



CONCEPT NOTE

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA INTER-REGIONAL WEBINAR SESSION ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE RIGHT TO HEALTH: *Addressing the legal and structural drivers of risk among the most vulnerable people*

INTRODUCTION

On Thursday 11th March 2021, Southern Africa Development Community Lawyers Association (SADCLA) and the East African Law Society (EALS), in partnership with UNAIDS, will conduct an inter-regional webinar session on the impact of Covid-19 on the right to health in East and Southern Africa. The purpose of this webinar session is to address the legal and structural drivers of risk among the most vulnerable, i.e. the marginalised groups, in East and Southern Africa. These groups include the poor, persons with disability, women, girls and key populations. Beyond that, the purpose of the webinar is to address gender inequality, discrimination and harmful practices that negatively affect women, girls, men and boys. Girls and women are disproportionately vulnerable to, and affected by, HIV infection. The goal of the webinar is to help stakeholders gain a better understanding of the effect of Covid-19 on these people's right to health; the legal and structural drivers of risk which impeded their enjoyment of the right to health; and the role that stakeholders can play to enhance the marginalised groups' access to appropriate assistance during this pandemic.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this inter-regional webinar session are:

- To bring awareness to the respective legal justice systems about the impact of Covid-19 on the right to health of the marginalised groups;
- To highlight the legal and structural drivers of risk which prevent marginalised groups from fully enjoying their right to health;
- To emphasise measures that can be adopted to protect marginalised groups during the Covid-19 pandemic.



- To assist marginalised groups with information on efficient and effective access to better healthcare systems and protocols.

FOCUS OF DISCUSSION

The right to health is very broad. In the year 2021, SADCLA, EALS and UNAIDS have particularly focused on sexual reproductive health rights, HIV/AIDS and access to health facilities for women and girls in all their diversity, and health matters affecting victims of gender-based violence. Speakers at this Webinar session are encouraged to select any issue/topic to discuss from the broad sphere of the right to health, provided the matter affects the named marginalised groups and it is impacted upon by Covid-19.

SETTING

The inter-regional webinar session will be held on 11th March 2021 from 10:00 hours to 12:30 hours CAT. It will be a one-day virtual meeting convened and facilitated by SADCLA and EALS. It will have high-level participation, including a keynote address from Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and it will be an interactive discussion with a question and answer session between presenters and the targeted participants. The presenters will be representatives from the Executive, East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), academia and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The webinar will be conducted in English. However, noting the multi-lingual nature of the countries in East and Southern Africa, simultaneous interpretation into French and Portuguese will be provided should there be a need.

TARGETED PARTICIPANTS

The targeted participants of this high level webinar session are stakeholders who have influence on policy; policy implementers; and developers of law and policy. These include:

1. Parliamentarians
2. The executive



3. The judiciary
4. Academicians
5. CSOs

POTENTIAL AUDIENCE

This webinar is intended to draw an audience from the following sectors:

1. Government representatives from the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary
2. Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF)
3. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
4. UN agencies
5. Research institutions
6. Youths and young leaders

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. A greater emphasis on the right to health.
2. An increased understanding of the needs of marginalised groups of people during the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. A concise exposition of the legal and structural drivers of risk among the most vulnerable people in East and Southern Africa.
4. Highlighted ways in which marginalised people can be protected during the Covid-19 pandemic.
5. Strengthened co-operation between SADCLA and EALS for future projects.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

This webinar session will have two outputs: a summary report and a communique. These two documents will serve as tools that can be used by SADCLA, EALS and UNAIDS for various purposes including forging collaborative partnerships. The summary report will be written by a rapporteur; and a representative of the Pan African Parliament will draft the communique. The two documents will be translated and circulated among the relevant stakeholders.

**EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA INTER-REGIONAL WEBINAR SESSION
ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE RIGHT TO HEALTH:**

Addressing the legal and structural drivers of risk among the most vulnerable people

PROGRAMME

Thursday 11th March 2021, 10:00 – 12:03 Hours CAT

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
10:00 – 10:05 hours	Welcome, purpose and objective of dialogue	Moderator
10:05 – 10:25 hours	Opening addresses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr Maxwell Xolani Boqwana, SADCLA President ○ Mr. Bernard Oundo, EALS President ○ Honorable Senator Sylvia N Mthetwa, Pan African Parliamentarian, Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs ○ Mrs Rouzeh Eghtessadi, SAFAIDS Executive Director ○ Mr Aeneas Chuma, UNAIDS Regional Director
10:25 – 10:40 hours	Keynote address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms Abigail Noko, OHCHR Regional Director
Session One Facilitated By Mr Stanley Nyamanhindi, SADC Law Association CEO		
10:40 – 10:50 hours	SADC Parliamentary Forum’s perspective on the impact of Covid-19 on the right to health	Mrs Boemo Sekgoma, Secretary General, SADC – Parliamentary Forum
10:50 – 11:00 hours	Perspective of beneficiaries on right to health and social protection beyond Covid-19	Ms Salima Namusobya, ISER ¹ Executive Director

¹ Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER).

11:00 – 11:10 hours	Transparency in accessing Covid-19 vaccines and potential risks to the right to health	Ms Tadala Chinkwezule, Former President of the Malawi Women Lawyers Association & currently SADCLA Council Member
11:10 – 11:20 hours	Q & A session	Mr Stanley Nyamanhindi, SADC Law Association CEO
11.20 – 11:30 hours	<i>Health break: Video on Zero Discrimination Day</i>	
Session Two Facilitated By Mr David Sigano, East African Law Society (EALS) AG. CEO		
11:30 – 11:40 hours	Impact of Covid-19 on the right to health and structural drivers of risk among vulnerable groups	Mr Onesmus M. Kalama, EANNASSO ² CEO
11:40 – 11:50 hours	East African Legislative Assembly’s experience on advancing the right to health including HIV and SRHR	Hon. Josephine Lemoyan, East African Legislative Assembly Member
11:50 – 12:00 hours	EAC’s perspective on protecting the right to health including HIV in the context of Covid-19	Dr Michael G. Katende, EAC Secretariat
c	Q & A session	Mr David Sigano, EALS CEO
12:10 – 12:20 hours	Take away remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr Nuha Ceesay, UNAIDS Country Director, Malawi ○ Dr Christian Mouala, UNAIDS Regional Programme, Senior Advisor-Political Partnership and Social Justice

Moderator: Dr Lungowe Matakala (Human Rights Lawyer)

² Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organisations (EANNASO).