

TB Patients Imprisoned for Defaulting Treatment

In a move that has infuriated communities all over the world and confused people living with HIV and TB Patients in Kenya, 3 TB Patients have been jailed for defaulting treatment. The news was first reported by the Associated Press in an interview with Dr. Joseph Sitienei who is the head of Division of Leprosy, TB and Lung Disease (DTLD). Surprisingly, Dr. Sitienei supported the move to lock up the 3 TB patients for defaulted TB treatment.

Daniel Ng'etich, his brother Henry Ng'etich and Patrick Kipng'etich were arrested and quickly prosecuted under the Public Health Act Chapter 242 (Laws of Kenya). The three were charged by "spreading an infectious disease knowingly" and are serving six months term in Kapsabet prison.

Separately, media reports has it that 4 other TB Patients were arrested in Mwea for defaulting TB treatment. NEPHAK is investigating what happened to the 4. The question to ask is: Can imprisonment be adopted as a national strategy to deal with treatment defaulters? Will this work in the HIV setting? In 2009, a patient with multi-drug resistant TB (MDR- TB) was arrested and charged under the same Act in Homa Bay. The patient later died in Homa Bay prison.

NEPHAK leadership has called for immediate transfer of the three Kapsabet TB Patients from prison to a health facility with suitable conditions for TB management.

Who We Are: NEPHAK is a national network that unites people living with HIV (PLHIV) and those affected by TB and HIV/AIDS through community based organizations (CBOs), support groups, post-test clubs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and networks in Kenya.

NEPHAK Nominated to the National Oversight Committee (NOC)

The National Empowerment Network of PLHAs in Kenya (NEPHAK) will be the principal representative of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and communities living with disease (CLWD) at the Kenya Coordinating Mechanism's (KCM), National Oversight Committee (NOC). Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya (WOFAK) will be NEPHAK Alternate at the NOC.

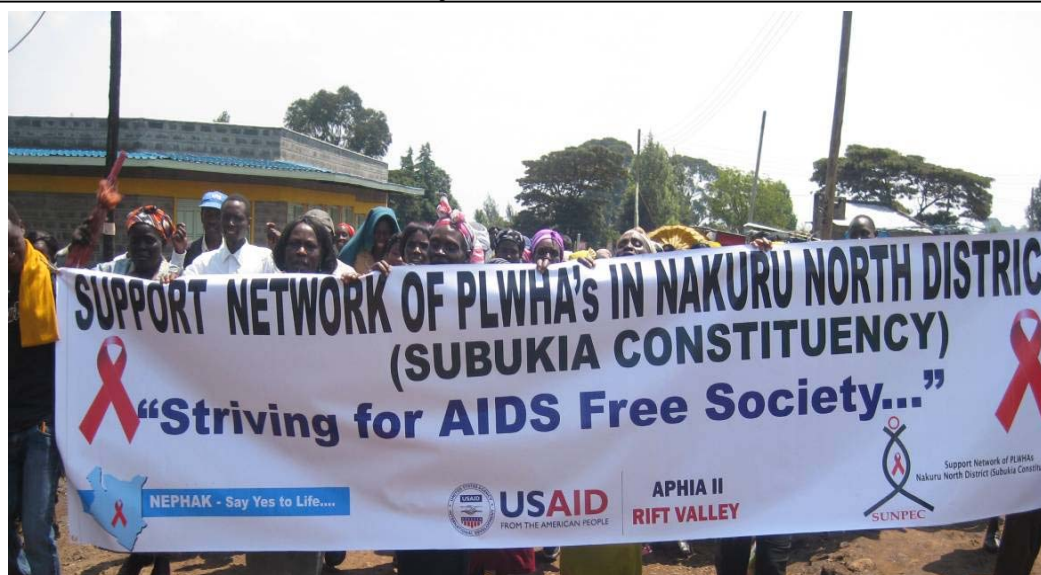
Other civil society organizations (NGOs) nominated to the National Oversight Committee include the Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO) and Kenya NGOs Alliance Against Malaria (KeNAAM)

NOC is a result of the reform and transition of the current Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) and will be providing leadership for the accountability and performance of Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria grants.

NEPHAK Strategic Plan 11 Progress

With support from the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) and other partners, NEPHAK is developing her 2nd Strategic Plan. The plan will be aligned to the Kenya HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan 111 which is geared towards the delivery of Universal Access to services. TB, TB/HIV and MDR-TB are some of the key issues to be included in the new plan. Regional consultative meetings have been held with members in the 9 health regions of Kenya. Consultations with partners is on-going.

Our Mission: to promote and advocate for greater and meaningful involvement of people living with HIV in the national response to TB and HIV/AIDS. The mission is derived from the GIPA Principle as espoused at the Paris AIDS Summit in 1994.



CPWP ToT Start

Keeping the Promise to roll-out prevention with positives (PwP) activities to the community levels, the National AIDS and STIs Control Programme (NAS COP) and partners are this week training trainers to spearhead PwP interventions at community levels. PwP interventions aim at empowering HIV positive people to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV and limit their chances of re-infection.

NEPHAK Nyanza members call for the Establishment a National GIPA Desk

Exactly one month after the launch of National GIPA Guidelines, NEPHAK members in Nyanza have called for the establishment of GIPA Desk to spearhead the roll-out of programmes and activities to promote greater and meaningful involvement of PLHIV in health and HIV/AIDS activities. The members issued this call during a regional consultative meeting on NEPHAK Strategic Plan development in Homa Bay.

ARV Stock-Outs? Not again!

When we thought ARVs Stock-Outs are a thing of the past, reports reaching NEPHAK indicate that the supply of ARVs and other essential drugs are still not predicatble and sustainable. Specifically, Lamu and Nakuru have confirmed stock-outs of ARVs and Septrin respectively. Before reaching out to NASCOP with this information, NEPHAK this week is will undertake a rapid national survey.



NEPHAK – Nyanza Region members call for GIPA Desk, **Now more than Ever**

The World this Week

At the International Scene, a German singer has been convicted for exposing others and infecting one man with HIV 'KNOWINGLY'. Nadja Benaissa, 28 was convicted of one count of grievous bodily harm and 2 counts of attempted bodily harms. She pleaded guilty but sorry and was handed a 2-year suspended sentence. Judge Dennis Wacker also ordered Nadja to do 300 hours of community service because she had realized her crime!

An Award: NEPHAK has received Oxfam/Health Policy Advocacy Fund (HPAF) to monitor and advocate for the implementation of Kenya-PEPFAR Framework. The monitoring will be undertaken in three regions with highest TB and HIV/AIDS Burden in Kenya: Nyanza, Nairobi and Rift Valley. With this award, NEPHAK is set to monitor the delivery of TB and HIV treatment targets as outlined in KNASP 111 and PEPFAR Country Framework.

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