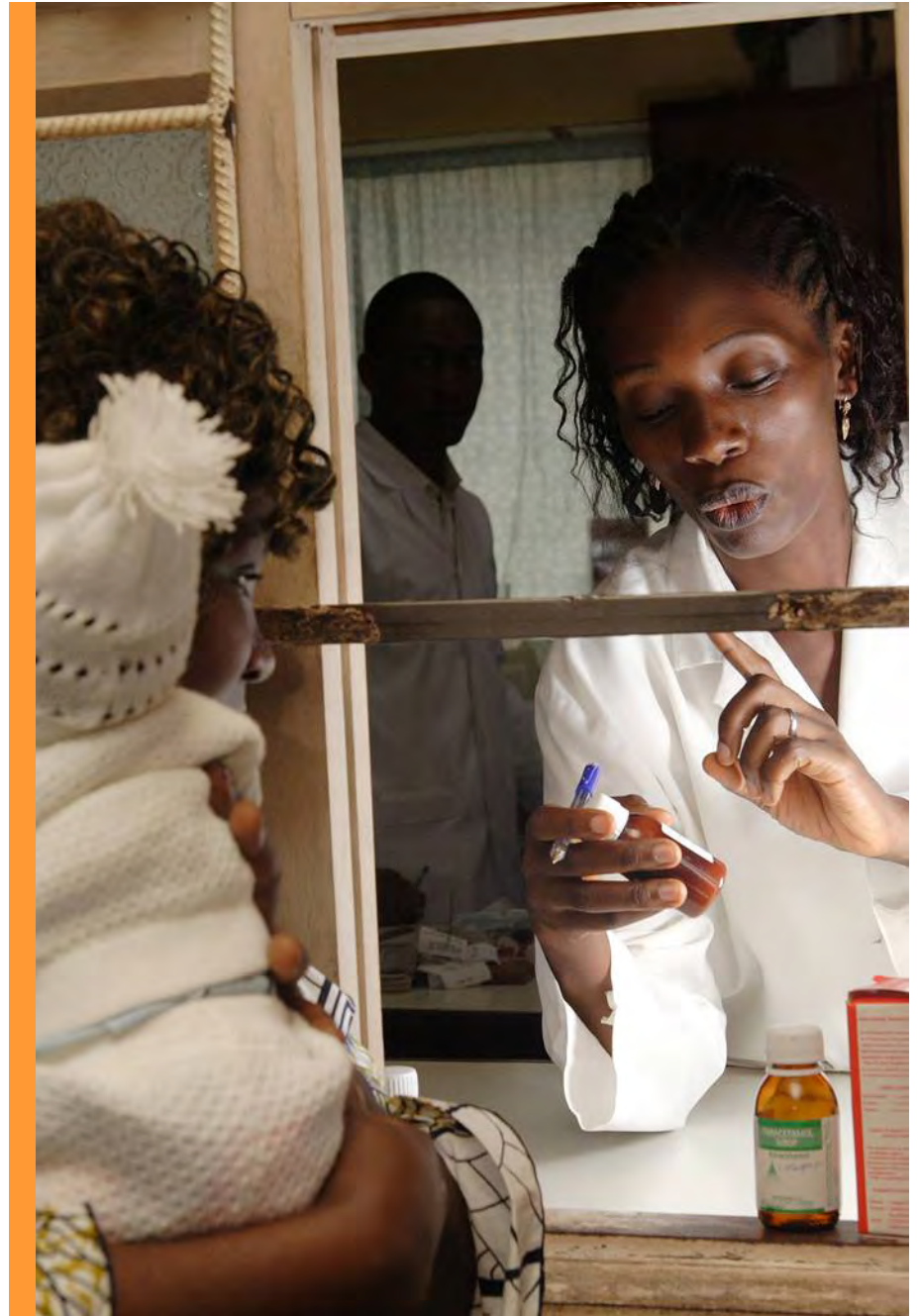




# Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network



Just and compassionate quality pharmaceutical services for all

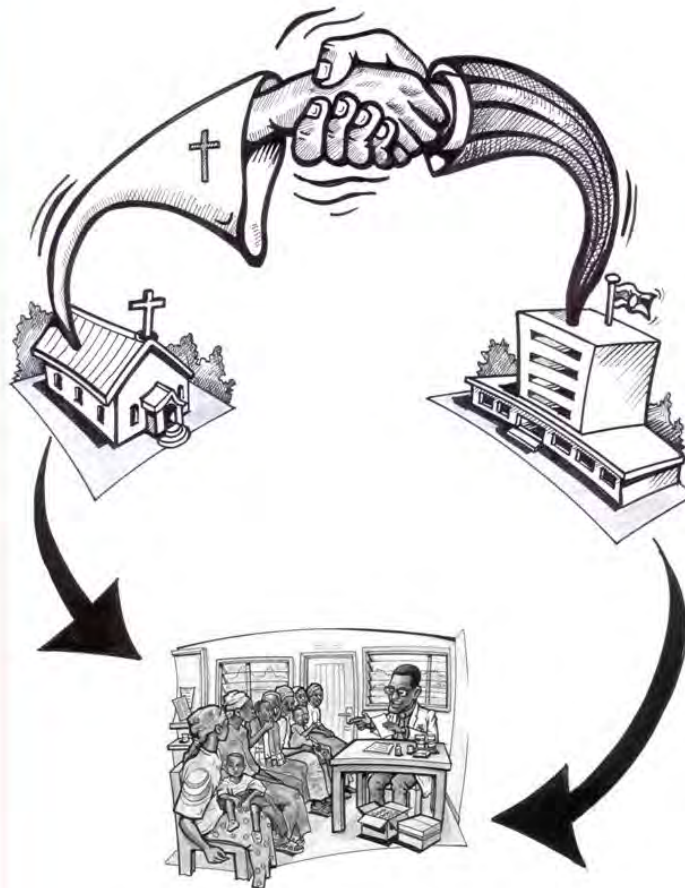


Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN) is a **Christian**, not for profit, independent organization committed to the provision of quality pharmaceutical services as a means to achieving global goals and targets on **health and access to medicines**

EPN is a worldwide network of associations, institutions and individuals who have an interest in or are involved in the delivery of **just and compassionate quality pharmaceutical services**



# Our vision and mission



- Vision: A valued global partner for just and compassionate quality pharmaceutical services for all
- Mission: To support churches and church health systems provide just and compassionate quality pharmaceutical services



## Our members



□ EPN is a worldwide network with members from across Africa and beyond including:

