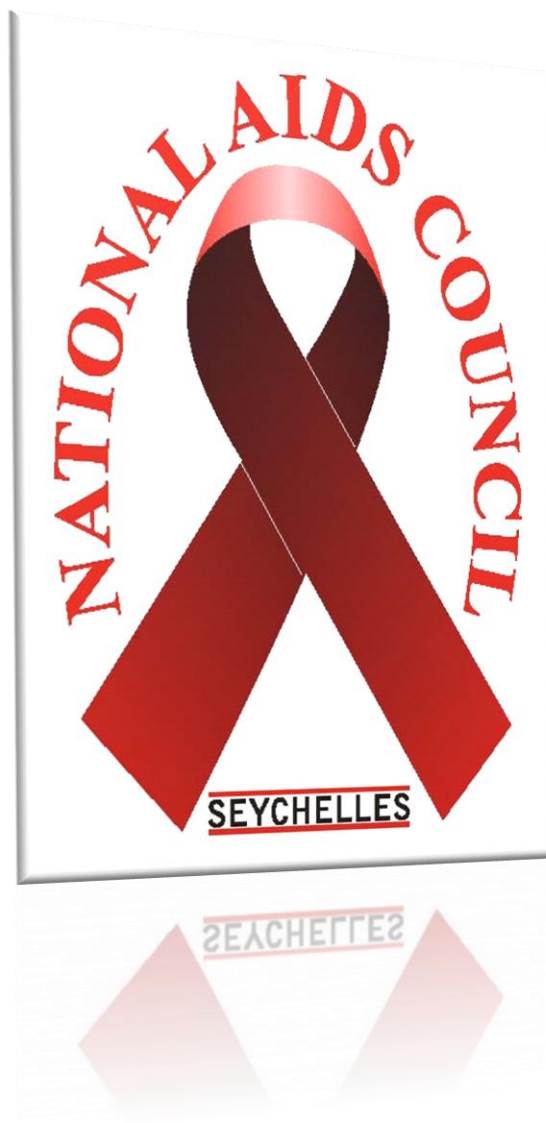


REPORT FOR WORLD AIDS DAY 2021

*“End Inequalities.
End AIDS.
End Pandemics”*





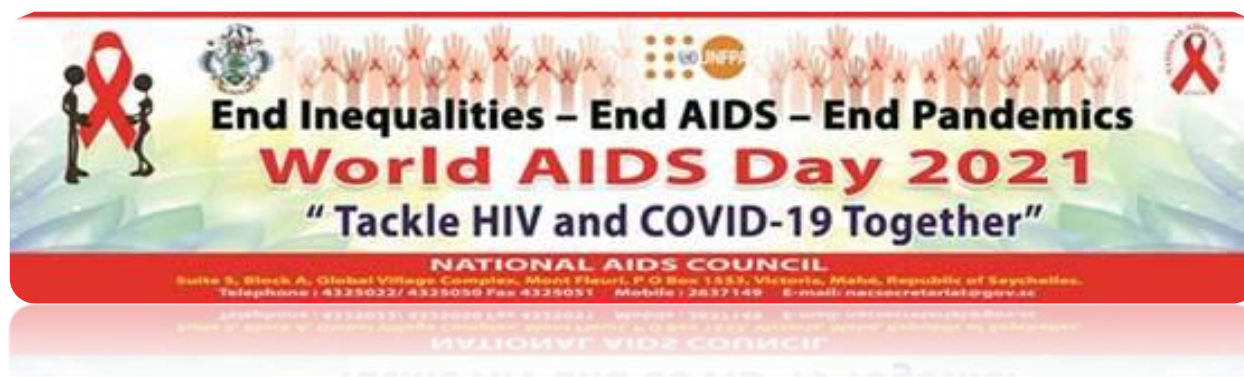
40 years of living with the HIV pandemic: Lighting a candle in memory of those who have died of AIDS

Savoy Hotel Lobby: 1 December 2021



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Acknowledgement

The National AIDS Council would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to everyone who played a major part in making World AIDS Day 2021 a huge success. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic at hand you all contributed actively in different activities while keeping in mind the Covid-19 safe practices.

National AIDS Council Board and Secretariat

Public Health Authority

- AIDS Control Program
- Communicable Disease Control Unit
- Occupational Health

Ministry of Health

- Minister's Office
- PS Secretariat
- Health Promotion Section

Health Care Agency

- Agency for Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation (APDAR)
- Community Health Services
- Hospital Services
- Family Health Directorate
- School Health Program
- Reproductive Health Program
- Maternal Health Programme
- Youth Health Centre
- Anse Royale Health Centre
- Beau Vallon Health Centre

WHO Country Office for Seychelles

Ministry of Youth and Family Affairs

Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs

Seychelles Inter-Faith Organisation

National Assembly

Citizens' Engagement Platform Seychelles

HIV and AIDS Support Organization

Seychelles Broadcasting Cooperation

Prison Services

Plaisance Secondary School

Anse Royale School

St Francis Pastoral Committee



Epidemic Overview Fact Sheet

- In 2020, there were 934 known persons living with HIV (PLHIV) in Seychelles, compared with 592 in 2016.
- New HIV infections increased by 53% from 843 in 2016 to 1270 in 2020. There were 84 (58 males, 26 females) new HIV infections reported in 2020, compared to 75 in 2016.
- There were 33 new HIV infections reported in 2010.
- Ten (10) people (8 males, 2 females) died of AIDS-related illnesses in 2020, compared with 7 (5 males, 2 females) in 2016, and 8 in 2010.
- In 2020, adult women (15+ years) comprised 35% of the PLHIV, 30% of new infections and 20% of AIDS-related deaths in Seychelles
- There were MORE deaths among adult men aged 15+ years (8) than among women (2) in 2020.
- The 50+ age group contributed 19% of new infections (12 males, 7 females). Three males were over 65 years.
- Six (5 males, 1 female) of the 10 deaths in 2020 were also recorded in those aged 50+.
- There were 2 new HIV infections in children (0-14 years) in 2020. These were 2 infections out of 18 infants born of HIV positive mothers in 2020. There were no new HIV infections in infants in 2016 (out of 12 HIV positive mothers). This was similar to 2010 (zero out of 5 HIV positive mothers).

What is the Red Ribbon?

The Red Ribbon is the international symbol of HIV and AIDS awareness. This is why UNAIDS has chosen to incorporate the ribbon into its own logo. It stands for:

Care and Concern

It is being worn by increasing numbers of people around the world to demonstrate their care and concern about HIV and AIDS - for those who are living with HIV, for those who are ill, for those who have died and for those who care for and support those directly affected.

Hope

The Red Ribbon is intended to be a symbol of hope - that the search for a vaccine and cure to halt the suffering is successful and the quality of life improves for those living with the virus.

Support

The Red Ribbon offers symbolic support for those living with HIV, their families and friends; for the continuing education of those not infected; for maximum efforts to find effective treatments, cures or vaccines; and for those who have lost friends, family members or loved ones to AIDS.

But the Red Ribbons are not enough.

The Red Ribbon is only a useful symbol in the long run when attached to words and deeds that actually make a difference.

If you are offered a Red Ribbon, you are asked to take it and wear it as a tribute to the millions of people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS worldwide.

Anyone can wear a Red Ribbon.

You don't have to be gay, or HIV positive or living with AIDS to demonstrate that you have an understanding of the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS.

The Red Ribbon project is a grass-roots effort. There is no "official" Red Ribbon. You can make your own to wear.

Wearing a Red Ribbon is the first step in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

It can be worn on any day of the year, but especially on World AIDS Day. The next step is to do something more.

Understanding the HIV and AIDS impact on the nation will bring us all in this fight to stop the spread.

Take matters into your own hands. Make HIV prevention your concern. Talk openly about HIV to help normalize the subject.

You can help by making sure you and others understand the facts about HIV and AIDS; correcting misconceptions and helping others learn more about HIV; expressing care, compassion and support for people living with HIV; and joining the dedicated people already working to slow down the spread of AIDS.

Today and every day, join the worldwide effort against AIDS.

The Red Ribbon was created in 1991 by the Visual AIDS Artists Caucus in New York

World AIDS Day 1st December 2021

Theme: “End Inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics”

“Met en Lafen avek linegalite. Met en Lafen avek bann pandemi. Met en Lafen avek SIDA”

Introduction

“**End Inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics**”, that is the theme UNAIDS has chosen to celebrate the World AIDS Day which falls on the 1st of December. This theme highlights the urgent needs to end the inequalities that drive AIDS and other pandemics around the world.

Without bold action against inequalities, the world risks missing the targets to end AIDS by 2030, as well as to prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and a spiraling social and economic crisis

Forty years since the first AIDS cases were reported, HIV still threatens the world. Today, the world is off track from delivering on the shared commitment to end AIDS by 2030 not because of a lack of knowledge or tools to beat AIDS, but because of structural inequalities that obstruct proven solutions to HIV prevention and treatment.

This year, despite the many challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Aids Council along with its many stakeholders was able to conduct a few activities less than it had hoped for, to commemorate the international World AIDS Day.

