



**WORLD
AIDS DAY
2016
SPECIAL REPORT**

WORLD AIDS DAY 2016

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HIV/AIDS UNIT
AFRICAN UNION - UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)
2016

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Foreword

This year, the global theme of World AIDS Day is “Hands Up for #HIVPrevention” - with a hash tag that allows us to have a common entry point to information available via social network. This theme is quite relevant to our HIV/AIDS Unit’s mandate which is to curb the transmission of HIV among mission personnel and is the very reason behind the existence of HIV/AIDS Units in peacekeeping missions.

Just recently in June 2016, the member countries of the UN adopted during a General Assembly high-level meeting in New York, the UN Political Declaration on Ending AIDS by 2030 which mentions the UN Secretariat as having a vital role to play. This implies that DPKO and DFS being part of the Secretariat will be able to contribute significantly to this endeavor by means of HIV/AIDS interventions in peacekeeping missions.

Moreover, the roadmap towards ending AIDS by 2030 is spelled out in the UN Sustainable Goal No. 3 which requires the fast tracking of AIDS targets popularly known as “90-90-90” by the year 2020. This crucial endeavor implies that peacekeeping missions should be supportive of local responses to reach these targets and in the case of UNAMID this connotes providing an enabling environment in which our local partners in the UNCT, the National AIDS Program and the Civil Society organizations will be able to achieve by 2020 the following targets: 90% of local populations will have access to HIV testing, 90% of those who are HIV-positive will have access to ARV drugs, and 90% of those under ARV treatment will have viral load suppression which will subsequently prevent transmission of HIV to virtually zero. If these targets are fast-tracked by 2020, then the likelihood of success in ending AIDS by 2030 is within our reach. But, we must bear in mind that 2020 is just around the corner – barely 3 years from now.

The global gap in achieving the 90-90-90 target in 2015 was as follows: around 11.9 million people living with HIV did not know their HIV status; 12.7 million people were in need of antiretroviral treatment; and 13.0 million people living with HIV were not virally suppressed.

And so are we then up to the challenge that lies ahead? The peacekeeping missions can surely make a significant contribution to this goal for as long as there is managerial commitment to a comprehensive and robust HIV in the workplace program within the UN system such as the UNCARES which includes access to HIV test kits and condoms at all times - which incidentally is an ongoing challenge here in UNAMID.

Hands up for HIV prevention!



Excerpts from the Welcome Address by
Dr. Joseph Gernal,
HIV/AIDS Officer/Adviser, UNAMID

Secretary General's Message

Thirty-five years since the emergence of AIDS, the international community can look back with some pride but we must also look ahead with resolve and commitment to reach our goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

There has been real progress in tackling the disease. More people than ever are on treatment. Since 2010, the number of children infected through mother-to-child transmission has dropped by half. Fewer people die of AIDS-related causes each year. And people living with HIV are living longer lives.

The number of people with access to life-saving medicines has doubled over the past five years, now topping 18 million. With the right investments, the world can get on the fast-track to achieve our target of 30 million people on treatment by 2030. Access to HIV medicines to prevent mother-to-child transmission is now available to more than 75 percent of those in need.

While there is clear progress, gains remain fragile. Young women are especially vulnerable in countries with high HIV prevalence, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. Key populations continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV. New infections are on the rise among people who inject drugs as well gay men and other men who have sex with men. The AIDS epidemic is increasing in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, fuelled by stigma, discrimination and punitive laws. Globally, people who are economically disadvantaged lack access to services and care. Criminalization and discrimination foster new infections each day. Women and girls are still especially hard hit.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted with a promise to leave no one behind. Nowhere is this more important than in tackling AIDS. Supporting young, vulnerable and marginalized people will change the course of the epidemic. The UNAIDS strategic framework is aligned with the SDGs, which highlight how the work against HIV is linked to progress in education, peace, gender equality and human rights. I am proud to see how the United Nations and UNAIDS, under the leadership of Michel Sidibé, are committed to finding new and better approaches to end this epidemic.

