



WORLD AIDS DAY 2015

SPECIAL REPORT

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

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Introduction

Good morning everyone. As the Head of the HIV/AIDS Unit here in UNAMID, it is my distinct honor and high privilege to welcome you all to this World AIDS Day 2015 ceremony to commemorate an important part of mankind's history in its struggle for survival particularly to respond to the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

I would like to personally and officially thank you all for taking the time from your busy schedules to be part of this occasion. It is so amazing to see and be in the midst of so many colleagues, co-workers, and partners in peacekeeping who are in solidarity with our efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission in the mission.

The Planning Committee has planned an exciting program for you that was kick-started by a route march accompanied by brass band music - that includes cultural performances, a drama on HIV aptly titled "The Scourge", WAD message by the Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, awarding of prizes to the poster and slogan-making contests, and the solemn Candle lighting ceremony to honor those who died from HIV/AIDS as well as those who are keeping their hopes alive by living positively. We all should have realized by now that being HIV-positive is no longer a death sentence provided once has access to treatment and psycho-social support.

Some of you have been informed that the theme of World AIDS Day 2015 is "Getting to Zero" – zero new infections, zero deaths from AIDS, and zero stigma and discrimination. This falls within our mission's mandate to prevent the transmission of HIV among mission personnel and the reason behind the existence of the HIV/AIDS Unit. On a global scale, the UN Sustainable Goals include the eradication of the HIV epidemic by 2030 and to make this feasible there must be rapid progress by 2020. Let us all join the fast track to end AIDS. Are we all up to the challenge? The peacekeeping missions can surely make a significant contribution to this goal for as long as there is managerial commitment to an HIV in the workplace program in the UN system.

In all humility I would like to add that from 2009 to 2014, over a span of five years, UNAMID was the major UN entity that made significant efforts to address HIV/AIDS issues in Darfur. However, from July 2014 up to the present; we have shifted our focus to internal interventions to prevent HIV transmission among mission personnel. The outreach activities have been handed over to the UN Country Team in accordance to their respective mandates and comparative advantage to take over the tasks from UNAMID. UNAMID was able to establish 19 VCCT Centers all over Darfur through the Quick Impact Project scheme from 2011-2014.

Presently, the HIV/AIDS Unit provides sensitization sessions including the induction of newly arrived personnel and the HIV in the Workplace training. We also provide Voluntary Confidential Counseling and testing services in all 5 sectors of UNAMID. We have distributed information, education and communication materials to serve as tools mainly for prevention and advocacy measures. Historically speaking, from July 2009 to present, UNAMID has provided VCCT services to 17,210 clients, Sensitization training sessions to 92,500 participants, and distributed 1,856,689 condoms to mission personnel.

Over the years HIV/AIDS Unit has actively participated in joint activities with various UNAMID partner sections such as Gender, Rule of Law, DDR, CPIS, IMTC and Protection of Civilians to name just a few. Before the change in our mandate, we had strong partnerships with the Sudan National AIDS Program and various local NGOs who served as our implementing partners in community based activities such as the QIPs.

The HIV/AIDS Unit is also a perennial participant in various events such as the International Women's Day, the International Peacekeeper's Day, the UN Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence and most importantly the World AIDS Day which has become a tradition and a big event in UNAMID for the past 6 years.

Finally I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed in one way or other to the successful staging of World AIDS Day 2015, in particular to the members of the Planning Committee who made it possible to organize the event despite the HIV/AIDS Unit having just 3 staff members in El Fasher which might even be a better situation to the other sectors with only 1 HIV/AIDS Officer each. Hopefully they are also having a successful event at this very moment. Also, I am pleased to inform you that Kutum Team Site is also having their World AIDS Day event. In addition, there will still be major events post-World AIDS Day such as the VCCT Campaign by the Gambian Medical Clinic and the Radio Interview on World AIDS Day by UN Radio to be broadcast live all over Darfur, in which UNAMID HIV/AIDS Unit SN HIV/AIDS Officer is one of the invited guests. I hope you will find time to be part of the VCCT Campaign on 3-6 December.

To all of you who are gathered here this morning, taking part in this momentous event, my deepest appreciation for your solidarity and commitment to the HIV/AIDS cause.

Let us all have a meaningful and fruitful commemoration. Without further ado, let the ceremony begin!



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

Secretary General's Message

This year, we mark World AIDS Day with new hope. I applaud the staunch advocacy of activists. I commend the persistent efforts of health workers. And I pay tribute to the principled stance of human rights defenders and the courage of all those who have joined forces to fight for global progress against the disease.

World leaders have unanimously committed to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in September. This commitment reflects the power of solidarity to forge, from a destructive disease, one of the most inclusive movements in modern history.

We have a lot to learn from the AIDS response. One by one people stood up for science, human rights and the empowerment of all those living with HIV. And this is how we will end the epidemic: by moving forward together.

The window of opportunity to act is closing. That is why I am calling for a Fast-Track approach to front-load investments and close the gap between needs and services.