Main Aim

To raise awareness and sensitise the general and key populations on the need to end inequalities, end AIDS and end pandemics

Strategies

- Promote the theme and activities for the World AIDS Day through advocacy and awareness-raising activities
- The launching of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education programme
- Features of main personalities involved in HIV and AIDS the last 40 years
- Mobile Outreach testing services offering rapid testing at all public health facilities

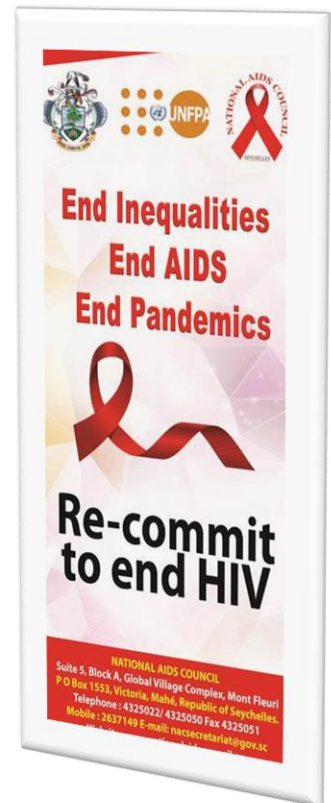
Main Challenges and constraints

- Restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemics

Estimated Budget for WAD 2021

TOTAL SCR 142,000 excluding commodities and logistics.

Funding was sustained by the National AIDS Council, other Ministry of Health and government agencies, UNFPA and respective organisations.



Main Activities Done

1. Advocacy and Awareness-raising activities

- a. **Messages by key officials:** President of the Republic, Minister for Health, National Assembly Speaker and Chairperson of the Committee for Communicable Diseases, HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, National AIDS Council Chairperson and CEO, and members of civil society
- b. **Advocacy and Remembrance Ceremonies**
 - **Wednesday 1 December:**
 - Short advocacy and candle-lighting ceremony with participants of the CSE workshop and members of the HIV/AIDS NSP Steering Committee at the Savoy Hotel lobby at 3.00 p.m.
 - **Friday 3 December**
 - A short ceremony for the Official Launch of World AIDS Day 2021 at the Eden Bleu Hotel lobby at 10.30 a.m. with decision-makers from the National AIDS Council and a few participants of the DURNS workshop
- c. **Production and dissemination of promotional materials**
- d. **Media programmes, articles and activities**
- e. **Religious services**

2. Capacity Building and Empowerment

- a. **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for the Youth:** Youth as a vulnerable population were empowered to make the right decision with their life and to be guided on where to seek help.
 - **Monday 22 to Wednesday 24 November:** A Training of Trainers started WAD activities
 - **Wednesday 1 December:**
 - Workshop at SAVOY with the same trainers for the “Validation of the CSE manual for the Seychelles”, at 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
- b. **“Empowerment of Persons who inject Drugs (PWIDs) on Harm Reduction and Treatment”** with the goal of increasing Prevention of HIV and Hepatitis C and to increase access to health services by this left behind community. PWIDs are the main Key Population in term of HIV in the Seychelles.
 - **Friday 3 December**
 - A workshop held at Eden Bleu Hotel 9.00 a.m.– 3.00 p.m.

3. **Health Promotion and Enhancement of health service delivery** in all public health facilities through available information, HIV testing and condom distribution

Advocacy and Awareness-raising activities

President's Message on World AIDS Day 2021 - End Inequalities. End AIDS. End pandemics



30 November 2021 | Health

On 1st December every year, we remember all our Seychellois brothers and sisters living with HIV or AIDS and those who have died from AIDS.

The commemoration of this 33rd World AIDS Day reminds us once again that we are still facing that major public health challenge, despite new challenges.

Like the rest of the world, Seychelles is experiencing more than one pandemic at this critical time. HIV infection is a pandemic too. It has not gone away. It did not take a break when COVID-19 arrived.

Whatever progress we made in trying to end the AIDS pandemic could now be at risk of being lost as we divert attention to COVID-19. Let us think about that for a moment. Let us think also about the people still putting themselves at risk through their actions or omissions and how the right actions at the right time can reduce or even eliminate the risks. Like COVID-19 prevention, HIV prevention depend primarily on the individual.

In June this year, I joined other heads of state and heads of governments in committing our country to the new United Nations political declaration on HIV and AIDS for ending inequalities and getting us on track to end AIDS by 2030.

The 2020 report from our National AIDS Council is clear. Our local response to the AIDS pandemic has been heavily impacted by COVID-19. The 2021 statistics from the Ministry of Health indicate that every month, on average, we lose two lives to AIDS. In 2021, from January to September alone, we lost 19 people from AIDS; three of them had COVID-19 as a concurrent disease.

Despite significant progress made, some people in Seychelles living with HIV still face stigma and discrimination as they get on with their lives in the community. We need a whole-of-society approach to address their plight and I am committed to lead from the front.

This World AIDS Day, let us remind ourselves that inequalities felt by one group should concern all of us, no matter who we are.

We are blessed that in Seychelles we have free access to HIV related health care and support. I would like take this opportunity to call upon our fellow citizens who have been diagnosed with HIV, to please continue taking their treatment and doing their regular health check-ups. I also call on them, today, to please be vaccinated against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination is, for everyone, a proven insurance policy against severe COVID illness and even death from COVID. Above all, never give up on yourselves.

Among the good news this year, I am happy to note that those working in the HIV and AIDS response in Seychelles - the government entities as well as the non-governmental organisations - have valiantly soldiered on despite COVID-19. HIV testing has continued. There are more people on HIV treatment now than ever before, the human rights of our Seychellois infected or affected by HIV and AIDS are getting greater attention every day.

Let us live in the hope that soon there will be a vaccine against HIV. Let us pray for a world without COVID-19, without AIDS, without inequalities, and without epidemics and pandemics.

-END-



Statement by the Chairperson of the National Assembly
Committee for Communicable Diseases, HIV/AIDS and
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights,
Proportionately Elected Member,

Mrs Rosie Bistoquet

“KOMEMORASYON LAZOURNEN MONDYAL POU SIDA”

TENM: MET en lafen avek inegalite. MET en lafen avek SIDA.

MET en lafen avek Pandemi

Date: 01st December 2021

Bonzour Mr. Speaker

Bonzour tou Onorab

Bonzour tou piblik Sesel

En gro bonzour tou dimoun ki pe viv avek HIV ou SIDA ek zot fanmiy



Depi lannen 2019, Limanite in vin vilnerab aköz pou premye fwa lemond pe fer fas avek en doub pandemi. Zonm, fanm, zanfan, pe fer fas avek SIDA ki pe fer kolisyon avek COVID-19 avek en gran lefe ki fatal, danzere pou viv, lemond pann ganny prepare, lemond in perdi resours, lemond in vin mwen

fortinen. Sa set aköz lemond

pe konfront sa de lepidemi an menm tan ozordi, demenn e petet byento lemond i a kapab respire.

Ozordi, le premye Desanm parey tou le lannen, Sesel, partikilyerman, Lasanble Nasyonal, i zwenn avek tou lorganisyon nasyonal lasante, lorganizasyon non gouvènmantal, rezyonnal,

sirtou kominote SADC, e osi enternasyonal, tou bann tim Nasyon Ini, sirtou UNAIDS, pou komemor sa zour.

Sa moman i en moman spesyal pou nou tou, pran en poz, reflexir lo realite e lenpak ki HIV ek SIDA i anmenn lo kominote imen. I le moman pou nou tou mazin e priy pou tou sa anviron 38 milyon nou frer ek ser ki pe viv avek HIV ou SIDA, zot fanmiy ek zanmi. Nou osi priy pou anviron 1.2 milyon kin perdi zot lavi.

Seselwa pann ganny eparnyen avek lepidemi SIDA e osi COIVID19, malgre en bon pe progre in ganny fer, nou annan osi bann defi.

Statistik sorti kot Minister Lasante in penn en portre HIV ek SIDA dan nou pei. I annan antou 934 nou frer ek ser ki HIV positive, ladan 819 i lo tretman. Ti annan 165 kin drop out lo tretman – 123 zonm e 42 madanm. I osi annan 29 prizonnyen osi lo tretman, parmi 43 ki positiv. Nou bann zenn fiy ek zenn garson 15 zan an montan pann ganny eparnyen.

La fason ki HIV i ganny transmet isi sesel, dapre Minister lasante, 209 – heterosexual, 114 par droger ki dervi drog dan sereng, 45 par gay ou zonm same sex, 44 bi-sexual, larestan 28 i ganny partaze ant bann manman pozitiv ki donn nesans baba pozitiv, ou bann travayer sex.

Menm si prevalans HIV nasyonal parmi popilasyon zeneral i tre ba, me prevalans parmi popilasyon kle i enkyetan, sirtou parmi nou frer ki servi drog dan sereng kin deza servi e osi parmi bann zonm ki fer sex ek zonm e osi parmi nou bann zenn. Laplipar di tan san menm sa group dimoun ki pa ganny akse avek servis ou swen lasante akoz, zot ganny diskriminen akoz zot oriyantasyon seksyel.

Dapre rapor bibliye an 2021 par UNAIDS – en analyiz lo sitiason HIV ek KOVID aban tit **UNEQUAL, UNPREPARED, UNDER THREAT ou Pa egal-Pann Pare Anba Menas.**

Sa rapor ti osi anvoy en warning ki pandan sa pandemik COVID 19, progre dan repons HIV ti off track akoz tou sistem, servis, swen, tretman, program in ganny enteronpe enormeman par COVID 19.

Nasyon Ini ti demann tou pei pou pran bann desizyon brav/odasye kont inegalite - ki tre esansyel pou **ARET SIDA- ARET KOVID19- PREPAR POU FITIR LEPIDEMI.**

Alors sa tenm pou 2021–End Inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics - MET en lafen avek inegalite. MET en lafen avek SIDA. MET en lafen avek sa Pandemi ti ganny deklare.

