

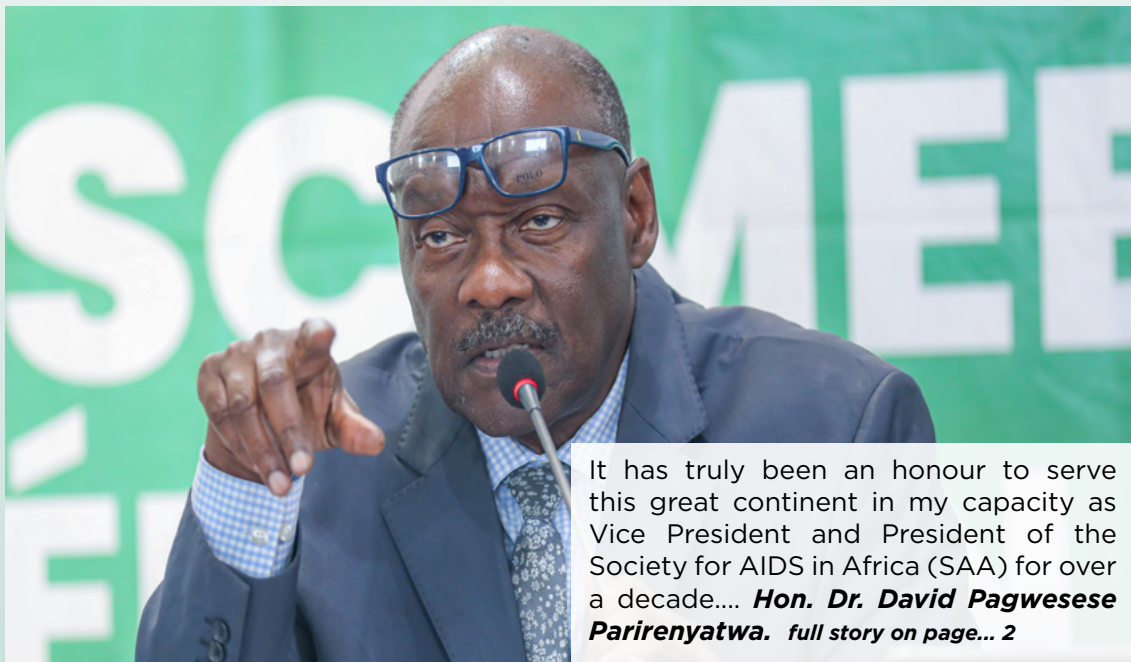


SOCIETY FOR AIDS IN AFRICA

Organizer of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA)

NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2025 | SEVENTH EDITION | WWW.SAAFRICA.ORG



It has truly been an honour to serve this great continent in my capacity as Vice President and President of the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) for over a decade.... **Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa.** full story on page... 2

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- Call for ICASA storytelling video competition





ACCRA, GHANA | AFRICA IN ACTION: Catalysing Integrated Sustainable Responses to end AIDS, TB & Malaria.
HARARE, ZIMBABWE | 2023 | AIDS IS NOT OVER: Address inequalities, accelerate inclusion and innovation
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA | 2021 | Africa's AIDS response: The race to 2030 – Evidence. Scale Up. Accelerate
KIGALI, RWANDA | 2019 | AIDS FREE AFRICA - Innovation, Community, and Political Leadership
ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE | 2017 | Africa: ending AIDS-delivering differently
HARARE, ZIMBABWE | 2015 | AIDS in Post 2015 Era: Linking Leadership, Science & Human Rights
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA | 2013 | Now More Than Ever, Targeting Zero
ADDIS-ABABA, ETHIOPIA | 2011 | Own, Scale-up and Sustain
DAKAR, SENEGAL | 2008 | Africa's response: Face the facts
ABUJA, NIGERIA | 2005 | HIV/AIDS and Family
NAIROBI, KENYA | 2003 | Access to care: challenges
OUAGDOUGOU, BURKINA FASO | 2001 | The communities commit themselves
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA | 1999 | Looking into the future: Setting priorities for HIV/AIDS
KAMPALA, UGANDA | 1995 | Challenges and Hopes
MARRAKEH, MOROCCO | 1993 | Africa Unity against AIDS and STDs
YAOUNDE, CAMEROON | 1992 | Clean and safe blood for all
DAKAR, SENEGAL | 1991
ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE | 1997 | AIDS and Development
KINSHASA, DR CONGO | 1990 | Struggle against AIDS in Africa
MARSEILLE, FRANCE | 1989 | Epidemiology of AIDS in Africa
ARUSHA, TANZANIA | 1988 | AIDS and associated cancers in Africa
NAPLES, ITALY | 1987 | Science in challenging AIDS
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM | 1986 | AIDS in Africa

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Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa,
ICASA 2025 President/SAA President

FROM THE DESK OF ICASA 2025/SAA PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Society for
AIDS in Africa and Fellow Africans,

It has truly been an honour to serve

this great continent in my capacity as Vice President and President of the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) for over a decade. Before I begin, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the United Nations system, including UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and others, whose support has been paramount in advancing the various activities of SAA. I would also like to acknowledge the pharmaceutical companies that have continuously showed their unwavering support of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs despite the many challenges we face, especially in terms of infrastructure. Most importantly, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our scientists, policymakers, communities, and the strong civil society. Without you, the SAA would not be where it is today.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the SAA, which coincides with a critical moment in our health system in Africa—an issue brought to the forefront by the Trump Administration's policies. Over the years, we have tirelessly called on our leaders to fulfill the Abuja Declaration, pledging 15% of their national budgets to healthcare. Sadly, this promise remains unfulfilled, and we must recognize that it is time to take full responsibility for our health systems. The time has come for us

to innovate, mobilize domestic resources, and call on our corporate sector to fulfil their Corporate Social Responsibility in supporting the healthcare systems of our communities. All our mineral and natural resources should be governed by clearly defined policies that prioritize our health system first. No development will be possible without a healthy nation.

The challenges our continent faces are numerous, but we must prioritize. Looking at Africa's demographics, health and education should be at the forefront of our priorities, without neglecting the other crucial aspects of development. I commend the Heads of State who have begun to take bold steps in tackling these issues. It is now a matter of urgency—if we fail to provide the neces-

sary care for our people, they will die, and without a healthy population, we cannot hope to have the productive workforce necessary to drive our nations forward. Accountability and transparency must be integral to all our policies if we are to break the cycle of eternal dependency.

Looking ahead, ICASA 2025 will be hosted in Ghana, and under the leadership of President John Dramani Mahama, we are confident that the conference will provide a platform for addressing domestic financing and strengthening Africa's health systems. We look forward to gathering in Accra from December 3rd to 8th, 2025, to continue our shared journey towards health and prosperity.





Mr. Luc Armand H. Bodea,
ICASA Director / SAA Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM ICASA DIRECTOR

I find myself reflecting on a journey that spanned over two decades at the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA). This year is particularly special as we celebrate SAA's 35th anniversary,

a milestone that represents years of dedication, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to strengthening Africa's response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other emerging infections.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of leading an organization that remains truly African-led and owned, working alongside governments, researchers, civil society, pharmaceutical companies and key global partners such as WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA and others. Through the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), we hosted over 300,000 delegates, providing a platform for dialogue, policy development, and research that continues to shape the future of public health across the continent.

Throughout my time at SAA, I have witnessed the incredible impact of our collective efforts, from strengthening health systems to influencing policy changes that have improved lives across Africa. The journey has not been without challenges, but each obstacle has only reinforced the importance of collaboration, resilience, and innovation in tackling public health crises.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the support of our Board members (both

past and present), our dedicated team, consultants, and partners who have walked this path with us. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping SAA's legacy and ensuring that African voices remain at the forefront of global health discussions.

This year's anniversary is made even more significant as we prepare to host the 23rd ICASA in Ghana, a country with deep historical ties to SAA. While this will be the first time ICASA is held in Ghana, it holds even greater significance because the ICASA International Secretariat is based here. At the same time, we celebrate this 35th Anniversary, we are still dependent on foreign aid to strengthen our health system in Africa.

We stand at a crossroads where all the progress we've made in the fight against the HIV pandemic could be lost if our community fails to take ownership of our response and commits to ending the pandemic.

When international support is withdrawn, essential services targeted at HIV prevention, treatment, research and education are the first to suffer. The risk of reversing decades of progress is at stake. Africa must lead and champion building self-reliant and a sustainable health system.

In line with the AU's agenda 2063, this goal will only be possible if we sustain our current gains and innovate in domestic financing.

Accountability and transparency must be the foundation of shifting the paradigm from dependency to ownership of our health systems in Africa.

