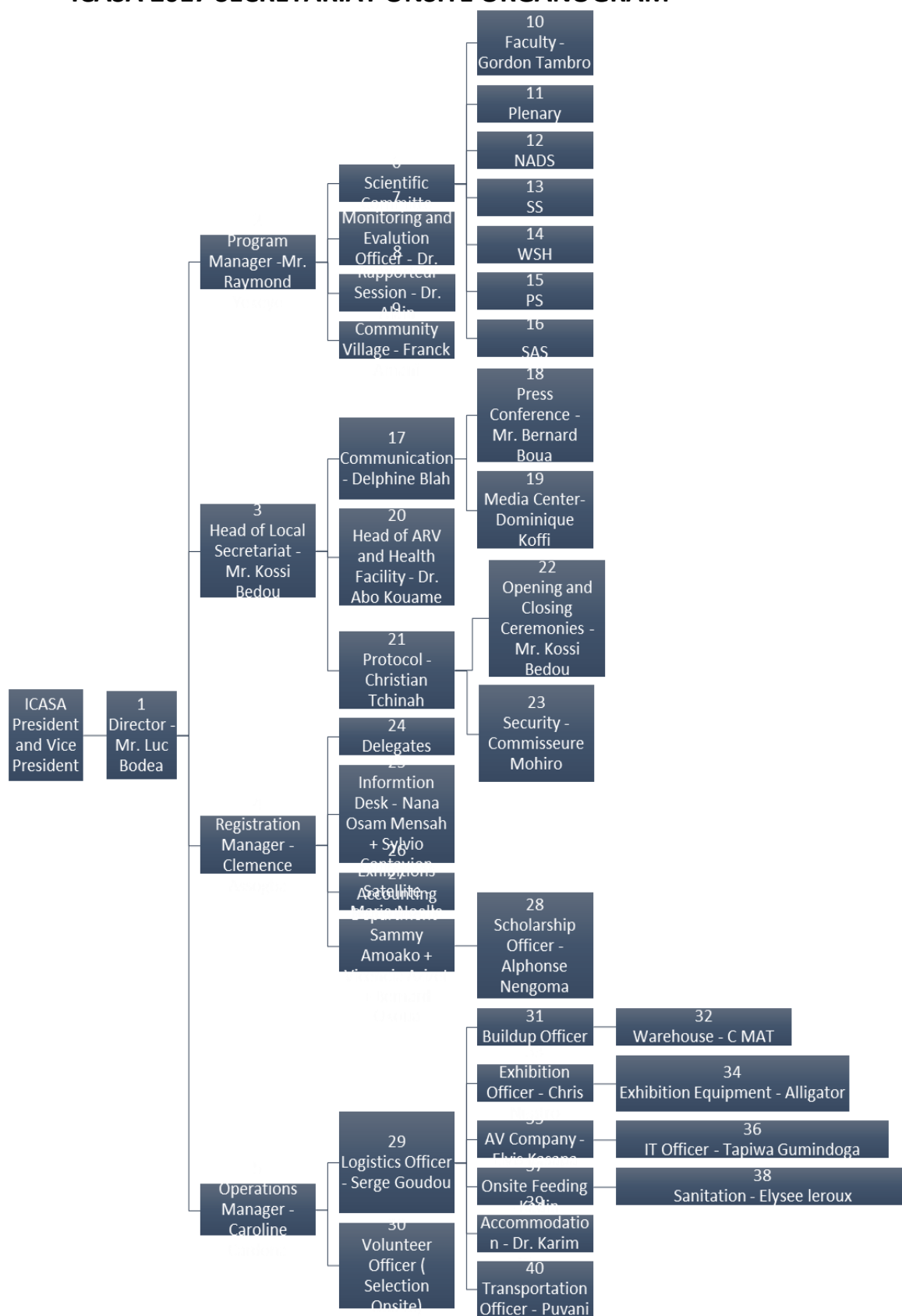
ICASA INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr Luc Armand Bodea | ICASA 2017 Director |
| Ms. Clemence Assogba | Registration Manager |
| Mr. Samuel Amoako | Project Accountant |
| Mr. Raymond Yekeye | Onsite Program Manager |
| Mrs. Caroline Cardona | Onsite Operation Manager |
| Mr. Elvis Kasapa | IT / Webmaster Administrator |
| Mr. Chris Kwasi Nuatro | Marketing/Partnership Officer |
| Mr. Gordon Tambro | Program Officer |
| Miss. Vicencia Azizet | Accounts Officer |
| Miss. Marie – Noelle Atta | Marketing/Partnership Assistant |
| Mr. Martin – Mary Falana | Community/Youth Programs Coordinator |
| Mr. Nana Yaw Osam Mensah | Registration Officer |
| Mr. Sylvio Contayon | Registration/Scholarship Assistant |
| Mr. Gordwin O. Mensah | IT/ Web Officer |
| Mr. Tapiwa Gumindoga | IT Officer |
| Madam Medelina Dube | Delegate Logistics |
| Dr. Fadima Bocoum | Head of Monitoring and Evaluation |
| Dr. Karim Diop | Accommodation Coordinator |
| Mr. Abdul Manaf | Help Desk |
| Mr. Derick Ayitey | Transportation Officer |
| Mr. Augustine Nyarko Vasco | Transportation Officer |

LOCAL ICASA SECRETARIAT

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mr. Sylvestre Bedou | Head of Local Secretariat |
| Mr. Christian Tchinah | Deputy - Head of Local Secretariat |
| Mr. Serge Goudou | Logistics Officer |
| Mr. Bernard Okoua | Finance & Administration Officer |
| Mr. Franck – Arnaud Amani | Community Program |
| Mr. Fabrice Yoboue | IT Officer |
| Madam Gbla Delphine | Head of Communication |
| Mr. Puvani Kouakou | Logistics |
| Mr. Fatogama Soro | Driver |

ICASA 2017 SECRETARIAT ONSITE ORGANOGRAM



2. INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

The International Steering Committee (ISC) was made up of 160 members. The Committee was a combination of representatives of the following disciplines:

- Society for AIDS in Africa
- Government of Cote d'Ivoire
- Chairs and Co-chairs
- Regional (National AIDS Councils)
- International Organisations
- Community
- Science organisations
- National Science Institutes



ICASA 2017 2nd International Steering Committee Meeting held at Palm Club Hotel, from 30th -31st March 2017

INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Dr. Ihab Ahmed, Conference Chair

Dr. Raymonde Goudou Coffie, Conference Co-Chair

SAA REPRESENTATIVES:

Prof. Seni Kouanda

Dr. Namwinga Chintu

Prof. Kadio Auguste

Mr. Luc Bodea

Mrs. Lois Chingandu

Dr. Enoch Omonge

Prof. Sheila Tlou

Prof. Robert Soudre

Dr. Meskerem Bekele Grunitzky

GOVERNMENT OF COTE D'IVOIRE REPRESENTATIVES:

Prof. Emmanuel Bissagnéné

Madame Patricia Yao

Dr. Joséphine Diabaté

Prof. Mireille Dosso

Prof. Kakou Aka

Prof. Serge Eholie

Prof. Kouao Domoua

Dr. Hortense Aka

Madame Namizata Sangaré

Dr. Kouame Abo

Mr. N'cho Kouaoh Vincent

Mrs Kouame Flore Adjoua

Mr. Alain Geoffrey Grékou

CHAIRS AND CO-CHAIRS:

Prof. John Idoko

Prof. Kakou Aka

Dr. Angela El-Adas

Dr. Djéneba Ouattara

Dr. Djibril Diallo

Madam Namizata Sangaré

Chair: Scientific Programme Committee

Local Co-Chair: Scientific Programme Committee

Chair: Leadership Programme Committee

Local Co-Chair: Leadership Programme Committee

Chair: Community Programme Committee

Local Co-Chair: Community Programme Committee

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (NATIONAL AIDS COUNCILS):

