**Potential pathways to HIV/AIDS transmission in the Niger Delta of Nigeria: poverty, migration, and commercial sex**

HIV prevalence in the Niger Delta of Nigeria is generally attributed to concurrent sexual partnerships and weak public sector health care and education systems. This paper examines the likelihood of additional factors, such as the intersection of widespread poverty, migration, and sex work, as contributory channels of HIV transmission in the region. To explore this issue, we conducted a Delphi survey with 27 experts to formulate consensus about the impact of poverty, migration, and commercial sex on AIDS in the Niger Delta. Results suggest that these factors address poverty, sex work, and multiple sexual partnerships require building a public-private partnership which involves participatory action strategies among key stakeholders.

If you have access, you can read this article [here](#). If you would to read the .pdf file, please email REACH@northwestern.edu.

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**Rwanda: CNLS Embarks On Research-Based HIV Prevention**

Kigali — The National Aids Control Commission (CNLS) is conducting a two-day workshop that is set to determine appropriate ways to implement evidence-based HIV prevention measures.

During the official opening ceremony of the conference, CNLS boss, Dr. Anita Asiimwe described the meeting as a platform through which stakeholders and experts in the HIV prevention field will share ideas on the issue.

"This is an opportunity for us to discuss the implementation of programmes and interventions that have demonstrated success, to increase knowledge about HIV/AIDS, to promote research in Rwanda and build linkages among decision-makers," she told The New Times.

According to officials, some of the main issues to be highlighted include results of innovative research and programmes that have significantly contributed to primary HIV prevention and all other HIV-related research results.

"It will close the gap between research and programme implementation by discussing successful programmes and integrating them in the national planning exercise," a statement from the commission reads in part.

Citing pregnant mothers who turn up for antenatal care annually, Asiimwe said the infection rate is going down, but quickly underscored that despite the progress, a better performance was expected.

"We will boost the prevention measures that have worked as a way of curbing the high infection rates in the country. Identifying those measures is what we are here to decide," she added.

According to CNLS statistics, Rwanda has a 3 percent prevalence of the epidemic, which remains a major challenge to the entire world, especially sub-Saharan Africa.

To access the article online, go to [http://allafrica.com/stories/200910020196.html](http://allafrica.com/stories/200910020196.html)

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**Kenya: New condom testing machine to boost public confidence**

NAIROBI, 30 September 2009 (PlusNews) - The Kenyan government has acquired a new condom testing machine that it says will guarantee all condoms entering the country are of high quality; the move is intended to restore public confidence following the recent banning of a brand of imported condoms deemed defective by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).

"Following the recent events where certain condom products were found to be leaking, the testing machine will ensure that we only allow condoms that pass the test into the market to be used by..."
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"...members of the public," said Nicholas Muraguri, director of the national AIDS and sexually transmitted infection control programme (NASCOP) at the Ministry of Public Health.

The new machine - purchased from Australia with the support of the UN Population Fund for US$80,000 - can test up to 1,000 condoms a day and, unlike the KEBS testing system, which only uses the "freedom from holes" test, it will also check elasticity, pressure, durability and size.

According to the government, this year KEBS has tested about 2,000 condoms; NASCOP hopes to test significantly more using the new machine; at least 160 million condoms are distributed in the country annually by the government.

"The government will strengthen condom testing procedures; the Kenya Bureau of Standards has been instructed to ensure this happens," Muraguri said.

He noted there was also a need to educate the public on the correct use of condoms as improper use could also hamper their effectiveness.

"Other than just the quality of the condom itself, the way people use it also determines how safe it will be - we have even realized that there are those who use petroleum-based lubricants with condoms instead of water-based lubricants, which is very dangerous," he said.

Muraguri said the government had made every effort to remove the Hot brand of condoms from the market and surveillance was still under way to ensure none remained.

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The government says it will test more condoms than ever before.