- India
- Southeast Asia
- Australia
- South-America
- the United States
- Europe





# Our programmes



- Access to and rational use of medicines



- HIV and AIDS treatment



- Professionalization of pharmaceutical services



- Pharmaceutical information sharing



# HIV and AIDS treatment



- The objectives of the programme are to
  - promote greater understanding and
  - involvement of churches and church institutions in HIV and AIDS care and treatment.



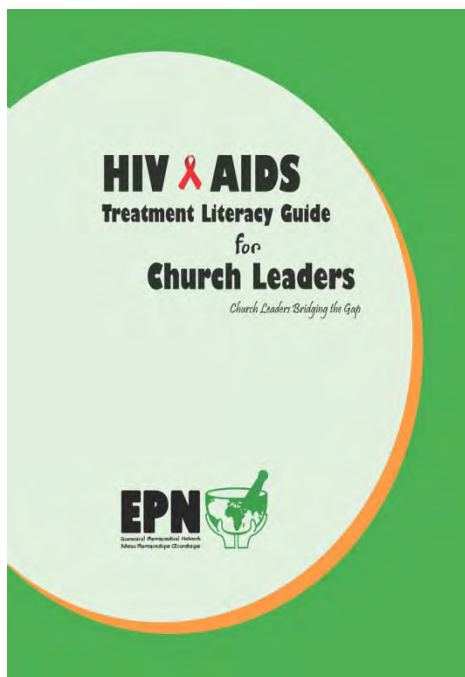
# HIV and AIDS treatment

EPN seeks to achieve these objectives through:

- Building the capacity of church health institutions
- Building the capacity of church leaders
- Using available church leaders' forums to propagate the messages on HIV/AIDS diagnostics and treatment options.
- Highlighting and responding to emerging issues in HIV and AIDS care and treatment
- Building capacity for mainstreaming the management of relevant HIV related commodities within the broader pharmaceutical service