Dr. Kouame Abo
 Dr. Sani Aliyu
 Amb.Dr. Mokowa Blay Adu-Gyamfi
 Dr. Smail Mesbah
 Prof. Vincent P. Pitche
 Dr. Didier Barouan
 Mr. Raymond Yekeye
 Dr. Bouyagui Traore
 Dr. Fareed Abdullah
 Dr. Nduku Kilonzo
 Dr. Tapiwa Magure
 Mr. Kweku Osei
 Mr. Berry Nibogora
 Dr. Mareille Bouyou
 Dr. Luc Toko
 Rev. Zwo Nevhutahu
 Dr. Vernon Mochache
 Mr. Koko Nestro

REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL NGO'S: COMMUNITY:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Prof. Mohamed Chakroun | CCM |
| Mr Jean Marc Boivin | Handicap International |
| Mrs. Muriel Mac-Seing | Handicap International |
| Mrs Serawit Bruck Landais | SIDACTION |
| Mr. Franck DeRose | CONDOMIZE |
| Dr. Marsha Martin | GNPBH |
| Dr. Ron Simmons | GNPBH |
| Dr. Saidi Mpendu | BALM IN GILEAD |
| Dr. Madiarra Offia Coulibaly | Alliance International |
| Mr. Berry Nibogora | AMSHER |
| Mrs. Caroline Nyamayemombe | UN Women |
| Mr. Paul Sagna | AIDS Alliance |
| Seka Monika | Alternative CI |
| Christine Gonhi Houssou | Coalition des ONG de femme Vitten CI |
| N'drin Josiane Tety | ONG BLETY |
| Leroux Elysee | RIJES |
| Elvis Gnad | ARC EN CRIEL PLUS |
| Sehi Mathurin | MEN/DHOSS |
| Prof. Aoussi Eba | SMIT UFSM |
| Dr. Pierre Belou | CABINET MSHP |
| Dr. Conombo Josephine Diabate | MSHP |
| Losseni Bakaujojo | CICG |
| LT. Loukou Williams | NEMIS DSSPN |
| Konate Sekou | MSHP |
| Kauiaa Fadiga Fofana | RTI |
| N'Guessan Bath | Lefintin |
| Denis Kouna | Radio Cote d'Ivoire |
| Mrs. Sidje Leontine | RIP+ CI |
| Mr. Raoul Boka | ITPC WA |
| Mr. Franck Amani | Espace Confiance |

REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE ORGANISATIONS:

Prof Kakou Aka
Dr. John Nkengasong
Dr. Carlos Brito
Prof. Stefano Vella
Dr. Claire Rekacewicz
Dr. Alfred J. Da Silva
Prof. Papa Salif Sow
Prof. James Hakim
Dr. Gilles Bruker
Dr. Alain Azondekon
Prof. Coumba Toure Kane
Dr. Brad Hale
Dr. Pierre Mpele
Prof. Souleymane Mboup
Dr. Saidi Mpendu
Prof. Fred Binka
Dr. Henry Nagai
Prof. Andre Inwoley
Prof. Jeanne Kouakou Lohoues
Dr. Xavier Anglaret
Dr. Phillippe Mselati
Prof. Simplicie Anongba
Prof. Timité Marguerite
Dr. Stephania Koblavi
Prof. Massara Cisse Camara
Prof. Hortense Faye Kette
Prof. Adou Bryn
Dr. Isabelle Kouame
Lt. Loukou Williams
Madam Nguyen Cathy
Dr. Belou Pierre
Dr. Anna Ross Laura
Dr. Fatoumata Toure
Dr. Guy-Michel Gershy-Damet
Dr. Morenike Ukpong
Dr. Abo Kouame
Mr. Sylvanus Dakouri
Dr. Alexandre Ekra
Mr. Fojan Paul Yannick
Prof. Tandahka Dieye

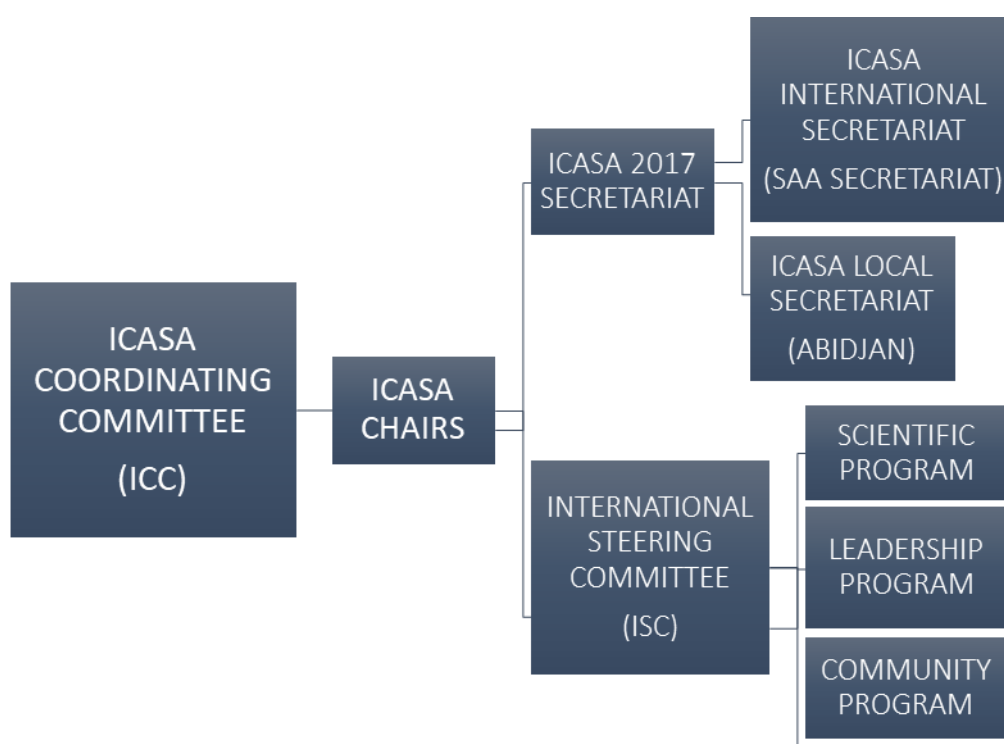
REPRESENTATIVES OF DONOR ORGANIZATIONS:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dr Jean-Marie Vianny Yameogo | WHO Cote d'Ivoire |
| Mr. Mabingue Ngom | UNFPA WCA |
| Madam Marie-Priere Poirier | UNICEF |
| Madam Linda Mafu | GLOBAL FUND |
| Mrs. Virginie Ettiegne Traore | FHI 360 |
| Mrs. Saran Branchi | Ambassade France |
| Mrs. Diana Mubanga Macauley | Swedish Embassy |
| Mr. Thomas La Salvia | USA Global AIDS |
| Mr. Jose Mauricio Cysne | UNITAID |
| Madam Cathy Nguyen | PEPFAR |

REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Dr. Djibril Diallo | ONUSIDA WCA |
| Dr. Yamina Chakkar | UNAIDS MENA |
| Dr. Joy Backory | UNAIDS Geneva |
| Dr. Helene Badini | ONUSIDA WCA |
| Mr. Tamsir Sall | ONUSIDA |
| Mr. Mabingue Ngom | UNFPA WCA |
| Mr. Niyi Ojuolape | UNFPA Ghana |
| Mr. Seidou Kaboré | UNFPA |
| Dr. Caroline Nctatcho | UNAIDS ESTA |
| Dr. Benjamin Djoudalbaye | AU Commission |
| Dr. Frank Lule | WHO AFRO |
| Dr. Nirina Razakaso | WHO AFRO |
| Dr. Hugues Lago | WHO AFRO |
| Dr. Morenike Ukpong | NHVMAS |
| Prof. Hassana Alidou | UNESCO |
| Maitre Soyata Maiga | ACHR |
| Mr. Lelio Marmora | UNITAID |
| Mr. Manuel Couffignal | AIDS Alliance |
| Mr. Alain Manouan | AIDS Alliance |
| Mr. Luc Grégoire | PNUD |
| Dr. Aboubacar Kampo | UNICEF |
| Dr Jean-Marie Vianny Yameogo | OMS |
| Madame Marie Goretti Nduwayo | ONUFEMMES |
| Mrs Cathy Nguyen | PEPFAR/USAID |
| Saran Branchi | Ambassade France |
| Dr. Madiarra Coulibaly | Alliance International |
| Dr. Sandra Mouloud Sampah | UNFPA CI |
| Dr. Kouame Isabelle | ONUSIDA CI |