This cannot be achieved if we continue to uphold discriminatory laws that deny access to care for many vulnerable populations.



Proposed SAA Ultramodern Headquarters Project

- International Radio and TV stations which will aid broadcast activities of SAA, advocate and host programs which will strengthen the health system in Africa,
- A conference facility to host five hundred (500) people.
- A dialysis and Fitness Centre support people with nephrological conditions.
- Office spaces for rent and guest house.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES / DIRECTORS



Prof. Robert Soudre
Burkina Faso



Dr. Meskerem Grunitzky
Ethiopia



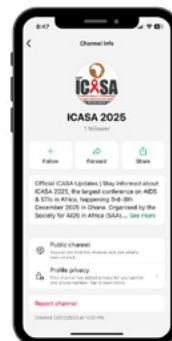
Prof. Sheila Tlou
Botswana



Dr. Ihab Ahmed
Egypt

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ABOUT ICASA 2025!

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channel on WhatsApp**



SAA GOVERNING COUNCIL 2022-2025



Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, President



Professor Mohamed Chakroun, Vice President



Dr. Aliou Sylla, Secretary-General



Dr. Nonhlanhla Ignatia Ndlovu, Deputy Secretary-General



Prof. Morenike O. Ukpong, Treasurer



Dr. Emmy J. Chesire, Member



Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, Member

KEY MESSAGES FROM BOARD MEMBERS TO CONSTITUENTS



Prof. Mohamed Chakroun,
SAA Vice President,
Tunisia, Northern Africa

Dear SAA Constituents,

In this difficult, changing and unpredictable funding landscape, it's time to act.

We need to act quickly and effectively, with a clear and precise vision.

In this context, building a resilient health system means placing greater emphasis on mobilising domestic funding, integration, efficiency, innovation, accountability and operational research.

Of course, we must continue to pay due attention to the quality of health services with the respect for human rights and gender equality, and to strengthening community involvement.

"Together, we can achieve our goal of ending the HIV epidemic on time".



Dr Aliou Sylla,
SAA Secretary-General
Mali, Western Africa

Dear SAA Constituents,

The current situation is one of fear that should call for the responsibility of States. This atmosphere of fear, coupled with the prevailing uncertainty, arises three years after the publication of the UNAIDS report titled "In Danger."

However, the present danger, extending beyond the effects of COVID-19 on our healthcare systems, threatens to undo several decades of progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including in research and innovation.

More alarmingly, it risks triggering a resurgence

of the epidemic, with a corresponding loss of human lives. In light of this, I believe it is of utmost importance to seize the opportunity to revisit alternative funding mechanisms—be they regional, national, or local—so as to sustain essential services, and to ensure continued investment in research and innovation. The lives of millions are at stake.

The 35th anniversary of the SAA presents a significant opportunity to call for the collective mobilization of intellectual, emotional, and scientific resources from leaders, researchers, scientific communities, and policymakers. Such collaboration is essential to establishing a sustainable, resilient, and long-lasting health system in Africa—one that is built by Africans, for Africans, and with Africans.



Prof. Morenike O Ukpong,
SAA Treasurer
Nigeria, Western Africa

Dear SAA Constituents,

Amid evolving HIV trends and shifting health system dynamics in Africa, SAA remains committed to driving impactful change.

With increasing challenges such as treatment gaps, prevention setbacks, and health system pressures, our role in advocating for sustainable solutions is crucial.

We continue to support innovative strategies, promote equitable healthcare access, and strengthen partnerships to improve outcomes across the continent.

Together, we can accelerate progress toward ending HIV as a public health threat and building resilient health systems for all.

Thank you for your dedication and partnership.



Dr. Emmy J. Chesire,
SAA Board Member
Kenya, Eastern Africa

Dear SAA Constituents,

The clarion call for Ending AIDS by 2030 still stands. This can only be achieved if we drastically reduce new HIV infections, maintain treatment and ensure uptake for those affected and for each person to know their HIV status.

Amidst dwindling funds in the HIV response, an overwhelmed health system, and increased new HIV infections among adolescents and young people, we still need to maintain the gains made and stop new infections. As SAA, we are open, available and aspire to support the young people to come up with innovative ways of taming the AIDS pandemic.

We therefore need concerted efforts, if we are to end AIDS in the continent of Africa by 2030.



Mr. Niyi Ojuolape,
SAA Board Member
Nigeria, Western Africa

Dear SAA Constituents,

As we navigate the evolving landscape of HIV and health systems in Africa, the recent withdrawal of USAID's support presents both challenges and opportunities. While this shift may strain resources, it reinforces the need for innovative, sustainable, and locally driven solutions to sustain the progress we have made. The integration of advanced technologies strengthened health systems, and community-led initiatives remains pivotal in achieving an AIDS-free generation. SAA is committed to fostering collaboration, advocating for equitable access to care, and addressing emerging trends such as the intersection of HIV and non-communicable diseases. Together, we can turn this challenge into a catalyst for resilience, self-reliance, and renewed commitment to ensuring no one is left behind.



Dr. Nonhlanhla I. Ndlovu,
Deputy Secretary-General
South Africa, Southern Africa

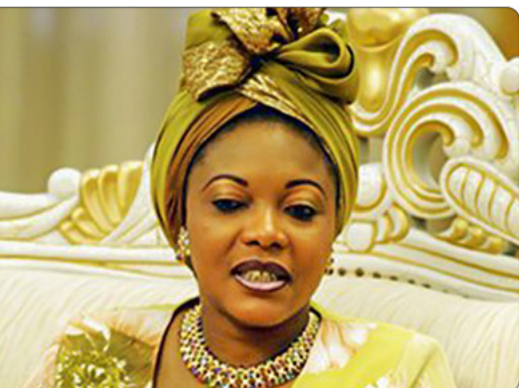
SAA constituents across the World and in Africa:

The recent challenges for the HIV response particularly on funding for HIV is not the end of our fight against HIV and AIDS.

As a continent, it calls for unity and innovation. Let us invest in homegrown initiatives, mobilize domestic resources, and collaborate to ensure that no one is left behind.

Our resilience has carried us through many storms—this is another moment to stand together, support one another. We have spoken about the locally led response; these include; **Strengthening Local Healthcare Systems; Expanding Community-Led HIV Programs; Embracing Innovation ; Increasing Domestic Funding and Youth Engagement & Education** but not limited to these only.

Society for AIDS in Africa provides a platform for that Unity in purpose. Africa has always risen to challenges with strength and unity. Let this be our moment.



SOCIETY FOR AIDS IN AFRICA PRESENTS :

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ONLY FOR YOUNG AFRICAN FEMALE RESEARCHERS



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FOR MORE INFORMATION



CLOSING SESSION OF THE 32ND SAA BOARD MEETING – BENIN REPUBLIC



In the middle is the Benin Minister of Health, Prof. Benjamin Hounkpatin and SAA Executive Board members and members of the Diplomatic corps during the closing of the 32nd Session of SAA board meeting at Golden Tulip, Benin

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) concluded its 32nd Executive Board Meeting with a cocktail dinner on 11th May 2024 at the Golden Tulip Hotel, Benin. The event brought together dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, and key stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including Hon. Prof. Benjamin Hounkpatin, Minister of Health of the Republic of Benin, and Madam Valentine Kiki Medegan, representing the Head of State on health initiatives.

Addressing Challenges and Strengthening Commitment

Mr. Néhémie Kakpo, representing the Benin Network of Associations of People Living with HIV/AIDS, highlighted stigma and discrimination as persistent barriers in the fight against HIV, even within healthcare settings. He urged the Benin government to intensify efforts towards achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets and called for greater financial commitment, referencing the African Union's 15% health budget allocation pledge, which Benin has yet to meet.

SAA President, Hon. Dr. David Parirenyatwa, commended Benin's progress towards the 95-95-95 goals, urging the government to sustain momentum towards zero new infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths. He emphasised the need for strong domestic financing and innovative funding mechanisms to sustain Africa's HIV response. He also praised the Benin Parliament for its non-discriminatory stance, encouraging continued advocacy to ensure universal access to prevention, testing, and treatment.

Minister of Health, Hon. Prof. Benjamin Hounkpatin, reiterated Benin's commitment to combating HIV/AIDS and ensuring access to care for vulnerable populations. He called for regional collaboration and sustained leadership to achieve an AIDS-free Africa, highlighting the importance of inclusive policies and community engagement.

