



Advocates for the Prevention of HIV in Africa

**DATE:**

May 27, 2024

**PRESENTED BY:**

Yvette Raphael

## Summary Progress Report of APHA activities from January – May 2024

This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by Advocates for the Prevention of HIV in Africa (APHA) during the period January 1 to April 30, 2024. APHA is a leading advocacy organization dedicated to accelerating and supporting HIV prevention research efforts in South Africa and across the region. APHA has been actively engaged in many initiatives to foster meaningful community involvement, build advocacy capacity, and influence policies and guidelines related to HIV prevention research.



This report highlights APHA's diverse range of endeavours, including convening stakeholder meetings and working groups, conducting research literacy workshops, mentoring a cadre of young advocates, participating in key conferences and consultations, and expanding its media outreach efforts.

Through this report, APHA demonstrates its unwavering commitment to addressing the complex challenges surrounding HIV prevention research, policy development, and program implementation. By collaborating with a wide array of partners, including civil society organizations, government entities, research institutions, and community advocates, APHA serves as a vital bridge, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of affected communities are amplified and integrated into decision-making processes.

The following sections of the report provide a detailed account of APHA's activities, achievements, and ongoing priorities, underscoring the organization's pivotal role in driving progress toward the goal of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa and beyond.

## Research Engagement & Advocacy Activities

---



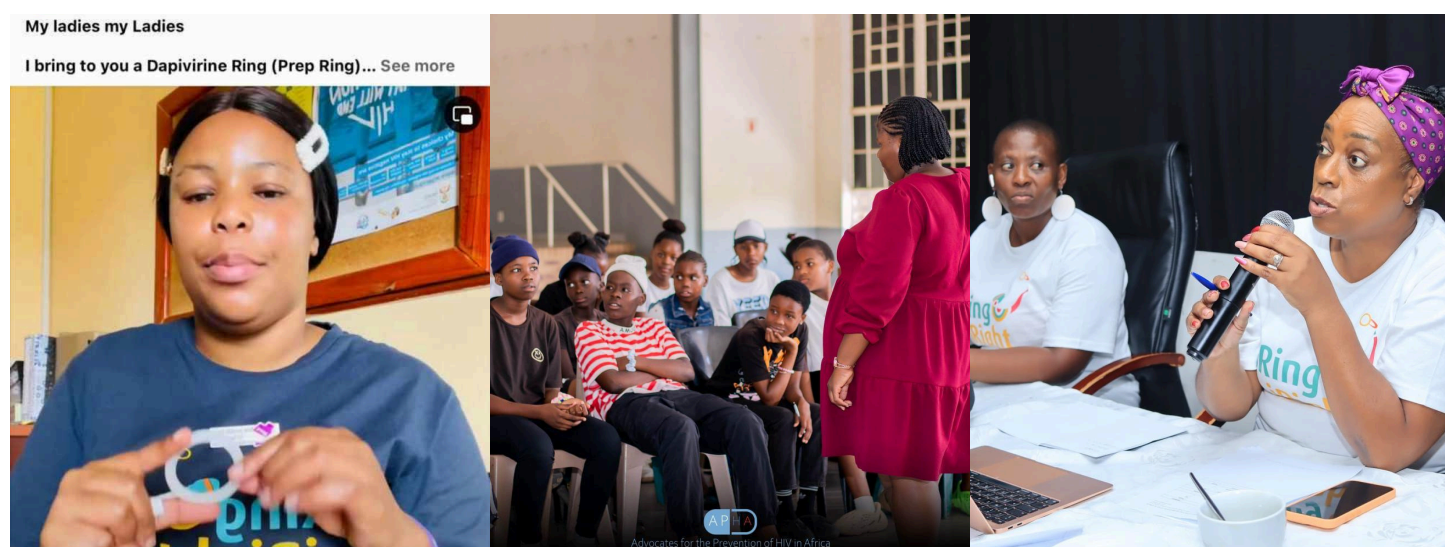
- APHA convened the first quarterly Civil Society Prevention Working Group meetings to serve as a platform for updates and discussions on biomedical HIV prevention research implementation for policy and programming.
- APHA had representation at the Department of Health's Prevention Technical Working Group meetings. A key event was the National PrEP Review Workshop held in Johannesburg on Jan 29-30, attended by APHA ground forces to provide input.
- A knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions (KAP) survey was conducted to map civil society stakeholders' views toward HIV prevention research, policy, and programming. The full report is due in May, with an abstract submitted for HIV R4P.