ICASA 2017 STRUCTURES & GOVERNANCE



• DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

The following organisations financially supported the Conference either through sponsoring various aspects of the Conference or paying for satellite sessions or exhibitions:

Co -Organizers:

- WHO
- UNAIDS
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- WORLD BANK
- ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS
- MYLAN
- GILEAD

Co Partners:

- FRENCH EMBASSY
- ANRS
- IPPF
- EXPERTISE FRANCE

Supporters:

1. GLOBAL FUND
2. JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS
3. IRD

3. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Developing the ICASA 2017 programme was the responsibility of the Conference Scientific Programme Committee (SPC). The committees were responsible for the development of the programme structure, content, session and track themes and also nominating speakers.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Prof. John Idoko | Chair |
| Prof. Kakou Aka | Co- Chair |

TRACK A BASIC SCIENCE

Prof. Tandakha Dieye
 Prof. Dosso Mireille
 Prof. Fred Binka
 Prof. Dr. Didier Ekouevi
 Dr. Almoustapha Maiga
 Dr. Carlos Brito
 Dr. Christiane Adje- Toure
 Prof. Andre Inwoley

MEMBERS

Chair
 Co- Chair
 Member
 Member
 Member
 Member
 Member
 Member

Prof. Jeanne Kouacou Lohoues

Member

TRACK B CLINICAL SCIENCE, TREATMENT AND CARE

MEMBERS

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Chair

Prof. Serge Eholie

Co-Chair

Dr. Isidore Traore

Member

Dr. Avelin Aghokeng

Member

Dr. Henry Nagai

Member

Dr. Morenike Ukpog

Member

Dr. Enoch Omonge

Member

Prof. Madeleine Amorissani Folquet

Member

Prof. Simplicie Anongba

Member

Moho Bernard David Glohi

Member

Prof. Timite Marguerite

Member

TRACK C EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTION

MEMBERS

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Chair

Prof. Domoua Serge Koauo

Co-Chair

Prof. Coumba Kane Toure

Member

Prof. William Ampofo

Member

Prof. Mohamed Chakroun

Member

Dr. Madiarra Coulibaly

Member

Dr. Nicolas Betsi

Member

Dr. Irma Ahoba

Member

Dr. Fatoumata Toure

Member

TRACK D – LAW, SOCIAL SCIENCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

MEMBERS

Maitre Soyata Maiga

Chair

Dr. Hortense Aka

Co-Chair

Dr. Alain Azondekon

Member

Dr. Philippe Mselatti

Member

Mr. Kene.C. Esom

Member

Mr. Berry Nibogora

Member

Dr. Xavier Anglaret

Member

Dr. Isabelle Kouame

Member

Mr. Odette ky-Zerbo

Member

TRACK E - HEALTH SYSTEMS, ECONOMICS AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

MEMBERS

Dr. Frank Lule

Chair

Madam Namizata Sangare

Co-Chair

Dr. John Ojo

Member

Dr. Meskerem Grunitzky

Member

Prof. Bashiru Koroma

Member

Prof. Farncois Eba Aoussi

Member

Dr. Kouame Abo

Member

Dr. Alexandre Ekra

Member

Prof. Aristophane Tanon

Member

Dr. Caroline Nctatcho

Member

Dr. Nirina Razakaso

Member

Dr. Hortense Kette

Member

Dr. Catherine Barouan

Member

Mr. Raymond Yekeye

Member

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Dr. Djibril Diallo | Chair |
| Madam Namizata Sangare | Co-Chair |
| Dr. Helene Badini | Member |
| Mr. Franck DeRose | Member |
| Dr. Morenike Ukpog | Member |
| Martin-Mary Falana | Member |
| Mr. Paul Sagna | Member |
| Pulcherie Mukangwie | Member |
| Mr. Innocent Liaison | Member |
| Daughtie Ogutu | Member |
| Manuel Couffignal | Member |
| Dr. Aliou Sylla | Member |
| Dr. Marsha Martin | Member |
| Mr. Berry Nibogora | Member |
| Mr. Niyi Ojuolape | Member |
| Mr. Kene C. Esom | Member |
| Jackie Makokha | Member |
| Bacha AbdelKader | Member |
| Chamrid Kpadonou | Member |
| N'cho Kouah Vicent | Member |
| Alain Geofroy Grekou | Member |
| Alain Somain | Member |
| Anoma Camille | Member |
| Tety Josiane | Member |
| Frobert-Igguie Cecile | Member |
| Boka Raoul Marius | Member |
| Dr. Offia Coulibaly Madiarra | Member |
| Seka Monika | Member |
| Sidje Leontine Gaty | Member |
| N'drin Josiane | Member |
| Alain Manouan | Member |
| Alain Kra | Member |
| Ouba Ahoutou Joachim | Member |
| Kone Harouna | Member |
| Leroux Elysee | Member |
| Mady Yannick | Member |
| Elsie Ayer | Member |
| Keipo Valentin | Member |
| Ognyi Edward | Member |
| Kouakou Kouassi Puvani | Member |
| Raoul Boka | Member |
| Gbanta Laurent | Member |
| Gloye Sebo Leonce | Member |
| Ourega Loh Jeannot | Member |
| Toure Donatienne | Member |

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Dr. Angela El-Adas | Chair |
| Dr. Djeneba Ouattara | Co-Chair |
| Dr. Meskerem Grunitzky | Member |
| Dr. Yamina Chakkar | Member |
| Mr. Mabingue Ngom | Member |
| Mr. Cedric Pulliam | Member |
| Dr. Benjamin Djoudalbaye | Member |
| Saran Branchi | Member |
| Dazon Dixon Diallo | Member |
| Maitre Soyata Maiga | Member |
| Caroline Ntchatcho | Member |
| Dr. Nirina Razakaso | Member |
| Dr. Linda Mafu | Member |
| Madam Patricia Yao | Member |
| Dr. Konan Liliane | Member |
| Dr. Josephine Diabate Conombo | Member |
| Alain-Michel Kpolo | Member |
| Raoul Boka | Member |
| Dr. Sandra Moulod-Sampah | Member |
| Dr. Brigitte Quenum | Member |
| Dr. Natalie Daries | Member |
| Ourega Loh Jeannet | Member |

The Programme team, in conjunction with KIT Group, was responsible for the on-line abstract management. Abstract submission guidelines were developed and approved by the SPC and were incorporated in the on-line abstract submission system. Abstract submissions were open from 1st February 2017 to 28th July 2017.

All abstracts were screened to ensure the basic requirements were met as stipulated in the abstract submission guidelines. All abstracts that did not meet the basic requirements were rejected. The remaining 1,419 abstracts were submitted to the SPC for review. Each abstract was allocated to three reviewers, with an aim of receiving at least three scores per abstract. A total of 230 reviewers were allocated an average of 6 abstracts each, which were scored through an on-line blind peer-review process.

Guidelines/ Criteria for Abstract Reviewing

Key Principles:

- The content, research and results described in the abstracts as well as your score are strictly confidential.
- The review process will be blinded; abstract author information will not be disclosed to the reviewers.
- For each of the criteria outlined below, select a score between 1 and 6 where a 6 is the highest score and a 1 is the lowest score.
- 19th ICASA wants to particularly encourage abstracts with relevance to the HIV and STIs response in Africa.

