

# Accelerating Achievements of Fast Track Targets



in **HIV** High-burden Counties of Homabay & Siaya through Male Engagement



**INERELA+ KENYA**  
International Network of Religious Leaders Living  
with or personally affected by HIV - Kenya Chapter

# Background

## Accelerating Achievements of Fast Track Targets in HIV High-burden Counties of Homabay & Siaya through Male Engagement

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In Kenya, as in other countries, men and boys tend to refrain from accessing health services, particularly HIV testing, missing out on the benefits of treatment, and thus hindering HIV prevention efforts.

While Homabay County has an HIV prevalence of 26% (27.8 % women & 24% men), the highest in Kenya, Siaya has a prevalence of 24.8% (26.4 women & 22.8% men) (Kenya HIV Estimates 2015). It is based on this report the UNAIDS seek to support inclusion of men in HIV response. Evidence suggests that men can be effectively engaged by adopting approaches that explore utilization of community, religious and cultural leaders and with events targeted messages to shore up on increase uptake of HIV service.

Moreover, studies show that HIV testing conducted away from health facilities, including mobile testing, home-based testing and the recently launched self-testing (May 2017) are more popular with men. It is against this background that UNAIDS Kenya is partnering with Kenya Network of Religious Leaders Living with AIDS (KENERELA+) and Men Engage Kenya Network (MenKen) to leverage on the clout of religious and traditional leaders as well as their social capital to mobilize and increase uptake of HIV services by men.



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An initiative to encourage **male involvement** in  
HIV service uptake in the Counties of Siaya and Homabay.

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**International Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV (INERELA+) Kenya** Chapter , in partnership with UNAIDS and MenKen has been working closely with religious and traditional leaders of Siaya and Homabay Counties to sensitize men and boys on the need to know their HIV status and stimulate healthy behaviours. HIV prevalence is high in Siaya and Homa Bay counties, at 24% and 26% respectively



**WORKING** through a project called “Fast track Targets” INERELA+ hopes to increase the uptake of HIV services by men and boys in South Kasipul Ward, Karachuonyo Sub-County and West Yimbo Ward, Bondo Sub-County in Homabay and Siaya Counties respectively.

50

Number of leaders  
trained as male champions  
to spearhead HIV testing  
campaigns

### Training of male healthcare workers

on provision of male friendly services in Kisumu. **50** male HIV champions drawn from religious & community settings in both counties were recruited and trained.





Male champions  
displaying  
Information  
Education &  
Communication  
(IEC) materials



Safe Spaces: Use of **faith communities** as safe spaces for dialogue has been lauded as a noble idea.



**MALE** champions criss-crossed their communities with appropriate messages about HIV for 3 months achieving targets of 4,800 against a set target of 6,218 men who accessed HIV counselling and testing services. Outreach specifically targeted men from fishing communities bodaboda riders, water vendors, casual labourers, matatu drivers and conductors. Socioeconomic factors preventing fishermen from accessing HIV services during fishing expeditions were discussed and resolutions on how to help them were drawn.



**Unique forms** were developed to document inter-facility testing outcomes.



**FOLLOWING** the training, engaged health facilities started offering male friendly services.

Through special identifier cards, the project was able to track men that came to seek services as a result of their interaction with a male champion.



**H.E** Cyprian Awiti Governor, Homabay County is signing-off the information, Communication and education materials for adoption by county government and for use by the community.



**THE** development of a call to action “Live the Promise” as a key advocacy tool to address barrier to access HTS services worked well in the two communities. To aid in the advocacy appropriate communication tools were developed.



Religious leaders are signing the mural to show commitment on the need of male engagement on HIV testing and service uptake.

## Summary of Numbers reached per sub-location

### West Yimbo Ward, Bondo Sub County, Siaya County

Sub-Location	# of sessions	# of men reached	# tested men	# of +ve men
Mahanga	22	1356	567	6
Mitundu	24	1744	860	3
Usenge	23	2332	774	2
Got Agulu	25	1578	877	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>7,010</b>	<b>3,078</b>	<b>14</b>

### South Kasipul Ward, Rachuonyo Sub County, Homabay County

Sub-Location	# of sessions	# of men reached	# tested men	# of +ve men
Kokal	14	798	492	12
Kanyango	19	931	555	12
Kasimba	17	883	524	8
Kawino	14	795	526	8
Town North	14	770	522	9
Town South	14	727	521	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>4,904</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>55</b>

## International Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV (INERELA+) Kenya Chapter

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