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

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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.
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- ...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

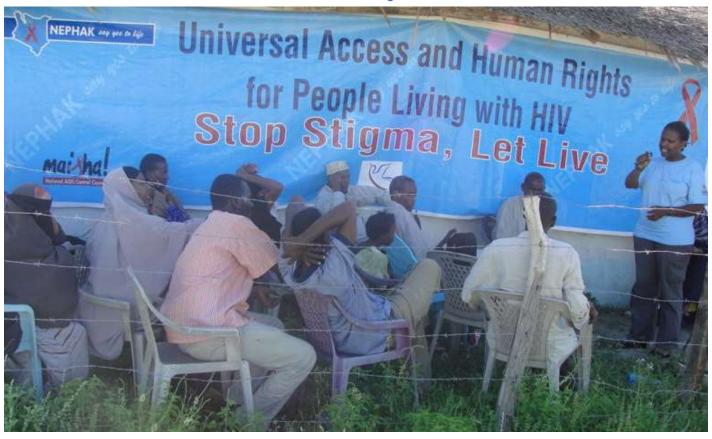
- Infant Feeding Options; Support adherence to guidelines
- Identify vulnerable children within the community for treatment, care and support.
- Support mothers care for children living with HIV, disclosing to them their HIV status.
- Prevent and protect children affected by HIV from violence, abuse, 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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