Par sa deklarasyon tou pei in ganny demande pou bravman pran bann desizyon radikal avek aksyon pou delivre servis, swen pou fer sir ki bezwen, protez drwa imen e soutenir egalite dan distribisyon finans pou redwir lenfeksyon HIV e anpes lanmor sirtou parmi bann popilasyon kle, nou ser ek fre ki anan diferan oriyantsayon Seksyel, nou bann zenn, pou asire zot ganny akse avek lasante reproduktiv sirtou tes HIV e kontraseptiv.

Pou Sesel sa tenm I tre relevan e aplikab akoz nou tou manm lasanble noun toultan pare pou proteze e donn sipor nou fre ek ser ki pli a risk pou ganny SIDA, ou lezot maladi ki

transmet par sex ou menm hepatit C. Komite lasanble pou maladi kominikab, HIV- SIDA ek Lasante Reprodiktiv, inn met an plas en programm gouvènan anba SADC PF ki pou dire ziska 2022.

Sa set akòz la mazorite sikse ki anmenn progre dan lepidemi HIV ou SIDA, i montre ler i annan en bon lavironman legal e tou dimoun i satisfè avèk servis ou programm. En bon lavironman legal i asire ki tou dimoun i ganny proteze san diskriminasyon pou ki i fer zot viv en lavi normal e ere.

Sa projet ki Komite lasanble pou maladi Kominikab, HIV- SIDA ek Lasante Reprodiktiv in komans enplimante i annan pou bi donn valè azoutè bann program ki pe ganny en enplimante par diferan lòrganizasyon ou lazans pou ki tou nou frè ek sè i ganny akse avèk servis HIV, SIDA, LASANTE Reprodiktiv e zot drwa i ganny respektè.

Pou nou kapab fer sa, nou pe met an plas bann prosedir, metod konsiltasyon avèk tou group, lòrganizasyon, lazans respektiv dan sosyete pou Sesel kapab pran en pozisyon lo meyer fason pou tou popilasyon ganny akse avèk servis lasante dan nou pei e osi fer sir nou osi akonplir Developman Soutenab pou nou pei. Alòs mon pou demann tou bann group pou reponn nou lapel pou donn zot kontribisyon ler le moman I arive.

Nou bann palmanter nou tre angaje e toultan pare pou donn nou sipòr dan okenn size relye avèk HIV, SIDA, maladi konminikab, lasante reprodiktiv, Drwa Imen e lalwa. Kont lo nou sipòr.

Mersi

Hon' Rosie Bistoquet

Chairperson Committee on Communicable Diseases, HIV/AIDS & SRHR





MINISTRY OF HEALTH SEYCHELLES

Minister's Message



Minister for Health's message on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2021 Wednesday 1st December 2021 is World AIDS Day. It is a time for reflection: on what we have achieved with regard to the national and global response to HIV, and what we still must achieve.

The global theme chosen for this year's campaign is

'End inequalities. End AIDS. End pandemics',

This is a call for action to all countries to end the economic, social, cultural and legal inequalities that drive AIDS and other pandemics around the world.

We can STILL end AIDS by 2030, but only if we act courageously and together tackle inequalities which pose barriers to knowledge, services and treatment. On this World AIDS day, I would like to draw the attention of our citizens to the long-standing inequalities that mask the reality of our HIV response.

Unfortunately, pervasive stigma and discrimination still exists towards key affected persons and populations. Stigma and discrimination create barriers to the full participation of these individuals to society, including access to healthcare services.

We need policies which facilitate access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, policies which are fair and respect human rights of everyone irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Disregard for human rights has in many instances contributed to challenges of ending inequalities in AIDS.

My ministry is working in collaboration with all stakeholders to address these challenges that are holding back progress to end AIDS. The Covid 19 pandemic has added to the challenges of our HIV/AIDS response as is evidenced by the unfavorable statistics for 2021. The lack of information on the effect of COVID-19 on the HIV response, has aggravated the situation which may have contributed to further transmission and ineffectual community response.

As we fight the double pandemic we need special efforts directed towards maintaining essential HIV prevention and treatment services that the COVID-19 pandemic and response have weakened.

I am calling on all our stakeholders to use this opportunity to play a central role in protecting our vulnerable population from exposure and transmission, and to join in the fight to end inequalities and AIDS.

We need to be committed and remain resilient in our journey towards ending Inequalities, AIDS and pandemics.

I also, wish to express my sincere gratitude to all our health workers and partners for your extra support and for showing remarkable resilience under these extra ordinary circumstances.

We encourage our citizens to continue getting vaccinated against COVID-19, and follow the prevention protocols that include mask wearing, sanitization, routine washing of the hands, and physical/social distancing. This is to reduce transmission of COVID-19 thus protecting the vulnerable from getting infected.

If we are going to overcome the pandemics, we have to rise to the occasion and work collectively with the highest commitment.

-END-

Statement by the Chairperson for the National AIDS Council

Dr. Agnes Chetty

CEO NAC

Acting chairperson DURNS

All persons living with HIV

NAC Board Members

Participants

Good morning!

This year marks 40 years since the beginning of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. 40 years is a long time to live with a pandemic. What did these 40 years look like?



Well, in the first years, there was fear, desperation and many lives lost, but this fortunately changed.

Today, we know how to prevent and treat HIV:

- We have very effective and safe treatment that is easier to take;
- We have a toolbox of HIV prevention interventions;
- We know how to prevent mother to child transmission; and
- There is renewed hope for an effective HIV vaccine using mRNA technology

However, despite amazing progress, the world was not on track to achieve its goal of ending AIDS by 2030, even before the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are many reasons for this: one reason is that some countries and programmes have difficulties, or, are unwilling to translate sound scientific knowledge into practice, - for example we know PrEP works, but we do not implement it on scale.

But the root cause for the non-achievement of our goal of ending AIDS is - inequalities.

Inequalities, including social injustice lead to health risks

Inequalities lead to poor engagement in HIV programmes

Inequalities lead to poor health outcomes, even when effective treatment is available

Inequalities cost lives

We are fortunate to live in a country where prevention, treatment and care services are available free of charge but even in this seemingly ideal environment, inequalities can and sometimes do fester. We hear stories.....

We do not analyse our data enough to understand equity gaps, to see clearly which population groups or individuals have unmet needs or are being left behind. We need to change this.

We have many old challenges to address, and today, there are new threats that can steer us even further off track from our goals. For the last 2 years, we have been grappling with another pandemic – Covid-19. It has led to a shift of focus and resources away from other health problems. We have experienced disruptions in all health services including HIV prevention and care and some persons living with HIV have lost their life to Covid-19.

Additionally, there is fear that the loss of livelihood and economic austerity secondary to Covid will negatively influence health risks and health seeking behaviors.

We have been implementing HIV prevention and treatment interventions for years. What can we do more or do differently?

We endorsed the UN 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS with its 10 commitments:

1. Ending inequalities and engaging stakeholders to end AIDS
2. Effective implementation of combination HIV prevention
3. HIV testing, treatment and viral suppression
4. Vertical transmission of HIV and pediatric AIDS
5. Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
6. Community leadership
7. Realizing human rights and eliminating stigma and discrimination
8. Investments and resources
9. Universal health coverage and integration
10. Data, science and innovation

We know what to do. Let of us deliver on our commitments. Let us end AIDS. Let us tackle both pandemics.

On this WAD, NAC remembers those infected and affected by HIV, and renews its support for the many people involved in the fight against HIV.

It has been 40 years, we have been fighting for a very long time, we cannot drop the ball on HIV, the fight must continue.

-END-

NAC launches World Aids Day campaign |04 December 2021



The candle lighting

The National Aids Council yesterday morning officially launched the World Aids Day campaign.

The launch of the campaign under the theme ‘End Inequality, End Aids, End Pandemic’, took place in the lobby of the Eden Blue Hotel. Present were the Public Health Commissioner, Dr Jude Gedeon, NAC chief executive Dr Anne Gabriel, NAC chairperson Dr Agnes Chetty, other board members, stakeholders and partners. The activity was to commemorate World Aids Day which fell on Wednesday November 1,2021.

The campaign is marking 40 years since the beginning of the HIV/Aids pandemic and the theme highlights the urgent need to end the inequalities that drive Aids and other pandemics around the world.

After a blessing by Anglican church Reverend Christine Benoit who is also the vice chair of the NAC board, there was a moment of silence for people living with HIV and Aids and for those who have died of the virus.

Addressing the small gathering, Dr Chetty said that although there are fears, desperation and many lives lost in the first years since the discovery of the virus, this has fortunately changed as the world knows how to prevent and treat HIV. She added that that we have, at our disposal, very effective and safe treatment that is easier to take, a toolbox of HIV prevention interventions, a preventive method of mother to child transmission and a renewed hope for an effective HIV vaccine.

Dr Chetty stated that despite the amazing progress, the world was not on track to achieve its goal of ending Aids by 2030, even before the Covid-19 pandemic. She noted inequality is the main reason for the non-achievement of the goal in ending Aids. She explained that inequality leads to poor engagement in HIV treatment, poor health outcomes even when effective treatment is available, and to the loss of lives among others.

“We are fortunate to live in a country where prevention, treatment and care services are available free of charge, but even in this seemingly ideal environment, inequalities can and sometimes do fester,” she said.

She noted that our data are not being analysed enough to understand the equity gaps in which population groups or individuals have unmet needs or are being left behind and that needs to change, with things done differently. She said that although the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a shift of focus and resources away from other health problems, the fight against HIV and Aids which has been going on for the past 40 years, must continue, especially now that the country has endorsed the 10 commitments of the UN2021 political declaration on HIV and Aids.

In his testimony, Reginald Hoareau, the first person in Seychelles to disclose his HIV status, said he did not do it for popularity or publicity but to help reduce discrimination and stigmatisation.