During its first decade, affected groups refused to accept inaction, mediocrity and weakness in the AIDS response. Their courage drove progress on securing women and children's health, lowering the costs of lifesaving drugs and giving voice to the voiceless. We must all join together in that same uncompromising spirit. On World AIDS Day, I salute the tireless effort of leaders, civil society, colleagues in the UN and the private sector to advance this cause.

As I prepare to complete my tenure as Secretary-General, I issue a strong call to all: let us recommit, together, to realizing our vision of a world free of AIDS.



Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General



AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة

UNAMID HIV/AIDS UNIT

**WORLD
AIDS DAY**

1 DECEMBER 2016

**HANDS UP FOR
#HIVPREVENTION**

WAD 2016 Theme: Hands Up for #HIVPrevention

World AIDS Day 2016

UNAMID El Fasher

(Sector North/MHQ)

World AIDS Day Programme, 1 December 2016

ARC Town Hall, El Fasher

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10:30 – 10:40 | Opening Prayers by Pastor Jean Claude Muhozi (Christian prayer) and Mr. Dinar Mohamad Abdallah (Verses from the Holy Quran) |
| 10:40 - 10:45 | Welcome Remarks by Dr Joseph Gernal, Chief, HIV/AIDS Unit |
| 10:45 - 10:55 | A Cultural Presentation by the Nepalese COY |
| 10:55 – 11:15 | A Candle Lighting Ceremony and Minute of Silence – led by the JSR and DJSR-Protection with solemn speech from Police and Military Gender Units' representatives |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | HIV/AIDS Drama entitled "Hell, No" by the Kenyan Military Police, directed by Linda Chebet |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | A Cultural Presentation by the Ethiopian WDU |
| 12:00 - 12:10 | A Reading of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's World AIDS Day 2016 Message by Mr. Martin Ihoeghian Uhomobhi, JSR |
| 12:10 - 12:20 | Awarding of Prizes and Tokens of Appreciation by DJSR-Protection, Bintou Keita and the HAU Chief, Dr Joseph Gernal, assisted by Ms. Judia Idriss Omer and Ms. Nagwa Ahmed, Sector North HIV/AIDS Officer |
| 12:20 – 12:25 | A Cultural Presentation by the Jordanian FPU |
| 12:25 - 12:30 | Vote of Thanks by Amb Hassan Gibril, Head of Office, Sector North |

Master of Ceremonies: Major Ketty Chikwekwe

A Photo Essay



Route Map of World AIDS Day 2016 March which took place from 9-10 a.m. and participated by approximately 400 personnel



UNAMID personnel join the route march from the Supercamp to the ARC Compound where the venue of the World AIDS Day programme is located. The participants in the route march wear WAD caps and T-shirts and display their national flags and march to the tune of the GoS police brass band music





The Town Hall Conference Room is the venue of the WAD 2016 commemorative ceremony which was attended by 400 people. Participants raise their hands up in support of the WAD theme, Hands Up for #HIVPrevention



Participants in the World AIDS Day event display along with their national flags their T-shirts and Caps especially made for the event which bear HIV preventive messages and advocate for HIV awareness



The High Table during the World AIDS Day programme with VIPs and senior officials of the mission plus Chief of HIV/AIDS Unit. The Senior Leadership –the JSR, DJSR-Protection, Provost Marshall, and Deputy Police Commissioner take the lead in the candle-lighting ceremony





The Head of HIV/AIDS Unit, Dr. Joseph Gernal, delivers his welcome remarks focusing on the need to fast-track HIV interventions in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of ending AIDS by 2030



A cultural presentation by the Nepalese COY



Scenes from the HIV/AIDS Drama, "Hell No", performed by the Kenyan Military Police officers – a story about a young woman's experiences as a HIV-positive person who was rejected by her friends and loved ones because of her positive status but was fortunate to overcome the stigma and discrimination with the help of her doctor and regained acceptance by her friends and loved ones.





Candle-lighting ceremony with a minute of silence in memory of those who passed away due to AIDS, with entire audience participation and begins with a solemn speech from Military and Police Gender Units' Officers





A cultural presentation by the Ethiopian WDU



Winners of the Poster and Slogan competitions receive their prizes from the DJSR-Protection, Madam Bintou Keita, assisted by the HIV/AIDS Unit staff members



The Drama Group from Kenyan MP receive tokens of appreciation from the DJSR-Protection and HIV/AIDS Unit staff for their impressive drama performances



The Head of Mission, Joint Special Representative, HE Martin Uhumoibhi, reads the WAD 2016 message on behalf of the Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon



The Jordanian FPU Cultural Presentation



The Head of Sector North, Ambassador Hassan Gibril, delivers his vote of thanks to all who were involved in the planning, organizing and execution of the World AIDS Day event.



