Every year on December 1, the global community commemorates World AIDS Day. It is a day to reflect on lives lost, and lives forever changed, as a result of AIDS. It is also an opportunity to pay tribute to more than 34 million people living with HIV worldwide. Today, we celebrate those lives saved and improved in Tanzania and recommit to the fight against AIDS.

We also acknowledge the tremendous progress the world has made in the last 30 years through research and scientific innovations in this fight. On July 23, 2012 United States Secretary of State Clinton announced that the United States President’s Plan For Emergency AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) would deliver a blueprint for the next phase of U.S. efforts on global AIDS. “For our part, PEPFAR will remain at the center of America’s commitment to an AIDS-free generation. We want the next Congress, the next Secretary of State, and all of our partners here at home and around the world to have a clear picture of everything we’ve learned and a roadmap that shows what we will contribute to achieving an AIDS-free generation.”

One of our lessons learned is that global health is a shared responsibility and that no country can fight AIDS alone. To succeed, it is essential that countries work together with partners such as PEPFAR and multilateral organizations like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Together, PEPFAR and the Global Fund supported over 70% of all persons on antiretroviral treatment in developing countries worldwide in 2011.

Here in Tanzania, we must continue to work together to increase our efforts in the response to HIV and AIDS. Everyone -- government leadership, the private sector, multilateral organizations, civil society, and faith-based organizations -- has a role to play.

Progress toward country leadership of HIV/AIDS programs is essential for gains to be sustainable in the long term. Through PEPFAR, the United States is working closely with Tanzania to build the country’s capacity to lead, implement, and eventually pay wholly for its AIDS response with funding from the Tanzanian government, civil society and the private sector.

This coincides with the 2001 Abuja Declaration in which African Union countries pledged to increase government funding for health to at least 15% of the national budget. The United States is committed to our partnership with Tanzania as it moves in this direction.

Over the last 12 months, Tanzania has made good progress in the fight against AIDS, with the United States proud to play a supporting role. In Tanzania, the United States through PEPFAR is currently supporting life-saving antiretroviral treatment for over 364,000 men, women and children.

In fiscal year 2012 alone, PEPFAR directly supported more than 1.2 million people in Tanzania with care and support programs, including more than 526,000 orphans and vulnerable children. Also, its efforts around prevention of mother-to-child transmission programs have allowed more than 1.1 million pregnant women to be reached with HIV testing and counseling.

This progress, evidenced by millions of lives saved, is remarkable, but there is more to do.

Our Vision: A recognized strong media association in and out the country that can bring about enhanced and effective HIV and AIDS media coverage and contribute to a reduction of the spread of HIV in Tanzania

Continue on page 7
JK: Tutunguzuza maambukizo VVU hادي kufikia sifuri 2015

AIDS Week
in Review

RAIS Jakaya Kikwete ameeleza mikakati ya Serikali yake kwa kuwa ni kuhakikisha inamaliza kabisa maambukizo mapya ya virusi vya Ukimwi ifikapo mwaka 2015.


Mioni ngwa miakakati hiyo ni kuhusha mashita wa kupima, waathiriwa kutumia Dkt. Jakaya Kikwete waamua wa Shirika la ngogo ya waongo aibu kuwafundisha watoto wao ambapo aliwakizo.”

Migona nika wanaambukizo na kuwa elimu juu aliwaka Tabia mbaya, la shule za sekondari. wa shule za msingi na asilimia 75 wanafunzi, Serikali imeweza kuwa kutoa elimu ya Ukimwi kwepo kwa mpango huo watoto hao. Rais Kikwete alifanya kufikia takwimu zinaonyeza kwa kuwasiliana kwenda kwa ARV, kuzuia maambukizo Kupunguza Makali ya Ukimwi waathiriwa kutumia Dawa za ni juu ambapo aliwaka wajawazito maambukizo ya Ukimwi kutoka kwa mama kwenda kwa shule za sekondari.


“Ndugu, hali hitatasha, madhara ya maambukizo ya Virus vya Ukimwi na Viwanda vinaweza na maambukizo ambacho ano elimu miyogezeka na wakati wako.”

VUVU Iringa inatishia

Muye Kuwa wa Mkoao wa Iringa, Dk Christine Ishengoma amewakidwa wakazi wa Mkoao ya Iringa akipata kuvumiliana na maambukizo ya Ukimwi katika liko wa Iringa kwa kuwa inahitaji msaada wa elimu. Miongoni mwa liko wetu wanaoishi na elimu ya Ukimwi, liko wa Iringa inahitaji msaada wa elimu wa kufikia mwaka 2012 na zinaonyeza kwa watoto wa asilimia 8 3.

“Ndugu, hali hitatasha, madhara ya maambukizo ya Virus vya Ukimwi na Viwanda vinaweza na maambukizo ambacho ano elimu miyogezeka na wakati wako.”


