

# Monthly Newsletter

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## PHDA-SWOP PARTICIPATES IN "BEST PRACTICES IN ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURE SYMPOSIUM" IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



PHDA-SWOP participated in Best Practice in Engagement and Culture Symposium, held from July 15th to 18th, 2024. This symposium brought together a diverse group of participants from Kenya, South Africa, the UK, and officials from the Wellcome Trust. Representing PHDA, Dr. Joshua Kimani and Joyce Odhiambo played key roles in contributing to this symposium. This event served as a vibrant platform for the Research Development Award winners to engage in insightful dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaborative exploration.

## HIGHLIGHTS



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# PHDA SHINES AT THE 2024 IAS CONFERENCE IN GERMANY



PHDA made a significant impact at the 35th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference held in Germany. Our team's dedication was on full play, earning us recognition and valuable insights into the future of HIV treatment and prevention. The conference's central theme, "Putting People First," resonated deeply with us as it emphasized designing solutions from the perspective of the marginalized population.

Our poster abstract was on display for three days, grabbing the attention of many participants of which out of nearly 2,000 posters, ours was selected for a prestigious poster walkthrough. The walkthrough generated significant attention, especially on our Safe Clinic App. The IAS conference highlighted the importance of digital health, big data project, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) as the next frontier in HIV care. As we continue to explore more innovative approaches we remain committed to putting people first, ensuring privacy by design, and safeguarding data protection act in our systems.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING AT PUMWANI MAJENGO SOCIAL HALL



A community engagement meeting took place at the Pumwani Majengo Social Hall on July 19, 2024, bringing together 70 female sex workers (FSWs) and peer educators registered at various clinics, including SWOP Majengo, Kariobangi, Donholm, City, and Daraja Clinics. The meeting was organized to foster a mutual learning environment between the community and the research team involved in the IIQ.2 Study (Asprin Study).

The meeting was successful and informative, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts in HIV prevention research. It emphasized the crucial role of community involvement in enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of research studies. The feedback and discussions from the meeting will undoubtedly contribute to refining the study processes and ensuring that the research aligns with the needs and expectations of the community.

# PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL Q4

PHDA recently held a successful end-of-Q3 online meeting on July 10, 2024, setting a positive tone for the upcoming quarter. The meeting featured introductions and leadership updates that celebrated PHDA's achievements and ongoing studies & projects. Dr. Peter Arimi the TSU director expressed enthusiasm about the organization's progress and future endeavors.



*PHDA staff during a quarterly meeting in January 2024*

PHDA is making significant strides as it collaborates with Johns Hopkins University on a groundbreaking Big Data project. The initiative, linked to the Sex Workers Outreach Programmes (SWOP) clinics, aims to leverage data to enhance service delivery and improve health outcomes.

Lawrence Gelmon SWOP clinics Director reported on CONNCET project, which is in the last quarter of its third year of a five-year timeline, and is still on track. He expressed confidence in meeting the project targets by the end of September. Additionally, Tony Kariri, the IT manager, emphasized the importance of continuing to uphold data privacy for the community.

The meeting concluded with a strong sense of accomplishment and optimism for PHDA's future endeavors. The recognition of staff efforts and successful project milestones demonstrates PHDA's commitment to promoting healthy communities in Africa.

## PHDA ATTENDS THE GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE



PHDA had the honour of attending the Global Public Health Conference 2024 at Winnipeg, in Canada, which focused on "The Role of Academia in Advancing Global Health Equity." This conference brought together global health experts to explore innovative strategies for improving health equity, with a focus on collaboration and inclusivity.

The conference sessions focused on improving health equity for vulnerable and marginalized communities. It explored how academia can drive health equity through interdisciplinary research and partnerships, emphasizing the role of program science in advancing health as a human right. Discussions included the use of digital health tools, such as the People Voice Survey (PVC), and the importance of community-based research. The conference also addressed equity in reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH). Additionally, the conference highlighted the significance of community leadership and mobilization in addressing indigenous health issues globally.



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