



Statement

Domestic Resource Mobilization as a Pathway to Sustainable HIV and Health Financing in Africa

Kigali, Rwanda, 4 December 2019: On the sidelines of ICASA 2019, and informed by the theme of this year's conference - *AIDS Free Africa - Innovation, Community, and Political Leadership*, we are delighted that immense progress has been made towards an AIDS Free Africa. Millions of deaths have been averted, more people know their HIV status and are on treatment. This is as a result of a multi-dimensional and targeted efforts to defeat HIV.

However, as communities, we note with deep concern, that there is need to make further progress to defeat HIV and to sustain the gains made to date. African Governments particularly, urgently address HIV within the context of health and even more broadly and in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to ensure health and wellbeing for all. By broadly we mean that Governments must address health in the context of non – health dynamics which affect health such as education and climate change. For example, globally, almost 60% of new HIV infections among 15-24 year olds were contracted by adolescent girls and young women. Investing in the education of girls, and keeping them in school will significantly keep them healthy.

As communities, we are troubled and disturbed. We are at a point in time when donor funding for health is shrinking. This concerns us. In the absence of adequate funding for health, citizens in African countries have to pay for healthcare services from their pockets. In some countries, citizens are spending up to 40% of their household budgets to pay for healthcare. This, no doubt, makes them sink into poverty.

Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC) should mean that no one is left behind. Unfortunately, in some countries, there are communities that are left behind. Poor people, those living in far flung areas, criminalized communities and key populations are often left behind.

This has to stop. What then, should Governments do to correct the situation?

Governments in Africa must fully own and take responsibility for the health of their citizens. They must address health as a matter of human rights and commit additional domestic resources and ensure an end to wastage of resources for the provision of efficient and effective healthcare services.

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To raise the required additional resources, Governments must; promote progressive taxation, seal illicit financial flows; do away with tax holidays that deny government income, re-negotiate with pharmaceutical companies that put profits ahead of people so that they can reduce the cost of medicine and equipment, avoid wastage and ensure efficient use of available resources.

This calls for political courage, and deep commitment. It requires increased collaboration, cooperation and co-investment between Governments and the private sector. Additionally, the support of global health financing mechanisms is necessary for maximum impact.

We urge African Governments to allocate more resources for health, focus on primary healthcare and ensure efficient use of resources to save lives, achieve Universal Healthcare Coverage as well as Sustainable Development Goal 3 on the health and wellbeing of all. This will result in a strong productive workforce, thriving economies and a prosperous Africa.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Angela Muathe', is located below the 'Thank you' text.