“Ndugu, hali hitatasha, madhara ya maambukizo ya Virus vya Ukimwi na Viwanda vinaweza na maambukizo ambacho ano elimu miyogezeka na wakati wako.”

Arusha: Jakaya Kikwete

RAIS wa Jamhuri ya Mwungano wa Tanzania, Dkt. Jakaya Kikwete

ARUSHI wa Jerusha wa Tanzania, Dkt. Jakaya Kikwete

RAIS wa Jamhuri ya Mwungano wa Tanzania, Dkt. Jakaya Kikwete

RAIS wa Jamhuri ya Mwungano wa Tanzania, Dkt. Jakaya Kikwete
Dar city warned of high HIV/Aids rate

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Sadique Meck Sadique has urged city residents to be vigilant against new HIV infection, saying statistics showed higher rate than the national average.

He made the statement on World Aids Day on December 1, marked at regional level in Kinondoni District. HIV prevalence is highest in Iringa with 16 per cent; followed Dar es Salaam 9.3 per cent and Morogoro 9 per cent. Infection rates are lowest in Zanzibar, with less than per cent.

“The 9.3 is no good result if you compare it to the national infection statistics which is 5.7,” he said. The presence of unlicensed guest houses, brothels and increased number of sex workers are reported to be the main reason for the high infection rate.

While ordering stoppage of such activities in the region, the RC expressed concern over misunderstanding between the government and religious leaders over condoms use.

“The government emphasises the use of condoms but religious leaders forbid them,” he said.

Sadique called on all HIV/Aids victims to continue using available ARVs, assuring them that the government has removed the fake ones from the market.

Earlier, the Regional Medical Officer Dr Gunini Kamba, noted that for one year from July 2011 to June 2012 the infection trend has been worrying in city compared to other regions. “In that period 240,978 people were tested under the volunteer testing system, among them 65 per cent were found to be infected,” he said.

Dr Kamba added that 52 per cent of people with tuberculosis were also HIV positive.

The region lacks HIV Test Kits, a factor hindering Voluntary Testing. The victims complained in the presence of the RC that they were usually humiliated by various HIV stakeholders and were not given a chance to express their views.

Some of them were seen encroaching on the high table of the chief gust, asking him to give them a chance to deliver their views.

The situation forced the Kinondoni District Commissioner Jordan Rugimana to intervene by asking the victim to be patient, but they refused.

“We are tired of this, why do they not recognize our presence, instead they keep on politicking over this dangerous disease.

“We need to give our speech and not to hear theirs,” Jonh Salomya, one of the victims told the DC.

When given the chance, they said that for long time they have been ignored in various HIV issues, and if invited at all, they were not allowed to participate but were given observer status.

DC Rugimana, for his part said, the victims were skipped in yesterday’s programme not deliberately, but as a result of what he described as a misunderstanding.

Source: Guardian on Sunday

Let no one deceive you, HIV tests need guts

On Saturday was World AIDS Day and the national celebrations were held in Lindi this year. It is heartening that after thirty years or so of the HIV/AIDS in the world the abbreviations no longer spell a death sentence.

Now we talk about people with HIV/AIDS and not trying to calculate when they will pass away. For some reason there is still some stigma and a few people living with the syndrome are belittled and made to feel inferior quite a pity if you may say so. But the impact of HIV/AIDS does not hit you that hard until you have a loved one suffer from it.

It is painful seeing someone waste away physically and mentally as the disease ravages their bodies slowly but surely. Fortunately with better care and understanding people with HIV/AIDS can live longer and with a purpose in life. The hard part is getting more people test their HIV status. Going on the defensive someone would ask bluntly state, that after all he or she looks healthy and there is no way why he or she should dig up trouble in the name of finding out one’s status. But that is the whole point you do not want to have to go through the test when you are already sick and suffering. But I can assure that picking up the courage to for a HIV test in the place is a conquest of its own. The questions on someone’s mind are ‘what if I am positive’?

Will life be the same? Who did I get it from? When? I truly feel for expectant mothers and their partners who are asked to test. Fine, it helps the medical personnel take care of the expectant mother and the unborn baby promptly but where does it leave the father in this awkward triangle. A friend of mine confessed that he went ahead and tested for his status alone without telling his wife before he was called to the antenatal clinic.

According to him he did not want any surprises. What made it worse he said that if the results were positive he would have totally refused to go for the test with his wife at the clinic. I have heard of stories of people who do the test and refuse to collect the results. Double tragedy as one, you do not know your own status and two neither does your partner know.

So the only person you are deceiving is yourself while putting the life of your dear partner at risk. So is there an easy way of going around it? To be honest, not at all.