To break the epidemic and prevent it from rebounding, we must act on all fronts. We need to more than double the number of people on life-changing treatment to reach all 37 million of those living with HIV. We need to provide adolescent girls and young women with access to education and real options to protect themselves from HIV. And we need to provide key populations with full access to services delivered with dignity and respect.

Every child can be born free from HIV to mothers who not only survive but thrive. Ending AIDS is essential to the success of Every Woman Every Child and the Global Strategy I launched to ensure the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents within a generation.

Reaching the Fast-Track Targets will prevent new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths while eliminating HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

I look forward to the 2016 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS as a critical chance for the world to commit to Fast-Track the end of AIDS.

On this World AIDS Day, let us pay tribute to all those who have lost their lives to this disease by renewing our resolve to stand for justice, access and greater hope around the world.



Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General

World AIDS Day 2015

UNAMID El Fasher

(Sector North/MHQ)

World AIDS Day Programme, 1 December 2015

ARC Town Hall, El Fasher

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 09:00 - 09:50 | Route March with Sudanese Police Brass Band |
| 09:50 - 10:00 | Arrival of VIPs and Invited Guests (with Band music) |
| 10:00 - 10:10 | Opening Prayers by Pastor Julius Ahaneku (Christian prayer) and Mr. Mohamed Zakaria Adam (Verses from the Holy Quran) |
| 10:10 - 10:15 | Welcome Remarks by Dr. Joseph Gernal, Chief, HIV/AIDS Unit |
| 10:15 - 10:25 | Cultural Presentation by the Nepalese Military Contingent |
| 10:25 - 10:35 | Candle Lighting and Minute of Silence – Gender Police and Gender Military Units |
| 10:35 - 11:05 | HIV/AIDS Drama entitled “The Scourge” by the Kenyan Military Police directed by Bennadette Wanja |
| 11:05 - 11:20 | Cultural Presentation by Indonesian FPU |
| 11:20 - 11:25 | Secretary-General’s World AIDS Day 2015 Message |
| 11:25 - 11:40 | Awarding of Prizes and Gifts by HAU Chief, Dr. Joseph Gernal, assisted by Ms. Judia Idriss Omer and Ms. Nagwa Ahmed, Sector North HIV/AIDS Officer |
| 11:40 - 11:45 | Vote of Thanks by Sector North Military Commander Brig. Gen. Amgad Morsi |
| 11:45 - 12:00 | Departure of VIPs and invited guests (with Band music) |

Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Mulu Bezuneh of Staff Welfare Unit



World AIDS Day Banner strategically displayed at a Supercamp intersection to promote the event

A Photo Essay



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 placards with HIV messages



The Town Hall Conference Room is the venue of the WAD 2015 event



Participants in the World AIDS Day event display along with their national flags their T-shirts and Caps especially made for the event



The High Table during the World AIDS Day programme with VIPs and senior officials of the mission: all ears while the Chief HIV/AIDS Officer, Dr. Joseph Gernal, delivers his opening remarks.



Scenes from the HIV/AIDS Drama, "The Scourge", performed by the Kenyan Military Police officers – a story about a young woman's exposure to various HIV risk factors on her journey towards a realization that being HIV-positive is not a death sentence and finally her resolve to continue living positively with HIV.



A cultural presentation from the Indonesian Formed Police Unit



Candle-lighting ceremony with a minute of silence in memory of those who passed away due to AIDS, with entire audience participation



