

Community Engagement within the Global Plan for the Elimination of Vertical transmission

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**National Empowerment Network of People
Living with HIV in Kenya/ ICW**



Overview

- **Background**
- **Promising Interventions**
- **Opportunities**
- **Recommendations**



About NEPHAK

- ✓ **The National Empowerment Network of people living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya (NEPHAK) is a national network that unites PLHIV and those affected by TB and AIDS in Kenya**
 - ✓ **NEPHAK strength is derived from the Principle of Greater Involvement of People living and/or affected with HIV/AIDS (GIPA) as spelt out at the Paris AIDS Summit in 1994.**
- ...We work to leverage the **lived experience** and channel it into the national response...



eMTCT Agenda

- **Initially, PMTCT focused more on ensuring children were born without HIV.**
- **Now, the focus on mothers as well is evident, due to efforts to improve care and quality of life.**
- **Goals of PMTCT: to improve health of mothers living with HIV and prevent vertical transmission**
- **Kenya eMTCT Frame work was launched in 2012, however:**
 - **Low awareness about PMTCT services at the grassroots level**
 - **Few HIV-exposed infants benefit from early HIV treatment**



NEPHAK's Interventions

- ✓ **Conducting county meetings with PLHIV to create awareness about the Global Plan.**
- ✓ **Engaged WLHIV at the community level to understand their role in the Global Plan**
- ✓ **Hosting focus group discussions with WLHIV on community-led monitoring & accountability mechanisms**
- ✓ **Raising awareness of PMTCT nationally to increase demand for and uptake PMTCT interventions**
- ✓ **Peer to peer mothers support and continued counseling**



Opportunities

- ✓ **Interventions necessary for PMTCT should be readily available and accessible**
- ✓ **BCC and demand creation through public awareness**
- ✓ **Psychosocial support to all women living with HIV accessing services to enhance retention in care and adherence**
- ✓ **Recruit, train and support community care workers to promote utilization of PMTCT.**
- ✓ **Address stigma and discrimination issues**
Identify and remedy barriers to improve access, uptake and effectiveness of PMTCT



Recommendations

- **Increase community demand for PMTCT services by funding networks of WLHIV**
- **Sustaining HIV services within the devolved government structure in Kenya**
- **Incorporate qualitative research results done by networks of women living with HIV into PMTCT programming**
- **Ensure all PMTCT programmes meaningfully include WLHIV in all aspects, including delivery of services, M&E, and community accountability mechanisms**
- **Harness capacities of communities to support PMTCT**



Recommendations (cont.)

- **Male involvement that support women to access care**
- **Ensure that WLHIV have a wide range of sexual, reproductive health and rights support options**
- **Set standardized health care packages**

Role of Communities in Supporting Children Affected by AIDS

- **Infant Feeding Options; Support adherence to guidelines**
- **Identify vulnerable children within the community for treatment, care and support.**
- **Support mothers care for children living with HIV, disclosing to them their HIV status.**
- **Prevent and protect children affected by HIV from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation**
- **Being involved in all HIV programming targeting vulnerable children and strengthening linkages**

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Thank you!



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