It is as bad as your swimming instructor ordering you to swim in the deep end. It does help if the counselor talks to you before and after the testing even before the results are out. Remember, knowing your status will help you plan your life better and if you do test negative you will have to keep on testing for as long as you remain sexually active.

Source: Daily News
kuwa risala ambayo waliiandaa hayo yamewanyanyapa kwa Mkuu wa Mkoa, Said Meck ya kwanza.

wadau ambao walipewa nafasi isomwe kwanza kabla ya mkuu wa mkoa na kutaka risala vya Ukimwi kwenda mbele ya Solanya, anayeishi na virusi babisha Kaimu Mwenyekiti maadhimisho hayo na kusamwha wa watu hao kwenye hayo, kudaiwa kutotambua ya waandaji wa maadhimisho wadau wengine.

kutaka risala yao waliwania serikali iwikikishe mahakamani wale wote waliohasiska kwenye hilo na kufanya uchunguzi kwa wagonjwa waliotumia dawa hicho bandia.


Wanaoishi na VVU waja juu, wataka risala yao isomwe kwanza

M aadhimisho ya siku ya U k i m w i mkoa wa Dar es Salaam jana yame-ingia dosari baada ya watu wanaoishi na virusi vya Ukimwi kuwingilia katika kutaka risala yao la waliyoandaa isomwe kabla ya wadawengine.

Hatua hiyo imekuwa baada ya waandaji wa maadhimisho haya, kudaiwa kutotambua uwepo wa watu hao kwenye maadhimisho haya na kusababisha Kaimu Mwenyekiti wa Konga, Kinondoni, John Solanya, anayeishi na virusi vya Ukimwi kwenda mbele ya mkuu wa mkoa na kutaka risala yao isomwe kwanza kabla ya wadaw ambao walipewa nafasi ya kwanza.

Akizungumza kwa kujami, Solanya alimeleweza Mkuu wa Mkoa, Said Meck Sadiki, kutaka maadhimisho haya yamewanyanyapa kwa kuwa risala ambayo waliandaa na kuwabidhi kwa waandaji (manisipa ya Kinondoni), imefichwa.

“Risala hii sisi hatutambui, tunataka risala yetu mmechaka-chua na hapa hatutambuliwaa,” alisema.

Kufuatia halii hiyo, Mkuu wa Wilaya ya Kinondoni, Jordan Rugimbana, alilazimika kutoka mezma kuu na kushuka chini, ili kutoufa ufafanuzi zau ya hilo. Rugimbana alisema kuwa, risala ambayo msherehezaji ametota nafasi kwa kuwa kusomwa baada ya ile ya Mganga Mkuu wa mkoa kumalizika, ni ya wa dawu na kwamba itakayofuata ni ya watu wanaoishi na virusi vya Ukimwi.

Kauli hiyo ilipigwa vikali na Solanya na kufania kuwa, kutoka mwanza wa maadhimisho haya, hawajatambulwa na kumwomba mkuu wa mkoa risala yao isomwe, kiteme ambacho kiliptishwa.

Akitosha risala hiyo Maka-mu Mwenyekiti Vijana Maba-lozi Watanazania wanaoishi na virusi vya Ukimwi (Tayopa), Juma Kilongozi, alisema changamoto iliopo ni ujingiza waji vi vipo vino bandia pamoja na dawa za kupunguza makali ya virusi vya ukimwi na kusababisha usumbufu kwa wote wote.

Aidha, wameitaka serikali iwikikishe mahakamani wale wote waliohasiska kwenye hilo na kufanya uchunguzi kwa wagonjwa waliotumia dawa hicho bandia.

Mkuu wa Mkoa wa Dar es Salaam, Sadiki amewatoa hofu wanaoishi na kufanya uchunguzi kwa wagonjwa waliotumia dawa hicho bandia.

Kahusu madai ya kutotambuliwa kwamba watu wenye virusi vya Ukimwi (Tayopa), Juma Kilongozi, alisema changamoto iliopo ni ujingiza waji vi vipo vino bandia pamoja na dawa za kupunguza makali ya virusi vya ukimwi na kusababisha usumbufu kwa wote wote.

Aidha, wameitaka serikali iwikikishe mahakamani wale wote waliohasiska kwenye hilo na kufanya uchunguzi kwa wagonjwa waliotumia dawa hicho bandia la Risala ambayo walitotamia ya waandaji wa maadhimisho wadau wengine.


HIV FACTS AND STATISTICS IN TANZANIA

- The 2007-08 Tanzania HIV Indicator Survey (THI) included HIV testing of over 15,000 men and women. According to the survey, 5.7% of Tanzanians age 15-49 are HIV-positive.

- HIV prevalence is higher among women than men in both urban and rural areas. Urban residents are almost twice as likely as rural residents to be HIV positive.