- APHA's Community of Practice Engagement Forum sessions, focusing on HIV prevention research engagement and advocacy, are resuming in May after a break.
- APHA convened meetings of its internal technical reference group throughout the quarter.
- APHA attended and participated in the HIV Prevention and Community Working Group in Kigali and Addis Abba
- APHA attended the AVAC fellows meeting in Nairobi in April.
- Planning commenced for the National Stakeholder Engagement Forum scheduled for Q3, to discuss community engagement with stakeholders such as CAB members and advocates in research settings.

## Workshops & Community Engagement

---



- Five research literacy workshops were held during the period in Mpumalanga (2), Limpopo (1), and Gauteng (2) to build the capacity of communities and advocacy groups to understand clinical trials.
- "Prevention Quake" community meetings were convened in Mpumalanga (2) and Limpopo (2) where APHA has networks of ground force alumni advocates.
- The African Women's Prevention Community Accountability Board, for which APHA serves as the secretariat, held its first strategic planning meeting on the sidelines of the ViiV GCAG in Lusaka in March.
- The ground forces participated in the "Programme Design and Implementation Model by and with Young People" hosted by Beyond Zero in East London, Burgersfort, and Ladybrand.
- A choice manifesto dissemination workshop was hosted in Limpopo.

## Ground Force Advocates Mentorship

---



Seven new ground force advocates were recruited and completed orientation during the quarter. An induction and training workshop was held in Johannesburg on the 17th and 19th of April to build the capacity of the new ground force recruits as well as acknowledge the work of the outgoing members. The latest alumni were also trained in the APHA Champions program on the 19-20th April. This introduced the new champions to APHA's methodology in community engagement and facilitation.

Two existing Champions were recruited and transitioned to becoming full-time APHA Interns, one dealing with social media and key populations and the other managing the ground forces program. The personal growth of the two Interns highlights the impact of the mentorship aspect of our work.

The APHA team attended and participated in several key conferences and consultations, including:

- CROI (Ntando Yola attended)
- AWPCAB caucus in Lusaka
- ViiV GCAG consultation in Lusaka

There are plans for APHA's participation in the following conferences:

- IAS (abstract accepted, invited speaker/chair)
- HIV R4P (abstracts submitted)

## Ground Force Advocates Mentorship

---

APHA actively participates in SANAC Civil Society Forum processes, including representation in the research sector leadership at national and provincial levels.

APHA expanded its media outreach through new platforms like TikTok, X, and Instagram to share messaging on research developments and advocacy priorities. The membership and engagements on these platforms have grown significantly.

### Key Priorities for this period:

- Training and capacity building boot camp for new ground force cohort
- Abstract development and submissions for IAS and HIV R4P conferences



- Dissemination plans for the AWPCAB Choice Manifesto
- Implementing the ViiV regional HIV prevention and community engagement and advocacy forum at the end of May.
- Finalizing plans for the Q3 National Stakeholder Engagement Forum

### **\*Special Note**

---

We congratulate Ntando Yola on his appointment as the Chair of the HPTN CWG!

## **Congratulations to Ntando Yola on his appointment as the new Chair of the HPTN CWG!**



With his extensive experience in leading community engagement in HIV prevention research and his dedication to advocating for evidence-based, culturally responsive interventions, Ntando is undoubtedly well-suited for this role. His leadership will be invaluable as the HPTN continues its important work in investigating novel HIV prevention options for diverse populations worldwide.