The Master of Ceremonies, in WAD blue polo shirt and cap, being congratulated by members of the Planning Committee after the event for an excellent job



The Sudanese Police brass band from El Fasher provides music during the event's route march and at the ceremony's recession

In Memoriam: Candle-Lighting Ceremony

Solemn Speech by Military and Police Gender Units' Representatives:

World AIDS Day is an occasion dedicated every year for all of us to remember colleagues, friends, family members, loved ones and millions of others who passed on as a result of AIDs and also to remember and encourage those who are HIV positive to live positively.

It is a day when we will be looking at what we have achieved in the fight against HIV and bring into focus the fact that the war is still on. The theme for this year reminds us that the war should target zero new infections. This can only be achieved if each of us plays his/her role in the war.

Currently, over 37 million people are living with HIV/AIDs. Sub-Saharan Africa remains most severely affected, and accounting for nearly 71% of the people living with HIV worldwide. This has complicated efforts to fight poverty, improve health and promote much needed development in developing countries.

Dear colleagues, it is time to acknowledge that we are all vulnerable and we should put our hands up for HIV prevention through "engagement, education, Empowerment. It is possible and it should start with me and you!

Ladies and Gentlemen, the lighting of candles expresses Love, Hope, Light and Faith to those living with HIV/AIDs.

Yes! The lighting of candles expresses Love, Hope, Light and Faith to those living with HIV/AIDs

LOVE: It has been experienced that, many people who are HIV positive and who already have Aids do not experience love. They hear us talking down at them. They hear how we condemn them, or how we first want to know how they contracted the virus before we are willing to help. They do not understand what love really means, because we do not show it to them. It is difficult for this candle to keep on burning in their lives."

HOPE: A message of hope should be an anchor for people who are suffering. And yet, just as love, hope is extinguished for many people with HIV/Aids, so they often experience hopelessness in their lives – without prospects, without expectation. Everything is dark for them. Somewhere along the line, this light ceases to burn as well."

LIGHT: “The light of love and hope has died in many people living with HIV/Aids. It seems as if they do not hear or understand the message of these candles. They only hear how we criticize them, how we hurt them, and how we judge them. Then it becomes dark in their lives. Nevertheless, there is a candle that is still burning. It is the candle symbolizing faith. Let us hear its message.”

FAITH: “Many people who are HIV positive and have Aids have lost this light along the way. They struggle with so many emotions and crises that their faith becomes uncertain. They encounter so many people who are believers but who reject them until they lose the will to believe. Some of them haven’t even really discovered the light. For this reason, it is difficult for the light of faith to keep on burning in their lives.”

Ladies and Gentlemen, I make a request for all of us to observe a minute of silence in remembrance of all those who have passed on as a result of AIDS.

A Minute of Silence to honor the memory of those who passed away due to HIV and AIDS.



Acknowledgement

Vote of Thanks: Speech by Head of Office, Sector North Darfur

I would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the JSR being the Head of Mission for gracing the occasion and delivering the World AIDS Day 2016 Message on behalf of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

Well, MC, ladies and gentlemen, an event like this cannot happen overnight. The wheels started rolling weeks ago and required proper planning and coordination. We at UNAMID have been fortunate enough to be backed by a team of very motivated and dedicated colleagues at the HIV and AIDS Unit. Please join me for a round of applause to the Chief Advisor of the Unit and her dedicated staff of two ladies for successfully organizing yet again another memorable World AIDS Day Commemoration in UNAMID. Kudos to all members of the Planning and Organizing Committee from the Police and Military Contingents, CPIS Outreach, Radio, Photo, Video and Publication Units, CITS for the Pop-up Messages, Security Fire Safety Unit, FMU/General Services, Transport Dispatch Unit, and MCOS Protocol Unit: it was your great teamwork that resulted in this successful event. Ladies and gentlemen, this year's theme of "Hands Up for HIV Prevention" is a groundbreaking vision that requires all hands on deck as there are eminent challenges around the vision which include issues related to stigma and discrimination and access to comprehensive HIV and AIDS services. HIV Prevention is the first key step towards ending HIV/AIDS by 2030 which this event is advocating and promoting both locally and globally.