He stated that although not on a large scale like when he first disclosed his status, he is still from time to time, targeted by some individuals because of his HIV status.

He said discrimination and stigmatisation against people living with HIV must stop and called on those people to know their status first before pointing fingers at the others.

The 40-year-old said he was infected with the virus at the age of 19 years old, he was discriminated against by being refused employment which led to him being self-employed to earn a living.

He added that as treatment against the virus (unlike when he was first diagnosed) is available, people on the treatment should continue with their treatment while others should get to know their status and follow the treatment.

Justin Freminot, chairperson of the HIV and Aids Support Organisation (Haso), said in his testimony that the HIV and Aids epidemic would have been lesser in the country had all the trained personnel who are no longer involved, stayed to give a helping hand. Haso has been educating the masses and victims of HIV/Aids.

The ceremony ended with candle lighting in remembrance of people living with the virus and those who have passed away. The candles were placed in the hotel’s water fountain under the sounds ‘Let’s come together and fight Aids’, which was sung by Sony D, the first artist to compose a song about HIV and Aids.

The accompanying photos show some highlights of the ceremony.



40 YEARS OF PROGRESS

It's Time to End the HIV Epidemic

Rev Christine Benoit: "Let us observe a moment of silence for those who have died of AIDS related diseases"



Mr Justin Freminot, Chairperson HASO, in the fight against AIDS over 40 years, since 1991



Mr Sonny Dogley: "Take Care because AIDS don't care"



Mr Reginald Hoareau: Living with HIV for 22 years



World AIDS Day 2021
Met en lafen avek bann inegalite. Met en lafen avek SIDA.
Met en lafen avek bann Pandemi

Every year, on 1 December, the world commemorates World AIDS Day. People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS. Seychelles will also take the opportunity to show support to its People living with HIV.

This World AIDS Day, UNAIDS is highlighting the urgent need to end the inequalities that drive AIDS and other pandemics around the world.

With this in mind, this year the theme of World AIDS Day is **“End Inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics.”**

Tackling inequalities is a long-standing global promise. In 2015, all countries pledged to reduce inequalities within and between countries as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026: End Inequalities, End AIDS and the Political Declaration on AIDS adopted at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on AIDS in June 2021 have ending inequalities at their core.

As well as being central to ending AIDS, tackling inequalities will advance the human rights of key populations and people who are living with HIV, make societies better prepared to beat COVID-19 and other pandemics and support economic recovery and stability. Fulfilling the promise to tackle inequalities will save millions of lives and will benefit society as a whole.

COVID-19 has affected the way in which prevention, testing and treatment of HIV, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis have been carried out; for example, awareness sessions and outreach testing campaigns have decreased since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leaving people behind is not an option if we are to succeed to combat HIV even during COVID-19

Organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, will be organizing activities to commemorate World AIDS Day (as per attached programme). The National AIDS Council will

commemorate World AIDS Day 2021 by hosting two one-day workshops in collaboration with UNFPA and the local organisations to build capacity on sexuality and prevention of HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis.

1. **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for the Youth:**

Wednesday 1 December, Savoy Hotel:

- **9.00 a.m. –3.00 p.m.** Workshop for trainers at SAVOY on the “Validation of the comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) manual for the Seychelles”. Through the CSE programme, youth as a vulnerable population will be empowered to make the right decision with their life and to be guided on where to seek help through.
- **3.00 -4.00 p.m.** Short ceremony for Commemoration of World AIDS Day

2. **“Empowerment of Persons who inject Drugs (PWIDs) on Harm Reduction and Treatment”.**

Friday 3 December, Eden Bleu Hotel

- **9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.** Workshop with the goal of increasing Prevention of HIV and Hepatitis C and to increase access to health services by this left behind community. PWIDs are the main Key Population in term of HIV in the Seychelles
- **10.00 a.m. or 3.00 p.m.** (time to be confirmed). A short ceremony for Official Launch of World AIDS Day

Statistics for 2021

In Seychelles, this year’s statistics, from January to September 2021 show 49 new HIV cases, 21 new AIDS cases and 19 AIDS related deaths.

Among the 49 new cases of HIV, 7 were co-infections of HIV and Hepatitis C.

There was one new baby with mother to child transmission of HIV.

All media houses are invited to cover the event.



-END-

Radio programmes/messages that commemorated this year's World AIDS Day in collaboration with the Chairperson, Ms Thelma Pool and Members of the NAC Board Media Sub-Committee

1. Tuesday 30th November

- President's Message on SBC, Nation and other news media
- Bonzour Sesel : Carol Andriamaro with Dr Anne Gabriel
- Interview with Mr. Justin Freminot (HASO) - (HIV/AIDS works in the community) -Radyo Sesel

2. Wednesday 01st December

- Minister of Health's Message
- Interview with Person living with HIV on Radyo Sesel
- World Aids Day Message by Dr. Anne Gabriel (CEO NAC) - On Radyo Sesel (8.15 a.m.) & Paradise FM (8.30 a.m.)
- 9.00 a.m. National Assembly Live Broadcast message by Chairperson of the National Assembly Committee for HIV/AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Mrs Rosie Bistoquet
- News item on SBC
- Media coverage of WAD activities

3. Thursday 02nd December

- Interview with Ms. Chantal Melanie & Ms. Georgette Furneau- Parents with HIV Positive children/Treatment/Challenges/CDCU- Radyo Sesel

4. Friday 3rd December

- Media coverage and news item of Official Launch of World AIDS Day, Eden Bleu Hotel
- Media coverage of DURNS key populations workshop

5. Tuesday 07th December

Interview Ronny Arnephy- NGO Think Tank- Radyo Sesel

6. Wednesday 08th December

- Special Programme- Review of HIV/AIDS Day commemoration done at Eden Bleu on Friday 03rd December/
- Interviews with Reginald Hoareau/ Dr. Anne Gabriel after the ceremony- Radyo Sesel.

7. Thursday 09th December

- Studio Clinic- Interview with Dr. Louine Morel - (HIV/AIDS Treatment)-
- Testimony of an HIV Positive patient who has lived with the virus for 19 years now- Radyo Sesel

Mass to commemorate 16 days' activism against Gender-Based Violence and World AIDS Day 1 December 2021, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Mots de remerciement by Family Affairs

Frer ek ser, alafen sa zoli selebrasyon, nou pa manke pou remersye Senyer ki'n vin rankontre nou, ki sov nou.

Mersi Senyer ki touzour akey nou e geri nou lekor, nou leker e nou làm.

Ou met dan lavi bann ki soufer, bann dimoun avek sa don lekout, pasyans e dezir pou ede.

Mersi Senyer pou fer nou konfyans ; nou osi nou fer OU konfyans.

An sortan isi, nou dan bann Minister e lorganizasyon gouvènmàn, avek tou nou bann kolaborater, nou zwenn avek Lepap Francois pou apel tou dimoun pou fer zefor kolektiv, pour ki nou sosyete i arive protez bann viktim vyolans e bann dimoun kin pe viv avek HIV ouswa SIDA.

Temwanyaz bann ki'n oze vin devan pou partaz zot leksperyans i en lapel osekour ki nou pa kapab inyore!

Avek en lizye mizerikord, annou osi aprann ekout leokri bann ki pe enflikte vyolans ouswa propaz HIV.

Annou pa vir ledò lo zot.

Byensir, nou pa manke pou ankouraz bann ki pe donn bon legzanp dan fanmiy, dan travay, dan lekòl, partou dan lakominote.

Mersi Per Alcindor pou aksepte dir lanmes ozordi, e parwas Victoria ki'n akey nou.

Mersi tou dimoun ki'n vin sipòrt sa koz e tou bann fidel pour zot lapriyer. An sortan nou annan en pti kart «**Shout out Violence Card**» avek detay bann Minister e lorganizasyon ki zot kapab kontakte si zot pe sibir ou vwar vyolans, e a gran risk ganny enfekte avek HIV.

Bon kontinyasyon lasemenn e lalit kont vyolans ki kontinyen.

Bondye i beni zot tou.

Production and Dissemination of IEC materials

- 1 Road banner
- 2 Roll up banner
- 200 Bags with Red Ribbon design
- Information and fact sheets sent by email to Ministry of Health “All Users”
 1. About World AIDS Day 2021
 2. What is the Red Ribbon?
 3. Themes for World AIDS Days 1988-2021
 4. Fact Sheet on HIV and AIDS
 5. What is the National AIDS Council?
 6. About the 2019-2023 National Strategic Plan for HIV, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis
 7. 2021 UN Political Declaration and Global Commitments on HIV and AIDS



Messages for IEC materials:

- HIV: End inequalities. End AIDS. End Pandemics
- HIV: Met en lafen avek bann Inegalite, Met en lafen avek SIDA. Met en lafen avek bann Pandemi



Capacity building Workshops

1. National AIDS Council

Comprehensive Sexuality Education for the Youth of Seychelles: 1 December 2021, Savoy Hotel

The workshop to validate the Seychelles Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Manual for Facilitators took place on Wednesday 01 December 2021, which is also World AIDS Day. The event was held at the Savoy Resort and Spa at Beau Vallon, from 09H00 to 15H30.

The objectives were to:

- (a) Familiarize participants with the proposed changes to the CSE Manual for Seychelles
- (b) Discuss these changes
- (c) Validate the changes
- (d) Approve the final amendments to the manual.

Proceedings

2. The workshop began with a welcome by the Programme Manager at the National AIDS Council (NAC), Mrs. Patricia Baquero, who thanked the participants for their effort to attend the workshop, and explained about the project on the CSE manual in Seychelles. She reiterated that Seychelles is now the last country in the eastern and southern African region to work on the manual. As such, she urged participants to review the documents in full and to provide feedback to improve it.