- Women get infected earlier than men. For women, prevalence increases with age until it reaches a peak at age 30-34 (10.4%). The peak for men occurs between ages 35-39 (10.6%).

- Tanzania’s HIV prevalence has declined slightly in recent years. The current HIV prevalence rate is 5.7%, with 6.6% for women and 4.6% for men. By contrast, the 2003-04 Tanzania HIV Indicator Survey (THI) found an overall HIV prevalence of 7.0%, with 7.7% for women (6,000 tested) and 6.3% for men (4,900 tested). These results show a statistically significant decline in HIV prevalence among men but not among women.

- HIV prevalence is highest in Iringa (16%), Dar es Salaam, and Morogoro (9% each).

- Infection rates are lowest in Zanzibar (less than 1%).

- Drivers of the epidemic
  1. Promiscuous sexual behaviour
  2. Intergenerational sex
  3. Concurrent sexual partners
  4. Presence of other sexually transmitted infections such as herpes simplex x 2 virus
  5. Lack of knowledge of HIV transmission

- Contextual factors shaping the epidemic in the country
  1. Poverty and transactional sex with increasing numbers of commercial sex workers
  2. Men’s irresponsible sexual behaviour due to cultural patterns of virility
  3. Social, economic and political gender inequalities including violence against women
  4. Substance abuse such as alcohol consumption
  5. Local cultural practices e.g. widow cleansing
  6. Mobility in all its forms which leads to separation of spouses and increased establishment of temporary sexual relationships
  7. Lack of male circumcision

SOURCE: TACAIDS

Weekly quotable quotes!!

“Mapambano dhidi ya Ukwimwi ni makubwa na zaidi yanayolewa, miaka ya nyuma zilikuwa na watu 100 shini ndio wakti na watu na Ukwimwi, ila hivi sasa kila kila watu 100 watato ndio wakti ambavyo ugonjwa huu. Jamani Ukwimwi si owa saa na hukumu ya kifo makamani, mtu mwenye virusi vya ugonjwa huu akilatika masharti anashiriki kwa muda mrefu na hilo kufanya kuwa kufanya shughul zake kama kawaida.”—Hotuba ya Raisi wa Jamhuri ya Muungano Wa Tanzania, Dst. Jakaya M. Kikwete, siki ya Ukwimwi Duniani.

VICOCHOEO VYA MAAMBUKIZI

- Majumba ya video
- Picha chatu za ngono
- Kipato kidogo wa wanafamilia kinachopeleka biashara ya ngono
- Unywaaji wa pombe na vileo
- Kutetereka kwa ndoa
- Mila Potofu
- Tabia ya kutenga ndoa bila kupima

SOURCE: Advocacy and Communication Department, TACAIDS

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AIDS Week in Review

Mfuko Maalumu kubakilia VVU tayari - JK

We must map concrete strategies against aids

As Tanzanians join the rest of the world to mark World Aids Day today, we must engage in earnest soul-searching.

For, whereas we are supposed to be combatants, World Aids Day after World Aids Day, we hear of less success stories, and more creative, result-yielding strategies, so that, One of them is that, the use of the protective device is equated with someone taking a shower while wearing a raincoat!

The trend has adverse consequences on the national economy, since a significant component of the population is nursing the disease, and the resourcefulness of the emotionally destabilised relatives of the patients is curtailed.

Every December 1, we literally recycle old stories about awareness on the deadly nature of the disease not being widespread enough, and condom use being treated as a source of sick jokes.

One of them is that, the use of the protective device is equated with someone taking a shower while wearing a raincoat!

While condom use might reduce sexual marriages are orchestrated by bride price

Many people shun voluntary HIV screening, sufferers are stigmatised, and forced marriages are orchestrated by bride price

The challenge we are facing, therefore, is to go beyond symbolism, by charting more creative, result-yielding strategies, so that, success stories would highlight successive World Aids days, instead of lamentations that imply that the scourge is unbeatable.

Source: The Citizen (Editorial)

Na sisi tunaanzisha mfuko wetu wenyeyle ili tujitegemee na kujijengea uwezo wetu wa ndani, hata siku ikitokea wanaotupa msaada wasanisitsha hatuwezi kutetereka...kwa hiyo wanaotupa wanaotupa waambukizwa wasiambukizwe ibaki paleple, waambukizwa wasiambukizwa na mtoto wakati akihutubia Taifa ezoswa ndani.

Flento alisema Denmark itaen msaada huu wa dola milioni 1983 hadi sasa watu milioni 1.5 maradhi hayo hapa nchini mwaka huu, "Zuia maambukizo kwenda kwa mtoto." Rais alisema juhudi za Tanganyika, Dk Hussein Mwinyi alisema maambukizo yamepungu guuta asilimia saba mpaka sioambukizwa wasiambukizwe.