Criteria to be considered when reviewing:

1. Clarity of purpose and objectives of the study
 - Are the objectives / issues clear and well presented?
2. Appropriateness of the methodology and study design
 - Is the data analysis and interpretation appropriate?
 - Is the methodology used appropriate for the study?
3. Significance of the contribution
 - Is the study significant, innovative and original?
 - Are the conclusions clear and appropriate to the study?
 - Does the study provide new insights and help the advancement of the knowledge?

Reviewing Scale

1 – 2 Very Weak/Weak Shows one or more critical shortcomings / weaknesses.

- Should be rejected
- 3 **Intermediate** Meets criteria. Could be a poster
- 4 **Strong** Meets criteria & has some distinctive value. Should be a poster
- 5 **Very Strong** Meets or exceeds criteria & has distinctive value. It could be an oral or poster presentation
- 6 **Excellent** Exceeds expectations on all criteria. It should definitely be an oral presentation

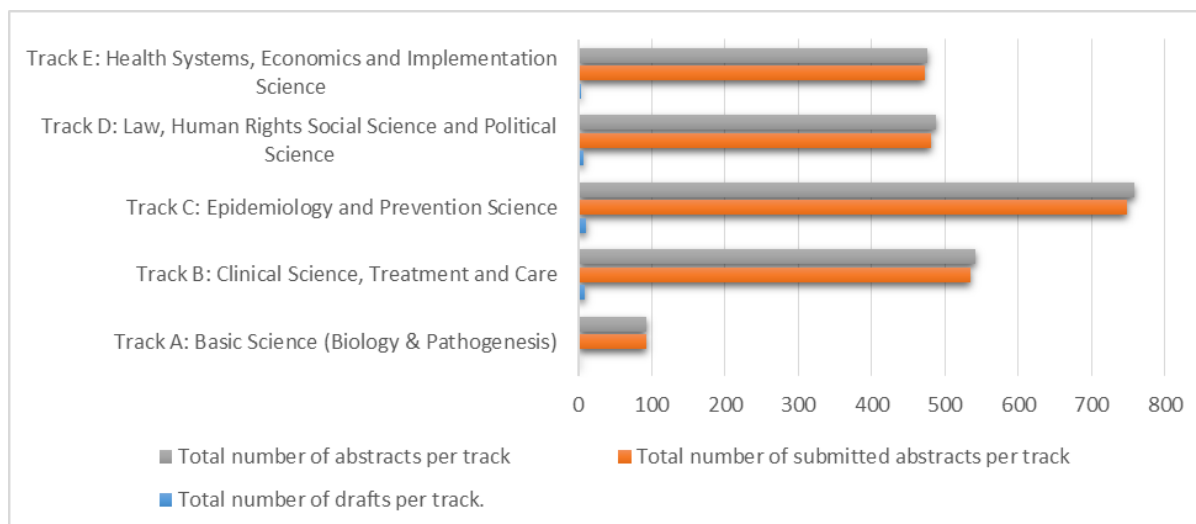


Figure 1 Breakdown of Abstracts by Track

Three face to face meetings were organized and convened to plan ICASA 2017. These were the first and second International Steering Committee meetings as well as the Marathon meeting all hosted in Abidjan – Cote d’Ivoire. The ICASA 2017 Secretariat organized and facilitated all the meetings and followed up on all the International Steering Committee recommendations. At the Marathon meeting 139 abstracts were accepted for oral presentations and 1280 abstracts were accepted for poster presentations bringing the total to 1419 Abstracts.

The ICASA 2017 programme also included invited VIPs and plenary speakers. Invited speakers for the opening ceremony included:

- His Excellency, Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire
- Her Excellency, Dominique Folloroux-Ouattara, First Lady of the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire
- The Executive Director of UNAIDS, Dr. Michel Sidibe
- Regional Director WHO AFRO, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti
- Regional Director of UNFPA for West & Central Africa, Mr. Mabingue Ngom
- Regional Director of UNICEF for West & Central Africa, Ms. Marie-Pierre Poirier



His Excellency, President
Alassane Ouattara



UNAIDS EXD, Mr. Michel Sidibé



Her Excellency, the First Lady
Dominique Ouattara



WHO Afro Director, Dr.
Matshidiso Moeti



UNFPA WCA Regional Director,
Mr. Mabingue Ngom



UNICEF WCA Regional Director,
Miss. Marie – Pierre Poirier

4. ENSURING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement before and during ICASA 2017 was vital and compulsory. A Community Programme Committee was formed. Community representatives were included in other Conference programme working groups. Community based organisations and community village activities were two of the categories for which people could apply for scholarships. Scholarships were allocated to community applicants. The Community Village also provided a wide range of activities.



Marathon Meeting - ICASA 2017
Community Programme

5. LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The ICASA Secretariat handled the exhibitions at ICASA 2017. The team was responsible for:

- Drafting the exhibition marketing and booking documents and distributing it to the potential exhibitors.
- Marketing exhibition space and allocating relevant exhibition stands to organisations according to the floor plan
- Ensuring visibility and follow up with various stakeholders in line with their marketing product.
- Liaising with stand builders
- Sending the exhibition manual to the confirmed exhibitors
- Ensuring logos and information was received from exhibitors to publish in the printed programme and on the ICASA 2017 website
- Managing the exhibition hall
- ICT
- Exhibition Stands
- Onsite transportation
- Accommodation

ICASA 2017 was able to accommodate 106 exhibition spaces organized by 54 partners.

The ICASA International Secretariat provided support before and during ICASA 2017. The IT team was responsible for:

- Start-up and maintenance of the ICASA 2017 website and other ICASA 2017 systems
- IT support during the Marathon meeting
- Manage IT suppliers and rollout of equipment in all areas at ICASA 2017

Registration was handled by the ICASA Secretariat and was coordinated from the SAA Permanent Secretariat office in Accra, Ghana. Temporary staff was brought in close to the start of ICASA 2017 to assist the team. One Registration Liaison under the Registration Manager, based in the ICASA Local Secretariat office, cross-checked registration reports and provided statistical reports. The team was responsible for:

- Receiving on-line registrations
- Issuing invoices, payment reminders and following up on outstanding debtors
- Allocating payments and issuing confirmations to delegates
- Creating a training manual for on-site temporary staff and training the staff
- Delegate enquiries
- Issuing certificates of attendance

Other services included:

- Logistical management
- Programme coordination

6. ENSURING DELEGATES' TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Destination management services was provided by Eurotour Ghana Limited in conjunction with Air Cote d'Ivoire, KLM, Ethiopian Airlines, Air France, TAP Portugal, Brussels Airlines, British Airways, South African Airways, Turkish Airlines and Emirates Airlines

Before ICASA 2017 the Society for AIDS in Africa and Eurotour Ghana Limited (Travel Management Company) negotiated discounted flights, accommodation and transfer rates and contracted with preferred suppliers. The ICASA 2017 Secretariat was provided with the information and rates, which was uploaded on the ICASA 2017 website. Eurotour Ghana Limited was responsible for the travel arrangements of the ICASA 2017 Secretariat, Committee members, invited speakers, SAA Board members and scholarship recipients. The ICASA Secretariat was also in charge of providing accommodation at the discounted rate for delegates.

7. VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

A total of 300 volunteers worked on-site during ICASA 2017. The volunteers were generally bilingual. Volunteers were grouped under the various Departments of the Onsite Management such as the Program (Faculty), Monitoring & Evaluation, Registration, Community Village and Exhibition. Daily per diems were received after daily assessment forms were signed off by onsite Departmental heads.

8. SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships and other types of financial support were awarded to a large number of individuals to enable them to attend, participate and present at the Conference. This is crucial to ensure that a balance is maintained in relation to representation at the Conference and its continued relevance as a global forum. Scholarships for ICASA 2017 were funded by the ICASA Conference. Scholarships recipients were from the five geographical regions of Africa. Oral and poster presenters who applied for scholarship were granted scholarships. Individuals applied for scholarships through the ICASA 2017 website. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire provided 687 local scholarships as part of their support towards scholarships for ICASA 2017.

People could apply for scholarships according to the following categories:

- People Living with HIV and AIDS
- Community Based Organisations
- Women
- Youth
- Least Developed Countries
- Media
- Students
- Community influencers
- Researchers

The scholarships awarded are listed below:

A total of 1588 scholarships were awarded. 901 scholarships were awarded through the ICASA Conference Organizers. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire provided 687. A total of 48 fully funded scholarships were awarded. A further 553 partially funded scholarships were awarded.

- Oral abstract – 48 (Registration, Travel, accommodation & DSA)
- Poster abstract – 413 (Accommodation & DSA)
- PL HIV+ – 78 (Registration, accommodation & DSA)
- Community Village – 24 (Registration, accommodation & DSA)
- General delegates (HIV -) and below 26years – 24 (Accommodation only)
- General delegates (No Status) and below 26 years – 9
- Volunteers – 300
- Total Scholarship Awardees – 901

The ISC determined that scholarships would be allocated as follows per category:

- Abstract Presenters 30%
- Workshop Facilitators 10%
- Media 5%
- Program Activities Organizers 20%
- General delegates 35%

| NATIONALITY OF FULLY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS | |
|--|-------------|
| COUNTRY | SCHOLARSHIP |
| BURKINA FASO | 5 |
| CAMEROON | 5 |
| CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | 1 |
| CONGO | 1 |
| COTE D'IVOIRE | 4 |
| FRANCE | 2 |
| KENYA | 3 |
| MALI | 1 |
| MOROCCO | 1 |
| NIGERIA | 9 |
| SENEGAL | 4 |
| SOUTH AFRICA | 2 |
| SWAZILAND | 1 |
| TOGO | 1 |
| UGANDA | 5 |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | 1 |
| ZAMBIA | 2 |

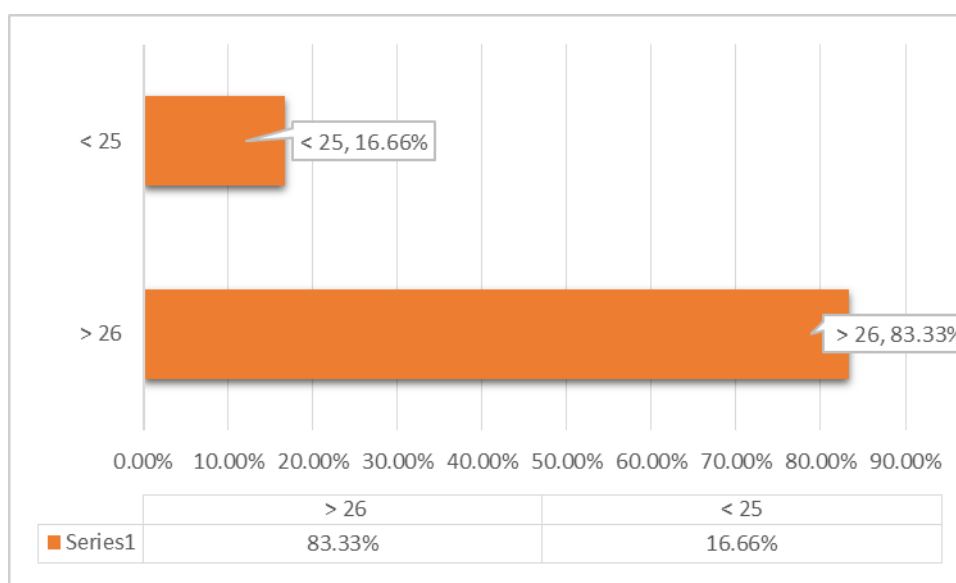


Figure 2. Age of fully funded scholarship recipients

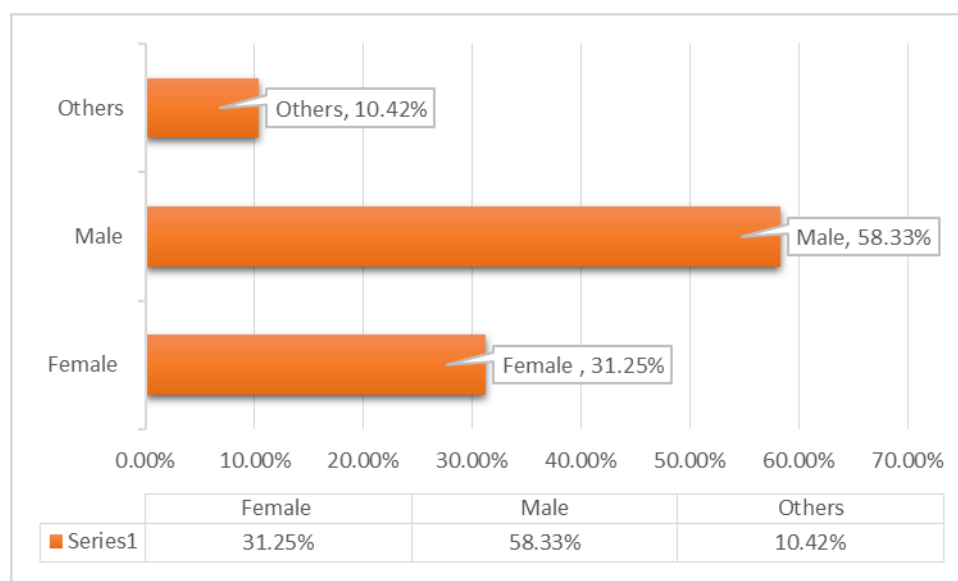


Figure 3. Gender of fully funded scholarship recipients

9. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

People with disabilities were represented on the ISC and other Committees. An audit of the facility was conducted prior to the event to ensure that the venue was accessible to people living with disabilities. Based on the recommendations of civil society organizations working with people with disabilities during ICASA 2015, the organizers ensured most disability sessions were located on the ground level. Alternative routes were also created for access to the community village as well as the main exhibition area.

10. SECURITY

On-site Risk, Safety, Security and Medical services were rendered by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire. Delegates were screened at the various designated entrances and exits. There was a Safety and Security Office located on-site and all delegates were furnished with the contact details as well as emergency numbers. For security reasons, access to all the Conference venues was controlled while access to session rooms and Exhibition Halls of The Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire was only for registered delegates displaying Conference badges. In the interest of personal safety and security, delegates were advised to only display their Conference badges on the Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire premises.

D. ICASA 2017 CONFERENCE REPORT

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony took place in the morning of 4TH December, 2017.

- His Excellency, Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, inaugurated ICASA 2017.
- Her Excellency, Dominique Folloroux-Ouattara, First Lady of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire welcomed delegates to Cote d'Ivoire.
- Dr. Ihab Ahmed, ICASA 2017 President, delivered the welcome address from the Society for AIDS in Africa.
- Mr. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of the Joint United Nation Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), talked about achieving the 90-90-90 targets and the road map to ending AIDS by 2030.
- Dr. Matshidiso Moeti Regional Director of the World Health Organisation, gave her introductory remarks
- Ms. Marie-Pierre Poirier, Regional Director of UNICEF for West & Central Africa.
- Mr. Mabingue Ngom, Regional Director of UNFPA for West & Central Africa.
- Ms. Asseta Yabyouré Asao, a young person living with HIV, called for access to treatment for children living with HIV



His Excellency, President
Alassane Ouattara



Her Excellency, the First Lady
Dominique Ouattara



ICASA 2017 President, Dr. Ihab
Ahmed



UNAIDS EXD, Mr. Michel Sidibé



UNICEF WCA Regional Director,
Miss. Marie – Pierre Poirier



WHO Afro Director, Dr.
Matshidiso Moeti



UNFPA WCA Regional Director,
Mr. Mabingue Ngom



Ms. Asseta Yabyouré Asao with His
Excellency, President Alassane Ouattara &
Her Excellency, Dominique Ouattara

Miss Asseta Yabyouré Asao represented the Youth and the Community at the ICASA 2017 Opening Ceremony. In her speech, she stated “I am 20 and was born with HIV. I am here in front of you, young and in good health taking medicine, so do not give up. And to those of you who are free of HIV, do everything you can to protect yourselves.” She reminded the government of its commitment and call to help end the AIDS Epidemic. Her passionate speech caught the attention of His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire who awarded her an educational scholarship. The Governor of Abidjan, Beugré Mambé also awarded her with 1,000,000 CFA towards her education.

