

Kigali 16 June 2007. The opening session on HIV implementer's meeting has recorded an important participation of delegates from 51 countries with majority from Africa. The opening remarks emphasised the importance of leadership and of scaling up partnerships to improve quality and impact.

All the speeches rehearsed the inspiring leadership in countries which marked significant results fighting HIV and AIDS and scaling up through partnerships. The courage and commitment of PLWHA have helped sharing lessons learned, saving lives, enhancing ownership of lives and caring for OVCs. Ambassador Mark Dybul, Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator emphasised the shift in considering communities no more as recipients but as partners through understanding and trust, as equal dedication is more likely to transform the world. "Working together makes everything possible" he said.

Michel SIDIBE, representing Dr. Peter Piot, underscored five key strategic areas for more impact:

- Spend money on programmes and priorities owned by communities which understand their epidemics;
- Enhance capacity in education and social services, making use of communities and civil society as invaluable resources;
- Shift from short term interventions to more strategic approaches (the Global Fund talks about programmes not projects);
- Put AIDS at the core of any development programme;
- Scale up for greater efficiency in delivering results without losing money on the way.

His Excellency Paul KAGAME, in his opening key note address, listed the achievements to date and elaborated on the drivers of progress. "Experience has shown that accountability with vision achieves the goal" he said. He further insisted on making a breakthrough in strengthening the Health Systems by joining forces with Development Partners to build capacity.

The session reminded programs implementers on the issue of involving communities and enhance their capacity to request response to HIV and AIDS in developing countries, and consider that community based organisations have a key role to play in both designing and implementing programmes. The Prevention, treatment and care should be put at the core of the response.

The Great Involvement of people living with HIV and AIDS was highly reinforced in terms of improving quality and effectiveness. The Universal Access seems not yet as comprehensive as it looks and the involvement of Civil Society organisation might be reinforced. The Stigma, discrimination and Gender issues still stand as barriers for effective response to HIV prevention.

While considering some real achievement in terms of HIV prevention in Africa, all speakers highlighted the importance going far from now in terms of improving quality of interventions by moving from projects to sustainable programmes as response to HIV and AIDS in Africa. Furthermore, there is a real need of promoting the partnerships

Based on what has been done and recognising the support of donors in Rwanda and in Africa the remarks of HE president of Republic of Rwanda expressed the commitment of Rwanda to go far from what has been done. The session also reminded the important step to be taken in the spirit of assessing past performance and ways of setting up innovative efforts to combat HIV and AIDS.

The active contribution from all participants was encouraged to take this opportunity which might help to discover ways and strategies to maximize impact, and working together through a comprehensive participatory approach for sustainability of programs on HIV and AIDS.