

THE CURRENT

CONNECTING FAITH AND HEALTH

Faith, Health Collaboration and Leadership Development Program



Since Fall 2011, IHP has been working with colleagues at St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya to adapt The Institute for Public Health and Faith Collaborations. In October 2013, this adaptation was completed and a new generation of community collaborations was launched through The Faith, Health Collaboration and Leadership Development Program.

Over the past eight months, 19 individuals representing a spectrum of faith-based organizations, civil society organizations, and health facilities from Nakuru County have come together in four interdisciplinary teams.

A set of intensive workshops adapted from the Institute curriculum has offered them insights into the social factors that contributed to health disparities in general and stigma for those living with or at risk for HIV disease in particular. With this knowledge, each team has developed a community action plan to implement together in their home communities.

Such efforts can help lower barriers for treatment and support services for people who are HIV infected and encourage wider scale HIV testing in local communities. This in turn helps strengthen mechanisms for referral into treatment for those who test HIV positive and retention in care for those who enroll into HIV primary care. Referral and retention are key elements in helping people living with HIV to maintain their HIV medication regimens and thus lower the likelihood of transmitting the virus to someone uninfected.

Religion has been used to justify HIV stigma and discrimination but it can also be an important source to challenge such stigma and discrimination. The Leadership Development Program equips local leaders from faith-based, psychosocial, and clinical programs with the knowledge and with tangible, measurable activities to fight stigma and increase support services for those living with HIV. This year marks the pilot phase of the Leadership Development Program. IHP is already hard at work in collaboration with our colleagues in Kenya to expand the program to two other cities in Kenya next year and to lay the groundwork to replicate the program in two other countries.

To learn more about the Leadership Development Program, visit www.ihpemory.org

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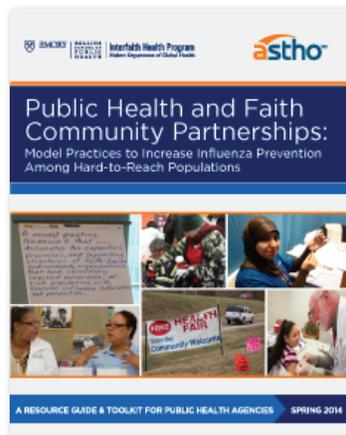
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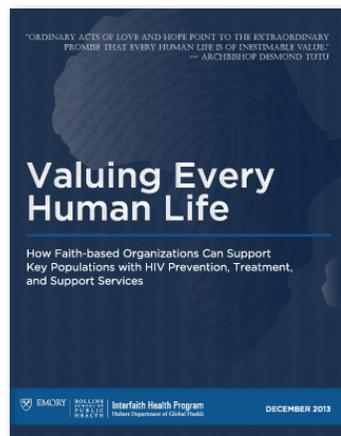
IHP, in partnership with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), has published a resource guide and toolkit, *Public Health and Faith Community Partnerships: Model Practices to Increase Influenza Prevention Among Hard-to-Reach Populations*.

The Model Practices Framework provides strategies to identify and engage faith-based organizations as partners in community health promotion and disease prevention outreach. Designed for both public health and religious leaders, the aims of the guide are to contribute to partnership-building capacity and to enhance the ability of public health to reduce the spread of influenza.

The toolkit addresses the capacity and unique contributions of faith-based partners in breaking through access barriers of mistrust, income, geography, and culture.

To view/download the Model Practices Toolkit, visit www.ihpemory.org

Valuing Every Human Life: How Faith-based Organizations Can Support Key Populations with HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Support Services

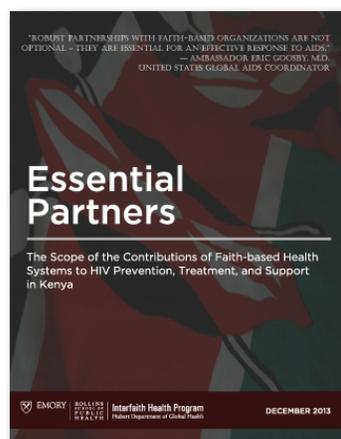


Around the world, HIV prevalence rates for commercial sex workers (CSW), people who inject drugs (PWID), and men who have sex with men (MSM) outpace prevalence rates for the population as a whole.

Religion has a complex effect for people in key populations in relation to HIV risk or HIV services. In order to address the complex influences of religion and support effective faith-based responses, this report contains eight key elements to guide collaboration between faith-based organizations and HIV programs.

To download this report, visit www.ihpemory.org/publications/ihp-reports/

Essential Partners: The Scope of the Contributions of Faith-based Health Systems to HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Support in Kenya



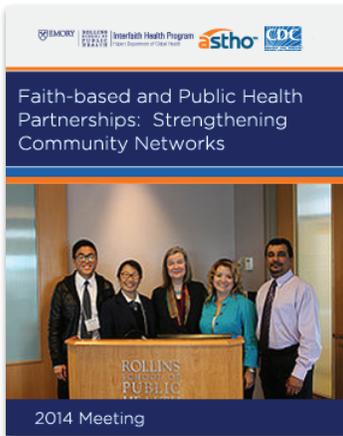
This report provides a thorough overview of the contributions of faith-based health systems and health facilities to the provision of HIV services in Kenya. The substantial contributions of faith-based health systems to healthcare services have been well-established; however, the scope of those contributions is not known.