ICASA and SAA's Role in the HIV Response

Dr. Aliou Sylla, SAA Secretary General, provided insights into the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) and the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). He outlined SAA's governance structure, financial transparency, and ICASA's role in mobilising high-level political commitment. He highlighted the impact of ICASA, which has reached over 500,000 attendees across past conferences, and stressed the need for public-private



partnerships to strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS. He also introduced plans for an ultra-modern SAA headquarters, seeking donor and government support.

Prof. Morenike Ukpong, SAA Treasurer, chaired the event and expressed gratitude to Hon. Prof. Benjamin Hounkpatin, the Government of Benin, and President Patrice Talon for their leadership in the HIV response. She also acknowledged the SAA Executive Board, diplomatic representatives, and participants across Africa for their dedication to achieving an AIDS-free continent.

The event underscored the collective responsibility of governments, civil society, and international partners in sustaining the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa.



Group photograph at the SAA Board cocktail dinner at Golden Tulip Hotel, Benin Republic

SAA STRATEGIC PLAN, 2023-2027

As part of our vision to end HIV and AIDS as a pandemic and mitigate the impact of other emerging diseases in Africa, SAA launched its 2023 - 2027 Strategic Plan to provide a clear focus for its activities.

SAA's goal is to contribute towards the UNAIDS targets and the AU Catalytic Framework by:

- Achieving the 95-95-95 targets by 2025
- Ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030
- Supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063
- Strengthening health systems in Africa to advance the Sustainable Development Goals for health

Strategic Objectives (2023 - 2027)

SAA's strategic objectives are structured under three thematic areas:

A. Institutional Capacity and Governance Systems Strengthening

1. Mobilise financial resources for SAA to implement the activities in the Strategic Plan.
2. Expand the focus of SAA to other emerging infectious diseases.
3. Increase SAA's visibility and membership.
4. Finalise the acquisition of the land and plan for building the SAA Secretariat.

B. Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy for Health Systems Strengthening

5. Collaborate with institutions to strengthen health institutions and civil society organisations in Africa to respond to and manage infectious diseases.
6. Strengthen partnerships and collaborations with Governments, research institutions and international bodies to respond adequately to HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and other emerging infections in Africa.
7. Advocate for resource mobilization to prevent and respond to HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and other emerging infections in Africa.

C. Research, Knowledge Management and Strategic Information Sharing

8. Harness and disseminate evidence-based information on HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and other emerging infections' management and control for Africa.
9. Expand focus of activities to include sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and non-communicable diseases.
10. Strengthen SAA's organisational capacity to undertake effective communication and knowledge management on HIV, tuberculosis, malaria

and other emerging infections.

Progress and Achievements (2025 Update)

As we progress through our 2023-2027 strategic plan, we are proud to share key milestones that reflect our ongoing commitment to strengthening partnerships, expanding knowledge-sharing platforms, and advancing scientific discourse in the fight against HIV/AIDS and related health challenges.

1. Launch of the SAA Mentorship Programme

The SAA Mentorship Programme was officially launched on March 1, 2025, following a final meeting with mentors on February 12, 2025, to establish the program's guiding principles. This initiative will provide mentorship opportunities exclusively for registered SAA members, further strengthening our membership base. The inaugural program will run from March 1 to May 30, 2025.

2. Progress Towards Establishing the SAA Scientific Journal

SAA's vision of launching a dedicated scientific journal is becoming a reality. Under the leadership of Prof. Morenike Ukpong, Prof. Mohamed Chakroun, Prof. Seni Kouanda, and Dr. Munya Saruchera, significant strides have been made, including:

- The formation of the Journal Oversight Committee (JOC).
- The ongoing selection of the editorial board.
- Outreach to past ICASA oral abstract awardees, with seven researchers committed to publishing in the Journal of SAA (JSAA) and three manuscripts already submitted.

SAA aims to register the journal by the end of February 2025 with OASIS as the publisher, in preparation for an official launch during the ICASA 2025 2nd International Steering Committee (ISC) meeting in March in Ghana.

3. Knowledge Sharing Through Webinars

In 2024, SAA successfully hosted three high-impact webinars in collaboration with key global health partners. These webinars provided a platform for crucial discussions on pressing health issues:

MPOX: Community Responses and Lessons Learned

Partner: WHO AFRO

Participants: 1,260 (368 online)

Countries Represented: 78

Triple Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B, and Syphilis & ICASA 2023 MENA Report

Partners: WHO AFRO, UNICEF

Participants: 1,734 (427 online)

Countries Represented: 87

Domestic Resourcing of HIV Response within the Emerging Health Financing Framework in Nigeria

Partners: UNAIDS, Peer Review Forum, CSO Accountability Forum, NACA

Participants: 505 (216 online)

Countries Represented: 40

4. Strategic Engagements at International Conferences

SAA actively participated in the IAS Conference in Germany (2024), where key engagements included:

- Addressing concerns from activist groups regarding the hosting of ICASA 2025.
- Discussions with pharmaceutical companies on inclusivity and human rights issues in the host country.
- A SAA booth that attracted significant attention, facilitating partnership discussions and early registrations for ICASA 2025.

5. Strengthening Global and Regional Partnerships

SAA has reinforced its collaboration with UN agencies and regional bodies, ensuring continued support for its initiatives. Key achievements include:

- Renewed partnerships with UNAIDS, UNFPA, WHO, and UNICEF in 2024.
- Successful engagement with AU, ECOWAS, and SADC, further expanding SAA's influence.
- Strong ties with over 200 pharmaceutical companies, enhancing resource mobilization for upcoming programs.

6. Hosting of ICASA 2023 in Zimbabwe

The 22nd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA 2023), hosted by SAA in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe, was a resounding success:

- Participation: 8,118 attendees from 105 countries.
- Venue: Rainbow Towers Hotel and International Conference Centre, Zimbabwe.

- **Theme: “AIDS IS NOT OVER: Address Inequalities, Accelerate Inclusion and Innovation.”**
- Hybrid Format: Enabled wider participation and engagement across multiple platforms for 1571 virtual delegates.
- Conference Report: Published on the newly revamped SAA website and disseminated publicly.

As we move forward, SAA remains committed to fostering scientific excellence, expanding partnerships, advocating for inclusive and sustainable health solutions as well as strengthening health systems across Africa. We look forward to more milestones as we continue implementing our 2023-2027 strategic plan.

ICASA 2023 IN FOCUS



The 22nd International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA 2023) was successfully held in Harare, Zimbabwe,

from December 4-9, 2023. Under the theme “AIDS IS NOT OVER: Address Inequalities, Accelerate Inclusion and Innovation,” the conference brought together 8,118 delegates from 105 countries, including scientists, policy-makers, and advocates committed to strengthening Africa’s response to HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

For the first time in the post-COVID era, ICASA was held in a fully hybrid format, with 1,571 virtual participants joining online. The six-day event featured:

- 815 poster exhibitions
- 78 oral presentations
- 23 pre-conference events
- 67 satellite sessions
- 19 non-abstract-driven sessions
- 13 special sessions
- 8 skill-building workshops

The discussions built on the progress made since ICASA 2021, shifting from pandemic recovery efforts to concrete strategies for achieving an HIV-free Africa by 2030. Key topics included expanding vaccine manufacturing, increasing domestic financing through public-private partnerships, and strengthening health systems to eliminate Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission (eMTCT).

ICASA 2023 OBJECTIVES

1. Mainstream respect for equity, inclusion and diversity in the control and mitigation of the impact of diseases.
2. Sustain and increase domestic financing and community response.
3. Respond to HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, Monkey-pox, Ebola and any other emerging diseases.
4. Mitigate the impact of Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and Malaria through health systems strengthening.
5. Generate and provide evidence-based data for policy formulation

ICASA 2023 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Programmatic Recommendations

A) Health Financing & Sustainability

- Expand domestic financing for HIV/AIDS by implementing Universal Health Coverage and innovative financing models.
- Increase public-private partnerships (PPPs) to ensure sustainable HIV funding and reduce donor dependence.
- Implement debt-to-health swap agreements to channel financial resources into health programs.
- Scale up investment in research and development (R&D) for local vaccine production and medical innovation.

B) HIV Prevention & Treatment

- Strengthen elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (eMTCT) by scaling up integrated maternal and child health services.
- Expand PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) delivery by using differentiated models such as private pharmacies and community-based distribution.
- Improve pediatric HIV treatment by increasing access to optimized ART regimens and addressing adherence challenges.
- Promote integration of HIV, TB, Malaria, and Hepatitis services for more efficient health delivery.
- Ensure universal viral load suppression by scaling up differentiated ART delivery models and adherence support.
- Improve access to long-acting HIV prevention tools (injectable PrEP, monoclonal antibodies, and vaccines).