3. The consultant, Mr. Benjamin Vel, then presented a summary of the manual, as follows:

- a) A definition of CSE: Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is a curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of sexuality.
- b) Aims of the UNFPA CSE Manual for Facilitators, which were to equip children and young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to:
 - i. realize their health, well-being and dignity
 - ii. develop respectful social and sexual relationships
 - iii. consider how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others
 - iv. Understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives.

4. He also explained that the manual has 3 main sections.

The CSE Manual has support materials in the form of a pre-workshop questionnaire, pre/post-tests, daily evaluation sheet and a final evaluation.

Contents of the CSE Manual

Three Sections	Eleven Units	87 Lessons
Section One – Who am I? 4 units	Unit 1: Values & Rights Unit 2: Adolescent Development Unit 3: Sexuality Unit 4: Gender Roles and Equality	Unit 7 – 6 lessons Unit 1, 2, 5, 8 & 11 – 7 lessons
Section Two – Where am I going? 3 units	Unit 5: Planning for the future Unit 6: Relationships Unit 7: Communication	Unit 3, 4 – 8 lessons Unit 6, 9, 10 – 10 lessons
Section Three – How do I get there? 3 units	Unit 8: Pregnancy Unit 9: STIs & HIV Unit 10: Prevention & Risk Reduction Unit 11: Sexual & Gender-Based Violence	

P rogramme

Time	Activity	Facilitator
08H30 – 09H	Registration of participants	NAC
09H – 09H05	Welcome	MC
09H05 – 09H10	Presentation of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Project	Patricia Baquero
09H10 – 09H30	The CSE Manual original and adapted version for Seychelles	Benjamin Vel
09H30 – 09H40	Opening address by APhi	APHI
09H40 – 10H	Q & A	Benjamin Vel
10H – 10H30	Health Break	NAC / SAVOY
10H30 – 11H20	Section 1: Who Am I Units, topics, lesson plans, activities	Group work Benjamin Vel
11H20 – 12H	Plenary, with recommendations for Section 1	Participants
12H – 13H	LUNCH BREAK	SAVOY
13H – 14H	Section 2: Where Am I Going? Units, topics, lesson plans, activities	Group work
14H – 14H30	Plenary, with recommendations for Section 2	Participants
14H30 – 14H45	Health Break	SAVOY
14H45 – 15H15	Section 3: How Am I Going to Get There? Units, topics, lesson plans, activities	Group work
15H15 – 15H30	Plenary, with recommendations for Section 3	Participants
15H30 – 15H40	Final thoughts, recommendations Closure	NAC
15H40 – 16H00	World AIDS Day Ceremony: Speech; Poem and lighting of Candles	NAC / Stephanie Joubert / All

LAUNCHING SPEECH BY CEO NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL, DR ANNE GABRIEL, 1 DECEMBER 2021, SAVOY HOTEL



40an pase an 1981, en zenn dokter i deklare konmkwa in dekouven en nouvo maladi parmi serten group zonn omoseksyel an Lanmerik. Deswit bann mesaz ti ganny anvoye pli o e CDC, sant pour kontrol bann maladi Lanmerik i anons sa nouvel piblikman.

Deswit ankor, bann siyantis e serser i alim lalanp e travay nwit e zour pour kapab detekte sa maladi pli boner, pour tret li e met li anba kontrol. Ti napa enternet, me i pas enpe letan, lezot leta dan Lanmerik i raport menm maladi ; e detrw lannen plitar, plizyer pei pe raport menm senaryo.

Pasyan ti ganny izole ; serten ti ganny met dan karantenn. Bokou ti mor.

Tes laboratwar ti ganny promet e tes laboratwar ti arive. Isi Sesel, nou ti konmans teste an 1987 e fer plis ki 20,000 tes zis an 2020 tousel.

Latizann ti ganny promet e byento, latizann osi ti arive. Nou osi Sesel nou ti konmans donn latizann bann madanm ansent an 2001 e detwa zan plitar tou pasyan ti konmans ganny latizann.

Ofet, Sesel an 2020 ti annan 746 pasyan lo tretman; ki reprezant 80% bann ki pe viv avek HIV.

Vaksen osi ti ganny promet me malerezman, 40an plitar vaksen pankor arive.

Problenm se ki ler Dr Fauci ti fer lanons HIV an 1981 i pa ti realize ki 40an plitar,

1) I ti pou ankor pe lager kont sa viris, e 2) I ti pou pe lager kont en lot viris.

Diferans se ki avek KOVID19, dan lespas detrw semenn, viris tin fini propaze dan lemonn, dan detrw mwan tes tin fini partaze dan lemonn, e dan mwens ki en lannen, vaksen tin fini pare dan bokou pei dan lemonn. Menm parmi viris i annan inegalite.

E alor bann dirizan lemonn in dakor ki dezorme nou bezwen met anplas bann stratezi pour met en lafen avek tou lede sa bann pandemi.

Ozordi menm si nou sif i paret mwens ki pour lezot, nou sitiasyon i pa meyer :

1. Nou annan apepre 1000 dimoun ki pe viv avek HIV isi Sesel ; ladan 1/3 i madanm e fiy, e 2/3 zonn.
2. Nou bann kantite tes HIV in redwir bokou sa 2 dernyen lannen KOVID ; nou bezwen trouv fason fer plis tes HIV e detekte li boner
3. Malgre ki tretman i pou nanryen e lakantite dimoun lo tretman in ogmante, selman environ 80% ki lo tretman HIV
4. E pandan KOVID, bokou pa ti pe pran byen zot tretman e bokou ti arete. Nou bezwen trouv bann kin perdi e ankouraz zot rekonmanse pour zot viv pli byen e pli lontan e akonpli zot plan dan lavi. Fodre pa ki zot perdi lespwar.

Petet si 40 an pase nou ti'n met menm kantite zefor dan SIDA ki nou'n met dan KOVID sa de dernyen lannen, nou ti pou bokou pli lwen....

Nou bezwen elimin lenfeksyon dan zanfan e pti baba.

Nou bezwen investir plis resours dan HIV e praktis diferan mwayen prekasyon enfwa pour tou.

Met en lafen avek inegalite, met en lafen avek sida, met en lafen avek pandemi.

Nou swete e priye ki byento nou trouv en vaksen, ou menm en gerizon pour HIV.

- Lav nou lanmen souvan e anpes laplipar maladi propaze

- Si nou pik drog dan lavann, servi zegwir prop

- Gard nou zistans; si nou pa konn stati en dimoun, si i annan HIV ou non

- Met nou mask pou anpes KOVID ; met nou lot mask pou anpes SIDA: servi nou kapot

Nou bezwen edik nou popilasyon sirtou nou zenn lo SIDA. Sa proze ki nou'n komanse avek

UNFPA i pou anmenn ledikasyon lo seksyalite pli pros avek nou bann zenn andeor lekol e osi bann

ki dan lekol. Mon remersye Msye Vel e tou bann ki pe kolabore pour met sa proze an plas.

Mon annan gran plezir pour lans sa proze Comprehensive Sexuality Education ozordi.

Mersi.

2. Seychelles National Youth Council

Focus Group / Open discussion on AIDS & Testing and Donation of IT equipment from UNFPA to SNYC



ACTIVITY: Commemorating World AIDS Day

DATE: 2 December 2021

TIME: 9:30am-12:30pm

VENUE: Savoy Hotel

AIM: To educate and spread awareness to the youths about HIV/AIDS

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide the youths with the necessary and accurate information and statistics about HIV/AIDS
- To educate and sensitise the youths on the prevention of HIV/AIDS, the associated stigma and the treatments
- Provide the youths with the platform and opportunity to ask questions in relation to HIV/AIDS
- Provide the youths with the opportunity to present what they have learned about HIV/AIDS in groups
- Give the youths the opportunity to test for HIV/AIDS

CO-ORDINATOR

- Mrs. Beryl Dodin--Youth Wellbeing
- Ms. Farella Charlie – Youth Wellbeing
- Ms. Maryila Dorlin– Youth Wellbeing

PARTNERS/RESOURCE PERSON:

Post-secondary institutions

CDCU (Nurse: Ms. Chantal Melanie)

HASO

NAC: Dr. Anne Gabriel; Mrs. Patricia Baquero



TARGET AUDIENCE: 30 youths

SMA (2 participants)

SIAH (2 participants)

SIAD (2 participants)

SBSA (2 participants)

SPA (2 participants)

SIT (2 participants)

UniSey (2 participants)

NIHSS (2 participants)

SALS (2 participants)

STA (2 participants)

Out of school youths (10 participants)

*** Final Counted Audience 43 participants**

EQUIPMENT/RESOURCES/FACILITIES USED: provided by Savoy Hotel

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Youths are more educated and sensitized about HIV/AIDS
- Youths will spread awareness about HIV/AIDS to their peers

PROGRAMME:

9:30am Welcoming (MC)
9:35am Reflection (prayer)
9:40am Song (HIV/AIDS)
9:45am Dr. Gabriel remarks
9:50am Presentation of IT equipment's to SNYC
9:55am Tea/Coffee break (snacks)
10:10am Discussion/presentation about HIV/AIDS

- Statistics
- Stigma
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Awareness

11:00am Questions from audience
11:20am Group presentation by audience
11:45am Vote of thanks
11:50am Testing for HIV/AIDS
12:30pm Lunch



Opening Remarks by Dr Anne Gabriel, UNFPA Focal Point for Implementing Partners

PS, Director SNYC, Partener, tou bann ki zenn,

Bonzour!

