The Face of Care: Health Providers and Communities at the Frontline of Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Service Delivery in Africa

Concept Note
14 - 16 November 2023
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Introduction

Paediatric-Adolescent Treatment Africa (PATA) annual summits connect health providers from across Africa on a powerful platform for sharing experiences, peer-to-peer learning, capacity building, and coordinated action to enhance paediatric and adolescent HIV service delivery. This unique hybrid event brings together over 3000 participants supporting HIV prevention, optimal treatment, care, and support for all children and adolescents affected by HIV across Africa. Participants include health providers, community-based implementing partners, national and community-level programme managers, global experts, Ministry of Health representatives, and young people living with HIV.

PATA Summits are unique in that they offer frontline health providers, who do not ordinarily have the opportunity to attend regional or international conferences, an inclusive chance to engage in the summit. Creating a unique and valuable event for global partners to listen to and garner insights from those on the ground, while providing an opportunity for frontline health providers to take centre stage, showcasing their critical role in the HIV response, and building their capacity to address evolving challenges in paediatric and adolescent HIV service delivery.

PATA summits are not abstract driven, hold no registration fee, and provide a reality check on service delivery, with a keen focus on keeping it REAL (Reviewing service delivery models, Engaging peers, Accessing experts, and Learning lessons) and sharing local-grown solutions from each country.

PATA SUMMITS AIM TO

Position frontline health providers as key partners and champions in ending AIDS in children and adolescents by 2030

Highlight frontline health provider priorities and experiences, build capacity and, strengthen clinic-community collaboration

Offer a reality check against global and national commitments, providing a platform where progress and everyday challenges, lessons, and real-world local solutions are shared and discussed
The PATA 2023 Summit titled “The Face of Care: Health Providers and Communities at the Frontline of Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Service Delivery in Africa” is grounded in the perspectives collected from 801 participants, across 24 satellite sites in the PATA 2022 Summit. Participants included nurses (n=192), doctors (n=103), peer supporters (n=129), community health workers (n=36), those providing psychosocial support (n=109), and community partners, ministry of health officials and programme implementers (n=232), and shared and ranked different challenges, strengths, motivation, and ways of coping when delivering services and care. Responses confirmed that frontline health providers experience the health and well-being of children and adolescents as central and relational to their own job satisfaction.

However, the same providers were challenged in providing quality care. They highlighted the need for greater commitment and investment to be made to ensure access to adequate resources (information, financial, infrastructure and material). Health providers also emphasized the need for more enabling work environments, inclusive and supportive training, supervision and mentorship, adequate staffing and a strong multidisciplinary team that can positively and meaningfully engage with caregivers and young people. Participants also experienced paediatric-adolescent ART adherence challenges, including barriers of stigma, caregiver challenges, peer relationships and age-appropriate disclosure, and not having up-to-date training or confidence to initiate or manage HIV treatment, particularly in infants and young children.

In response to this feedback, the PATA 2023 Summit thematic areas will focus on health provider resilience, whilst offering opportunities to learn, engage, and access skills and resources in areas where they mostly reported a lack of confidence. Greater attention will also be placed on providing more time for more immersive workshops, fostering the building of a stronger frontline equipped to address challenges in paediatric and adolescent HIV service delivery.

The PATA 2023 Summit supports the global movement to end AIDS in children and adolescents by 2030. The 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS sets bold targets to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Together with the recently launched Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children by 2030 and the Dar es Salaam Declaration, these strategies provide a framework and roadmap to drive much-needed progress. At the forefront of this movement is the collaborative effort of health providers and empowered communities providing comprehensive health services, including prevention, testing, treatment, care, and support. The PATA 2023 Summit serves as a platform to elevate their critical contributions and accelerate collective efforts on the frontline to DO IT RIGHT, DO IT TOGETHER AND DO IT NOW!
The PATA 2023 Summit will once again be a hybrid event, with sessions delivered virtually via the PATA Linking and Learning Hub, offering a dynamic and inclusive programme structure that caters to both virtual and in-person participation. Through the PATA Linking and Learning Hub and satellite venues, participants can engage in a range of sessions using various formats. The day begins with country-specific forums at the satellites, fostering local networking and country updates and dialogue. Virtual connection to the summit starts mid-morning, allowing some time for regional and broader engagement across different time zones, and will include Prime Sessions, Africa Cafés, PATA REAL, and a closing Lekgotla. Daily workshops outside of the virtual programme will be held at each satellite, allowing for improved engagement and discussion.

