



Info Pack

Weekly Newsletter

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ACHIEVERS CORNER

The "Info Pack" team expresses its gratitude towards **Liliane UMULISA, Jack NKWIHOREZE** and **Adam TCHELEZO** for their technical support provided during the 2014 International HIV Research Conference.

You did a great job.

May God Bless You

Take time to appreciate employees, they would reciprocate a thousand times.

EDITORIAL CORNER

Dear Colleagues, we are now coming to the end of year 2014, after achieving a number of targets including publishing a number of copies in the name our news bulletin commonly known by and large as "Info Pack" an in-house publication most of you have found informative and educative. There is no doubt whatsoever that our appreciation on your collaboration and our ability to go forward has been encouraged by the information and guidance of everyone of you. We say thank you and we heavily count on you even in the next issues to come. The editorial team therefore expresses its sincere thanks for all the support and constructive dialogue and information you have provided all the time to us. So let's embrace and celebrate all we have achieved this year by attending and participating in the prayer breakfast at Umubano Hotel on the 13th of this month.

NEWS OF THE WEEK



Mr. BUKURU-MD of Lemigo TV (left) signing a partnership agreement with the Executive Director of SFH Rwanda - Mr. Manasseh G. Wandera

On 1st December 2014, Rwanda joined the world to mark the World AIDS Day. On this day the Government of Rwanda took this opportunity to increase knowledge among the Rwandan population on how HIV can be transmitted, available interventions for HIV prevention, care and treatment, and stigma reduction.

This year's national theme is, "Role of Media in early HIV treatment to reduce AIDS related morbidity and mortality." The 2014 national theme is line with the Global Theme of three zeros and also with 2013-2018 National HIV Strategic Plan goals of lowering the new infection rate by two thirds, halving the number of HIV-related deaths per year and ensuring that people living with HIV (PLHIV) have the same opportunities as others.

According to the Minister of Health Dr. Agnes BINAGWAHO, the media provides a platform that enables information to reach

large numbers of people. "The media has the potential to influence social norms that affect negatively HIV prevention and treatment strategies but also create a platform for dialogue at the population level," she said.

To this effect, on 8th December 2014, SFH Rwanda signed an MoU with Lemigo TV subsequently following other formal arrangements with different media organizations with an invaluable motive to disseminate health messages to the population of Rwanda.

Mr. Jean Damascene BUKURU the Managing Director of Lemigo TV said that they trust their coverage including free to air. He further informed that all of the subscribers of GoTV, TransAfrica, Solim and StarTimes.

According to Mr. BUKURU Lemigo TV have almost four TV shows that are likely to promote SFH Health Messages (namely: Celebrity Show, Hot Musics, *Inyenyeri*, and *UbuzimaBwanjye*) "all we want is just content for our TV programs... give us the content" he said.

On the other hand, the Executive Director of SFH Rwanda supported BUKURU's point saying that SFH is ready to provide contents whenever necessary. "Life is the basis of development-our nation needs healthier lives for them to social-economically develop their families" Mr. Manasseh said.

This MoU will be executed for a period of twelve months starting this December. SFH special events will be covered and the TV will be airing SFH documentaries for free.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Dear Friends,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the whole team as we wrap up the year. Part of your efforts is what has prevented HIV from rising up.

The HIV prevalence is maintained at 3% (RAIS-2013) and can even be scaled down if we work a little more harder.

The people infected and affected are our brothers, sisters, friends and country men and women. Together we can make a big difference. The recent Conference resolved to keep focusing on key populations especially sex workers who are still driving lots of new infections.

Can you believe that statistically speaking, whenever you see two sex workers, one of them is HIV Positive!!!! 51% are positive and even much more in Kigali. Every road show, campaign, action you take serving at SFH regardless of the department you are in, you are saving life, so work as if someone's life depends on your effort and more than that contribution you will have made, God will reward you proportionally with the effort you put in.... Do you want more blessings?

Put in more efforts... and by the way the reverse is true too!!!! Keep up the good work.

The 2014 International HIV Research Conference: there are still much to do as far as HIV prevention is concerned.



Mrs. Jeannette KAGAME visiting SFH stand at Serena Hotel

The International HIV research conference took place from 4th to 5th December 2014 it was concluded by Her Excellence, the First Lady Mrs. Jeannette Kagame on last Friday at Serena Hotel. The theme of the conference was: "Using Evidence to Save Lives". The conference brought together approximately 400 participants from: International researchers, academia, program implementers, funding organizations and community, private society representatives and policy makers.

During the conference, all presentations made on HIV research findings showed that there should be more sensitization in HIV and AIDs fight. According to the Rwanda Aids Indicator Survey (RAIS) report; at least 32 % of Rwandans still believe HIV and AIDS can be transmitted through mosquito bites; the 2013 preliminary report presented by the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), also showed that one third of the respondents did not agree that HIV can be prevented through faithfulness.

"The content of the report is an indication that a lot more needs to be done as far as sensitization is concerned," said Nathan MUGUME, the Head of the Rwanda Health Communication Centre. SFH Rwanda played a key role not only in the preparations and the course of the conference, but also presented research findings of the survey conducted on Key Populations.

It was upon this background that in her closing remarks, the guest of honor, Mrs. Jeannette KAGAME urged all implementing partners to keep playing their respective roles in fighting HIV and AIDS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Prayer Breakfast for SFH Staff;
- Submission of SFH Financial Report for November

ONGOING EVENTS

- Plaisir Road Shows and Concert;
- Closure of Army Week at Iwawa;
- Hygiene campaign in Kigali City;
- Signing MoU with IGHE.com

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ FSW: the majority are young (30 years) and singles (72%) with mean income of Rwf 25,000 reportedly generated from sex work: 66% reported to have been tested with 32% self-reported to be HIV positive;
- ✓ Out of 751 MSM, 54.1% reported HIV testing and receiving results in six months preceding the SFH survey: Out of 615 MSM, 6.2% self-reported to be HIV positive;
- ✓ Out of 1,129 FSW: the population is mainly young (age=28 years) sex work was reported 94% as their primary income - Condom use with regular and non-regular commercial clients was low (64%);

JOKES CORNER

Two mental patients were walking next to a swimming pool. One jumped into the pool and the other jumped in to save him. Their doctor saw the rescue and called the rescuer to his office. "Due to your actions, it appears your mental state is fine," the doctor said to the patient, "You can go home to your family, but before you do, you should know that the person you saved hung himself today." The patient replied, "He didn't hang himself; I hung him there to dry."