# Treatment Literacy Publications



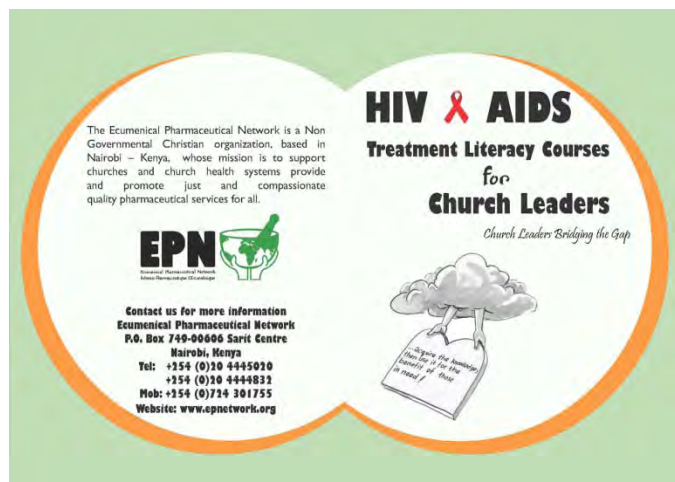
## Treatment Literacy Guide

- This book provides powerful insights on how church leaders can take up advocacy issues
  - in matters of antiretroviral treatment (a life prolonging intervention for people living with HIV)
  - and to deal with stigma and discrimination in the church.
- Foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- Exercises that help the church leader better understand the content and engage the congregation.





# Treatment Literacy Products and Services cont.



## Treatment Literacy Workshops

- EPN offers its Treatment Literacy Courses for Church Leaders on invitation from any church or other groups.
- This training course aims to
  - provide church leaders with an understanding of the key messages around treatment for HIV and AIDS,
  - and inform them on what AIDS treatment means for the church and how this might change policies.

- After the course, church leaders will have the necessary skills to influence outcomes
  - through encouraging the church to have and implement good policies,
  - working with local church hospitals,
  - accepting and supporting those on treatment,
  - encouraging understanding of treatment issues,
  - increasing treatment-seeking behaviour,
  - and taking the message to communities.



# Training of Trainers -Treatment Literacy Workshop for church leaders, April 2011





# Introduction



- The challenges faced by church health institutions in addressing HIV and AIDS include limited access to second and third line treatments as well as ARVs for children.
- Addressing these issues is the major focus of EPN's activities.
- EPN recognizes that it is essential to involve Church leaders to change attitudes, behaviour and practices that promote the negative trends of HIV and AIDS in the society.
- Additionally it is crucial to engage Church leaders in advocacy work for more access to ART and in scaling up provision of care and support for people living with HIV through the Churches and the Church Health System (CHS).
- EPN therefore developed a Treatment Literacy (TL) training for Church leaders.





## Objectives

- The training aimed to equip the church leaders with skills to help improve the availability, access and use of the life prolonging medicines (ARVs) within their communities and skills to mobilize community members to seek both HIV preventive and testing services.
  - It was expected that on completing the training the church leaders would carry out intervention activities in their constituencies.
- The main objective of the training was to empower the church leaders as key HIV treatment advocates and educators and to increase their capacity to make meaningful contributions to HIV and AIDS intervention in their various constituencies and to the national response.
  - Training issues focused on; Basic facts on HIV and AIDS, HIV Treatment literacy, ARVS and ART adherence, stigma and discrimination, HIV work place policies and the role of church in responding to HIV treatment issues.



## Strategy/Approach

- ❑ The training targeted church leaders from different regions and religious denominations in Kenya
- ❑ It was important for EPN to be strategic in the selection of the participants for the training because we needed participants who would be committed to implementing action plans after the training.
- ❑ Expression of interest was sent to the regional offices of the various denominations who recommended church leaders for the training
- ❑ Selection of the participants for the TOT was done from the application forms received and 25 participants were selected using the following criteria.





## Strategy/Approach cont.

- Involvement in HIV and AIDS activities: this helped to show that the church leader already had an interest in HIV work
- Reason for wanting to come for the training: this helped with establishing further who has an interest in HIV work
- Ability to pay own transport: willingness to pay local transport showed commitment as opposed to an all expenses catered for training
- Geographical location: most of the participants selected were those from Western and Nyanza parts of Kenya because such opportunities are rare in those regions
- Gender: the plan was to achieve a 50:50 gender balance