PLENARY SESSIONS

The first plenary session was held on 5th December 2017. The speakers were:

- Prof. Wafaa El Sadr: Persons living with HIV: Top Priority for Programs!
- Prof. Steven Deeks: HIV Cure and Vaccine: Where Are We?
- Mr. Berry Didier Nibogora: Key Populations: Key for Ending AIDS

The following speakers presented at the plenary session on 6th December 2017:

- Dr. Frank Lule: From PMTCT/HIV to PMTCT/HBV: Lessons Learned
- Dr. Mercedes Tatay MD, DTM&H: Institutional Community Expertise for Better Access to Services

The speakers at the plenary session on 7th December 2017 were:

- Dr. Faustin Kitetele: Unlocking the Treatment Cascade for Children
- Dr. Offia-Coulibaly Madiarra: Stigma and Discrimination: A Structural Barrier to Access to Services and Rights.

The speakers at the plenary on 8th December, 2017. The speakers were:

- Prof. Domoua Kouao Medard Serge: Ending Tb: Is It Achievable?
- Miss. Lillian Mworeko: Young Adolescents, Women and Girls: The Hidden Face of The Epidemic
- Ms. Anita Akumiah: Youth Involvement in Fast Tracking the End of Aids - Challenges, Leadership, Recognizing the Roles of Youth.

The last plenary session was on 9th December, 2017. The speakers were:

- Dr. Patricia A. Agaba: ART Optimization and The Threat of Resistance
- Her Excellency Mrs. Amira Elfadil Mohamed Elfadil: Sustainable Funding, Domestic Financing, Ending AIDS

CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony was in the afternoon of 9th December 2017. The speakers were:

- Dr. Alain Azondekon presented the ICASA 2017 Rapporteur Report.
- Dr. Raymonde GOUDOU-COFFIE, Minister of Health and Public Hygiene.
- Dr. Ihab Ahmed, ICASA 2017 President and President of the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA)
- Dr. Diane Gashumba, Minister of Health of Rwanda presented Rwanda as the host country of ICASA 2019.
- Awards for Best Abstract Presenters
- His Excellency Daniel KABLAN DUNCAN, Vice-President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire who gave the closing Address

11. Abstract driven sessions

The abstract driven sessions enabled researchers to share new and evolving information about their research. A total of 2327 abstracts were submitted to ICASA 2017 for review of which 1419 were selected for presentation at the Conference. 139 were selected for oral presentation and 1280 were selected for poster presentation. Each abstract was scored through a blind peer-review process. The descriptions of each of the five tracks was as follows:

TRACK A: BASIC SCIENCE (Biology & Pathogenesis)

This track encompassed all aspects of fundamental HIV biology and the host response to HIV. Areas of focus included HIV infection and replication, transmission, genetics, evolution, structure and function, pathogenesis, adaptive and innate immune responses to HIV, genetic susceptibility to HIV, interaction of micronutrients, co-infection and progress in animal models. Pre-clinical vaccine, microbicides, and drug development were important themes of this track.

TRACK B: CLINICAL SCIENCE, TREATMENT AND CARE

This track analysed clinical features of opportunistic infections, malignancies, severe bacterial diseases, co-morbidities in people living with HIV. Issues to antiretroviral therapy, response to ART, adherence, retention, long term follow-up, management of side effects, ART in specific populations (adolescents, Elderly, pregnant women) were also addressed. Emerging topics such as aging, frailty and in other age-related co morbidities such as cardiovascular, renal, neurocognitive, bone mineral and metabolic diseases were discussed. Issues of

resistance and management of failure including salvage therapy, which is a concern in resource limited settings, were addressed.

TRACK C: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTION SCIENCE

This track focused on HIV/AIDS prevention research and issues related to the design, implementation and evaluation of prevention programmes. It included examination of methodological and programmatic advances in the continuum of prevention research, particularly best practices in HIV prevention for vulnerable populations in resource-limited settings. Strategies to put HIV prevention research into practice, efforts to promote preparedness for bio-medical prevention technologies, and research on new prevention approaches including microbicides, vaccines, pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis, circumcision and other methods were presented.

TRACK D: LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS SOCIAL SCIENCE AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

This track aimed to highlight new knowledge and address gaps in the translation of behavioural and social science evidence into practice, and to contribute to the building of theory and understanding in HIV-related social science. The track also aimed to promote understanding of the individual and social determinants of HIV-related risk, vulnerability and impact, to inform development of effective and sustainable HIV responses. This track featured research, analysis and evaluation on psychosocial factors that shape individual attitudes, experiences, and behaviours; social and structural factors that shape vulnerability and risk; social and cultural norms that underlie individual risk and community vulnerability; programmes that promote access to HIV and STI prevention, treatment, care and support; social and structural factors that shape vulnerability; and methods and outcomes of individual and community engagement, leadership, empowerment, and self-determination.

TRACK E: HEALTH SYSTEMS, ECONOMICS AND IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

This track aimed to provide new insights into the status of the health systems and its capacity and challenges to expanding treatment and prevention in resource-limited settings. At the same time, issues related to health economics, integration of health programmes, country ownership of national health and HIV programmes, and advancement of a comprehensive and integrated approach to health and rights were discussed.

The abstract driven component comprised of:

- **ORAL ABSTRACT SESSIONS**

The sessions were organized into themes and deal with new developments in each of the tracks. Each session included up to five speakers who each make brief presentations followed by a short discussion. Audience questions were encouraged and facilitated by the session chair. As competition for the limited number of slots available was quite strong, only abstracts presenting truly innovative and relevant research were considered.

- **POSTER EXHIBITION**

The exhibition was also generated from peer-reviewed abstracts and covered a wide variety of topics organized by track. Posters were displayed in Exhibition Hall, next to the Community Village, and were available for viewing throughout the Conference from Tuesday to Friday from 9:00AM -18:00PM. Authors were asked to stand by their posters during break times to answer questions and provide further information on their study results.

12. NON-ABSTRACT DRIVEN SESSIONS

There were 11 non-abstract driven sessions, addressing a variety of emerging and topical issues related to innovation, sustainability and equity in the HIV response. The format and focus of the sessions varied.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Five plenary sessions were organized with a 12 speakers). Plenary sessions featured some of the world's most distinguished researchers, political leaders and high-level specialists. It brought all Conference delegates together every morning. The topics reflected the many facets of the Conference theme namely "Africa: Ending AIDS-delivering differently".

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Twelve special sessions featured presentations by some of the world's leading experts and global champions. These high-level presentations were held mid-day and were highly engaging for all delegates.

SATELLITE SYMPOSIA

Sixty five satellites sessions addressed critical issues on where there were no n consensus decisions. Speakers and delegates who attended the session shared experiences, and brainstormed on possible ways forward. Sessions also reported on new findings and announced forthcoming research and new initiatives.

SKILLS BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Fifteen skill building workshops were organized with the aim of transferring new skills or strategies for research, programme implementation and advocacy to participants. Workshops helped stimulate new and stronger partnerships for problem-solving related to the many different HIV-related needs.

