

IAS Educational Fund and APIN Public Health Initiatives symposium

01-02 June 2022

Reflections on the COVID-19 pandemic
and its application to the HIV response
in West and Central Africa



Objectives

The aim of the symposium is to address the following key regional issues: HIV care through a pandemic; innovation in HIV testing and diagnostics; HIV treatment for key population; and viral load suppression in paediatric care. Invited speakers and meeting participants will find solutions to these challenges for the West and Central Africa region through open discussions.

Programme*

Wednesday, 01 June 2022

Session 1: HIV and COVID-19: West and Central African success stories

WAT (GMT+1)
10:30 – 12:00

As a way of introductions for the symposium, this first session will focus on the HIV situation in light of the pandemic. All countries responded differently during COVID-19 and participants will hear about example of best practices and opportunities for the HIV response brought through the pandemic. Different countries representatives will present what successful strategies have been put in place.

10:30 – 10:41

Welcoming remarks

10:41 – 10:52

HIV in West and Central Africa: a regional overview of the recent successes

10:52 – 11:01

Best practices from Nigeria – Opportunities for HIV programmes brought during the pandemic

11:01 – 11:10

Best practices from Ghana – Opportunities for HIV programmes brought during the pandemic

11:10 – 11:19	Best practices from Cameroon– Opportunities for HIV programmes during a pandemic
11:19 – 11:28	Best practices from Sierra Leone – Opportunities for HIV programmes brought during the pandemic
11:28 – 11:55	Q&A
11:55 – 12:00	Concluding remarks

Session 2: Innovations in HIV testing and diagnostics: the path forward to scaling up

WAT (GMT+1) 15:00 – 16:30	This second session will focus on the most recent strategies and innovations brought at the HIV testing level. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed practices and brought new opportunities in reaching out to the population. This session will also aim to highlight recent advances in rapid diagnostics that could be intensified and other global prevention strategies.
15:00 – 15:03	Welcoming remarks
15:03 – 15:14	Lessons learned from Self-Testing during the pandemic: ATLAS Project conclusions
15:14 – 15:25	Rapid diagnostics and advanced HIV: recent advances and successes
15:25 – 15:40	Q&A
15:40 – 16:05	Panel discussion: How could we take HIV diagnostics further?
16:05 – 16:25	Q&A
16:25 – 16:30	Conclusion

Thursday, 02 June 2022

Session 3: HIV treatment and care for key populations in West and Central Africa

WAT (GMT+1) 10:30 – 12:00	This session will provide a discussion on the new strategies for HIV treatment, and provide key recommendations on how to better reach key populations including young people and adolescents. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions to various stakeholders from different countries in the region on what has been done to reach key population in the HIV care and treatment. Successful strategies and best practices will be highlighted.
10:30 – 10:35	Welcoming remarks

10:35 – 10:47	Treatment and care for adolescents and young people in West and Central Africa
10:47 – 10:58	Differentiated-Service-Delivery: successful stories from the pandemic
10:58 – 11:29	Panel discussion: Key population and COVID-19 - How to ensure no one is left behind?
11:29 – 11:55	Q&A
11:55 – 12:00	Concluding remarks

Session 4: Achieving and sustaining viral load suppression in paediatric care: Challenges and Opportunities

**WAT (GMT+1)
15:00 – 16:10**

This last session will provide different presentations on drug resistance and challenges related to the last 95 objective from UNAIDS strategy with a focus on paediatric care. Participants will also gain new knowledge on the latest strategies and successes regarding viral load testing.

15:00 – 15:05	Welcoming remarks
15:05 – 15:16	Sub-optimal Viral Load Suppression among the Paediatric sub-population
15:16 – 15:27	Updates on the drug resistance in the paediatric care
15:27 – 15:38	Improving the turnaround time (TAT) for Viral Load testing among children and pregnant/breastfeeding mothers
15:38 – 16:00	Q&A
16:00 – 16:10	Concluding remarks

**This programme is subject to modifications*