Building women’s meaningful participation in the “Global Plan for Elimination of HIV infection in Children and Keeping Mothers Alive”

Background:

The Global Plan for Elimination of HIV infection in Children and Keeping Mothers Alive¹ (hereinafter, Global Plan) provides an important framework to achieve the elimination of new HIV infections among children by 2015, as well as protecting the health of mothers. In achieving the targets set forth by the Plan, it will be crucial to take into consideration the gender barriers faced by women in accessing services, as well as to move forward within a human rights framework, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In addition, it is essential to ensure the meaningful participation of women living with HIV, including those who are or have been directly affected by vertical transmission issues, as well as women’s rights advocates from the SRHR movement, as they are best placed to identify barriers and recommendations for action.

Indeed, while it is expected that there will be a number of formal spaces for participation, such as on the Global Steering Group and the national reference groups, seats in these spaces are limited and will only be able to reach a small number of women. It is therefore important to identify concrete ways in which women’s voices can be heard throughout this process to ensure appropriate action at the country level.

Objective:

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA), in partnership with AIDS Legal Network (ALN), South Africa, seek to support the implementation of the Global Plan, with a particular focus on ensuring the meaningful involvement of women living with HIV and women’s rights advocates in the development and implementation of the national prevention of vertical transmission scale-up plan in the 22 priority (high burden) countries, by:

- Facilitating a virtual consultation in 22 priority countries², utilizing social media communication means and engaging a diversity of networks of women and girls living with and affected by HIV, to identify key priorities for the implementation of the Global Plan and the achievement of its targets within a comprehensive framework of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Developing a paper summarizing:
  1) Key gender barriers identified by women in the 22 priority countries in regards to accessing comprehensive vertical transmission services; and

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² The 22 priority countries identified in the Global Plan are: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
2) Possible interventions identified by women to address these gender barriers to accessing comprehensive vertical transmission services.

- Facilitate consensus building around overarching key advocacy messages/demands on recommendations for the implementation of the Global Plan, as well as country-level recommendations for the implementation of the national scale-up plans.

The virtual consultation will focus on the 22 priority countries identified in the Global Plan. As such, there will be particular emphasis placed on outreach within those countries, working in partnership with networks of women living with HIV and women’s rights and SRHR organizations. This outreach will be facilitated through the engagement of country focal points, which will be tasked with disseminating the consultation, as well as developing an initial report with findings from the countries to which they have been assigned.

**Timeframe**

This work will be carried out from 12th September to 31st October.