

Extract from the darft Summary PLHIV Networks Discussions, Position and Actions to Support the All – In Social Movement to #EndAdolescentAIDS.

Recommendation 1: Plan for and Execute Rapid Results Initiative (RRIs) to ensure access to HIV testing and counseling to children and adolescents infected with HIV.

As a first step to achieve the outcome intended by the #PresidentialDirective¹ to #EndAdolescentAIDS² in Kenya, PLHIV networks recommend that urgent plans for a 3 to 6 months Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) and campaigns be put in place to ensure all HIV – Exposed Infants get access to HIV Testing and Counseling. This will ensure that HIV exposed infants, children born of HIV positive mothers and adolescents who have not been tested and are not part of the HIV Treatment and Care cascade are reached and brought under care.

The Ministry of Health through the National AIDS and STIS Control Programme (NAS COP) and partners have the expertise, experience and the infrastructure to execute the RRI³. **For this to happen, adequate resources will be required to be availed by the Kenya Government.**

As a strategy, the RRI should be implemented in partnership with adult PLHIV as index cases to ensure that all children under his/her care are tested and counseled for HIV. This has the additional benefit of ensuring that partners and other relations of HIV positive adults are reached with HIV testing and counseling services.

Role of PLHIV Networks

- Social Mobilization and education of communities on the health benefits if knowing ones HIV status.
- Educating HIV positive adults (index cases) on importance of partner and child testing and linking volunteers to HIV testing centres.
- Undertaking community and media outreaches to champion need for HIV testing and counseling. This will be done by PLHIV Champions.
- Supportive counseling to HIV positive peers and empowerment with knowledge and skills on child disclosure.
- Strengthening of PLHIV support groups and linking them with relevant agencies for sustained partnership

Note: Additional strategies are needed to reach adolescents who are out of the Care cascade

¹ By this we mean the contents of the Letter by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta on the 23rd February 2015.

² By this we mean the goal of the 'All-In Social Movement'

³ In 2013, NAS COP and partners implemented a successful RRI for HIV testing and counseling targeting infants and children through a family-based approach with PLHIV adult as an index case. NEPHAK partnered with NAS COP and KRCS in a few counties.