C) Community Engagement & Inclusion

- Expand community-led monitoring (CLM) to improve accountability in health service delivery.
- Reduce stigma and discrimination by reforming laws and policies that criminalize key populations (LGBTQIA+, sex workers, people who use drugs).
- Strengthen faith-based engagement to bridge the gap between faith and science in HIV programming.
- Recognize the role of women and youth in HIV response by ensuring their leadership in decision-making spaces.
- Strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) by ensuring accessibility in all HIV programs and policies.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation Recommendations

A) Data Collection & Surveillance

- Strengthen active monitoring and testing for resistant HIV strains, particularly resistance to NRTIs and NNRTIs.
- Improve pharmacovigilance of Dolutegravir (DTG)-based ART to ensure long-term safety and effectiveness.
- Expand self-testing for HIV and Hepatitis with widely available and affordable oral and blood-based kits.
- Enhance real-time data use in HIV programs, including AI-driven monitoring for precision responses.

Improve tracking of pediatric HIV infections to close the treatment gap between children and adults.

B) Performance Measurement & Reporting

- Monitor and report on the 5 WHO priority indicators for Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) ART (multi-month dispensing, retention, viral suppression, etc.).
- Use stigma and discrimination index data to inform targeted interventions and develop national policies.
- Strengthen pandemic preparedness frameworks by setting measurable targets and improving accountability.
- Implement electronic medical records (EMRs) across all HIV service facilities to improve efficiency and data accuracy.

3. Registration and Logistics Recommendations - Planning & Resource Allocation

- Secure early funding commitments from donors, governments, and private sector partners.
 - Ensure timely selection of host country and venue with adequate infrastructure for hybrid participation.
- Enhance delegate sponsorship and scholarship programs to ensure diverse participation, especially from key populations, youth, and women

4. Conference Logistics and Execution Recommendations

- Improve visa processing and on-site registration to prevent delays for international delegates.
- Ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities by providing sign language interpreters, braille materials, and disability-friendly venues.
- Enhance virtual participation by integrating high-quality digital plat-



forms for remote attendees.

- Optimize security and health measures to ensure delegate safety, inclusive of COVID-19 and other health safety protocols.

Outstanding Abstract Awards

The African Union sponsored \$1,000 awards for the best abstracts in each track:

- Track A: Madame Edwige Hermione Dagba Gbessin (Benin)
- Track B: Dr. Nkazimulo Immaculate Tshuma (Zimbabwe)
- Track C: Mr. Wayne Otieno (Kenya)
- Track D: Miss Princess Rudo Mharire (Zimbabwe)
- Track E: Dr. Clorata Gwanzura (Zimbabwe)

ICASA 2023, organised in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe, reaffirmed Africa's commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The conference highlighted the importance of scientific innovation, strong leadership, and collaboration in driving progress.

With just a few years left to meet global HIV targets, the insights gained from ICASA 2023 will guide continued efforts to strengthen Africa's health systems, advance research, and ensure no one is left behind.



23RD
ICASA
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON AIDS AND STIs IN AFRICA
3 - 8 DECEMBER 2025



ICASA 2025 Ghana

Early Registration

3rd March to 30th May 2025

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AFRICA FIRST LADIES HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AT ICASA 2023 CONFERENCE



Addressing the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (eMTCT) and Elimination of New-born Infections in Africa

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

Despite global progress in HIV prevention, thousands of infants in Africa are still born with the virus due to gaps in healthcare access and maternal treatment. Recognizing the need for urgent action, African First Ladies, policymakers, and global health leaders gathered in Victoria Falls to renew their commitment to eliminating Paediatric HIV and new-born infections by 2030.

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) and the Organisation of African First Ladies for Development (OAFI), in collaboration with national and international partners, convened this high-level meeting to strengthen political commitment and partnerships in the fight against vertical transmission of HIV and other preventable infections.

Key Objectives of the Meeting

- Highlight the leadership role of African First Ladies in advancing maternal and child health initiatives.
- Strengthen partnerships with global and regional stakeholders, including the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children.
- Renew commitments to eliminating vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B.

Dignitaries in Attendance

The meeting was held under the patronage of the First Ladies of Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, and Nigeria, with representatives from Angola, Burundi, and Egypt. Also in attendance were senior officials from the Ministries of Health and Tourism, the Executive Director of UNAIDS, the WHO Representative to Zimbabwe, and the Executive Director of the National AIDS Council of Zimbabwe.

In his opening remarks, Dr. David Parirenyatwa, President of SAA, commended the commitment of First Ladies and Zimbabwe's government in leading efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). Zimbabwe's Minister of Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Matabeleland North, Hon. Richard Moyo, welcomed delegates, while the WHO reinforced its commitment to scaling up interventions to end Paediatric HIV.

A powerful keynote address by the First Lady of Zimbabwe reiterated OA-FLAD's dedication to ending HIV/AIDS, particularly among women and children. She called for intensified efforts to end Paediatric HIV by 2030, emphasizing the importance of advocacy, partnerships, and resource mobilization.

Panel Discussions and Key Outcomes

The first panel, moderated by Ms. Lydia Zigomo of UNFPA, focused on global and regional initiatives, particularly the Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children by 2030. Presentations from WHO and UNICEF highlighted concerning trends:

- 50% of new pediatric HIV infections occur in just 11 high-burden countries.
- Low rates of antiretroviral therapy (ART) coverage and viral suppression among children hinder progress.
- The need for enhanced data use, expanded maternal HIV prevention,

and improved care retention for HIV-positive mothers and infants.

- Michael Ruffner, a representative of PEPFAR, addressed health financing for the elimination of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B. He stressed the urgency of sustainable funding, community-based care models, and integrating maternal health services for long-term success.

The second panel, moderated by Ms. Etleva Kadilli of UNICEF, showcased national strategies from participating First Ladies and country representatives:

- **Zimbabwe:** Strengthening gender equality, reducing gender-based violence, and increasing male involvement in maternal health. Efforts also include supporting adolescent mothers and transitioning female sex workers into alternative livelihoods.
- **Botswana:** Surpassing the 95-95-95 targets and advancing towards 100-100-100, backed by strong political leadership and partnerships.
- **Mozambique:** Reducing HIV prevalence and adolescent infections through multisectoral interventions, including vocational training for young girls and combating early marriages.
- **Nigeria:** Launching the “Renewed Hope Initiative”, focusing on health, economic empowerment, education, and social welfare.
- **Angola, Burundi, and Egypt:** Highlighting national campaigns like Egypt’s “100 Million Healthy Lives” initiative and Angola’s mobile health project. Egypt’s success in eliminating hepatitis C was also commended.

The meeting concluded with Dr. Nardos Berhanu, Executive Secretary of OAFLAD, summarizing key recommendations. Stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to scaling up efforts and mobilizing domestic resources to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission and new-born infections by 2030.

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ICASA 2025 – GHANA WINS BID TO HOST ICASA FROM 3-8 DECEMBER 2025



Signing of the MoU under the auspices of H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana at the Jubilee House, Accra, 2nd October 2024

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) is delighted to announce that Ghana has been selected as the host country for the 23rd edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), which will take place in from 3rd to 8th December 2025 at the Accra International Conference Centre. This prestigious event will convene global leaders, community, researchers, advocates, and healthcare professionals to further the continent's fight against HIV/AIDS, STIs, Hepatitis, Malaria, TB, emerging viral

infections and strengthening Africa's Health systems.

Since its inception in 1989, SAA has been at the forefront in providing a global platform for Africa's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. ICASA has become a landmark event, bringing together thousands of delegates from across the globe to share insights, research, and strategies to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic and emerging viral diseases on the African continent.

Over 8118 delegates from over 105 countries attended ICASA 2023 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Ghana's selection marks its first time hosting the conference. This 23rd edition of ICASA will be hosted in West Africa to mark the 35th Anniversary of Society for AIDS in Africa.

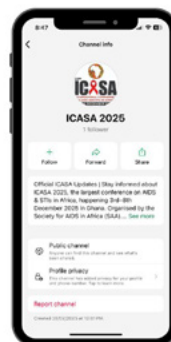
The choice of Ghana as the ICASA 2025 host is a testament to the country's leadership through H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana. The selection process was highly competitive, with Ghana's bid emerging as successful due to its demonstrated exceptional dedication to addressing HIV/AIDS challenges in the West African sub region.

ICASA 2025 in Accra will be a pivotal moment in advancing Africa's health systems towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global goal of ending new HIV infections by 2030 and advancing the AU Agenda 2063.