13. EXHIBITIONS

ICASA 2017 had 106 exhibition stands. The following organisations exhibited at ICASA 2017:

ORGANIZATIONS

ORASURE
ALERE INTERNATIONAL LTD
SAFAIDS
SYSMEX EUROPE
HUMAN Gesellschaft fuer Biochemica und Diagnostica mbH
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
OMEGA DIAGNOSTICS
HOLOGIC INC.
EXPERTISE FRANCE
BIOMERIEUX
CHEMBIO DIAGNOSTICS
HETERO LABS
CELLTRION INC.
MSF
JHPIEGO
ELIZABETH GLAZER PEDIATRIC
HUMENSIS
ICAP COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
FEMALE HEALTH COMPANY
BICENTRIC
ANECCA
BIO – RAD
BIOSYNEX FUMOUE
RAME
BIOLYTICAL LABORATORIES
CHEMONICS INTERNATIONAL
PLATEFORME ELSA/SIDACTION
FONDS NATIONAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA
BD BIOSCIENCES
ENDA SANTE
GHANA AIDS COMMISSION
CEPHEID
BECKMAN COULTER
WORLD YWCA
AFRASIA TRADING
ICI-SANTE
PHARMA 5
MTN

AIMAS
COTE D'IVOIRE TAURISM
CI ELECTRICITY
RWANDA
GOVERNOR OF ABIDJAN



Mylan Booth at the ICASA 2017 Exhibition Centre



ICASA 2017 Exhibition Centre



Gilead Booth at the ICASA 2017 Exhibition Centre

14. SATELLITE MEETINGS

Sixty five satellite meetings were convened each day of the Conference. Meetings were entirely organized by commercial and non-commercial organisations. The content and speakers of the satellite meetings were organized and coordinated by the party proposing the satellite. The proposed satellite sessions were reviewed by appropriate committees to ensure they met with conference specifications.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT ORGANIZED SATELLITE MEETINGS

ALERE INTERNATIONAL LTD
HEALTH POLICY +
CDC
ICAP COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
WHO
SIDACTION
OAFLA
AU/GILEAD
UNAIDS
SOLTHIS- PROJET OPP-ERA
PATA
USAID GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN
FRIENDS OF THE GLOBAL FUND (AMIS DU FONDS MONDIAL)
ICI SANTE (WCA HEALTH)
EXPERTISE FRANCE
BIOMERIEUX
MYLAN
NIH
GLOBAL FUND
ALLIANCE VIIV
INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR IMPACT
IPPF
UNFPA

ASLM
JSI RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE
UNICEF
ITPC
IAS
AIDSFONDS
INTERNATIONAL HIV/AIDS ALLIANCE
GNP+
WHO & POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL
JHPIEGO
ANRS
SANAC
INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD

15. Community Village

The Community Village was an integral and vibrant part of the ICASA 2017 programme. The Village hosted talks, giving Conference participants and the general public the opportunity to interact with leaders, policy makers, community advocates and activists. The village was structured in a way that ensures the science and the arts of HIV mingled coherently. Delegates and visitors visited the Village exhibition booths and networking zones in the village. The Community Village activities included: Panel discussions and debates on cutting-edge HIV issues at the Community Dialogue Space; Film screenings; Art exhibits; Networking zones focusing on key populations; NGO and marketplace booths showcasing the work and products of organizations working within the HIV field; and a range of live performances from local and international artists on the Main Stage. No registration was required to be admitted into the Community Village.

The opening ceremony of this year's ICASA Community Village received the address of Dr. Ihab Ahmed, ICASA 2017/SAA President. His Majesty King Dr. Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV of the Tooro Kingdom in Uganda also addressed all present. He expressed his commitment to end AIDS in his kingdom by 2030.



His Majesty King Dr. Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV (right on the photo above) of the Tooro Kingdom in Uganda, First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire Dominique Ouattara and UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé



Dr. Ihab Ahmed, ICASA 2017/SAA President addressing delegates at the ICASA 2017 Opening Ceremony

- **Networking zones** brought together local and international groups together to plan and implement exciting spaces focused on key populations. These spaces aimed to facilitate engagement and exchanges to enhance learning.

- **The Main Stage** was an open space for public discourse and presentations on key issues and challenges. The space also hosted cultural activities such as musical performances, dance acts, theatre plays and more.
- **The Community Dialogue Space** provided a venue to engage with communities and partners from around the world. The Talks open and active discussions highlighting stories of grassroots victories, challenges that communities face and opportunities to improve their response to the HIV and STIs.
- **NGO booths** provided non-governmental organisations the opportunity to interact with delegates and the general public, as well as to promote their activities for the duration of the Conference.

16. ICASA 2017 delegates

A total of 6030 delegates attended ICASA 2017. Delegates include scholarship recipients, media representatives exhibitors and visitors to the Community Village. Paying delegates were from 65 nationalities residing in 91 countries. The majority of delegates were from sub-Saharan Africa. 313 media / press representatives were registered.

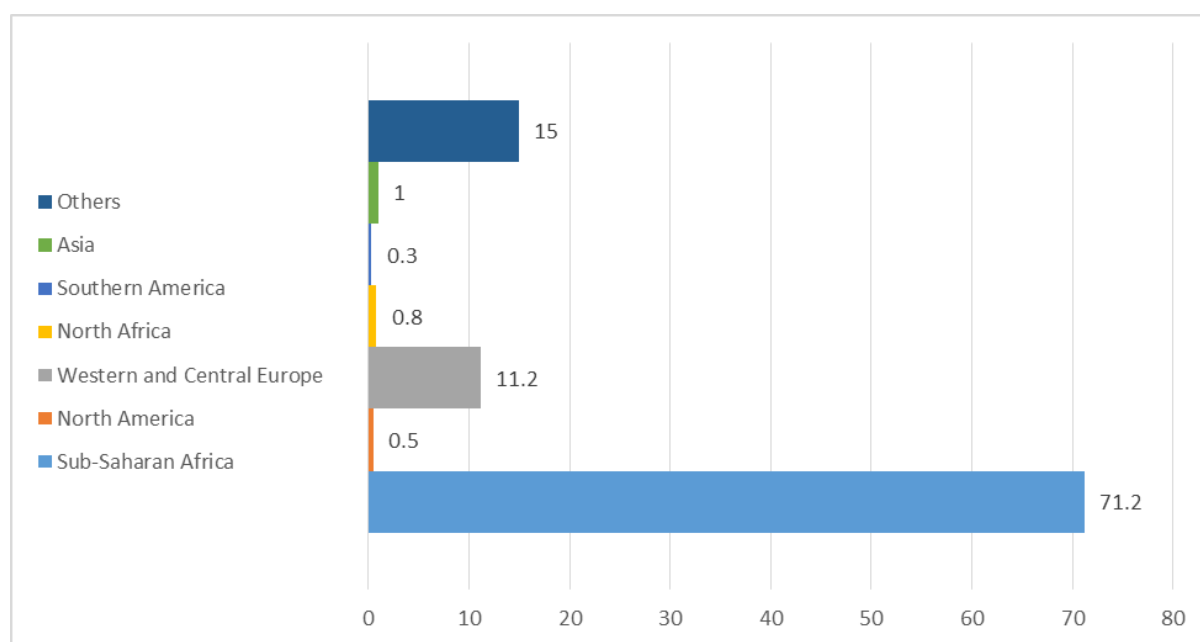


Figure 4. Delegates' nationality

17. YOUTH PROGRAMME – ICASA 2017 YOUTH CARAVAN

The goal of the ICASA Youth Caravan was to “Increase the capacity of young people to develop, introduce, implement and advocate for effective, evidence-based informed by the SDGs and clarifying the role of young people moving forward” towards ending AIDS by 2030. To achieve these goals, the ICASA 2017 Youth Caravan sought to;

- Provide a space for young people to examine ICASA’s substantive program and strategize on opportunities for engagement.
- Provide a platform for young people in the main conference to discuss, share knowledge and lessons, and facilitate inter-generational dialogue on efforts to address the HIV epidemic, achieving the 90-90-90 targets by 2020 and ending AIDS in Africa by 2030.