Mon byen kontan pour la parmi zot bomaten.

Mon pa pou al an detay, me i sifi pou dir ki nou sorti byen lwen avek UNFPA. Pour bann ki memwar i fantastik, zot pou mazine ki UNFPA ti etabli Youth Health Centre an 1995. Menm si sa sant ti sanz landrwa, i ti kontinyen ganny sipor UNFPA ziska 2015. Sa ki pli enportan se ki bokou program ti etabli pour sipor sant e son bann aktivite dan lasante reproduktiv, e bann size popilasyon e *zanr/gender*.

Nou tou nou ti soke e dezapwente letan UNFPA ti larg nou an 2015 akoz swa dizan pei ti pe fer tre byen e ti annan ase resours. Alors nou ti vreman emerveye ler UNFPA ti retournen an 2018. Antretan, kabri in manz salad, nou bann sityasyon konsernan lazene in evolye e nou war nou la bezwen bouze avek plis defi.

Malgre bann gran progre ekonomik dan pei, nou bann zenn in touzour reste vilnerab e afekte par HIV ek SIDA, ensi ki Epatit.

An 2020, bann zenn ant 15 a 24 an ti konstitye 15% bann nouvo lenfeksyon HIV, compare avek 12% an 2016.

Parmi bann zenn 15-24 an, ti annan 6 nouvo lenfeksyon parmi bann garson e 7 parmi bann fiy.

Nou pou rapel ki Nasyon Zini ti annan en seri langazman politik pour HIV ek SIDA 2016 a 2021.

Langazman nimerò 5 i demande ki nou asire ki 90% zenn dimoun i annan bann konensans e kapasite pour protez zot lekor kont HIV e annan akse avek servis lasante reproduktiv apartir 2020, pour ki kantite lenfeksyon parmi bann fiy adolesan i desann par anba 100,000.

Parey nou konpran, nou pe lit kont 2 pandemi. An Desanm 2020, Konsey Nasyonnal pour SIDA ti organiz en latelye pour nou evalye lenpakt ki pandemi KOVID-19 in annan lo pandemi SIDA. Avek pandemi KOVID-19, diferan platform medya in ganny servi pour edik bann zenn e platform meya sosyal in servi pour konminik avek kliyan potansyel lo en nivo personnel, parey nou dir *one-to-one*. Malgre bann limitasyon dan sa lepok KOVID, bann partener in kapab *network* ansanm e kolabore pour donn servis couselling e swen lasante reproduktiv avek bann group apropiye.

Serten paran in memm al kolekte kontraseptiv pour son adolesan memm si bann prosedir in fer *one-to-one* avek sa zenn par telefonn ou lot fason.

Sipor psikolojik e sosyal pa ti manke pour bann pli vilnerab e afekte.

Serten group, par egzanp, HAPTF dan Lotorite Lasante Piblik, pa ti kapab fer zot aktivite normal pour donn bann kozri dan lekòl, me zot ti reste aktiv lo medya sosyal pandan pandemic KOVID.

Avan deklarasyon pandemic and 2020, Konsey Nasyonnal SIDA ti organiz en latelye en zournen an kolaborasyon avek Konsey Nasyonnal Sport pour bann zenn sportif aze 15 a 18 an. Lobzektif ti pou edik sa bann zenn lo HIV ek Epatit. Ti annan apepre en trantenn zenn sa zour, e menm si nou nou ekspekte plis zot pou vini, rezilta ti tre prometan e sa lazournen ti en sikse.

Toulezan, i annan en bann dokiman ki Sesel i bezwen ranpli pour mezir son performans dan diferan domenn e konpar li ek lezot pei. Enn sa dokiman se en *prevention scorecard* ki SADC e Nasyon Zini i servi. Sesel, riyen a dir, i tonm dan bann premye lo donn servis lasante. Parkont, i ankor annan bokou *gaps*/lekar onivo kouvertir bann programm prevansyon.

Ler KOVID in tape, in met nou plis ankor annaryer. Pandemi in ogmant lakantite *drop-outs* dan bann programm, in restrikte akse avek lekòl segonder e post segonder, e redwir lakantite *talks*/kozri o nivo skoler.

Erezman bann servis e programm HIV e Epatit ti reste aksesib dan bann diferan landrwa pandan restriksyon. Granmaersi, stok ti sifizan pou tenir nou pandan pandemi e zot distribisyon ti ganny byen kontrole e kordonnen pour evit gaspiyaz. Sansibilizasyon dan bann lenstisyon e Inadrwa travay ti reste aksesib, menm si servis tin redwir konsiderableman.

Ler nou get lavenir, nou pou bezwen fer en letid/survey pour nou evalye konportman zenn e redres nou bann stratezi baze lo son rezilta vi ki dernyen letid ti an 2015.

Parey zot in konstate, travay i la!

Batay i bokou e gran mersi, nou annan bann partener ki ede soulaz nou en pe. Nou rekonesan anver UNFPA kin retournen pour ed nou mentenir nou bann pwèn e endikater pli favorab e ed nou adres bann kot i annan plis defi. Nou dir mersi UNFPA pour bann lekipman ki in met a dispozisyon lazennes Sesel. Annou bat en lanmen pour zot.

Nou osi rekonnet e dir mersi Minis pour Lasante, Madanm Peggy Vidot, kin siny sa plan daksyon UNFPA pour pei kapab benefisyè.

Nou remersye osi Departamen Lazennes, SNYC e zofisye National AIDS Council kin organiz animasyon sa group fokalize.


Mersi tou bann partener kin remet zot konfyans e lentere dan programm UNFPA pour briz bann baryer lozistik e donn zot lavi pour sov lavi lezot, sirtou bann zenn.

Prezan, mon annan gran [plezit pour deklar sa latelye ofisyeman ouver.

Mersi zot tou.

3. DURNS Harm Reduction Prevention and Treatment
Eden Bleu Hotel, 3 December 2021

#DURNSWAD2021
durns@ghs.gov.gh



DURNS
DURNS is a Project of GHS

Programme Of The Day

**Empower PWID On Harm Reduction
Prevention And Treatment**

Screening/Registration - Patricia Popat - 9.30am to 9.35am

Opening Remarks - Ntshela Asotse - 9.35am to 9.38am

Presentation - DURNS - Joseph Ramana - 9.38am to 9.45am

Presentation - Prevention and Harm Reduction - 9.45am to 10.15am

Tea Break - 10.15am to 10.30am

Presentation - Treatment - 10.30am to 11.00am

Presentation - MOU Services - Fabrice Mwafo - 11.00am to 11.05am

Presentation Stigmatisation and Discrimination - Kevvy Amegbly - 11.05am to 11.09pm

Lunch Break 12am to 1pm


Presentation - Rehabilitation - John Oduku - 1.09pm to 1.10pm

Final Messages 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Certification - 2.30pm to 2.40pm

Closing Remarks - Ntshela Asotse - 2.40pm to 2.00pm

Tea Break - 2.40pm



WORLD AID& DRY 2021



DURNS Team during their workshop held on 3rd December for WAD



DURNS workshop

4. SCSATT Working session to develop an advocacy plan to support and advance the national response to HIV/AIDS, and STIs & Viral Hepatitis

Seychelles National Museum Meeting Room

Wednesday 1st December, 2021

AGENDA Time	Topic	Responsibility
08h30 – 09h00	Registration of participants	Sameena
09h00- 09h15	Welcome: Introduction of the working session	SCSATT Lead
09h15- 09h45	Presentation: 1. Overview of the NSP 2019-2023 2. Recommendations from SCSATT formalization meeting	SCSATT Lead
09h45- 10h00	Q & A: based on presentation	SCSATT
Healthy break, Networking and Group Photo		
10h30- 12h30	Plenary and consensus building: Strategic Goal 1	SCSATT
Lunch break		
13h30-15h30	Plenary and consensus building: Strategic Goal 2 and 3	SCSATT
15h35-15h45	Wrap up: Closing remarks	SCSATT Lead
Healthy break and end of day		



Mrs. Mousbe AIDS control Programme Manager doing her presentation during the DURNS workshop

Promotion and Enhancement of health service delivery

1. World AIDS Day 2021 – Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit

December 1st, organization, businesses and individual across the world join forces to commemorate World AIDS Day. Each year commemoration falls under specific theme to share global responsibility, support and solidarity for people living with HIV and remembering those who have died from AIDS related illnesses among a growing list of challenges.

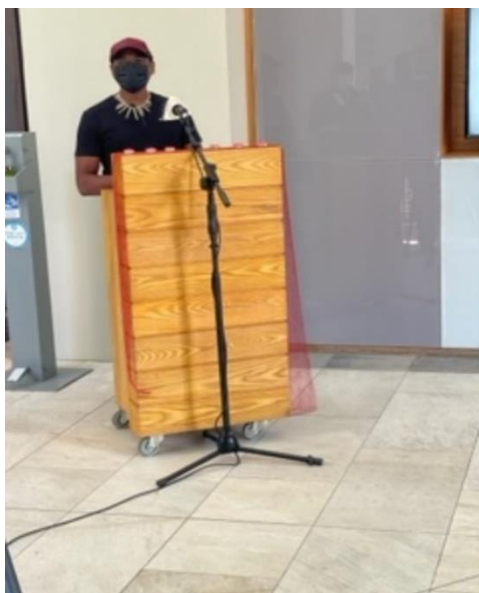
This year World AIDS Day theme is to “**End inequalities, End AIDS. End pandemic.**” A call for all countries over the world to remove barriers hindering access to services and supply, increase awareness and knowledge, speak out against all stigmas and increase response, in moving forward toward ending the pandemic.