The Society for AIDS In Africa extends its deepest gratitude to the Government of Ghana for its unwavering support and commitment to hosting this important event. ICASA 2025 promises to build on the successes of previous editions and further mobilize Africa and the international community in the global effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

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ICASA 2025 1ST INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (ISC) MEETING IN ACCRA, GHANA



Group photograph of ISC members, Alisa Hotel, Accra - Ghana

The 1st International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting for ICASA 2025, held on November 28-29, 2024, at Alisa Hotel, Accra, Ghana, marked a significant milestone in the journey towards hosting the 23rd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). Chaired by Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, ICASA 2025 President, and graced by the representative of Hon. Dr. Bernard Okoe-Boye, Ghana's Minister for Health, the meeting brought together key stakeholders to finalise some major components of the conference.

Key Outcomes of the ISC Meeting

1. Selection of ICASA 2025 Logo

After receiving 52 submissions, Joshua Esemadafe from Nigeria emerged as the winner of the ICASA 2025 Logo Competition. Following validation by 104 participants, minor enhancements were made to refine the final design.

2. Finalisation of Theme and Objectives

From an initial 167 theme proposals, a rigorous selection process led to the adoption of the official theme: ***“Africa in Action: Catalyzing Integrated Sustainable Responses to End AIDS, TB, and Malaria.”***

Accompanying this theme are five key objectives aimed at accelerating progress towards the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets and strengthening Africa’s health systems.

3. Validation of Plenary Topics

The ISC approved 15 plenary topics across three key programmatic areas: Scientific, Leadership, and Community Engagement. These sessions will focus on advancements in therapeutics, digital innovation, pandemic preparedness, health equity, and the intersection of climate change and health.

4. Call for Concurrent Sessions

The secretariat announced a call for session proposals from January 27 to March 15, 2025. Programme committees are expected to submit proposals for workshops, non-abstract-driven sessions, and special sessions, each featuring three speakers.

5. ICASA 2025 Key Dates

The meeting established a roadmap for upcoming milestones, including:

- Abstract submissions: March 1 – May 30, 2025
- Early registration: March 1 – May 30, 2025
- Regular registration: June 1 – August 31, 2025
- Late registration: September 1 – October 31, 2025
- ICASA 2025 Conference: December 3-8, 2025

6. Call for ICASA 2027 Host Country Bids

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) officially opened the bid process for ICASA 2027. African countries interested in hosting the 24th edition of the conference must submit their application documents by July 31, 2025.

Looking Ahead: Next Steps

- Second ISC Meeting (March 28-29, 2025): Validation of concurrent sessions and adoption of the draft budget.
- Marathon Meeting (August 18-21, 2025): Finalisation of conference logistics, program details, and speaker confirmations.
- ICASA 2025 Online Program Launch (September 15, 2025).

ICASA 2025 LOGO WINNER



NAME: JOSHUA ESEMEDAFE

COUNTRY: NIGERIA

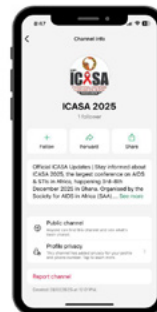
Out of 52 logos received, the logo below emerged as the best logo to represent ICASA 2025 Conference. 104 participants, after validating the selection of the logo, called for amelioration of the logo. See below the updated logo based on the recommendation of the 1st ISC meeting.



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ICASA 2025 2ND INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (ISC) MEETING IN ACCRA, GHANA



Group photograph of ISC members, Alisa Hotel, Accra - Ghana

The 2nd International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting for ICASA 2025 was held on March 28-29, 2025, at Alisa Hotel, Accra, Ghana. Over 100 key stakeholders and members of the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) gathered to discuss critical updates and progress regarding the upcoming conference. Key attendees included Hon. Dr. David P. Parirenyatwa, President of ICASA 2025 and SAA; Mr. Luc Armand Bodea, SAA Coordinator and ICASA Director; Prof. Mohamed Chakroun, SAA Vice President; Dr. Khar-macelle Prosper Akanbong, Director General of the Ghana AIDS Commission; and Dr. Franklin Asiedu-Bekoe, Director of Public Health at the Ghana Health Service.

This meeting marked an essential step in preparing for ICASA 2025 by reviewing progress since the first ISC meeting in November 2024, identifying emerging challenges, and realigning strategic priorities for the next phase of the conference. The discussions primarily focused on project milestones, resource mobilisation, and the overall direction for ICASA 2025.

Key Outcomes of the 2nd ISC Meeting:

- 1. Selection of ICASA 2025 Plenary Topics and Speakers:** The conference will feature high-profile speakers discussing key topics on advancing therapeutics for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (ATM), innovative biomedical interventions, and the intersection of climate change with these diseases.
- 2. Non-Abstract Driven Sessions:** These sessions will cover topics such as molecular characterisation of emerging infections, HIV drug resistance, and epidemiological profiles of STIs in Africa, focusing on pressing issues facing health systems in Africa.
- 3. Special Sessions:** These will tackle urgent concerns such as HIV and aging, gender-based violence, mental health, and substance abuse, exploring their impact on African health systems.
- 4. Workshops:** The conference will also host workshops on the One Health Concept, sexual and reproductive health for adolescents, and tuberculosis laboratory practices, aiming to provide hands-on knowledge for delegates.
- 5. Call for ICASA 2025 Abstract Reviewers:** The abstract submission process for ICASA 2025 is open till 30th May 2025, with reviewers being invited to assess submitted abstracts. Reviewers will receive a 10% discount on registration for the conference and certificates of participation.
- 6. Call for ICASA 2027 Host Country Bids:** ICASA 2027, the 24th edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa, invites African countries to submit bids to host the event by July 31, 2025. Interested countries must demonstrate robust government support, financial commitment, availability of suitable conference venues, accommodation for up to 10,000 delegates, and infrastructure to ensure a successful event.

The 2nd ISC Meeting for ICASA 2025 in Accra marked a significant step in the preparation for what promises to be a transformative conference. As stakeholders come together to finalise plenary sessions, workshops, and special sessions, the meeting also set the stage for ICASA 2027 with the opening of the bidding process for host countries. With over 100 attendees, the ISC meeting reinforced the importance of collaborative efforts in tackling HIV, TB, and malaria in Africa and beyond.



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ICASA 2025 Storytelling Video Competition

Are you interested in fighting Stigma?

Here's your chance to share your story, inspire change, and win up to \$3,000 for first prize and \$2000 for second prize!

WHO CAN ENTER INTO THE COMPETITION

- PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (PLHIV)
- CATEGORY A - AGE 18-35
- CATEGORY B - AGE 36+
- FROM AFRICA OR THE DIASPORA