Waziri wa Afya na Ustawi wa Jamii, Dk Hussein Mwinyi alisema maambukizo yamepungu guuta asilimia saba mpaka sioambukizwa wasiambukizwe.

Rais Jakaya Kikwete alisema haya huo ni kujijengea uwezo wetu ya ugonjwa huo.

Alisema Tanzania inaanzisha mfuko huo ili iweze kujitegemea na kujijengea uwezo wake wa ndani katika mapambano dhidi ya ugonjwa huo.

"Na sisi tunaanzisha mfuko wetu wenyeyle ili tujitegemee na kujijengea uwezo wetu wa ndani, hata siku ikitokea wanaotupa msaada wasanisitsha hatuwezi kutetereka...kwa hiyo huyo wanachini msawe na wasiwasi mchakato wa kuanzisha mfuko wetu wenyeyle," alisema.

Rais Kikwete alisema pia anaamini utakapoonzishwa mfuko huo, wadada katika mapambano dhidi ya wanaotupa waambukizwa waen.

Rais Kikwete alisema ujumbe wa mwaka huu, "Zuia maambukizo ni msaada mapya, zuia unyanyapaa, zuia viro vitokanavyo na Ukimwi" una lengo la kumkumbusha kilaa mmoja wajibu wake wa mwaka huu, "Zuia maambukizo kwa mtoto wakati ambukizwa wasiambukizwe kwa nkama za kujihami dhidi ya kuingia kwa upatikanaji wa dawa za kurefusha na waliwasi wale waathirika zitolewe kwa kuanzisha mfu.

Wakati uliopo ni mkakati uliopo, "Msaada huu wa dola milioni 308 ni kwa sababu juhudi zetu za mapambano dhidi ya Ukimwi zinaonekana na kutanubila kimaataifa, na sisi tufutudeleni kuhakikisha kwa ugonjwa wetu wa tallakao kua ya mchakato wa kuanzisha mfu kwa kutosa," alisema.

"Msada huu wa dola milioni 308 ni kwa sababu juhudi zetu za mapambano dhidi ya Ukimwi zinaonekana na kutanubila kimaataifa, na sisi tufutudeleni kuhakikisha kwa ugonjwa wetu wa tallakao kua ya mchakato wa kuanzisha mfu kwa kutosa," alisema.

Flento alisema asilimia 70 ya akina mamajabu wamewajiwa kwa ajili ya waendelea kuwahudumia Watanzania.

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HIV prevalence high among college students in Zanzibar

WHILE Zanzibar battles to keep HIV/AIDS prevalence low, the prevalence rate amongst students in institutes of higher learning is about 2.5 per cent as revealed here during commemoration of World AIDS Day.

“Although we have managed to maintain the national HIV/AIDS prevalence at 0.6 per cent for several years, Zanzibar is at risk of having more people contracting the disease should the strategies to minimise the spreading be ignored,” said the Minister of State (Environment and HIV/AIDS), Ms Fatma Abdulhabib Fereji.


“The Minister said that prevalence was also growing high amongst Most-At-Risk (MARs) persons such as prostitutes, drugs users, and homosexuals where the prevalence is 10.8 per cent, 16 per cent, and 12.3 per cent, respectively. Earlier, the Director of the Zanzibar AIDS Commission (ZAC), Mr Makame Omar Shauri, said Zanzibar recorded about 6,425 people living with HIV.

The figures are from 1986 up to June this year. He said that reporters and the media have a great role in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS on the isles, and that more efforts are required to achieve the goal set under the theme.

Addressing the World HIV/AIDS gathering, Zanzibar Minister for Health Mr Juma Duni Haji emphasised that awareness is still important in the fight against the spread of the HIV.

“He said that the media, religious organizations, and NGOs have been doing good job in raising awareness in the public, “but efforts need to be doubled to achieve the goal including discouraging stigma.”

Duni appealed to Zanzibarists to use available local resources where foreign funding in HIV/AIDS is going down, and that youth should avoid reckless sex before marriage.

“Health officials on the islands used the function to drum for ABC (Abstain Be-faithful, and use Condom) message, as still important in minimizing the spread of the HIV.

Source: Daily News

6

‘Pimeni afya zenu mara mara’-wito

Wakazi wa mkoa wa Dar es Salaam wame-shauriwa kujitokeza kupima afya za mara mara kwa mara na kujiepusha na vitendo vinavyochangia mara kwa mara na kujiepusha gapwani coastal village, north of Zanzibar at Manispaa ya Ilala kwa mkoa wa Dar es Salaam zinaonyesha kuwa katika kufanya tathadhili wa mizima na kutafuta maandikazi za ugonjwa na kuhariri wa ugonjwa wa Dar es Salaam.