Simultaneous translation in multiple languages will be provided during the virtual programme, facilitating accessibility and inclusivity throughout the summit. This in turn aligns with PATA’s methodology of bridging policy and practice gaps and promoting collaboration among frontline providers, policymakers, community partners, adolescents and young people, and other stakeholders across the African continent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Day 3</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9h00-SAT</td>
<td>Welcome, orientation</td>
<td>Recapping from previous day</td>
<td>Satellite participants only</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10h30-SAT</td>
<td>Prime session</td>
<td></td>
<td>Virtual, all participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>12h00-SAT</td>
<td>Virtual Africa Cafes</td>
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<td>Virtual all</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14h00-SAT</td>
<td>In country workshop</td>
<td>PATA REAL</td>
<td>Satellite participants only</td>
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<tr>
<td>15h45-SAT</td>
<td>Workshop continues</td>
<td>Lekgotla</td>
<td>Virtual, all</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17h00-SAT</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Virtual, all</td>
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The first day of the summit will focus on “The Face of Care” and what it takes to create an enabling and supportive environment for multidisciplinary health provider teams to collaborate with communities and integrate peer-led services. The programme aims to build resilience and confidence within health provider teams, equipping and empowering them to manage amidst constraints and challenges, whilst continuing to deliver friendly, rights-based, and person-centred care.

The second day of the summit will showcase innovative, homegrown, and sustainable approaches from the frontline that have proven transformative in addressing and overcoming barriers to service delivery, improving health, and fostering well-being for children and adolescents affected by HIV. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with experts with inputs on service integration, disclosure, advanced adherence counselling and self-care.

The final day of the summit will focus on building a comprehensive understanding on advanced HIV disease in children and will feature updates on optimized treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV. Key interventions known to reduce morbidity and mortality amongst children living with HIV, summarised as Soreen, Treat, Optimize and Prevent AIDS (STOP AIDS), will be shared. A PATA REAL workshop will share practical case-based learnings on AHD. The closing Lekgotla, will host a panel discussion on key themes emerging across the summit and its satellites. Additionally, the event will mark the formal launch of the new PATA Strategic Plan for 2024-2029 and take the opportunity to celebrate health providers as true “everyday heroes” through the prestigious PATA Summit Awards.
The PATA 2023 Summit stands as an unparalleled platform to empower health providers and community-based partners working on the frontline of the HIV response in Africa as critical partners in ending AIDS in children by 2030. Over the course of three transformative days, the Summit will cater to the unique priorities of frontline health providers and community-based partners, offering an enriching environment for learning, collaboration, and networking.

This year’s summit promises to be an enriching experience that reaffirms the invaluable role of frontline health providers and community-based partners in shaping the future of paediatric and adolescent HIV service delivery and care, while also presenting an opportunity to listen to solutions from the frontline, strengthen partnerships, and accelerate progress in the journey to end AIDS in children and adolescents by 2030.

Register in 3 simple steps

Go to the PATA Linking and Learning hub: www.patahub.org

Register on the hub, or if you are already a member, sign into the hub

Go to your dashboard, scroll down, and you will see a link to register for the PATA 2023 Summit – click on the link and register to attend the PATA 2023 Summit

The summit is kindly sponsored through support from Frontline AIDS with funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands Regional and HIV Programme Southern Africa, the ELMA Foundation, ViiV Positive Action for Health, Aidsfonds, Robert Carr Fund, Africa Reach, the University of Cape Town (UCT), Western University, SSHRC and others.