This report describes findings from the study of the faith-based health sector in Kenya, details the quantitative contributions of that sector to HIV service delivery, and describes the unique role of trust.

To download this report, visit www.ihpemory.org/publications/ihp-reports/

IHP has added a collection of HIV/AIDS resources to our website as a tool for faith-based communities. These resources are a collection of prevention programs, liturgical references, education and curriculum, toolkits, essays, books, presentations, and handouts. Visit www.ihpemory.org/publications/faith-based-hiv-aids-resources/

Faith-Based and Public Health Partnerships: Strengthening Community Networks



IHP, in collaboration with the Association for State and Health Territorial Officials (ASTHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has worked to develop a program to build and mobilize capacity within networks of faith-based and community organizations to demonstrate ways to expand reach to vulnerable, at-risk, and minority populations for prevention and treatment of influenza.

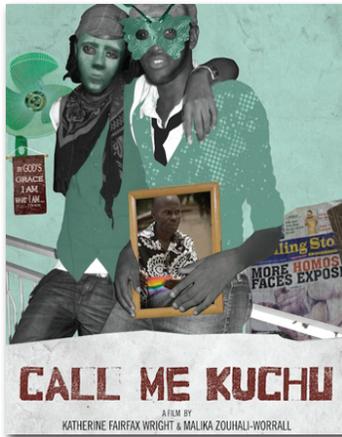
This year's meeting, Faith-based and Public Health Organizations: Strengthening Community Networks, took place at Emory University April 28-29 and convened leaders from both public health and faith-based organizations. Over the course of the meeting, participants developed strategies to build capacity across participating sites and new adopters and advance the tools and approaches used to help expand capacity.

As part of this meeting, IHP, ASTHO, and CDC sponsored a live webinar, **Public Health and Faith Community Partnerships: Model Practices**, which included participants in both the public health

and faith-based sectors across North America. The purpose of this learning event was to disseminate knowledge and promote replication of model practices known to contribute to the reach of seasonal influenza prevention to vulnerable, at-risk, and minority populations. The panel of speakers during the webinar discussed case examples from their organizations' work that demonstrate partnership capacity and the model practices in action.

To view the webinar recording and apply for CECHs, visit www.ihpemory.org

Call Me Kuchu Movie Screening and Discussion

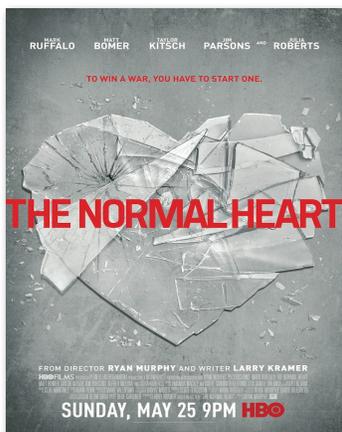


On April 7, 2014 IHP, The Blount Center, Emory University Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Life, and Sacred Worth at Candler School of Theology sponsored a screening and discussion of the documentary film, *Call Me Kuchu*. The documentary examined the complex cultural, political, and religious issues related to homosexuality that have been playing out in Uganda since the Anti Homosexuality Bill was introduced into Parliament in 2009. Those issues have taken on added urgency with the passage of that bill into law in February 2014. Various HIV prevention, treatment, and support programs have already been affected; one supported by the U.S. government's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program was raided by Ugandan police officials in Kampala and closed for a time and another non-governmental program was also raided.

Senior leadership within PEPFAR and within the U.S. Department of State invited John Blevins and Victor Akelo to Washington, DC in late April to discuss these issues. Dr. Blevins is an Associate Research Professor with IHP and Dr. Akelo is a researcher at the Kenya Medical Research Institute

(KEMRI) and the Kenya Country Office of the US Centers for Disease Control. In two days of meetings along with other religious leaders and HIV program experts and advocates, participants worked to identify the most appropriate responses and to work with in-country partners in Uganda and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa to build stronger networks for support and services.

The Normal Heart Movie Premiere



IHP, in partnership with AID Atlanta, Rollins School of Public Health, and Emory University's Center for AIDS Research, sponsored the premiere of the HBO Films drama *The Normal Heart* on May 14, 2014 at the Carter Center.

Adapted from Larry Kramer's groundbreaking, Tony Award-winning play of the same name, *The Normal Heart* tells the story of the onset of the HIV/AIDS crisis in New York City in the early 1980s, taking an unflinching look at the nation's sexual politics as gay activists and their allies in the medical community fight to expose the truth about the burgeoning epidemic to a city and nation in denial.