- C. Maintain a strong communication function, sharing information on youth issues at the conference, including activities in the Youth Caravan.
- D. Provide a platform for young people to strategize around the SDGs and plan youth interaction with the new development goals across the West African Corridor.

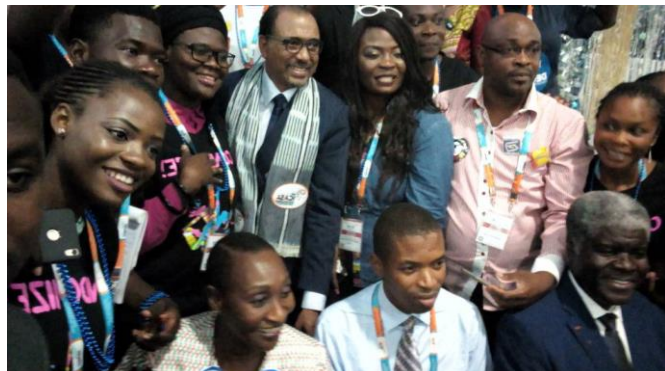
One of the youth events at ICASA 2017 was the ICASA Youth Front. The ICASA Youth Front was a coalition of youth serving organizations working on HIV and AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of young people in Africa. The core mandate of the Youth Front was to ensure effective and active participation of young people in the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). ICASA 2017 Youth Caravan was a project of the ICASA 2017 Youth Fronts. The caravan moved from Lagos, Nigeria through to Cotonou, Benin, Lomé, Togo, Accra, Ghana to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

The Caravan started with 10 young people in Nigeria and mobilised 10 other young persons in Benin, Togo and Ghana respectively. It was a three days 1,000 km journey. In each city where it stopped, sessions were held with young people challenging them to commit to turning the tide of HIV and AIDS in Africa. There were discussions and deliberations on how they can harness their power, energy and talents to make a difference for the HIV response in Nigeria. Massive awareness campaigns were also organised in each country where the caravan stopped. Participants shared their stories and experiences and talked about HIV, stigma and youth empowerment. HIV-related films were screened and debated and dance competitions were also organised. Condoms were also distributed. The First Lady of Benin welcomed the delegates in her country. In each city, peer educators were actively engaged with public education and enlightenment about HIV.

The Climax of the Youth Caravan was their arrival at the opening ceremony of the ICASA 2017 Community Village. The Youth Caravan was welcomed by the ICASA 2017 President, Dr. Ihab Ahmed, the Minister of Health and Public Hygiene of Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Raymonde Goudou-Coffie, King Oyo from Uganda, UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé among others. After a standing ovation and lengthy clapping for the participants, ICASA 2017 President, Dr. Ihab Ahmed addressed the crowd saying "Young people and Key Populations were at the heart of ICASA". UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé said "We count on you! You are not the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today," he also said "We will not end AIDS without young people."



Cross Section of participants of the ICASA 2017 Youth Caravan



Cross Section of participants of the ICASA 2017 Youth Caravan with Dr. Raymonde Goudou Coffie, Minister of Health & Public Hygiene & Michel Sidibe, EXD UNAIDS



Cross Section of participants of the ICASA 2017 Youth Caravan



Participants of the ICASA 2017 Youth Caravan with the ICASA 2017 President, Dr. Ihab Ahmed, Mr. Luc Armand Bodea, ICASA 2017 Director & Martin-Mary Folana, ICASA 2017 Youth Coordinator

SAA AWARDS CEREMONY

The SAA Awards Ceremony took place on 6th December, 2017, at Mr. Michel Sidibé Room at the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire. The Event was earmarked to award the outgoing SAA Executive Board that played major roles in making ICASA a success during their tenure of office. In attendance was the Minister of Health of Rwanda, Dr. Diane Gashumba, The Governor of Abidjan, past Executive Board members of SAA, representatives of the UN System, invited guests, members of the International Steering Committee, Regional AIDS control bodies, representatives of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene of Cote d'Ivoire, Civil society, representative and members of International and local Secretariats.

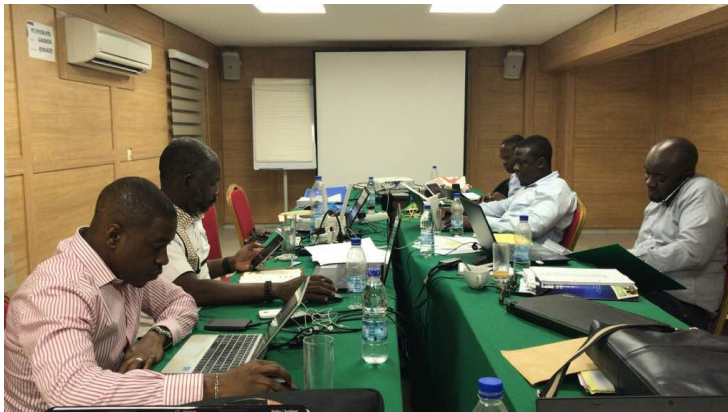
Mr. Luc Bodea, welcomed everyone to the event, He highlighted the purpose of the award and called on Dr. Ihab Ahmed, the outgoing SAA President, to share a few words. Dr Ahmed acknowledged the presence of the Minister of Health of Rwanda, Dr. Diane Gashumba, thanked member of the Executive Board members for their service, support and commitment; and acknowledged the commitment and investment of Prof. Robert Soudre, Former SAA President/ICASA 2011/2013, including having organised the most successful ICASA conference till date – ICASA 2011 in Addis Ababa. Madam Lois Chingandu was also recognised for her role in the organization of ICASA 2015 in Zimbabwe. He acknowledged the role of Mr. Luc Bodea for the success of the ICASA 2015 and 2017. Finally, he invited Dr. Diane Gashumba for the signing of the MoU between SAA and the Government of Rwanda to host ICASA 2019 in Kigali.

SAA award recipients were Dorothy Ogutu, Executive Director of African Sex Worker Alliance (ASWA) for her role and service towards the community; Dr. Ihab Ahmed, the outgoing SAA/ICASA President, in recognition of his service and leadership of the Society for AIDS in Africa for the past 5 years; Prof. Seni Kouanda, the outgoing Secretary-General of SAA; Dr. Namwinga Chintu, outgoing SAA Treasurer; Prof. Serge Eholie, outgoing Deputy Treasurer; Madam Lois Chingandu; and Prof. John Idoko, an outgoing board member. The Award ceremony was moderated by Mr Innocent Liaison, Director of AfriCASO.

Dr. Ihab Ahmed also presented the prize to the winner of the ICASA 2019 logo competition, Miss. Lilian Kusiima from Uganda. She received a cash prize of \$1000. He also acknowledge the hard work of all the staff at ICASA and called them up for recognition.

ICASA 2017 AUDIT

A team of Price Waterhouse Cooper auditors with the SAA Finance Department was in Abidjan to audit ICASA 2017 Accounts. The ICASA Audit was professionally conducted and the Report was finalized.



ICASA International & Local Finance & Audit Team in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 11th – 14th February 2018



Report on post activity of ICASA 2017 to Dr. Jean-Marie Vianny Yameogo, WHO Country Representative, Cote d'Ivoire

E. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ICASA

Exhibitions

- Exhibitors should also be members of the ISC

Information Technology

- Provide very strong and dedicated Internet System for Registration, faculty

Programme

- Having the Abstract system Back Office and Rapporteurs Office located next to Speaker Room.
- Having adequate volunteers for Speaker Room, especially at the beginning of the Conference

Communications and Media

- Having an in-house dedicated work-force working on the social media management.
- Having dedicated internal social media.
- Having daily reflection updates on what happened the previous day at the Conference.