

# “TAKE THE RIGHTS PATH”



## ADVANCING RIGHTS AND ACCESS FOR TRIPLE ELIMINATION IN AFRICA

In acknowledgement of World AIDs Day 2024, collaborating partners – Africa Union, EGPAF, UNAIDS, AUDA-NEPAD and Abbott co-hosted an impactful webinar – “Take the Rights Path” – to Triple Elimination in Africa. The discussion centered on the Triple Elimination policy, guidelines and strengthening of countries PMTCT platform for service delivery. The session brought together a powerhouse team of speakers who shared incredible insights into the challenges and opportunities in combating these diseases.

**Dr Sheila Shawa** | Senior Technical and Partnership Specialist, Department of Health Systems, Diseases and Nutrition, Directorate of Health and Humanitarian Affairs, African Union Commission



We need to integrate programmes and merge resources to address HIV, Hepatitis and Syphilis collectively, focusing on prevention rather than just treatment. Leadership and advocacy at all levels - RECs, Member States, the private sector, and development partners—are crucial to driving the implementation of our continental strategies and achieving accelerated results.

**Ms Fatima Oliveira Tsiouris** | Senior Director, Catalytic Initiatives and Program Optimization, EGPAF



To achieve low-cost, high-impact results, we must integrate triple elimination goals into national guidelines, strengthen national and subnational TWGs, and use innovative approaches like POCT and outreach initiatives. Most importantly, proper data collection and analysis are key - money follows data, and only with accurate insights can we prioritise interventions and maximise impact.

**Ms Rhoda Igweta** | Regional Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, EGPAF



To achieve triple elimination will need integrated action, reduced stigma, strong political will, aligned partner investments, and embracing innovation for sustainable impact.

**Ms Laura Lontsi Tsakou** | Co-Founder of the « Réseau Camerounais des Adolescents et Jeunes positifs (RéCAJ+) »



The African continent is predominantly made up of young people, making it essential to recognise and harness their leadership. Youth-led advocacy efforts and monitoring have had remarkable success. However, barriers to service provision for young people remain. We need to empower young people, trust them, and involve them in decision-making to maximise the impact of our responses to HIV, hepatitis, and syphilis.

**Dr Sihaka Tsemo** | Director, UNAIDS Liaison Office to the AU and ECADirectorate of Health and Humanitarian Affairs,



Firstly, our children are our future! We must prioritize their rights, dignity, and care, ensuring early testing, optimized treatment, and addressing social barriers that hinder progress—because people remain at the center of our fight to end AIDS in children.” Secondly, we must hold our leaders accountable. Africa is rich in resources, and the solution to achieving triple elimination lies in leveraging domestic financing to sustain our programmes. It’s time to look inward to achieve our targets and secure our future.

**Dr Nafisah Chotun** | Public Health Specialist and ConsultantAffairs, African Union Commission



Prevention must take precedence over treatment when it comes to diseases like HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B. By prioritising education, early detection, and proactive measures, we can reduce the burden on healthcare systems and, more importantly, save lives. Prevention isn’t just cost-effective—it is life-changing!

**Ms Ravi Rapiti** | Health Economist for Africa Region, Abbott Infectious Disease



Point-of-care testing (POCT) is a game-changer for early detection of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B. Timely diagnosis empowers individuals and healthcare providers to act swiftly, preventing further spread and ensuring better outcomes. Early detection saves lives, and POCT makes it possible.