

WORKSHOP INTERVIEWS: UNVEILING INSIGHTS FROM THE HIV/AIDS POLICY MAKING WEBINAR

Workshop Conducted on 22nd to 23rd July 2023.

Workshop Duration: 2 online sessions, each encompassing a 50 minutes lecture followed by a 10 minutes question and answer session from the participants.

Workshop Format: Online

Organized by: **Federation of African Medical Students' Association-HIV/AIDS Technical Working Group (FAMSA HIV/AIDS TWG)**

In an unwavering pursuit of catalyzing transformative change in healthcare policy and advocacy, the Federation of African Medical Students' Association-HIV/AIDS Technical Working Group (FAMSA HIV/AIDS TWG) orchestrated an enlightening online workshop. The event, held on the 22nd and 23rd of July 2023, aimed to illuminate the path towards a profound comprehension of health policies and advocacy strategies. By harnessing the collective knowledge and insights of accomplished professionals, this interactive workshop sought to empower participants with the indispensable knowledge required to make a tangible impact on the landscape of HIV/AIDS.

In a resolute effort to equip the forthcoming generation of medical professionals with the prowess to tackle the intricate challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, the workshop was meticulously crafted to cultivate a comprehensive approach to policy formulation and effective implementation. By seamlessly weaving theoretical insights with practical skills, the workshop aimed to shape participants into astute advocates, capable of instigating impactful change at the policy level.

The workshop was meticulously divided into three distinct sessions, each meticulously curated to address pivotal facets of policy making and advocacy. Esteemed facilitators, armed with a wealth of experience and expertise, shared their knowledge and insights, thereby nurturing participants' capacity to:

Session Schedule and Objectives:

Session 1 - Saturday, 26th November 2022

Topic: Introduction to Health Policies

Facilitator: Adeyinka Shittu

Objectives:

1. Understand the meaning of health policies.
2. Recognize the importance of health policy in HIV/AIDS advocacy.
3. Grasp the steps involved in policy making.

Session 2 - Sunday, 27th November 2022

Topic: How to Write a Policy Document

Facilitator: Nsisong Ekanem

Objectives:

1. Learn how to draft effective policy documents.
2. Understand the necessary steps before policy adaptation.

Interview 1: Exploring Hammed Bello's Perspective

Interviewee: Hammed Bello

Q: What is your name?

A: Hammed Bello

Q: What stood out for you in the presentations?

A: The way the speakers dismantled the topic. I was able to grasp a better understanding of what policy making entails.

Q: In your own words, define policy making based on your understanding of the speaker.

A: Policy making involves certain actions that are tailored towards achieving a particular goal or solving a particular problem in the community or society we find ourselves in.

Q: Do you feel empowered enough to take part in policy making in your own capacity?

A: Yeah, I do.

Q: What aspect of the webinar did you find most interesting or informative?

A: The fact that policy making can't be done by just a person, it requires everyone to get involved to be fully implemented.

Q: What are some of the things you wish we would improve on in the next webinars?

A: Nothing really.

Q: What are some facts or statements from the speakers that had an impact on you?

A: Health policy is the trenches of medicine. Agenda must agend.

Interview 2: Insights from Muriuki Chege's Perspective

Interviewee: Muriuki Chege

Q: What is your name?

A: Muriuki Chege

Q: What stood out for you in the presentations?

A: The various contexts there are in policy making. I found it interesting to know that so much goes into making policies.

Q: In your own words, define policy making based on your understanding of the speaker.

A: The process of developing plans of action for the health sector. One of the speakers, Yinka, defined policy making as politics making, which was quite eye-opening.

Q: Do you feel empowered enough to take part in policy making in your own capacity?

A: Empowered - yes, at the very least I feel better and more capable than I did before the workshop.

Q: What aspect of the webinar did you find most interesting or informative?

A: When the first speaker talked about power and the various stakeholders in policy making. "Power is power," I recall him saying.

Q: What are some of the things you wish we would improve on in the next webinars?

A: Honestly just the technicalities, like the audio from the speakers would break at times and someone kept messing with the speakers' presentation. Other than that, it was all good.

Q: What are some facts or statements from the speakers that had an impact on you?

A: Their credentials and their contributions to the field, it was nice to see young adults making active change in the world.

Interviews conducted post-workshop were aimed at capturing the transformative impact of the webinar on participants' perspectives and understanding of health policy making and advocacy. The workshop's comprehensive agenda, spread across three distinct sessions, facilitated participants' empowerment to engage effectively in policy development and advocacy strategies. The personal reflections and insights shared by attendees shed light on the workshop's success in nurturing informed advocates committed to influencing change in healthcare policies and strategies, particularly in the context of HIV/AIDS.