



Civil Society Consultation on PEPFAR COP 2014

Date: 19th February 2014

Venue: Lesotho Sun

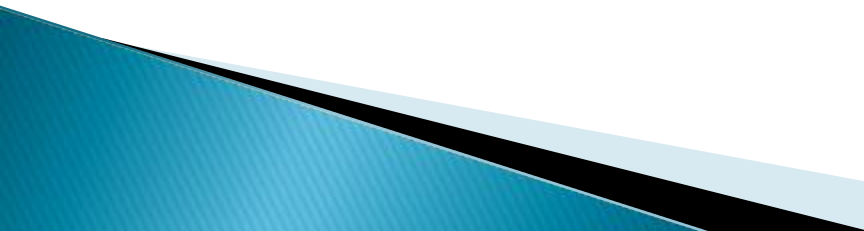
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Civil Society Organisations in Lesotho


CSOs in Lesotho is composed of a range of not for profit organisations ranging from well established local NGOs and Community Based Organisations

- ▶ Lesotho Council of NGOs is umbrella body for CSOs in Lesotho


Umbrella organisations serving specific groups

- ▶ Lesotho Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (LENEPWA)
 - ▶ Lesotho Network of AIDS Service Organization (LENASO)
 - ▶ Lesotho Inter-Religious AIDS Consortium (LIRAC)
 - ▶ Lesotho National Federation for the Disabled (LNFOD)
 - ▶ Other organisations targeting different groups
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HIV Situation in Lesotho –2012

- ▶ App 1.8 million people
 - ▶ Slightly Over 357,000 PLHIV
 - ▶ 17000 HIV related death
 - ▶ App 180,000 are in need of ART but app only 51% can access it. (280,000 under the new guidelines)
 - ▶ App 22000 new infections in 2012.
 - ▶ Linkage and Retention in care a problem
 - ▶ Pre-ART care a challenge.
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Country's priority commitments on HIV and AIDS response by 2015/16

- ▶ Reduction of new HIV infections by 50% by 2015
 - ▶ Reduction of AIDS related deaths among people living with HIV and AIDS by 50% by 2015.
 - ▶ Elimination of mother to child transmission and keep mothers alive
 - ▶ Improve efficiency and effectiveness of the national response planning, coordination and service delivery
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The role of CSOs in fight against HIV and AIDS

- ▶ Community mobilization and sensitization for different specific groups of the society on HIV and AIDS
- ▶ Support Care and Treatment – ensuring that persons on treatment adhere (Community Adherence Groups, Support Groups, Nutritional Support)
- ▶ Implement HIV Prevention interventions at community level
 - HIV Testing and Counselling
 - Distribution of Condoms and other prevention commodities
 - Support the success of PMTCT
- ▶ BCC
- ▶ Impact mitigation
- ▶ Monitor the performance of the response e.g. access
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Advocacy

CSOs recommendations on the COP 2014

Prevention (1)

In order to ensure effectiveness of PEPFAR support on prevention, CSOs in Lesotho recommends support to initiatives aimed at improving accesses to HIV services:

- ▶ Support PLHIV mobilization efforts.
- ▶ CSOs are concerned by persistent shortages and stock outs of health commodities.
 - Fix supply chain issues.
- ▶ Enhancing access to family planning services especially in the CHAL(65% HC) catchment areas (support to mobile clinic to LPPA)
- ▶ Enhancing the of dual service provision system– Facility to client and Client to facility.
- ▶ Rolling out HTC among the key population
- ▶ HTC HRH resources should be strengthen (counselling)
- ▶ Demand creation for Health services

Prevention (ii)

Key populations:


Prevention for Key population:

Support Mobilization of key population.

Support Capacity building of CSOs working with key population.


Support research initiatives to generate evidence.

PMTCT


- Demand creation to increase uptake.
 - Retention: data show that only half of the women in need for PMTCT enter the program, and 50% of those is lost to FU after 3 months.
 - Community mobilization e.g. PMTCT action groups.
 - Activities to reduce stigma and discrimination against expecting HIV positive women.
 - Empower women to demand their rights and that of their children.
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Care and Treatment

The CSO recommends to strengthen the following for the success of treatment:


- ▶ Increased access to ART :
 - ▶ Care package for pre ART PLHIV.
 - ▶ Maternal health package including free safe delivery and access to family planning commodities at health facilities (regardless religion) and health posts, and in the community (community based distributors (CBDs) are allowed to give injection for FP but most are not trained).
 - ▶ Increase linkage to care : For example supporting community Action group concept (CAG) to be rolled out by LENASO.
 - ▶ Support programs reaching people living with disabilities and key population
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Lab priorities / System strengthening

- ▶ Ensure close monitoring of availability of lab commodities:
 - ▶ Support advocacy initiatives; This will allow close monitoring by CSO.
 - ▶ The HRH is very scarce in Lesotho: PEPFAR should support more in training HRH.
 - ▶ Invest in storage, supply chain management also at facilities level
 - ▶ Community information on available tests and their impact on the health of PLHIV: VL, PCR DNA
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Advocacy

Advocacy can be used as one of the strategies to ensure effectiveness, transparency and accountability of PEPFAR supported programs therefore;

- ▶ PEPFAR should consider inclusion of support to CSOs to implement advocacy programs
 - ▶ PEPFAR should show commitment to building local capacity, develop local organizations, increasing support to Lesotho CSOs
 - ▶ Consultation with CSO to be regular and consistent
 - ▶ Should support the work of CSOs with marginalized group
 - ▶ Research
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Strengthen the capacity of CSOs

Capacitating CSOs to address HIV and AIDS Challenges does not only ensure sustainability of PEPFAR support it also creates country ownership of the program therefore PEPFAR COP 2014;

- ▶ Should include support to strengthening capacity of CSOs to deliver HIV programs
- ▶ Commit to building capacity of CSOs to access PEPFAR funds like their international NGO counterparts
- ▶ Include CSO in COP planning process in due time; engage CSO in addressing the needs of key populations

Way Forward

CSOs recommend that PEPFAR should:

- ▶ Continue engagement with CSOs to ensure effectiveness of the program
 - ▶ Allow CSO to submit a detailed written document before COP submission
 - ▶ Provide Feedback on the submitted recommendations by CSOs
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