



Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Schedule of Events

XVII International AIDS Conference
Mexico City, Mexico
4-8 August 2008

Following is a list of satellite sessions, press conferences, workshops, and other related sessions sponsored/cosponsored and/or in which the Center for Health and Gender Equity will play a role. We hope to see you there!

CHANGE in Mexico at a Glance

Sunday, August 3

10:00-15:00 Pre-Conference Satellite Session: Challenges for Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS
SR8

Monday, August 4

18:30-20:30 Satellite Session: No Simple Solution: Investing in HIV Prevention Research for Women and Girls
SR6

Tuesday, August 5

7:00-8:30 Satellite Session: Raising Women's Voices from the Margins: A Progressive Platform for the
SBR8 U.S. Global AIDS Response in PEPFAR II

10:00-11:00 Press Conference: Prevention Now! Campaign (media credentials required)

16:30-18:00 Oral Presentation: Global Health Initiatives: the impact of vertical funding on health systems and
SR3 community priorities

Wednesday, August 6

13:00-14:00 Poster presentation: Envisioning a New PEPFAR: Effective HIV Prevention for Women and Girls
SBR3

Thursday, August 7

11:45-12:45 Global Village workshop: In our own hands: Advocating for women-initiated prevention methods
GVSR2

16:30-18:00 Skills-Building Workshop: Expanding Access to Female Condoms through Strategic
SBR9 Partnerships and Informed Advocacy

More detailed descriptions of all events are below.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Pre-Conference Satellite Session: Challenges for Women and Girls and HIV/AIDS

10:00 – 15:00

Session Room 8 (SR8)

Description: This satellite meeting will allow for the Caucus' constituency from all over the world to come together and share with other international women's, youth and Human Rights networks, such as: Women Won't Wait – End HIV & Violence Against Women. NOW, With Women Worldwide, the World YWCA, the ICW, and Strategies from the South. These networks will consider the main issues of interest for women and girls, related to improving and ensuring care for the sexual and reproductive health needs of women infected

and affected by HIV, the guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, care for victims of violence against women and the prevention of HIV/AIDS in children and women, access to integral care for women and girls living with HIV, including universal access to antiretroviral treatment for opportunistic infections and support and care that improve their quality of life and survival.

Sponsor: International AIDS Women's Caucus

Co-Chairs: **Mabel Bianco**, FEIM; **Serra Sippel**, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), **Zonibel Woods**, Ford Foundation-Global HIV Initiative

Special Remarks: **Stephen Lewis**, Co-director, AIDS-Free World

Panel I

Purnima Mane, *UNFPA*: "Linking Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV"

Alessandra Nilo, *GESTOS*: "SRH Gaps in the National AIDS Plan"

Gcebile Ndlovu, *ICW Africa*: "Challenges for Women Living with HIV&AIDS in Africa"

Maria Consuelo Mejia, *Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir*

Sra. Lina Moreno, *First Lady of Colombia – not yet confirmed*

Margarita Percovich, *Representative of the Congress, Uruguay*

Moderators: **Barbara Klugman and Serra Sippel**

Panel II

Neelanjana Mukhia, *ActionAid International and the Women Won't Wait Campaign*: "Advocacy on the Intersection of Violence against Women and HIV&AIDS"

Meena Seshu, *SANGRAM*: "Challenges of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups in India"

Deborah Williams, *CRN+*: "Domestic and Gender Based Violence in the Caribbean"

Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, *World YWCA*: "Investing in Young Women's Leadership in Response to HIV&AIDS"

Moderators: **Zonibel Woods and Mabel Bianco**

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Satellite Session: No Simple Solution: Investing in HIV Prevention Research for Women and Girls

18:30 – 20:30

Session Room 6 (SR6)

Description: This satellite session will bring together government representatives, policy-makers and grassroots leaders working on the frontlines of HIV prevention research to discuss the work needed to address the complex challenges that exacerbate a feminized HIV/AIDS epidemic worldwide. A lively discussion will address the relationships between AIDS, gender and poverty and the continued feminization of the pandemic; the need to focus resources on evaluating innovative structural and gender-based prevention interventions; and the need to continue the momentum for investment in research on existing (female condoms) and new (vaccines and microbicides) female-initiated and controlled prevention technologies, particularly in the face of disappointing trial results.

Co-sponsors: AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC); **Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)**; Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM); Ibis Reproductive Health; International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI); International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM); International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)

Moderator: **Stephen Lewis**, Co-director, AIDS-Free World

Speakers: **Dr. Agnes Binagwaho**, Executive Secretary, National Commission for the Fight Against HIV/AIDS, Rwanda; **Hilda Esquivel**, Mexicanas Positivas Frente a la Vida, Mexico; **Julia Kim**, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; **Elizabeth Mataka**, United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa; **Matilda Mogale**, South Africa, CAB coordinator (retired) for the HIV Vaccine Trials Unit at Baragwanath Hospital, Soweto, South Africa

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

Satellite Session: Raising Women's Voices from the Margins: A Progressive Platform for the U.S. Global AIDS Response in PEPFAR II

7:00 – 8:30

Skills-Building Room 8 (SBR8)

Description: This session seeks to highlight the diverse experiences and perspectives of women to draw attention to what the next phase of PEPFAR/US Global AIDS Policy should look like when it comes to women and prevention. Speakers will represent those most marginalized by society, including female sex workers, injecting drug users, women living with HIV, married women and incarcerated women. The session will put these women at the center of a discussion around specific policy recommendations for the next phase of PEPFAR. Audience participation and feedback will be used to shape a platform that will be shared with US policy makers.