Furthermore, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank our WAD 2016 participants who joined in the route march and in this commemorative ceremony which showed their solidarity to the cause of HIV/AIDS. Thanks as well to those who sent in their creative and meaningful entries to the AIDS Slogan-writing and Poster-making competitions.

JSR, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would also like to thank the Nepalese COY, the Ethiopian WDU and the Jordanian FPU for their wonderful cultural presentations. The Kenyan Military Police deserves a special thank you for the very entertaining drama "Hell No" that we all enjoyed watching. You are really talented entertainers – actors, director, script writer, story teller.

On a final note, I would like to thank Pastor Jean Claude Muhozi and Mr. Dinar Mohamad Abdalla for the opening prayers, and our upbeat MC for a job well done. I cannot conclude without thanking our brothers, the Sudanese Police Brass Band for gracing the occasion with band music during the route march. To everyone present, my great appreciation for your involvement and willingness to be part of this event in solidarity with those who passed on with AIDS and those Positively Living with HIV as well as those affected by HIV and AIDS such as their families, friends, and caregivers.

Once again congratulations to the UNAMID HIV and AIDS Unit and their collaborative partners for making World AIDS Day a great success.

Thank you and have a nice afternoon to one and all.



Hosts of the WAD event:

The HIV/AIDS Unit Staff Members, Dr. Joseph Gernal, Nagwa Ahmed, and Judia Idriss Omer.

Similar events took place in other UNAMID sectors hosted by HIV/AIDS Officers, Ahmed Ali in El Genina, Gassim Himiedan in El Daein, and Mohamed Yosif Abdelbaghi in Zalingei.

The Nyala event took place belatedly on 7 December with joint efforts from MHQ, Sector West and Sector East HIV/AIDS staff members due to operational constraints in Sector South.

Annexes

A. HIV/AIDS Videos Available at YouTube: recommended for viewing by UNAMID personnel during World AIDS Day

Speech by Charlize Theron, UN Messenger of Peace, International AIDS Conference:

<https://youtu.be/4sJQ7RfQby0>

Speech by Prince Harry, International AIDS Conference:

https://youtu.be/p9_6lcwGeaU

Speech by Sir Elton John, International AIDS Conference:

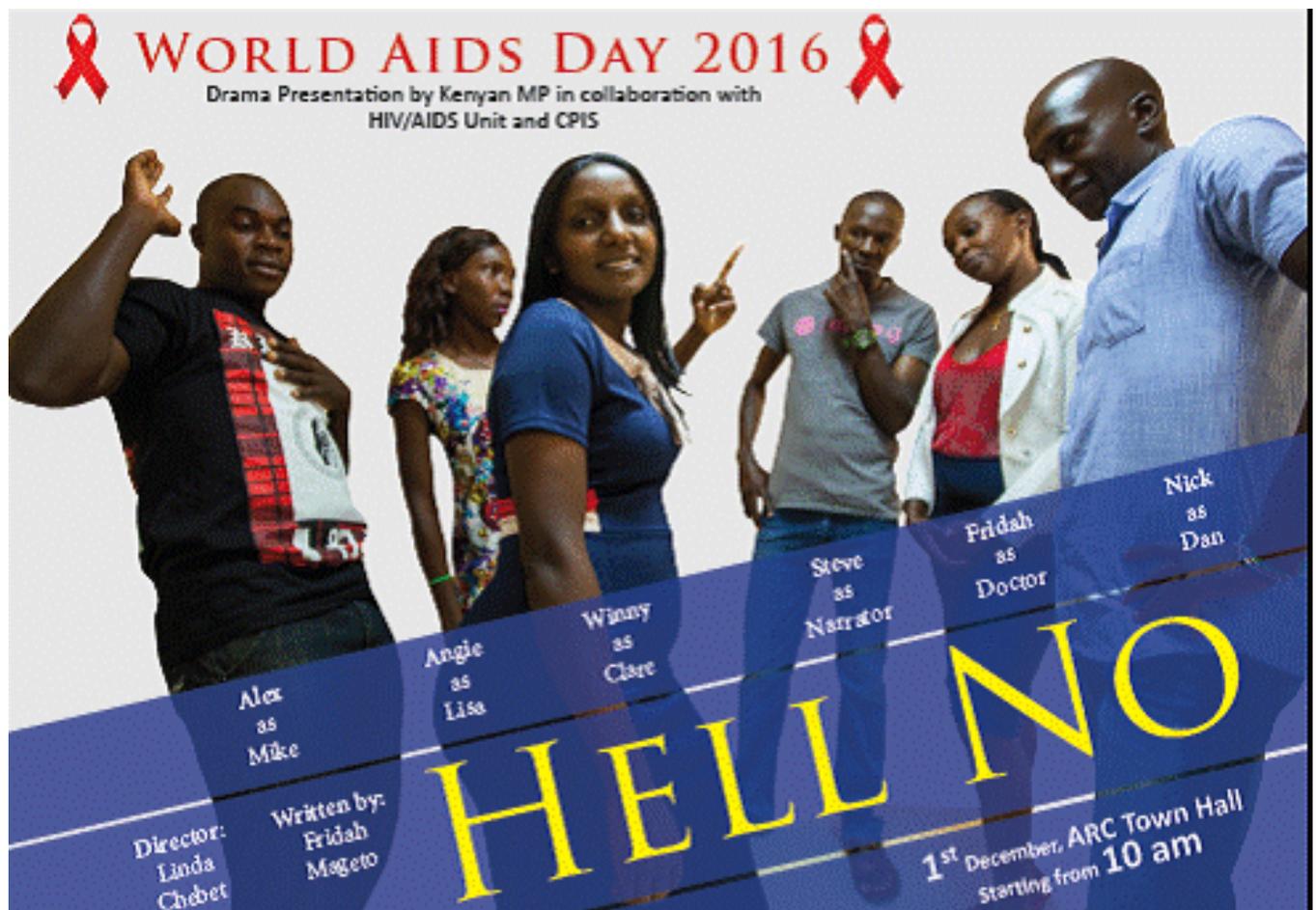
<https://youtu.be/RTVZtnFKRtE>

Ban Ki-Moon and Michel Sidibe during UN High-Level Meeting on AIDS:

<https://youtu.be/pA-hsfseYyk>

B. AIDS Drama Poster: for promotion of campaign against stigma and discrimination at the workplace (UNAMID)

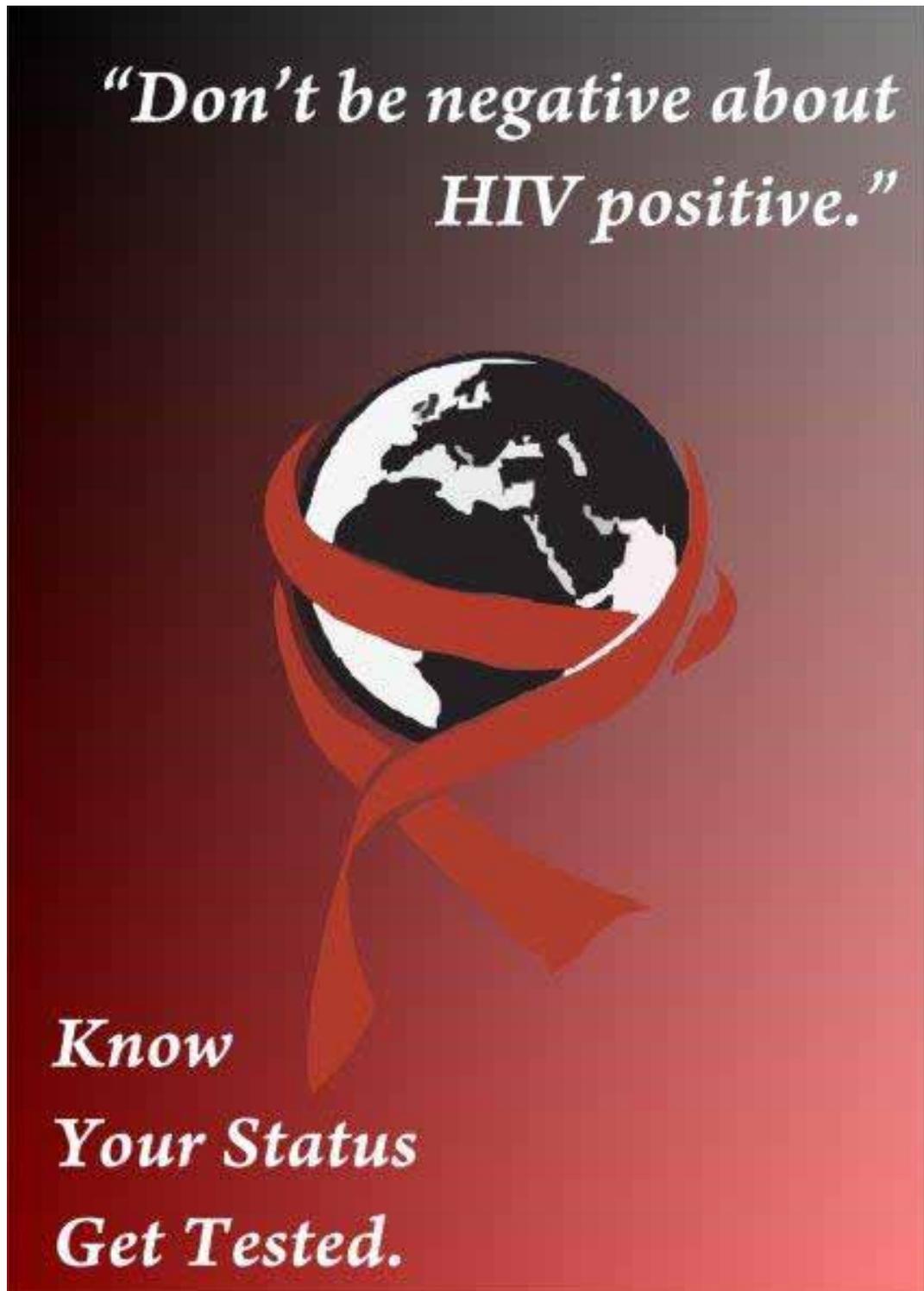
The AIDS Drama Poster displayed throughout UNAMID in El Fasher and broadcast all over the UNAMID intranet to promote the event.



C. Winning Entries in the Poster- and Slogan-making competitions

Poster category:

No	Names	Categories	Location
1	Yogesh Sawant	Poster	GITTS/IT Port Sudan
2	Basma Adam Yagoub	Poster	Civil Affairs /Sector North