Akizungumza na waandishi wa habari wa mkoa wa Dar es Salaam kwenye kilele cha siku ya Ukimwi duniani, Afisa habari wa mkoa huo Bi. Adrofina Ndyeikiza amesema kuwa kuna umuhimu wa jamii kujitambua na kushirikiana kikamiliifu katika kufanya tathadhili wa maambukizo ya Virusi vya UKIMWI.

“Maadhimisho ya Siku yake duniani mwaka huu yanabeba ujumbe ule ule uliolotea mwaka jana ambapo kauli mbu hi inaendelea mpaka mwaka 2015 na kwa mwaka huu jiniin Dar es Salaam yafanyikia katika 4.8%, Temeke 6% na Kigamboni 8.3%.”

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“He said that the media, religious organizations, and NGOs have been doing good job in raising awareness in the public, “but efforts need to be doubled to achieve the goal including discouraging stigma.”

Duni appealed to Zanzibarists to use available local resources where foreign funding in HIV/AIDS is going down, and that youth should avoid reckless sex before marriage.

“Health officials on the islands used the function to drum for ABC (Abstain Be-faithful, and use Condom) message, as still important in minimizing the spread of the HIV.

Source: Daily News
We are using scientific advances to focus our resources as effectively and efficiently as possible and to maximize the impact of our investments and save more lives. For example, studies have shown that male circumcision can diminish acquisition of HIV for men by over 60%.

Therefore PEPFAR has increased its contribution to voluntary medical male circumcision in Tanzania eight-fold over the last three years. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission is another significant area of focus, whereby PEPFAR support has succeeded in providing prophylaxis to almost 90% of pregnant women identified as HIV-positive - protecting the health of both the mother and her child. As we look to the future, the United States will continue to work closely with Tanzania and its partners to move toward a long-term response that saves even more lives. On this World AIDS Day, the American people reaffirm our partnership with Tanzanians in our common vision to work towards a Tanzania free of HIV.

*Source: Alfonso E. Lenhardt, US Ambassador, Tanzania*
Technology to Diagnose HIV in Newborn Babies

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in collaboration with implementing partners on HIV 43 SMS have received printers from Vodacom Foundation Tanzania to boost its programme called the Early Infant diagnosis.

Speaking at the handing over over SMS printers at Elizabeth Pediatric Aids Foundation (EGPAF) in Dar es Salaam recently, the Head of Vodacom Foundation Yessaya Mwakifulefule said the 43 SMS printers will be distributed to lower level facilities in Lindi, Mtwara, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Tabora and Shinyanga.

Today is World AIDS Day and currently, one third of HIV-infected children usually die before their first birthday and half will die before the age of two if not put on ARV therapy. HIV/AIDS can be detected within 4 to 6 weeks after birth, thus mothers are urged to bring infants to health facilities for specimen collection and early detection of HIV.

The devices donated by the Vodacom Foundation worth 98m/- are expected to be distributed to lower level facilities within EGPAF supported regions which will ease accessibility of results and reduce turnaround time and early initiation of ARV treatment.

He said parents will be able to receive HIV test results of their newborn babies through SMSes that will be directly sent to dispensaries and health centres once blood samples have been tested. “Technically, testing infants for HIV has been a challenge thus detection of HIV from a child borne to an HIV positive mother can be done as early as 4 to 6 weeks of age and those who missed this opportunity can still be tested and for older children, those over 18 months confirmatory tests can be done using rapid tests.

However, the introduction of SMS printers will ease the process hence results will be sent directly to the zonal lands to the processed sites once processed within a short time,” he said. Mwakifulefule said the use of the SMS printers is an innovative approach to increase accessibility of results from zonal Lab.

The use of SMS will shorten time it takes or a patient or caregiver to receive test results by an average of two weeks. The EGPAF Associate Technical Director Dr Chrispine Kimario said they valued Vodacom’s donation, saying it would facilitate reliability in early infant diagnosis of HIV as well as reduce the turnaround time in getting the HIV test results for infants.

Source: Daily News

Finally, South Africa announces single pill for HIV

Government of South Africa took a major step towards improving HIV treatment compliance and cost with the announcement that the new antiretroviral (ARV) tender will include a triple fixed dose combination (FDC) tablet, which combines three pills into one.

Speaking on the eve of World AIDS Day on Saturday, health minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi announced in Pretoria on Thursday that a tender for the triple FDC of tenofovir, emtricitabine and efavirenz has been approved.

“This in simple language means that a patient does not have to take 3 tablets a day and can now take 1 tablet once a day,” explained Motsoaledi.

FDCs have shown to have major benefits for patients in terms of compliance. The price of the FDC is R89.37, with the minister claiming this made it the world’s lowest priced FDC.

