

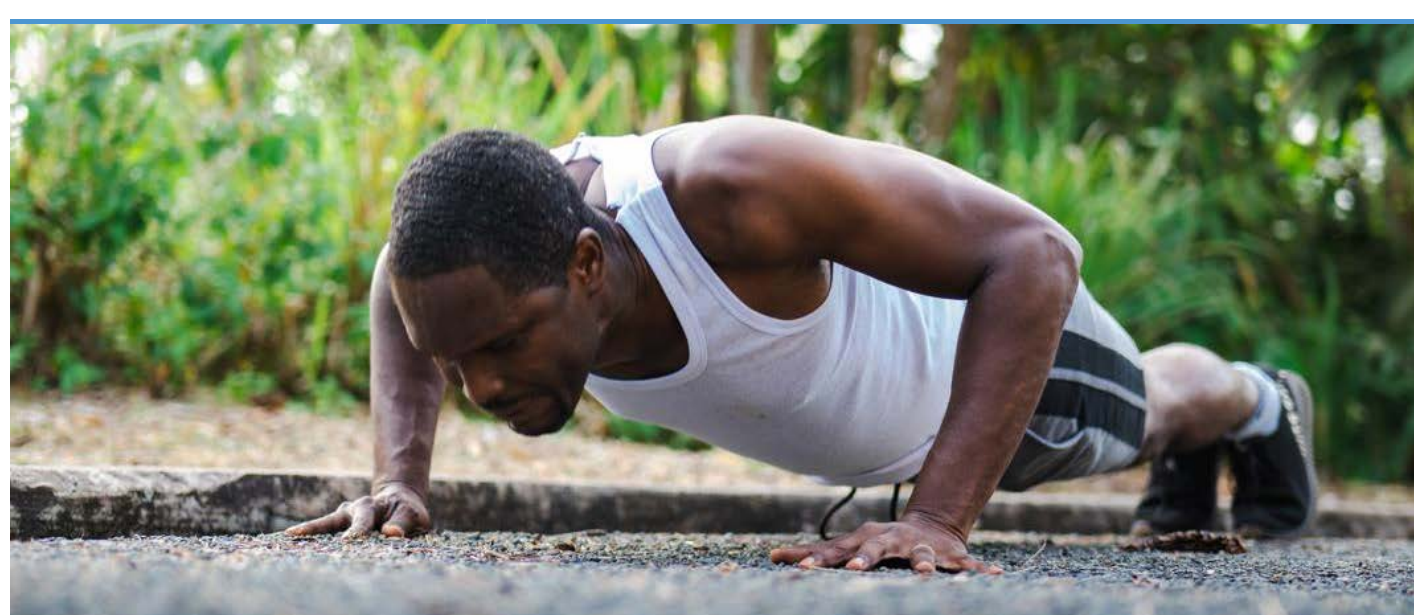
Charting a New Path – Exploring Access to Health Services through Faith Platforms

A Global Webinar to Engage Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and Partners

15 May 2025

1500hrs – 1630hrs
CET/GVA

Zoom Webinar
[Register](#)



Background

The world faces a global public health crisis brought about by sudden, and significant cuts in funding. Whilst this unprecedented event has led to massive disruptions in health services and disillusion by stakeholders, it offers an opportunity to rethink, reprioritize and work collectively towards greater efficiencies and use of available resources.

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) are strategically positioned to address this persistent equity gap. Across many countries, FBOs operate a significant proportion of health facilities and possess trusted networks that extend deep into communities. Their relational capital, cultural understanding, and influence within families and communities make them powerful actors in engaging men with integrated health services including HIV.

A new WHO technical brief on improving access to integrated services, including HIV *through faith platforms*, provides a direction and promising models that demonstrate how FBOs are already contributing to improved HIV service uptake among men. These models incorporate a range of WHO-recommended interventions and offer operational considerations and highlights of key success factors.

WHO, together with partners, is launching a series of dissemination activities, including this webinar, to promote integrated HIV and health services including through faith-based approaches within national responses. The objective is to foster dialogue, strengthen partnerships between health systems and faith networks, and equip stakeholders with actionable strategies to improve engagement in HIV and other health services through faith platforms.

Objectives

This session has the following objectives:

- To present an overview of the WHO technical brief on improving access to integrated services including HIV through faith platforms
- To discuss models of implementation and operational considerations of selected faith-based platforms
- To dialogue with faith leaders and partners on the way forward and share ideas on sustainable engagement with faith-based platforms

Language - English

Charting a New Path – Exploring Access to Health Services through Faith Platforms A WHO Global Webinar to Engage Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and Partners and Launch a Technical Brief Chair: Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, Chair, Rome Paediatric HIV and TB Action Plan and Platform		
Time	Topic	Presenter
15.00–15.10 (10 minutes)	Opening and housekeeping	Wole Ameyan, WHO, Switzerland
	Welcome remarks (World Health Organization)	Meg Doherty, Director, Global HIV, Hepatitis and STIs Programmes. WHO, Geneva, Switzerland
15.10–15.30 (20 minutes)	Opening statements and remarks	Angeli Achrekar, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS
		Mr. Robert Serwanga, Minister of Youth, Sports and the Arts, Buganda Kingdom, Uganda
		Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, Chair, Rome Paediatric HIV and TB Action Plan and Platform
15.30–15.40 (10 minutes)	Improving Access to Integrated Services including HIV through Faith Platforms Overview of new WHO Technical Brief	Francesca Merico
15.40–15.45 (5 minutes)	Interactive POLL	
15.45–16.05 (20 minutes)	5 minute highlight of case models	Chaired by Francesca Merico Gibstar Makangila, Executive Director, Circle of Hope, Zambia Susan Hillis, Imperial College London Echo Vanderwal, Executive Director, The Luke Commission
16.05–16.25 (20 minutes)	Panel: Focus on barriers, key issues collaborations, and solutions	Moderated by Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo Gibstar Makangila, Executive Director, Circle of Hope, Zambia Susan Hillis, Imperial College London Echo Vanderwal, Executive Director, The Luke Commission Gracia Violeta Ross, Commission of the Churches on Health and Healing, WCC
16.25–16.30 (5 minutes)	Final reflections	Chair: Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, Chair, Rome Paediatric HIV and TB Action Plan and Platform Lycias Zembe, UNAIDS
	Closing	
End of session		

Resources

- [WHO page on Adolescent boys and Men](#)
- [Men and HIV: evidence-based approaches and interventions](#)
- [Practical approaches and case-based models for reaching men and boys with integrated HIV services](#)
- [Improving HIV testing for men and linkage to services through faith platforms](#)