The winning poster

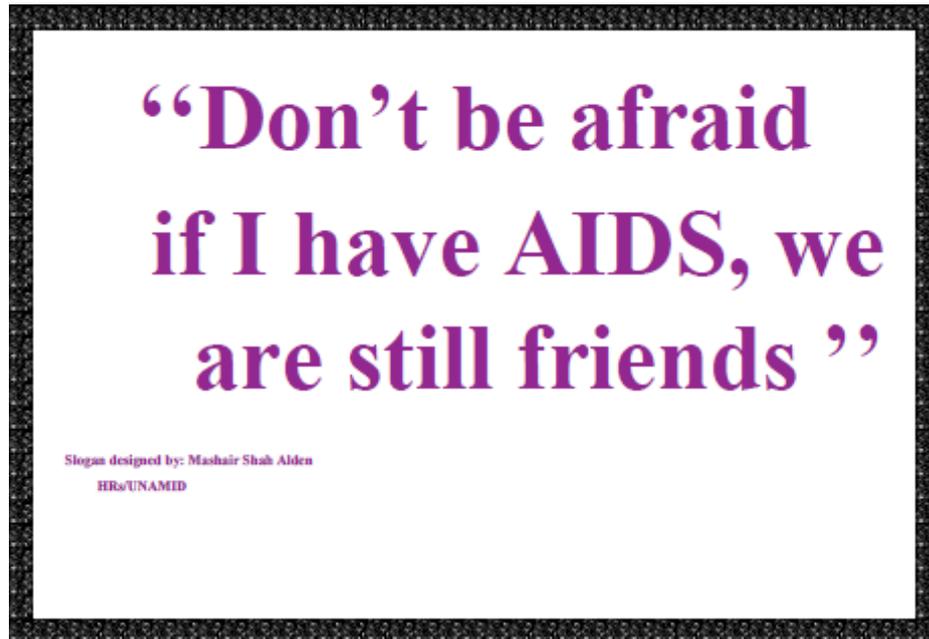


Let Us Put Our Hands up Together to Prevent HIV & AIDS in UNAMID

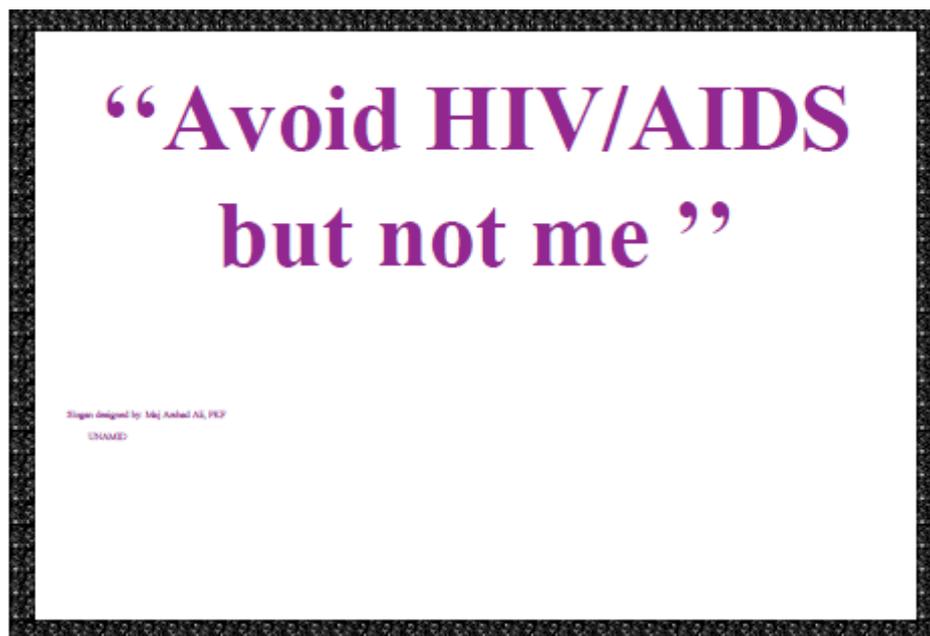
Runner-up to winner in the Poster Category

Slogan category :

No.	Names	Categories	Location
1	Arshad Ali	Slogan	PKF-PAK-EFA-00236/MHQ
2	Mashair Shahaldeen	Slogan	Human Right /MHQ



The winning slogan



Runner-up to Winner in the Slogan Category

D. Weblink to Pop-up HIV/AIDS Messages in the UNAMID Computer network from 22 November – 1 December 2016 (reaching 5,000 personnel)

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/91440237/Request%20for%20WAD%20Pop-up%20Messages%202016.docx>

**E. Weblinks regarding World AIDS Day events in other UNAMID sectors
(with 2,000 direct participants):**

News article on WAD in MHQ/Sector North (El Fasher)
<http://ow.ly/PLax306R3UV>

News Bulletin on WAD in Sector West (El Geneina)
<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/91440237/West%20Darfur%20News%20Bulletin%20Issue%20105%20%28UNAMID%20SW%20Commemorates%20World%20Aids%20Day%29.pdf>

News Bulletin on WAD in Central Sector (Zalingei)
<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/91440237/UNAMID%20Central%20Sector%20Observes%20World%20AIDS%20Day%20in%20Zalingei%2C%2001%20Dec%202016.pdf>

News Bulletin on WAD from Sector East (El Daein)
<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/91440237/UNAMID%20HIV%26AIDS%20Day-33.pdf>

News Bulletin on WAD from Sector South (Nyala)
<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/91440237/South%20Darfur%20News%20Bulletin-147.pdf>



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