“It also means that logistics and storage are reduced; additionally there are fewer side effects with this combination,” the Minister added. Motsoaledi said the FDC brings with it an additional extraordinary benefit for pregnant HIV positive women. “Because of this new fixed dose combination from April 2013 all pregnant women will be given the fixed dose combination during pregnancy and breast feeding and thereafter if their CD4 count is less than 350. The fixed dose combination is more effective than dual therapy and has fewer side effects for the pregnant mother, in addition to its’ convenient dosage regimen.”

He confirmed that the majority of patients currently on the three ARV drugs would switch to the FDC from April 2013. Government will continue to stock the current ARVs for those unable to switch.

Professor Andrew Boulle of the University of Cape Town has been calling for FDCs for a number of years: “This is fantastic news and the health department should be commended for the stewardship they have shown with this tender.”

Boulle expressed the hope that the department will follow this up by ensuring that these FDCs are packaged in monthly adherence-promoting blister packs to help patients keep track of their medication.

Source: Health-e (Cape Town)
1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND
The Association of Journalists Against AIDS in Tanzania is a volunteer journalists’ organization. It is non-profit, non-governmental, non-religious entity run by highly trained and seasoned journalists some of which are university lecturers. Although the organization has HIV/AIDS as its specialty its members are drawn from diverse professional and educational background.
AJAAT has a track record of working with local and international organizations in areas of training, capacity building of journalists, and training manuals development, resource guides on HIV/AIDS and others. It has, for instance, worked with UNICEF training journalists on PMTCT in all zones of the country. It has worked with HIP/ Futures Group of USAID, UNAIDS, UNDP, ICAP, Population Reference Bureau (PRB), Advance Family Planning (AFP), Human Development Trust, WAMA Foundation (of Mama Salma Kikwete), coordinating and running training on stigma and discrimination. Its members have been involved in trainings organized by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Agricultural Council of Tanzania, Women’s Dignity, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), TAMWA, Amref, Vijana Vision Tanzania, Marie Stopes, Help Age International, Tanzania Women Miners Development Organization, among others.

1.1 CORE ACTIVITIES
In short, AJAAT are media experts and our strengths are in media advocacy, training, community journalism, research and gender analysis. However, our major focus is HIV/AIDS and its related economical, community and social impacts.

1.2 SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

1.2.1 PUBLICITY, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT SERVICES
Apart from its core activities, AJAAT, made by professional journalists, provides other services in the areas of Public Relations (PR), Advertising Promotions and Communications consultancy for special agreements and terms. Other services that are or can be provided are

1. Playing the role of a-go-between or link between the CUSTOMER and the media. A customer here means a Corporate Organization, NGO, Embassy, Government Ministry, Government Agency, Private Firm etc.
2. Providing professional advice to the CUSTOMER on the most effective approach to use the media in order to achieve the maximum publicity, exposure and promotional benefits.
3. Forewarning the CUSTOMER about impending negative media reportage, and taking appropriate professional measures to protect the customer image. (This is done on special arrangement or through a customer request).
4. Play a role of a think tank to CUSTOMER regarding media, PR and Communications events planning.
5. Managing and facilitating press conferences and press events for the CUSTOMER.
6. Where appropriate and necessary to invite, manage, coordinate and facilitate Journalists from various Media Houses from within and outside the country.
7. To publicize in local, regional and international media CUSTOMER's commercial/humanitarian/government related activities and CUSTOMER's participation in various local, regional and international forums.
8. To conduct media interviews with relevant CUSTOMER officials or partners and get the interviews published in the media as per agreement or customer requirements.
This is done where applicable and on CUSTOMER consent, also should follow the agreed publicity schedule.

9. To conduct media interview with CUSTOMER’s services beneficiaries, clients, partners, stakeholders or members of the community with the goal of getting a feedback on their perception to various services offered by the CUSTOMER. The interview should be positively published and transmitted by both print and electronic media.

10. To visit areas and sectors enjoying the CUSTOMER services to get facts on the ground and produce positive and image building news articles in print media and informative news for electronic media.

11. To take CUSTOMER photographs on different occasions be it organized by the CUSTOMER or where the CUSTOMER is invited and make use of them in the media as well as store in the CUSTOMER's photo bank in Energetic MEDIA offices.

12. To design and print CUSTOMER’s Newsletter/Journal/Magazine and other publicity and communications related materials where applicable and based on an agreement with the CUSTOMER.

13. To professionally advise the CUSTOMER how appropriate are promotional materials to avoid litigations.

14. To undertake daily PRESS monitoring for and behalf of a CUSTOMER and give either daily monitoring report or weekly depending on the agreement.