One of the UNAIDS calling is to improve condoms access to all those who need them – Geneva February 13th, 2017 and as COVID- 19 has impede access and services to health facilities as, the Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit in collaboration with all nurses from all the 18 district Health centers on the islands of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue participated in a condom campaign to reduce risks of HIV transmission and other sexually transmitted infection (STI) thus decreasing the disease burden. Condoms were placed for free at receptions of all the public Health facilities, pharmacies, district Administration offices, National Assembly Secretariat, Triage points at all COVID -19 stations, Industries, Hotel venues and supermarkets thus increasing the accessibility to majority of clients and the general public.



2. WORLD AIDS DAY ACTIVITIES BY CDCU

	ACTIVITY	DATE	LOCATION	TARGET GROUP	OUTCOME	REMARKS
1.	In house voluntary rapid testing of all client attending CDCU	28 TH November to 7 th December 2021	CDCU - Yellow Roof	All client not knowing their HIV status	Increased number of clients who know their HIV status	
2.	Focus Group / Open discussion on HIV & AIDS & Testing	2 nd December 2021	SAVOY-HOTEL	Post-secondary students – (mixed group 30)	Sensitize adolescents and youth on HIV Aids prevention and safer sex practices.	The activity was in partnership with the SNYC and NAC
3.	Live Radio program on RIGHT OF THE CHILD promoting care, treatment and follow-up HIV positive children.	2 nd December 2021	SBC Radio	General population and service provider	to sensitize general population on the importance of follow-up and treatment of pregnant mother and children	
4.	Radio program on importance of treatment adherence care and follow-up	2 nd December 2021	SBC radio	General population and Patients	Recorded radio program to General population and Patients	
5.	In house exhibition on Wad 2021 theme: END INEQUALITIES END AIDS END PANDEMIC	1 ST December 2021 to DATE	CDCU - Yellow Roof	All clients attending CDCU	Promotion of WAD 2021 THEME through IEC material	



Mr. Reginald Hoareau's touching words of Hope

Community Health Centre activities

Beau Vallon Health Centre

- Annual candle light event and prayer at 8.15am; followed by short health talk & answering of questions on the topic
- Quiz with clinic clients in waiting area
- HIV rapid Testing



Annexes:

1. Activities for WORLD AIDS DAY 2021 by all stakeholders



NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL

ACTIVITIES FOR WORLD AIDS DAY 2021 BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS

“End inequalities. End AIDS. End pandemics”.



	Activity	Day/Date	Time	Venue	Target	Health Facility/ Organization	Responsible Person	Feedback on activities
1.	Advocacy Activities	December 2021	TBD	TBD	Policy-Makers	NAC	Dr A Gabriel	Postponed to 2022
2.	Media Activities				General Public	Media organisations	Ms Tessa Henderson	Completed
3.	HIV testing activities				General Public	Health Facilities	Mrs S Mousbe Mrs M Souris	
4.	Faith Based Activities				Worshippers	Places of Worship	Rev Christine Benoit	
5.	Educational activities				School nurses, counsellors, PSE teachers	MOH MOE	Mrs Georgianna Marie	Postponed
6.	Activities targeting PWUDs				PWUDs	APDAR		
7.	Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) CSE Manual for Seychelles (ToT)	Mon 22 to Wed 24 November	9.00 am to 4.00pm	Sheikh Khalifa Conference room	Future Trainers from MoH, MoE, MHA & NGOs	NAC / UNFPA	Mr Ben Vel / Mrs Patricia Baquero	Completed
8.	Workshop on HIV/AIDS workplace policy with business and Human resource officers	Thu 25 November	Half day	Praslin	Business and HR officers	HASO/ Employment Dept	Ms Tessy Madeleine	Completed
9.	HIV rapid testing door to door on Praslin	Fri 26-Sat 27 November	9.00am-3.00pm	Praslin	General population	HASO	Ms Tessy Madeleine	Completed
10.	HIV Service	Sunday 28 November	9.00am	Holy Saviour Anse Royale	Worshippers	Anglican Church Anse Royale	Rev Christine Benoit	Completed
11.	Condom Distribution & Promotion: Ensuring condoms availability and accessibility on a continuous basis at all Triage points and equally at all community health facilities	As of 29 November		All MOH District Health Facilities	General public	Sexual & Reproductive Health unit; Family Planning Nurses	Ms Beryl Valentin Mrs Mirena Souris	Completed
12.	Right of the Child / HIV Parent Education	Mon 29 November		CDCU	Parent of HIV+ child	CDCU	Ms Chantal Melanie	Completed

	Activity	Day/Date	Time	Venue	Target	Health Facility/ Organization	Responsible Person	Feedback on activities
		to Fri 3 December						
13.	HIV testing at the facility level during the week of WAD	Mon 29 November to Sat 4 December		Les Mamelles health centre	Patients/ Clients	Les Mamelles health centre	Ms Betsy	
14.	Media weekly program and quiz	Mon 29 November to Sun 5 December		SBC Radio	General population	SBC	Ms Telma Pool	Completed
15.	President's Message	Tue 30 November		All media	General Public	NAC/MOH	Dr Bernard Valentin Dr Anne Gabriel	Aired
16.	Minister's Message	Tue 30 November		All media	General Public	NAC/MOH	Mrs Sabrina Mousbe Dr Jude Gedeon	Aired
17.	CSE: a Manual for Seychelles Validation	Wed 1 December	9.00 am- 3.00pm	SAVOY	Users of Manual	NAC / UNFPA	Mr Ben Vel Mrs Patricia Baquero	Completed
	Commemoration of World AIDS Day	Wed 1 December	3.00- 4.00pm	SAVOY	Stakeholders	NAC / UNFPA	Mrs Patricia Baquero	Completed
18.	Working session to develop an advocacy plan to support and advance the national response to HIV, AIDS, STIs & Viral Hepatitis	Wed 1 December	8.30am – 4.00pm	Seychelles National Museum	Members of Seychelles Civil Society Activist Think Tank (SCSATT)	Seychelles Civil Society Activist Think Tank (SCSATT)	Mrs Sabrina Mousbe	Completed
19.	Prison activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special mass by Roman Catholic Church • Special reflection by Pentecostal Assembly Church • Candlelight vigil • HIV Rapid testing • Sale of food items 	Wed 1 December	•9-10am •10.00- 11am •11am onwards	• Visit Pavilion • Training Room • Gate 1	Staff and inmates	Prison Services	Ms Noella Lajoie	
20.	Parliament activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement in the House • Press Communique (to also feature on FB & website) • Screening of statement during breaks • Condom distribution • Red Ribbon distribution • Mini exhibition • Lighting of candles by members, staff and visitors to the precinct 	Wed 1 December	9.00am – 5.00pm	MNAs Staff General Public Visitors	National Assembly Committee on Communicable Diseases, HIV/AIDS and SRHR	National Assembly	Mrs Genevieve Morel	Completed

	Activity	Day/Date	Time	Venue	Target	Health Facility/ Organization	Responsible Person	Feedback on activities
21.	Mass to commemorate 16 days' activism against GBV	Wed 1 December	12.00 noon	Cathedral of Immaculate Conception	General Public	Family Affairs	Mrs Nathalie Didon	Completed
22.	Commemoration of World AIDS Day	Wed 1 December	3.00-4.00pm	SAVOY Hotel	Stakeholders	NAC / UNFPA	Mrs Patricia Baquero	Completed
23.	Annual candle light event & prayer at 8.15am; followed by short health talk & answering of questions on the topic Quiz with clinic clients in waiting area HIV rapid Testing	Wed 1 & Fri 3 December		Beau Vallon Health Centre	Clients of the clinic	Beau Vallon HC	Mrs Corinna Jean-Baptiste	Completed
24.	Focus Group / Open discussion on AIDS & Testing Donation of IT equipment NAC – UNFPA to SNYC	Thu 2 December	9.30 to 12.00	SAVOY Hotel	Post-secondary students	SNYC / UNFPA	Ms Farella Charlie & Ms Chantal Melanie Dr Gabriel	Completed
25.	Half day training session for teachers (PE, PSE, religion, careers) Plaisance secondary school	Thu 2 December	9am to 12noon	Plaisance secondary school	Secondary teachers (PSE, PE, careers, religion)	ASFF, UP Brigade MOH AIDS Control programme	Sabrina Mousbe, Ronny Arnephy, John Ondiek	Completed
26.	Empower PWIDs on Harm Reduction and Treatment	Fri 3 December	9.30 am to 4.00 pm	Eden Bleu Hotel	PWIDs	DURNS & UP Brigade / UNFPA	Ms Nathalie Antoine Mrs Patricia Baquero	Completed
	Official Launch of World AIDS Day	Fri 3 December	10.30am	Eden Bleu Hotel	Decision-makers	NAC / UNFPA	Mrs Patricia Baquero	Completed
27.	HIV awareness campaign	Sat 4 December	9.00 11.30 am	St Francis Church Baie Lazare	Students and Parents	St Francis Pastoral Committee	Mrs Erica Barbe	Postponed
28.	Distribution of HIV prevention packages with PWIDs on different hotspots on Mahé	Tue 7 & Thu 9 December	3.30pm	Hotspots	PWIDs	HASO	Ms Tessy Madeleine	Completed
29.	Mural painting / HIV	To be confirmed		Anse Royale School		Seylar & NAC Fund	Mr Danny Sopha & Mr James Agricole	Completed
30.	CSE Training 2 nd Part	Mon 13, Wed 15 & Fri 17 December	9.00 am to 4.00pm	Sheikh Khalifa conference room	Future Trainers from MoH, MoE, MHA & NGOs	NAC / UNFPA	Mr Ben Vel / Mrs Patricia Baquero	Postponed to 17 December at Eden Bleu Hotel (½ day)
31.	HIV Employment Policy Dissemination				Workplaces Stakeholders	Employment Department	Ms Tara Roseline	
32.	Elimination of mother to child transmission meeting	1 st quarter 2022	TBD	TBD	Stakeholders	AIDS Control Programme, TAC, NAC	Mrs Sabrina Mousbe	Program for 2022

2. Media Articles

Candles lit in Seychelles to remember World AIDS Day



(Seychelles News Agency) - Participants in a workshop to mark **World AIDS Day** on Wednesday lit candles and set them afloat in a pool at the Savoy Resort and Spa.