## Strategy/Approach cont.

- ❑ Selected participants then signed an agreement that they would be willing to do follow up activities after the training prior to coming to the training
- ❑ Training materials were developed by the trainers and PowerPoint obtained before hand to prepare materials for the participants
- ❑ Methodology of the workshop included Power point presentations, Question-Answer sessions and discussions, Group work with feedback to the plenum, and Role-plays
- ❑ After the training, feedback was obtained and follow up was done on a few church leaders to see what they had done with their action plans



## What Worked Well

- The participants were enthusiastic and participated actively in the training. At the end of the training, all the church leaders developed action plans for implementing activities in their various communities.
- Follow up activities have revealed that the church leaders have carried out such activities as preaching, formation of support groups, capacity trainings, care and support of PLWA, and networking.
  - This has enabled EPN to see to what extent the objective of this programme area has been met as well as use the feedback to determine further programme activities.



## Challenges

- Since most of the participants had not been involved in such a workshop before, some of them found it difficult to write clear action plans especially where it did not involve funds, as many are used to participating in funded activities. But with the help of the trainers, each participant was able to come up with at least one activity they would carry out in conjunction with the church they came from that would not require funding.



## Results and Impacts

- The Church leaders utilized the skills gained during the training to deliver anti- stigma messages and encourage care and support of PLWA through preaching.
- 17 sermons were delivered by different church leaders in different settings such as churches, schools, fundraising events, seminars and workshops.
  - Messages during these sermons include care and support for PLWA, importance of access and adherence to ARVs, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission and encouraging love for HIV positive persons.
- After the training, about 15 workshops and seminars were conducted in 12 different towns in Kenya .
  - These included training of other church leaders and forums for sensitizing community members and for sharing messages on HIV and AIDs with community members.





## Results and Impact cont.

- The Church leaders also utilized existing women and youth forums to communicate messages on HIV and AIDs.
- In addition to encouraging congregation to get involved in community HIV/AIDS activities, church leaders also urged members to engage in acts of compassion at an individual capacity by showing care and support for PLWA.
  - During these meetings, the church leaders engaged members in interactive sessions whereby they demystified myths around HIV infection and HIV treatment. PLWA who attended the forums were encouraged to have their CD4 count checked so that could know when to start treatment. Those on treatment were also encouraged to adhere and take proper nutrition.
- More than two thousand people were reached with correct information through these activities.
- The EPN Trainer's Manual and the Treatment Literacy Guide was very instrumental during this forums.



## Results and Impact cont.

- Two support groups for people living with and affected by HIV have been established in two regions.
  - They are “Person to Person touch” comprising of 20 members and “Mwihoko” which means Hope comprising of 58 members.
  - Both groups focus mainly on HIV awareness and prevention, spiritual care, home-based care, counselling and nutritional support for people living with HIV, support and advice in accessing ARVs and income generating activities. Through the group, those in need of ARVs are able to access ARVs from selected health centres.
- Care and support for PLWA has increased, this has been observed by visiting and praying with the patient in the hospitals and home, encouraging family members and communities to support them and sometimes giving them financial support. In one parish, the reverend has set a good example by giving a HIV positive man a leadership position in the church.



## Next Steps

- EPN is currently using this strategy of objective selection of participants in all of the planned trainings in other programme areas as well.
- EPN is also hoping to get funds that can go towards supporting those church leaders who are committed to implementing the action plans that require funding.



## Potential Replication

- Due to the dynamic nature of the funding environment especially for the donor dependent organizations, it is paramount to find ways of implementing activities that have an impact and this lesson could be used to determine how workshops and trainings are organized.
  - Being able to show impact in the absence of funds for follow up could actually be one way of fundraising because the donor world currently is looking for impact as opposed to just outputs.
  - In this case, the output would be that 25 church leaders were trained on Treatment Literacy but the impact would be the various activities afore mentioned that have resulted from the church leaders executing the action plans.
- In conclusion, for any successful meeting/training/workshop, getting the right target group is key. Effort must be put to get the right participants, this can be done through developing of questionnaires, writing of short reports on expectations of the training and if possible, getting recommendations from institutions that they would be right candidates for the kind of meeting/training/workshop planned for.



Thank you!

Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network  
Gatundu Villas No.1, Gatundu road, Kileleshwa, Nairobi  
P. O. Box 749 - 00606 Sarit Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 4343393 | 724 301755

Fax: +254 20 4343395

E-mail: [info@epnetwork.org](mailto:info@epnetwork.org)

Website: [www.epnetwork.org](http://www.epnetwork.org)