WHAT TO SUBMIT

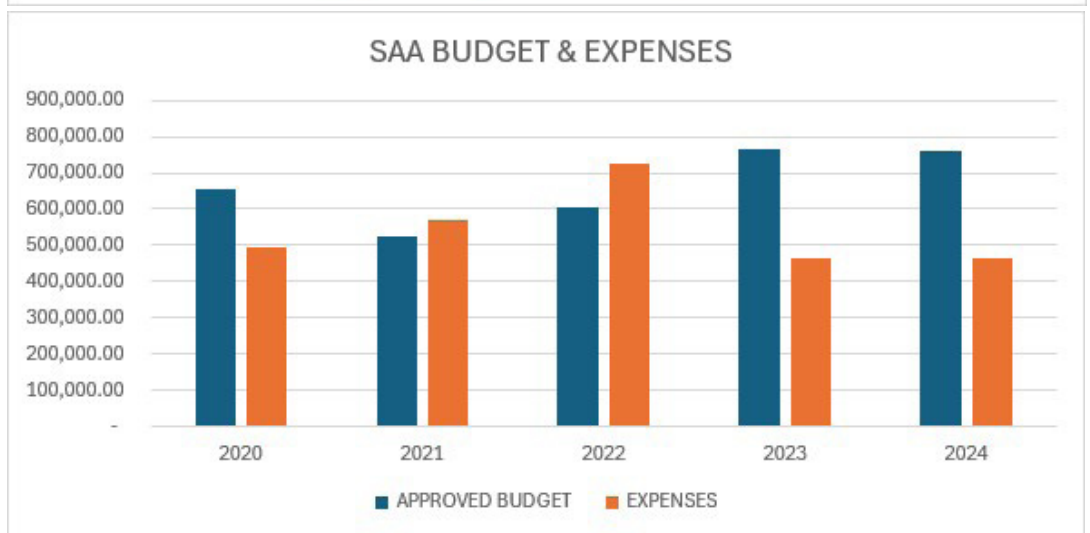
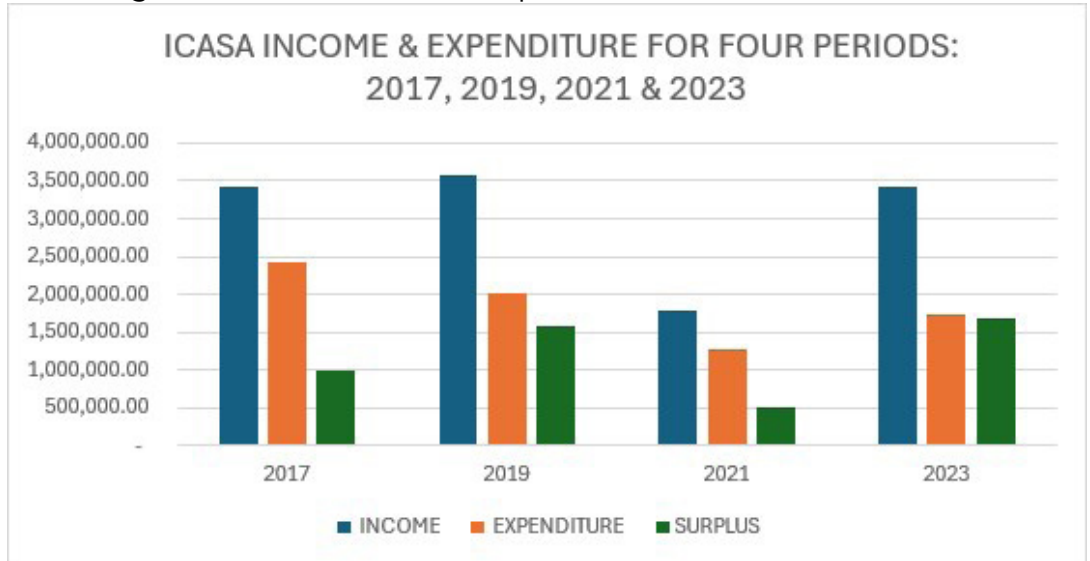
- A 4-MINUTE VIDEO SHARING YOUR PERSONAL HIV JOURNEY
- INCLUDE ENGLISH & FRENCH CAPTIONS
- SUBMIT IN MP4 OR MOV FORMAT

SUBMIT NOW DEADLINE JULY 31, 2025

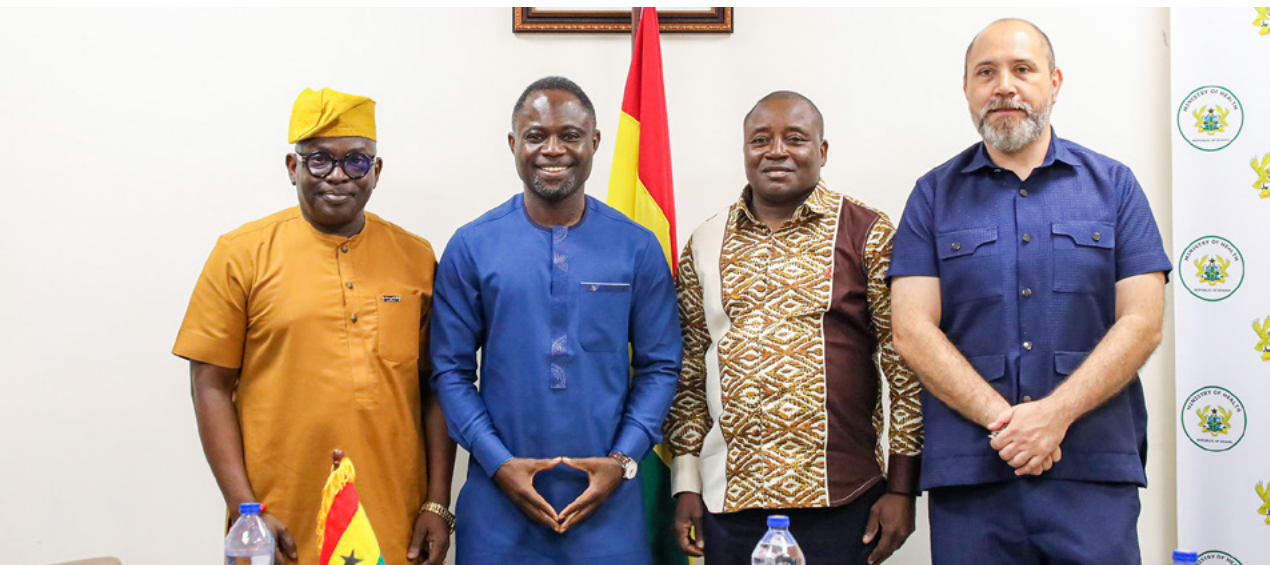


SAA/ICASA FINANCIAL STATUS 2017 – 2024 (USD)

Accountability and transparency are our guiding principles. PwC has been auditing ICASA account over the years. SAA ensures that we remain accountable to our donors, partners and all stakeholders. The graph below throws lights on our income and expenditure from 2017 to 2024.



INVITATIONAL BID TO HOST THE 24th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS AND STIs IN AFRICA (ICASA 2027)



From Left: Mr. Luc Armand H. Bodea, Director of ICASA, along with the Director-General of the Ghana AIDS Commission and UNAIDS Country Director for Ghana, Dr. Héctor Sucilla Pérez, paid a courtesy visit to Ghana's Minister for Health, Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, Accra, Ghana

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), represented by its President; Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, hereby invites African countries wishing to host the 24th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa in 2027 (ICASA 2027) to send in their application bid document to the SAA Secretariat in Accra- Ghana. The closing date for submission of the Application is Thursday, 31st July 2025.

Interested countries should submit a bid document of intent to the SAA Secretariat backed up with detailed proof of evidence of the following information:

1. Strong Government support: financial commitment and political will to host the conference.
 - Provide and financially support the Conference venue: Capacity

of Plenary rooms: 5000 seats with at least 7 break way rooms with a capacity from 150 to 1500 seats.

- Provide financial support for the local Secretariat working with the International secretariat.
 - Provide Scholarships for at least 500 local Participants.
2. Availability of standard hotels to accommodate up to 10,000 participants as well as conference venue(s) with standard conference facilities.
 3. Good transportation network within the country.
 4. Good telecommunication network within the host country with links to other African countries and international communities.
 5. Presence of cohorts of scientific, leadership, civil societies, organised groups of PLHIV, private sector, and youth organisations oriented towards HIV/AIDS-related activities.
 6. Easy access by air and by the road where needed.
 7. Recognizable presence of Government organ/body responsible for HIV/AIDS coordination in the country.
 8. Good security network to guarantee participants' safety.
 9. Guarantee easy visa facilities and assistance to conference participants and no restriction to entry for PLHIV, MSM and other minority groups.
 10. Political stability.
 11. No discriminatory government policies based on gender, HIV status and religion.

The detailed bid document of intent backed up with evidence should reach the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) Permanent Secretariat both by email, attachments and by courier services to the SAA President:

Society for AIDS in AFRICA

SAA Permanent Secretariat Accra

P. O. Box 2072,

Plot Container 58 Otano Estates,

Behind NHTC, Adjiringanor, East Legon, Accra- Ghana

Mob: (+ 233) 54 37 48 78 1

Office Line: (+ 233) 30 39 36 814

Email: ICASA2027bid@saafrica.org

Website: www.saafrica.org



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ON AIDS AND STIs IN AFRICA
3 - 8 DECEMBER 2025

Africa in Action: Catalysing Integrated Sustainable Responses to end AIDS, TB & Malaria.
L'unité dans l'action: Promouvoir les systèmes de santé intégrés pour des réponses durables au Sida, à la Tuberculose et au Paludisme

REGISTRATION STEPS

This guide provides a step-by-step overview of the registration process for the ICASA 2025 Ghana conference, covering account creation, form completion, and payment.



1. Start Registration

Visit the registration page on the ICASA 2025 website and click on your preferred registration, create a new user account by entering your email address and password.

2. Complete the Registration Form

Enter your personal information, contact details, and other required information relevant to the conference and submit.