15. To undertake for and on behalf of the CUSTOMER any other PR and communications related assignment.

2.0 CORE ACTIVITIES PROFILE SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT

Since its establishment, AJAAT has been able to collaborate with various partners to accomplish the following core activities

2012- Established a Sexual and Reproductive Health/FP blog and link it up to AJAAT’s website—www.ajaat.or.tz

2012- Continues to publish a weekly AIDS WEEK in REVIEW e-newsletter

2011- Engaged Editors Forum to provide space for Sexual and Reproductive Health/FP issues in their respective media outlets/houses

2011- Conducted a Rapid Media Assessment on Family Planning and Reproductive Health issues—This was through the support AJAAT got from the Advance Family Planning project which is being jointly carried out in Tanzania by 11 NGOs

2011- Published the first edition of TANZANI Bila UKIMWI Magazine through the support from Geita Gold Mines

2011- Conducted a Media Writing Competition on Universal Access to Essential HIV and AIDS Services—This was through the support from TACAIDS

2011- Continued to run the weekly AIDS WEEK in REVIEW e-newsletter

2010- Running a Media Competition on Couples HIV Testing and Counseling (CHTC) to stimulate media to advocate for the importance of people in relations to under-go HIV/AIDS testing together on regular basis. The UN Joint Campaign on HIV and AIDS in Tanzania support this competition

2010- Implementing Children Agenda, especially on how to protect infants and adolescent girls from HIV. In this activity AJAAT collaborates with several partners such as KIWOHEDE, UNICEF, Save the Children, CCBRT, CDF, VSO, World Vision, TenMeT, etc

2010- Run a Media Campaign against Gender-Based-Violence (GBV) and Stigma and Discrimination (S&D). This activity is supported by Health Policy Initiative (HPI) of USAID

2010- Run a Media Writing Competition on the Importance Couples HIV and AIDS Testing and Counseling—supported by UNAIDS though UN’s system of Delivering as One

2010- Conducted a three-day Media Training on HIV/AIDS and Campaign to End Pediatric AIDS (CEPA)—in collaboration with Human Development Trust (HDT) under the support from Global AIDS Alliance (GAA)

2010- Second year of running and publishing Tanzania AIDS Week in Review, a weekly newsletter that focuses on various issues on HIV/AIDS and its impacts to the society—politically, socially and culturally. This is supported by UNDP/UNAIDS
2010 – Third year of implementing its strategic plan (2008-2011)—This include resources mobilization

2009- Second year of implementing its strategic plan (2008-2011)

2009- AJAAT started running Tanzania AIDS Week in Review e-newsletter—Through UNDP/UNAIDS funding

2008- Announced a three-month media writing competition on national voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), popularly known as “Tanzania Bila UKIMWI inawekekana” Media Competition—Activity funded by TACAIDS

2008- Media Training on Accurate and Anti-stigma Reporting—Activity funded by UNDP/UNAIDS

2008- AJAAT Media Training on PMTCT reporting—Activity funded by UNICEF

2008- Launched its Strategic Plan (2008-2011) and website- www.ajaat.or.tz –Activities funded by UNDP/UNAIDS and USAID|HPI respectively

2008- Accomplished a media training manual for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and Media Resource Guide for Anti-Stigma Reporting – Activities funded by UNICEF and USAID|HPI respectively

2007- Completed a four-year Strategic Development Plan (2008-2011), Supported by UNDP/UNAIDS, Tanzania Offices

2007- AJAAT trainer conducted training on effective HIV/AIDS reporting on behalf of TACAIDS

2007- Date- AJAAT runs radio programme on HIV in Radio Maria (on-going)

2007- AJAAT runs joint end-of-month radio programme on HIV with Radio One

2006- Date: Running a website, www.ajaat.or.tz – Then supported by USAID|Health Policy Initiative

2006- Rapid Assessment on HIV/AIDS in Media Houses, Funded by USAID|Health Policy Initiative (supervised by Constella Futures)

2006- HIV/AIDS Bill campaign, USAID|Health Policy Initiative

2006- Media Monitoring Report (for one Month) - UNICEF

2006- AJAAT officers participated in MCT supervised Manual Development on Effective Reporting on HIV

2006- AJAAT ran Media Writing Competition on OVC- AXIOS Health Foundation Inc.

2004- AJAAT ran a Media Writing Competition on Stigma and Discrimination—Funded by Policy Project of USAID

2003-2006- Training of mid-career journalists on HIV/AIDS reporting workshop- funded by Futures Group/USAID, UNAIDS, CUAHA

3.0 BASIC INFORMATION

Establishment: Established in 2002 and was registered in April 2003, by registrar of societies in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Reg. No. SO 11872

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3.1 MEMBERSHIP

Membership: AJAAT has a total of 250 members, 70 of which are paid up members (journalists) scattered in all regions except Zanzibar. They are drawn from both Print media (Newspapers) and Electronic media (Televisions and Radio, including bloggers)

4.0 KEY CONTACTS

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