



PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE

2017



ADDRESSING THE HEALTH OF
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

PS3.3

PARALLEL SESSION 3.3

Enabling the Critical Role of Communities
in Building Socially Inclusive and Responsive
Health Systems

BACKGROUND

Strong community action has been a critical part of the most effective global health achievements in recent decades. Social mobilization and community participation in programme delivery in the context of HIV, community vigilance during the recent Ebola crisis, and the shifting of basic maternal and child health care to large scale community health worker programmes have been critical to reaching excluded populations. In many cases these examples emerged from spontaneous community action rather than systematic planning, and they have also forced the global health community to understand health systems as adaptive ecosystems that go far beyond health facilities and professionals. This session will bring together community, government and donor voices to discuss the major challenge of building the community systems needed to achieve social inclusion at scale and the tension between planning and norms on the one hand, and the need to enable flexibility and emergence of responses on the other hand.

OBJECTIVES

- The key commonalities and differences between different examples of community response (AIDS, Ebola, RMNCH) will be identified
- The role of external intermediaries, facilitators and funders in achieving these responses will be discussed
- Participants will identify principles that will enable and strengthen community responses for social inclusion and UHC



MODERATOR

RD MARTE

Executive Director
The Asia Pacific Council of
AIDS Service Organisations (APCASO)

Thailand

RD Marte is a Filipino lesbian feminist activist with a passion for human rights, sexual rights, and social justice issues. She has programme management and implementation experience on HIV, health financing, and women's health and rights advocacy in the Asia-Pacific region, including in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Vietnam.

RD currently serves as the Executive Director of APCASO, a regional network working towards just and inclusive societies that respect, fulfil and advance the rights of communities most in need. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific; a founding member of Unzip the Lips platform which advances the rights of HIV key affected women and girls; and a member of the Core Group of the Inter-agency Task Team on Women, HIV and Human Rights which is co-hosted by UNAIDS RST Asia Pacific.



PANELISTS

George AYALA

Executive Director
The Global Forum on MSM and HIV
USA

George Ayala, PsyD is the founding Executive Director of the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), an international advocacy and technical support organization devoted to ensuring the health and human rights of men who have sex with men worldwide. Dr. Ayala has worked in the non-profit HIV sector managing multi-million dollar budgets and supervising large, interdisciplinary teams of professionals for 25 years. His expertise ranges from international development and public health policy to program implementation and evaluation. Dr. Ayala is a clinical psychologist by training who specializes in community development. His research has mainly focused on understanding the mechanisms through which social discrimination affects health.



PANELISTS

Joseph Boye COOPER

Social Mobilization Coordinator & Advocacy Lead
PREVAIL Operations

Liberia

Mr. Cooper, a 1973 born community engagement specialist, grown up and schooled in Monrovia, Liberia. Achieved his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology at the African Methodist Episcopal Zion University (AMEZU), Benson Street, Central Monrovia, Liberia. Mr. Joseph Boye Cooper worked as an administrative coordinator for the Euronimba Liberia Limited, in the implementation of the Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in northern Liberia for three years prior to the Ebola epidemic. At which time, he ensured full community involvement in the success of the project as well as coordinating staff administration. Mr. Cooper later consolidated community efforts in the gainful fight against Ebola in Liberia during the Ebola epidemic 2014-2016 respectively. He was strategizing and training community leaders on a standard approach to the public health crisis created by Ebola. Using his skills of community social mobilization, he work closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH) during the Ebola outbreaks and facilitated a well community structure establishment for adequate health service delivery. Due to his comprehensive advocacy of community successful involvement during the Ebola outbreak, the MOH recommended him to work with the Partnership for Research on Ebola Virus in Liberia (PREVAIL), where he is presently providing lead on the advocacy pillar of the PREVAIL social mobilization communication & community engagement team. At this position, he is working on the PREVAIL I, II, III, IV & PREVAIL V studies that are ongoing in Liberia. His significant role on the team has brought the PREVAIL studies more closer up to the community, as it relates to participation and retention of study participants and the community at large. In furtherance of community improve participation in scientific research; Mr. Cooper is now writing his master's research paper in Public Health at the Cuttington University Graduate School, Sinkor Old road, Monrovia Liberia.



PANELISTS

Taye Tolera BALCHA

Director General
Armauer Hansen Research Institute

Ethiopia

Taye Tolera Balcha is a Director General of Armauer Hansen Research Institute, a national biomedical research institute in Ethiopia. Taye is leading Grand Challenges Ethiopia. Previously, Taye worked as Deputy Bureau Head at Oromia Regional Health Bureau and more recently, he was a Special Advisor to the State Minister at Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia. Taye is a Medical Doctor, has Masters Degree in public health and PhD in medical sciences from Lund University, Sweden. He has extensive experiences in research and innovation, and programme implementation in maternal and child health, infectious diseases and health systems. He has conducted several studies and presented the findings in numerous peer-reviewed journals.



PANELISTS

Kate THOMSON

Head of the Critical Enablers and Civil Society hub
The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Switzerland

Kate has 30 years of experience working with civil society and communities, with a focus on communities most affected by HIV. In the mid-1980s, she helped establish Positively Women (now Positively UK), one of the first organizations of women living with HIV globally. In 1992, Kate took on leadership of the newly established International Community of Women living with HIV and in early 2002 she moved to Geneva to join the Secretariat of the Global Fund, where she worked as the Civil Society Relations Manager. In 2005 Kate joined UNAIDS where she stayed for eight years, leading their work in civil society partnerships and community mobilization before returning to the Global Fund in 2013.