3. Finalise Payment

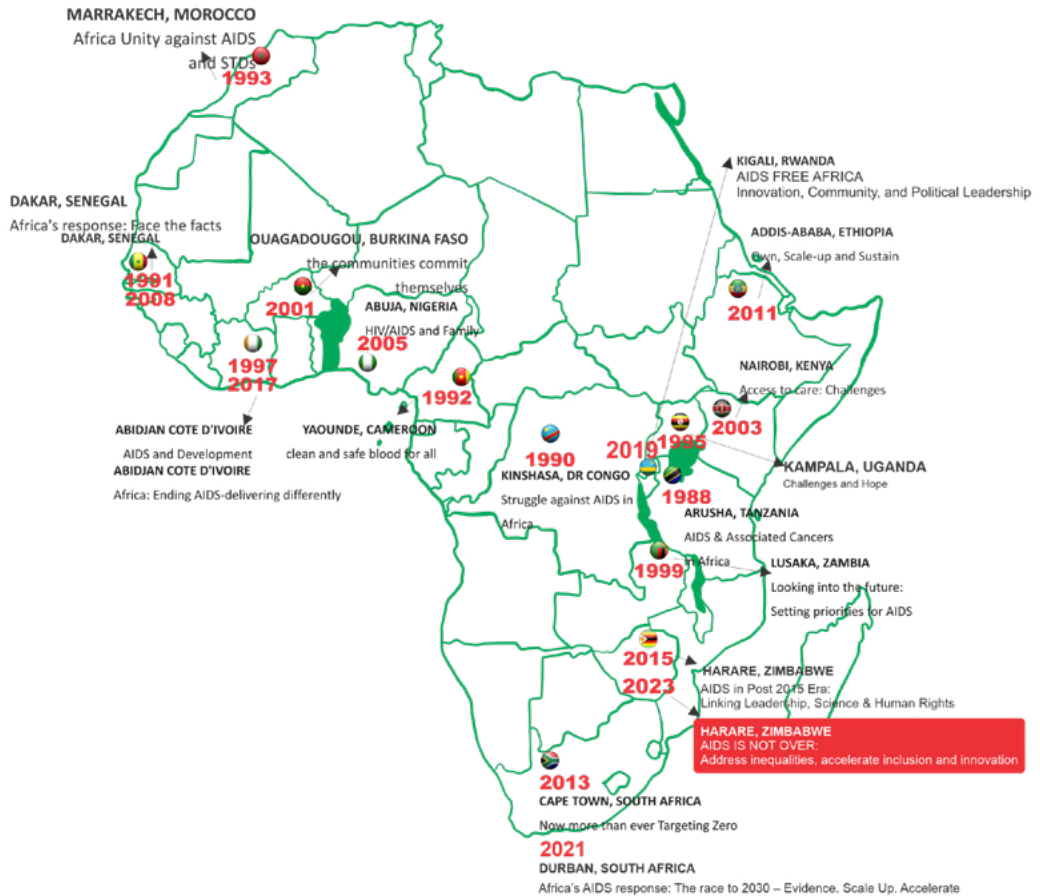
After submitting the form, check your email for confirmation notice with an invoice and instructions for making payment using your preferred methods.

Forgot Password: Look for a "forgot password" link if you can't log into your ICASA 2025 registration dashboard to receive a password reset link in your email.



For more information,
visit <http://casa2025.saafrica.org>

ICASA HISTORY MAP



ICASA 2025 Ghana

CALL FOR EXHIBITION

3rd March to 31st August 2025

Visit <http://icasa2025.saafrica.org> or WhatsApp us at +233 (0)55 657 6775





WHY ICASA?



SOCIO-CULTURAL IMPACT

ICASA brings diverse communities together, fostering collaboration and cultural exchange in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



ACADEMIC IMPACT

A global platform for researchers to share studies, exchange knowledge, and shape future health policies.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Boosts local economies by attracting international delegates, increasing tourism, and creating job opportunities.



IMPACT ON THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Drives policy discussions, strengthens healthcare infrastructure, and improves national health responses.

icasa2025.saafrica.org



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ICASA 2025 Ghana
Early Registration

3rd March to 30th May 2025



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NOW



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THE IMPACT OF ICASA ON HOST COUNTRIES AND THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

The International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) is one of the largest and most influential health conferences on the continent, bringing together policymakers, researchers, healthcare professionals, activists, and people affected by HIV/AIDS and STIs. The impact of hosting ICASA extends beyond the conference itself, influencing social, economic, academic, and health systems both within the host country and across Africa.

Impact on the Host Country

1. Economic Growth and Tourism Boost

Hosting ICASA injects millions into the local economy. The 2019 ICASA conference in Rwanda, for instance, attracted over 8,200 delegates, generating revenue through hotel bookings, transportation, food, and other services. This influx strengthens local businesses, from small vendors to high-end hospitality providers. To also contribute to the fight to ending HIV/AIDS, a percentage of the funds leftover from the event is given back to the host country towards the purchase of Anti-retroviral drugs for people living with HIV/AIDS

2. Infrastructure Development

The need for world-class conference facilities, hotels, and reliable transportation often leads to improvements in infrastructure.

3. Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange

ICASA serves as a training ground for local professionals. Workshops, panels, and research presentations equip healthcare providers, policymakers, and advocates with the latest advancements in HIV/AIDS and STI treatment and prevention.

4. Raising National Awareness

The media coverage and international conversations triggered by ICASA increase awareness of HIV/AIDS, STIs, and health strengthening system leading to stronger public engagement.

5. Psychic Income (Emotional and Psychological Benefits)

Hosting ICASA fosters national pride, as it positions the country as a leader in global health diplomacy. Citizens and professionals alike gain a sense of accomplishment and visibility on the world stage, reinforcing their commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS and to strengthen system in Africa.

Impact on the African Continent

1. Regional Collaboration and Networking

ICASA brings together over 150 countries, fostering cross-border partnerships in HIV/AIDS research, policy, and programming. This has led to the establishment of joint initiatives and strengthened regional frameworks for disease control.

2. Driving Research, Innovation and Policy

African researchers and Institutions use ICASA as a platform to showcase groundbreaking work, leading to increased funding and collaborations. Through collaborations with UN Systems, Agencies and African Regional bodies, ICASA also serves as a platform to drive policies.

3. Community Engagement and Mobilisation

ICASA amplifies the voices of communities affected by HIV/AIDS and STIs, ensuring that grassroots organisations, people living with HIV, and key populations have a platform to share experiences and advocate for change. The engagement of over 1000 community leaders in each conference strengthens local activism and mobilisation.

ICASA's impact on the host country and the African continent is profound and multifaceted. Economically, it stimulates revenue and infrastructure growth. Academically, it enhances research and knowledge exchange. Socially and politically, it elevates awareness, advocacy, and policy influence. Most importantly, it strengthens Africa's collective fight against HIV/AIDS and STIs, NCDs, emerging and re-emerging viral diseases, strengthening Africa's health systems and leaving a legacy of progress long after the conference ends.



ICASA 2025 Ghana

CALL FOR EXHIBITION

3rd March to 31st August 2025

Visit <http://icasa2025.saafrica.org> or WhatsApp us at +233 (0)55 657 6775



SAA PRESIDENT CALLS FOR A REGIONAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE FOREIGN AID CRISIS



Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa,
ICASA 2025 President/SAA President

The President of the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, has called on all stakeholders in Africa's health sector to convene and develop a regional strategy to address the ongoing foreign aid crisis.

In an interview with DW Africa, Dr. Parirenyatwa emphasized the urgent need for African nations to take decisive action in response to the recent executive order by former U.S. President Donald Trump, which has led to the suspension of critical foreign aid.

“Thank you very much, Josie. As you are aware, Trump’s decision calls for an urgent and heightened response from the African continent. At this juncture, it is crucial for our health ministers to convene an emergency meeting—whether at the SADC, ECOWAS, or AU level—to strategize on how to mitigate the impact of this funding withdrawal,” he stated.

Dr. Parirenyatwa stressed the importance of increasing domestic health funding to ensure that vulnerable populations, particularly those in rural areas, do not suffer devastating consequences due to the loss of external financial support.

“Our governments must look inward and reassess our financial priorities. We need to ask ourselves: Where are our resources? How can we reallocate funds to strengthen our health systems? We cannot continue relying on America or other foreign nations for support. This crisis should serve as a wake-up call for Africa to become self-sufficient in health financing.”

He further warned that without immediate intervention, essential health programs, including HIV/AIDS treatment, malaria prevention, and tuberculosis coverage, could face severe setbacks.

“The progress we have made in combating diseases such as HIV, malaria, and TB is at risk. Without sustained funding, we may experience shortages of condoms, essential medications, and critical health interventions. We must look to African philanthropists, our own governments, and our vast natural resources to bridge this financial gap. It is an urgent matter, and we must act now.”

Dr. Parirenyatwa concluded by urging African leaders to make health financing a top priority, emphasizing that sustainable solutions must come from within the continent.