This year is the 40th anniversary of the first HIV/AIDS case ever recorded. In Seychelles, an archipelago in the western Indian Ocean, the first HIV/AIDS case was detected in 1987.

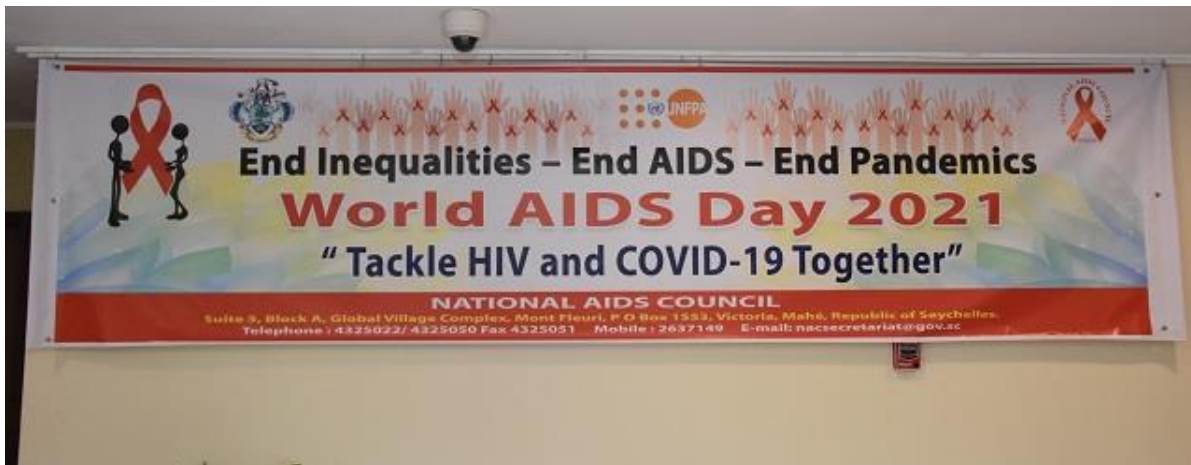
This year the theme of the day is "End Inequalities, End AIDS", with a special focus on reaching people left behind.

In his message for the occasion, the President of Seychelles, Wavel Ramkalawan, said that on 1st December every year, Seychelles remembers all its Seychellois brothers and sisters living with HIV or AIDS and those who have died from AIDS.

Ramkalawan said that the commemoration of the 33rd **World AIDS Day** "reminds us once again that we are still facing that major public health challenge, despite new challenges. Like the rest of the world, Seychelles is experiencing more than one pandemic at this critical time. HIV infection is a pandemic too."

He said that "our local response to the AIDS pandemic has been heavily impacted by COVID-19. The 2021 statistics from the Ministry of Health indicate that every month, on average, we lose two lives to AIDS. In 2021, from January to September alone, we lost 19 people from AIDS; three of them had COVID-19 as a concurrent disease."

"We need a whole-of-society approach to address their plight and I am committed to lead from the front. This **World AIDS Day**, let us remind ourselves that inequalities felt by one group should concern all of us, no matter who we are," said the President.



This year the theme of the day is "End Inequalities, End AIDS", with a special focus on reaching people left behind.

(Seychelles Nation) Photo License: [CC-BY](#)

On her side, the chief executive of the **National Aids Council**, Anne Gabriel said that while COVID was first discovered in 2018 and quickly spread all over the world, it only took a few months to understand how it is spread and a vaccine was then developed to treat it.

"The difference with AIDS is that 40 years later we still do not have a vaccine for it whereas COVID-19 has some that can and have been used for the last two years. Now that the COVID-19 has really attacked us, we cannot use that as an excuse not to deal with HIV," added Gabriel.

She appealed to people to continually protect themselves against both viruses.

Several activities were organised to commemorate **World AIDs Day** since November 22 and this included sexual education classes held in secondary schools.

The ceremony at the Savoy Resort and Spa was coordinated by the **National Aids Council** (NAC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

A panel discussion was also held to reflect on inequalities and how to reach those furthest behind such as young people and key population groups including people who abuse substances, homosexuals and sex workers among others.

The participants talked about a new comprehensive **Sexual Education Manual** that will be launched in schools next year. The manual is being developed by UNFPA.

Benjamin Vel, a consultant, said that "the curriculum-based manual will help school children develop their skills, their knowledge, attitudes that will help to protect them and that will help to promote their health."

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Tags: World Aids Day, National AIDS Council, Sexual Education Manual

<http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/15917/Candles+lit+in+Seychelles+to+remember+World+AIDS+Day>

World Aids Day | 01 December 2021

National Aids Council to host two workshops

The National Aids Council will commemorate World Aids Day 2021 by hosting two one-day workshops in collaboration with UNFPA and local organisations to build capacity on sexuality and prevention of HIV/Aids and viral hepatitis.

The first workshop for trainers will take place today at the Savoy Resort & Spa, Beau Vallon. It will focus on the ‘Validation of the comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) manual for the Seychelles’. Through the CSE programme, youth as a vulnerable population will be empowered to make the right decision with their lives and be guided on where to seek help.

A short ceremony will follow to commemorate World Aids Day.

The second workshop, which will take place on Friday at the Eden Bleu Hotel, is entitled ‘Empowerment of persons who inject drugs (PWIDs) on harm reduction and treatment’.

The aim of this workshop is to increase prevention of HIV and hepatitis C and to increase access to health services by this left behind community. PWIDs are the main key population in terms of HIV in the Seychelles.

A short ceremony will also be held to officially launch World Aids Day.

Every year, on December 1, the world commemorates World Aids Day. People around the world unite to show support for people living with and affected by HIV and to remember those who lost their lives to Aids. Seychelles will also take the opportunity to show support to its people living with HIV.

This World Aids Day, UNAids is highlighting the urgent need to end the inequalities that drive Aids and other pandemics around the world.

With this in mind, this year the theme of World Aids Day is ‘End Inequalities. End Aids. End Pandemics’.

Tackling inequalities is a long-standing global promise. In 2015, all countries pledged to reduce inequalities within and between countries as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Global Aids Strategy 2021–2026: End Inequalities, End Aids and the Political Declaration on Aids adopted at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Aids in June 2021 have ending inequalities at their core.

As well as being central to ending Aids, tackling inequalities will advance the human rights of key populations and people who are living with HIV, make societies better prepared to beat Covid-19 and other pandemics and support economic recovery and stability. Fulfilling the promise to tackle inequalities will save millions of lives and will benefit society as a whole.

Covid-19 has affected the way in which prevention, testing and treatment of HIV, Aids and viral hepatitis have been carried out; for example, awareness sessions and outreach testing campaigns have decreased since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Leaving people behind is not an option if we are to succeed to combat HIV even during Covid-19.

Statistics for 2021

In Seychelles, this year's statistics, from January to September 2021, show 49 new HIV cases, 21 new Aids cases and 19 Aids related deaths.

Among the 49 new cases of HIV, 7 were co-infections of HIV and hepatitis C.

There was one new baby with mother to child transmission of HIV.



Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS:
Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030

Commitments / Langazman

Dekarasyon Politik pour met en lafen avek bann inegalite e retourn lo semen pour met en lafen avek SIDA ariv 2030

1. Ending inequalities and engaging stakeholders to end AIDS

Met en lafen avek bann inegalite e angaz bann partener pour met en lafen avek SIDA

2. Effective implementation of combination HIV prevention

Anplway bann diferan mwayen prevansyon pour mars ansanm

3. HIV testing, treatment and viral suppression

Fer provizyon pour fer tes HIV, donn tretman e siprim viris dan bann dimoun ki pe viv avek HIV

4. Vertical transmission of HIV and paediatric AIDS

Elimin transmisyon HIV dan zanfan e osi bann ki sorti kot manman pou al kot baba

5. Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

Promot egalite ant zonn ek fanm, garson ek fiy

6. Community leadership

Les bann kominote diriz bann aksyon kont HIV ek SIDA

7. Realizing human rights and eliminating stigma and discrimination

Promouvwar draw imen e elimin stigmatizasyon e discriminasyon

8. Investments and resources

Investir resours dan HIV

9. Universal health coverage and integration

Entegre bann servis lasante otan ki posib pour donn en pli gran kouvertir swen lasante

10. Data, science and innovation

Servi plis bann lenformasyon, levidans lasyans e teknolozi ki a nou dispozisyon

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Commit to support and leverage the 25 years of experience and expertise of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and reinforce and expand the unique multisectoral, multi-stakeholder, development and rights-based collaborative approach to end AIDS and deliver health for all as global public good.

THANK YOU



NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL
Suite 5 Block A Global Village, Mont Fleuri
P O Box 1553, Victoria, Mahé, Republic of Seychelles
Telephone 4325022/ 4325050 E-mail: nacsecretariat@gov.sc



Please address all queries to the Chief Executive Officer