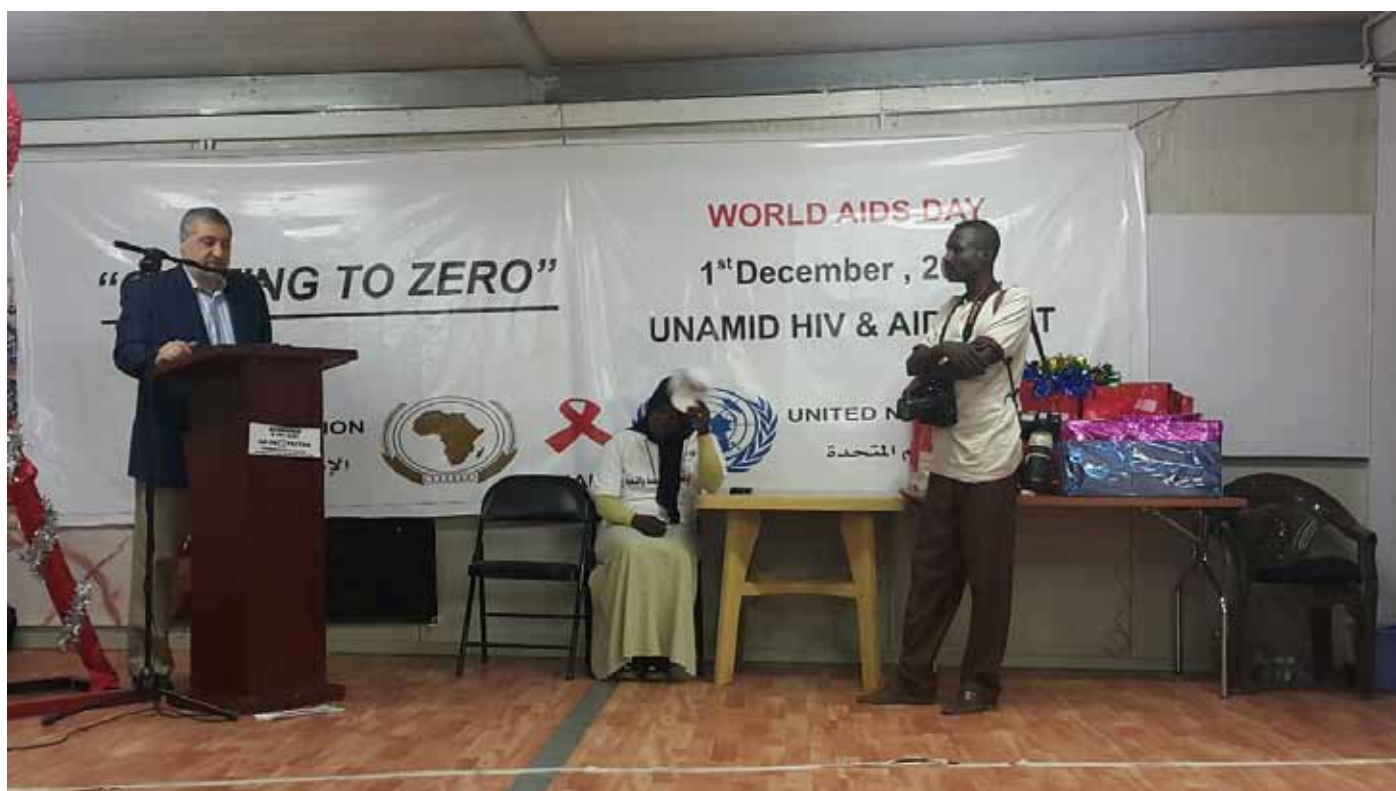
The Winning Poster being displayed by the winner, Edward Hammond, in front of the audience during the awarding of prizes



Winner of the Best Slogan, Buba Touray, receives a garland as part of his prize from the selection committee member, Iman Saeed of Gender Advisory Unit



The Drama Director, Bennadette Wanja, receives the gifts for herself and for the entire cast from Kenyan MP as tokens of appreciation from MHQ/SN HAU staff (Judia Idriss, Nagwa Ahmed and Joseph Gernal)



The mission Chief of Staff, Karen Tchalian, reads the SG WAD 2015 message on behalf of the AJSR, Abiodun Bashua



The Military Commander of Sector North, Brig. Gen. Amgad Morsi, delivers his vote of thanks to 1,000 participants.



The Master of Ceremonies, Mulu Bezuneh of Staff Welfare, introduces to the audience each of the Programme numbers

Annexes

A. Pictures from Mission HQ /Sector North, El Fasher



To counteract stigma and discrimination the Acting JSR, Ambassador Abiodun Bashua, took the HIV test as his personal advocacy to encourage the senior management and the rest of the mission personnel to undergo testing for their HIV sero-status



A WORLD AIDS DAY 2015



SALOME
as
Ann's mum

JOHN
as
Peter

CHRIS
as
Doctor

JAPHET
as
Nick

WILIS
as
Ann's dad

RUKIA
as
Ann

ERIC
as
Mato



The Scourge

Director: Benadette Ng'ang'a

Other actors: Kefa, Mwende, Ngare, Robinson, Kimani

Drama Presentation by Kenyan MP in collaboration with
HIV/AIDS Unit and CPIS

Come & Watch the Main Event!

1st December, ARC Town Hall, Starting from 10 am

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

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



Winning Poster by Edward Hammond of CPIS



Winning Slogan by Buba Touray of Gambian Military Contingent

C. Weblink to Pop-up HIV/AIDS Messages in the UNAMID Computer network from 25 November – 1 December 2015 (reaching 20,000 personnel)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vcclu694j6tyy1s/World%20AIDS%20Day%20Pop%20up%20messages.pptx?dl=0>

D. Weblinks regarding World AIDS Day events in other UNAMID sectors (with 4,000 direct participants):

WAD report from Sector West

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/11uhop8r654f32s/Report%20on%20WAD%202014%20HAU%20SW.docx?dl=0>

News Bulletin on WAD in Sector West (El Geneina)

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/91440237/West%20Darfur%20News%20Bulletin%20Issue%2052%20%20pub1%20pub.pdf>

WAD photos from Central Sector

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/frjwh3jmgifo80/CS-WAD%20PHOTOS.docx?dl=0>

News Bulletin on WAD in Central Sector (Zalingei)

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/91440237/World%20AIDS%20Day.pdf>

WAD report from Sector South

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5kx0h8bznyam867/SectorSouth%20HAU%20WAD%202015%20report.docx?dl=0>

News Bulletin on WAD from Sector South (Nyala)

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/91440237/Sector%20South%20observes%20World%20AIDS%20Day.pdf>

News Bulletin on WAD from Sector East (El Daein)

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/91440237/UNAMID%20Sector%20East%20Celebrates%20AIDS%20Day.pdf>



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