To view photos of the *The Normal Heart* premiere, visit www.ihpemory.org

Emory Students in Kenya

The Interfaith Health Program is collaborating with Emory's Religion and Public Health Collaborative and Emory's Global Health Institute to support four students working and studying in Kenya during the summer of 2014. These students will be working with Kenyan program partners to better understand the scale and distinctive characteristics of services provided by faith-based organizations. These students will be blogging about their activities this summer; check back at ihpemory.org for regular updates about their experiences. The students working in Kenya this summer are:



Sarah Neale: Sarah has completed her first year of studies in the Masters in Public Health (MPH) program at the Rollins School of Public Health. She will be working with the St. Paul's Institute for Lifelong Learning at St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya to develop a monitoring and evaluation (M/E) framework to measure progress in implementing community action plans developed through the Faith, Health Collaboration and Leadership Development Program (see related story in this issue of *The Current*). The Leadership Development Program brings committed religious partners to the table to mobilize the distinctive capacities of religious traditions to fight stigma and to build individual and community-level support structures. Sarah will be visiting four teams working together in Nakuru County since late 2013 to find out about their successes and challenges in implementing the community action plans they developed.



Taylor Osborne: Taylor has also completed her first year of studies in the MPH program at Rollins. She will be working at Nyumbani Village, a one-of-a-kind program in rural Kitui County that is the permanent home to over 1,000 children who have been orphaned by HIV and to over 150 senior adults whose adult children have died from HIV infection. Nyumbani Village, an independent faith-based organization with close ties to Roman Catholic religious communities around the world, brings these two generations together with the senior adults serving as grandparents to the children who now call Nyumbani Village their home.

Taylor will work on two areas this summer: the Village's water and land management programs and a longitudinal study of height/weight measurement of children in the Village. Kitui County is a semi-arid region with infrequent rainfall. In this environment, the Village has developed a 400-acre organic farm and is growing a 500-acre hardwood forest. Both of these programs are designed to generate income to make the Village self-sustaining and the farm will also supplement the residents' diet with nutritious foods. Such an ambitious program requires smart use of land and water resources.



Sheila Otieno: Sheila has completed her second year of studies in the Masters in Divinity (MDiv) program at the Candler School of Theology at Emory. Sheila is a Kenyan citizen and is returning home to Nairobi to work with IHP's long-standing community health assets mapping program. She will be working with our Kenyan partners to employ the mapping methodology to identify key community health assets that can support the medical and psychosocial needs of HIV-positive adolescents growing up in eight informal settlements around Nairobi.



Alex Plum: Alex has also completed his first year of studies in the MPH program and hopes to serve in the General Board of Global Missions of the United Methodist Church. Alex is also working in Nyumbani Village and will be developing a program for adolescent young men that will draw on cultural conceptions of male identity among the Kamba (the ethnic group who call Kitui County home) to support positive health behaviors. Alex will work with Kenyan colleagues at St. Paul's University to draw on religious and cultural teachings and rituals to help equip the young men at Nyumbani Village to live healthy, successful lives as adults.

IHP Congratulates Candler Award Winners

IHP, the Blount Center, and the Emory Religion and Public Health Collaborative, congratulate two students, Sabrina Cherry and Meg O'Connor, on receiving the Myki Mobley Award from the Emory University Candler School of Theology. This award is given to the top graduating MTS student demonstrating academic excellence and significant social concern. Both Meg and Sabrina have interests in public health and have served as graduate research assistants at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health.



Sabrina Cherry: Sabrina came to Candler's MTS program with a master of science degree in public health from The University of South Carolina. Following graduation, she will enroll in the Doctor of Public Health degree at The University of Georgia. Through Rollins, she has worked on faith-based prevention programs for chronic disease. She also co-chairs the Community Advisory Board at Northside Hospital.



Meg O'Connor: This year, Meg will complete her MTS/MPH dual degree, with an emphasis on behavioral science and health education. She has worked with Emory's Global Health Initiative, led a multi-disciplinary team on a 6-week community needs assessment and education project to the Bahamas, and worked on the Influenza Initiative of IHP.

The IHP Forum



IHP is excited to announce the launch of our new online Forum!

The purpose of the Forum is to be a tool for those working in/have an interest in public health and faith to share model practices, engage in thoughtful discussion, upload resources, and stay connected with each other.

We hope the Forum serves as an invaluable resource to the global public health and faith communities in helping to promote this vital work.

To register for the IHP Forum, visit www.ihpemory.org/ihp-forum-registration/

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Amb. Deborah Birx Named U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator
Ugandan Antihomosexuality Law
An Interview with Rev. Canon Gideon Byamugisha
www.ihpemory.org

IHP's Mission

Established to actively promote the health and well-being of individuals and communities who face health disparities, the Interfaith Health Program (IHP) brings together a diverse community of scholars and public health practitioners to ensure access to health programs and services.

Through alliances with national and global partners, IHP facilitates collaboration, provides training, builds networks, conducts research, and implements programs that improve the health and wellness of communities around the world.

IHP's work is rooted in respect for diverse religious beliefs and practices, justice, and human rights for all people.

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www.blountcenter.org