Sponsor: Center for Health and Gender Equity

Moderator: **Mary Robinson**, Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative; former President of Ireland

Introductions: **Dr. Gill Greer**, Director General, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
Serra Sippel, Executive Director, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)

Special Remarks: **Congresswoman Barbara Lee**, United States

Speakers: **Sekar Wulan Sari**, Director, STIGMA, Indonesia; **Gabriela Leite**, Brazilian Network of Sex Professionals, Brazil; **Axela Romero**, Director General, SIPAM, Mexico; **Grace Sedio**, Bomme Isago and International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW), Botswana

Press Conference: Prevention Now! Campaign

10:00 – 11:00

Room 3 (*Olmecas*), Media Centre, Hall A, Level 1 (media credentials required)
Centro Banamex, Mexico City

Description: In 2007, women represented almost half of HIV infections worldwide and 60% of HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa. As international donors and country governments invest millions of dollars in new prevention technologies and services, they cannot afford to overlook the only available HIV prevention intervention designed to allow women to initiate safer sex: female condoms. Speakers will highlight the Prevention Now! Campaign, a global effort endorsed by over 150 organizations to raise awareness about and public investment in female condoms. The press conference will highlight findings and recommendations from the recent report "Saving Lives Now! Female Condoms and the Role of U.S. Foreign Aid," and will examine international efforts to build momentum for the integration of female condoms into a full range of tools for sexual and reproductive health.

Moderator: TBD

Speakers: Bidia Deperthes, UNFPA; Bernice Heloo, SWAA; Serra Sippel, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE); other speakers TBD

Oral Presentation: Global Health Initiatives: the impact of vertical funding on health systems and community priorities

16:30 – 18:00

Session Room 3 (SR3)

Presentation Title: Impact of US Funding on HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Dominican Republic

Presenter: Serra Sippel, Executive Director, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)

Description: This presentation will highlight findings from extensive interviews with government health officials, USAID staff, NGO leaders and individuals to assess the impact of US policy on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care in the Dominican Republic (DR), which receives funds from USAID and PEPFAR. Researchers examined how vertical funding streams of both the US as a donor and of Ministry of Health departments in the DR have affected HIV services and how these relate to sexual and reproductive health services. Researchers gave particular attention to how U.S policy restrictions affect people living with HIV and other vulnerable populations, such as women in prison, adolescents, and immigrants. Furthermore, the study documented how women’s NGOs that do not receive PEPFAR funds have been affected by the larger funding and policy environment.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Poster presentation: Addressing Gender Inequalities in Prevention

13:00 – 14:00

Skills Building Room 3 (SBR3)

Presentation title: Envisioning a New PEPFAR: Effective HIV Prevention for Women and Girls

Presenter: Jamila Taylor, Legislative Policy Analyst, Center for Health and Gender Equity

Description: Based on an analysis of PEPFAR gender-related policies and programs from 2003 to 2008, this presentation will show how PEPFAR’s abstinence and anti-prostitution policies have undermined prevention program efforts to address gender inequalities globally. A status report will be given on the implementation of PEPFAR restrictions as they pertain to women’s and girls’ access to HIV prevention and related services. PEPFAR’s ability to integrate family planning and gender-based violence services into HIV prevention programs will also be articulated, while missed opportunities and barriers to optimal service delivery are identified.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Global Village workshop: In our own hands: Advocating for women-initiated prevention methods

11:45-12:45

Global Village Session Room 2 (GVSR2)

Description: This workshop is grounded in a comprehensive, rights-based approach to HIV prevention, which recognizes the essential need for woman-initiated prevention strategies, and further recognizes the need for continued investment in multiple experimental approaches to meeting this need. Experimental interventions for

HIV prevention include microbicides, cervical barriers such as diaphragms and cervical caps, pre-exposure prophylaxis and vaccines. In addition, there is a need to scale-up availability of female condoms and to make linkages with sexual and reproductive health, interventions related to gender-based violence, economic empowerment and other structural factors driving the epidemic. Workshop leaders will stress the broader importance of civil society involvement to ensure that trials are conducted ethically and that there is swift, equitable access to interventions which show efficacy once they become available.

Co-sponsors: African Microbicides Advocacy Group, AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, **Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)**, Global Campaign for Microbicides, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

Skills-Building Workshop: Expanding Access to Female Condoms through Strategic Partnerships and Informed Advocacy

16:30-18:00

Skills-Building Room 9 (SBR9)

Description: The female condom is an effective HIV prevention tool that is available today; however, this method is not readily accessible throughout the world. This interactive workshop explains the relevance of female condoms to a global response to HIV/AIDS and identifies challenges to making it accessible. Participants will learn why female condom programs and strategies succeed in some settings and fail in others. Participants will build skills to generate strategic partnerships and informed advocacy to expand access to female condoms, as one option among many, with the goal of ensuring comprehensive, good quality sexual and reproductive health services for all.

Facilitators: **Serra Sippel**, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE); **Sophie Diltmis**, World YWCA; **Bidia Deperthes**, UNFPA

Co-sponsors: Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), UNFPA, World YWCA