Ghana AIDS Commission Acting Director General Pays Courtesy Visit to SAA Permanent Secretariat in Accra



Mr. Luc Armand H. Bodea, ICASA Director in a chat with Dr. Kharmacelle Prosper Akanbong, Acting Director General of the Ghana AIDS Commission

Dr. Kharmacelle Prosper Akanbong, Acting Director General of the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC), recently led a delegation on an official visit to the Permanent Secretariat of the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA). Accompanying him were key figures from GAC, including Mr. Isaiah Kwao, Director of Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation; Mr. Siddique Abdul Moomen, Director of Finance and Administration; Mr. John Eliasu Mahama, Acting Director of Public Policy; and Josephine Oppong-Adusah, Executive Assistant.

Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, President of SAA/ICASA 2025, extended a warm welcome to Dr. Akanbong on behalf of the SAA Executive Board and staff. In his speech, Dr. Parirenyatwa congratulated Dr. Akan-

bong on his appointment, acknowledging the weight of the responsibilities he now bears. He highlighted the challenges faced by the African health sector, particularly due to funding cuts and shifts in foreign aid policies, such as those introduced by the Trump administration. Dr. Parirenyatwa underscored the critical need to ensure the success of ICASA 2025, which is set to take place in Accra, Ghana. He expressed confidence that Dr. Akanbong's leadership would contribute meaningfully to the success of both the conference and the broader efforts to address AIDS in Africa.



Dr. Kharmacelle Prosper Akanbong,
Acting Director General, Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC)

In his remarks, Dr. Akanbong expressed sincere gratitude for the warm reception and recognized the monumental effort that secured Ghana's bid to host ICASA 2025. He acknowledged the extensive work ahead but expressed optimism about the potential for fruitful collaboration between the Ghana AIDS Commission and the Society for AIDS in Africa. He emphasized the importance of continued dialogue and partnership to achieve shared goals.

Mr. Luc Armand Bodea, ICASA Director, reiterated his excitement about collaborating with the Ghana AIDS Commission and the Government of Ghana to establish a seamless partnership for ICASA 2025. He highlighted the significance of ensuring effective coordination with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service, to ensure the smooth execution of the conference. Mr. Bodea then provided a detailed presentation on the SAA and ICASA, outlining the marketing strategy for ICASA 2025 and key conference dates.

The meeting concluded with productive discussions and the establishment of clear timelines for actionable outcomes. Both Dr. Akanbong and Mr. Bodea emphasized that Ghana, under the leadership of President H.E. John Dramani Mahama, is ready to welcome the global community to Accra for ICASA 2025, scheduled for December 3-8, 2025.



A group photograph after the meeting at Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA)/ICASA International Permanent Secretariat, Accra Ghana



SOCIETY FOR AIDS IN AFRICA MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Access to SAA Membership platform



Frequent electronic Membership update with the latest news



Access to personal page in the member's area for networking



Opportunity to decide the membership of the SAA Governing Council Election



Eligibility to be part of various ICASA Committee



5% discount on forthcoming ICASA for SAA paid registered members



Access to latest information on upcoming SAA Conferences



Access to past ICASA Abstracts



Participate in the pre-selection of ICASA host countries



SAA Membership Programme

SAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Personal Information and Contact Details

Title..... Address/Postal Address.....

Name

Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐ Other ☐ Email.....

Nationality.....Telephone.....

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Membership Category*	Annual Subscription
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Organization / Corporate	\$150 ☐
Student	\$10 ☐

Email: info@saafrica.org

Website: www.saafrica.org

2025 SAA/ICASA INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT



Mr. Luc Armand H. Bodea,
ICASA Director/SAA
Coordinator



**Madam Clemence
Assogba,** Head of Admin/
Finance



Chris Kwasi Nuatro,
Senior Marketing &
Partnership Officer



Gordon Tambro,
Senior Programme Officer



Marie - Noëlle Atta,
Satellite & Exhibition
Officer



Leslie Sodjinu,
Logistics & Operations
Officer



Emmanuel T. Kuadzi,
Web & Digital Platforms
Officer



Imelda Regine Tossa,
Administrative Assistant



Fidelis Elikplim Dei-Tutu,
Accountant

2025 SAA/ICASA INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT



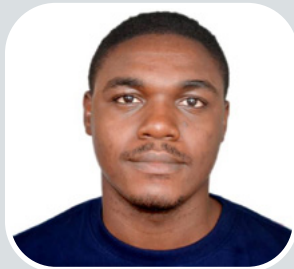
Davor Forgive,
ICASA 2023 Scholarship &
Group Registration Officer



Peace Fafa Efua Thonard,
Office Assistant and
ICASA Individual
Registration Officer



Solomon Acquah,
Registration IT Officer



Kingsford Osei,
IT Assistant / Consultant



**Eno Kwatemaa Antwi-
Boasiako,**
Social Media / Virtual
platform Assistant /
Consultant



James Affum,
Tax/Finance Consultant



Siaka Traore,
Translation Consultant



Assah Gustave,
Proofreading Consultant



Rev. Jane Nganga,
SAA Journal Consultant

2025 SAA/ICASA INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT



Richard Fischere Kwofie,
Early Warning Officer
in charge of Key Pop/
Consultant



Derick Ayitey,
Transport Specialist



Augustine Nyarko Vasco,
Transport Specialist



Samuel Agbesi,
Janitorial Specialist



Mavis P. Ablicson,
Janitorial Specialist



23RD ICASA
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON AIDS AND STIs IN AFRICA
3 - 8 DECEMBER 2025

ICASA 2025 Ghana

CALL FOR SATELLITE

3rd March to 31st August 2025

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23rd
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ON AIDS AND STIs IN AFRICA
3 - 8 DECEMBER 2025



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Vous souhaitez lutter contre la stigmatisation?

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- PERSONNES VIVANT AVEC LE VIH (PVVIH)
- CATÉGORIE A - ÂGE 18 - 35 ANS
- CATÉGORIE B - ÂGE 36 ANS ET PLUS
- PARTICIPANTS - AFRICAINS OU MEMBRES DE LA DIASPORA

EXIGENCES TECHNIQUES

- UNE VIDÉO DE 4 MINUTES PARTAGEANT VOTRE PARCOURS PERSONNEL AVEC LE VIH
- INCLURE DES SOUS-TITRES EN ANGLAIS ET EN FRANÇAIS
- SOUMETTRE LA VIDÉO AU FORMAT MP4 OU MOV

SOUMETTEZ MAINTENANT !
DATE LIMITE: 31 JUILLET 2025





CONFERENCE KEY DATES

KEY DATES	OPEN	CLOSE
Call for ICASA 2025 logo	12 th September 2024	18 th November 2024
Call for ICASA 2025 Thematics	12 th September 2024	25 th October 2024
1 st ISC meeting	28 th November 2024	29 th November 2024
Call for Abstract	1 st March 2025	30 th May 2025, 24.00 ^{GMT}
Early Registration	1 st March 2025	30 th May 2025, 24.00 ^{GMT}
2 nd ISC meeting	29 th March 2025	1 st April 2025
Call for Abstract Reviewers	3 rd February 2025	30 th May 2025
Regular Registration	1 st June 2025	31 st August 2025, 24.00 ^{GMT}
Exhibition Booking		
Exhibition - Early Bird Booking	1 st March 2025	31 st August 2025
Exhibition - Late Booking	Applies after 31 st August 2025	
Satellite Session Booking	1 st March 2025	31 st August 2025
Late Registration	1 st September 2025	31 st October 2025, 24.00 ^{GMT}
Scholarship Application	3 rd July 2025	31 st July 2025
Reviewing of Abstracts	7 th July 2025	7 th August 2025
Marathon Meeting	18 th August 2025	21 st August 2025
Notice of Acceptance, Abstract	25 th August 2025	29 th August 2025
Announcement of Recipient Scholarship	29 th August 2025	1 st September 2025
ICASA 2025 Online Programme	15 th September 2025	
ICASA 2025 Conference Date	3 rd December 2025	8 th December 2025



THEME:

AFRICA IN ACTION:

Catalysing Integrated Sustainable Responses to end AIDS, TB & Malaria.

L'UNITÉ DANS L'ACTION:

Promouvoir les systèmes de santé intégrés pour des réponses durables au Sida, à la Tuberculose et au Paludisme.

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23rd Edition of the ICASA Conference

3 - 8 December 2025, Accra - Ghana

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Africa in Action: Catalysing Integrated Sustainable Responses to end AIDS, TB & Malaria.

For more information, visit <http://icasa2025.saafrica.org>