

REPORT ON THE COMMEMORATION OF WORLD AIDS DAY 2025

ORGANIZED BY

**CIVIL SOCIETY FOR HIV/AIDS IN NIGERIA (CiSHAN),
SOKOTO STATE CHAPTER**

AT

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COLLEGE (FGC), SOKOTO

ON

3RD DECEMBER 2025

1. BACKGROUND

World AIDS Day, observed annually on December 1st, is a global health event to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, show support for people living with HIV, remember those lost to the pandemic, and promote action for prevention, treatment, and care, marked by international solidarity and often symbolized by the red ribbon. Established in 1988, it's a key moment for governments, health organizations, and communities to campaign for an end to AIDS through education, advocacy, and resource mobilization.

In Nigeria, the theme for the 2025 World AIDS Day is focused on "**Overcoming Disruptions; Sustaining Nigeria's HIV Response,**" rallying for resilience, innovative solutions, and greater domestic funding to end AIDS by 2030, highlighting progress in reducing infections but stressing the need to tackle funding gaps, stigma, and the highest burden of child infections through stronger systems, community involvement, and youth empowerment for an AIDS-free future

Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CiSHAN), Sokoto state Chapter commemorated the event at Federal Government College Sokoto with state and non state actors in attendance.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria is an umbrella body and a National Network of Civil Society Organization (CSOs), Faith Based Organization (FBOs) and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) working in the prevention and impact mitigation of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. The Network was formed during a consultative workshop for CSOs involved in the prevention and impact mitigation of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria at Abuja from 30th -31st August 2000.

Sokoto state Chapter of the Network has over forty organizations registered with it and member organizations have contributed immensely towards reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS in the state through partnership and collaboration with state and non-state actors.

3. OBJECTIVE

To sensitize students of Federal Government College Sokoto on HIV/AIDS

4. OUTCOME

Knowledge of students of Federal Government College Sokoto increased on HIV/AIDS.

5. PROCEEDINGS

The activity took place on 3rd December 2025 at Davies Hall, Federal Government College with over 240 participants in attendance consisting of Management of Federal Government College

- Representatives of BUA Cement Company PLC,

- Executive Secretary Sokoto State Agency for the Control of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Leprosy (SOSACAT).
- Students
- State Coordinator State AIDS Control Program, Ministry of Health Sokoto.
- Coalition of non-governmental Organization in Sokoto State (CONSS).
- Media Representatives (Print and Electronics).
- CiSHAN Member Organizations.
- Members of Sokoto NYSC Reproductive and HIV/AIDS Club.

5.1 Opening Prayer

The program started with opening prayer from one of the stakeholders present at 2.21pm

5.2 Opening Remark

The state Coordinator Muhammed Garba welcomed participants to the event and told them that World AIDS Day was first commemorated in 1988 to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, show support for people living with HIV, remember those lost to the pandemic, promote action for prevention, treatment, and care and key moment for state actors to reaffirm their commitment and support in ending AIDS by 2030. He concluded by encouraging the participants to listen to the presentations, learn and use the knowledge to protect themselves from contracting the virus.

5.3 Goodwill Messages

Good will messages were given by the following stakeholders:

- Vice Principal (Admin) Federal Government College
- PRO BUA Cement Company PLC,
- Executive Secretary Sokoto State Agency for the Control of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Leprosy (SOSACAT),
- Coalition of non-governmental Organization in Sokoto State

5.4 PRESENTATIONS

The first Presentation of the day was on General Knowledge on HIV/AIDS facilitated by Peter Manji. In his presentation he defined what HIV/AIDS is, **modes of transmission** which include

- Unprotected Sexual Contact
- Sharing Needles or sharp objects: Sharing contaminated syringes, needles, or drug injection equipment or any sharp object.

- Mother-to-Child (Perinatal): During pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding, though effective treatment significantly lowers this risk.
- Blood Exposure/Transfusion: While rare in places with blood screening, transfusion of infected blood or blood products can transmit HIV.

What does NOT transmit HIV:

- Hugging, kissing, or shaking hands
- Sharing food, drinks, or utensils
- Saliva, sweat, or tears
- Toilet seats or swimming pools

In conclusion he told them that as adolescent and young people, they should abstain and stop sharing sharp objects like razor blades, needles etc with their fellow students.

The second presentation of the day was on Factors Contributing to the Spread of HIV among adolescent and Young People facilitated by Muhammed Garba. He started his presentation by referencing to a data shared by AIDS Health Care Foundation (AHF), Nigeria that about 4,000 girls aged 15-24 contract HIV every week globally with more than 3,300 of these weekly infections occurring in sub-Saharan Africa. He continued his presentation by telling the participants that factors contributing to the spread of HIV among adolescent and young women are.

- Risky sexual behaviors (early sex, multiple partners, inconsistent condom use, age-disparate relationships).
- lack of HIV/sexual health knowledge.
- Substance use (alcohol, drugs).
- Poverty.
- Stigma and conflict

In conclusion, he emphasized that as adolescent and young people, there is need to abstain and not involve in risky sexual behaviour that will expose them to contacting the virus.

5.5 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The question and answer session was facilitated by Bello Sambo. Participants asked questions on the following

Question 1: How does peer pressure contribute to the spread of HIV among adolescent and young people?

Response: Peer pressure/groups contributes to the spread of the virus through the following ways

- **Normalizing Risky Behaviors:** Peer groups establish norms where risky sexual activity, alcohol/drug use, or unprotected sex are seen as normal, leading individuals to conform to fit in.
- **Substance Use:** Peer pressure to try drugs or alcohol lowers inhibitions and risk perception, increasing the likelihood of unprotected sex or trading sex for substances, raising HIV risk.
- **Information Gaps:** Adolescents often rely on friends for health information, but peers may offer incorrect advice, leading to misconceptions about HIV transmission or prevention.
- **Facilitating Relationships:** Friends can introduce young people to partners, sometimes older individuals, increasing exposure to HIV.
- **Transactional Sex:** Peer influence can push towards transactional sex (sex for money/drugs), significantly increasing STI/HIV risk.
- **Vulnerability:** Adolescence is a period of identity formation, making peer approval crucial, and this desire for acceptance can override health concerns, especially concerning sensitive topics like HIV.

Question 2: What roles can community play in halting the spread of the virus among adolescent and young people?

Response: Community stakeholders consisting of the Government, Traditional Leaders, Religious Leaders, Youth Groups, Women Groups, Community Based Organization, Faith Based Organizations, Non Governmental Organization and Networks Like CiSHAN and NYNETHA has a responsibility of reaching adolescent and young people with messages through Sensitization and awareness creation in secondary and higher institutions, social media platforms, strengthening the knowledge of adolescent and young people on **Life Skills**, sensitization during religious activities e.g Jummat Prayers, Church Services, Sunday schools etc and establishment of adolescent and youth friendly centre in the community where adolescent and young people can access information on HIV/AIDS and other Reproductive Health issues

5.6 DRAMA PRESENTATION

There was a drama presentation on how peer pressure and quest for material things contributes to the spread of the virus among adolescent and young people by Members of Sokoto NYSC Reproductive and HIV/AIDS Club

5.7 CLOSING REMARK

The event ended with a closing remark from the head girl of Federal Government College at 4.13pm

5.8 CLOSING PRAYER

The event ended with a closing prayer by 4.15 from one of the stakeholders present

6. CONCLUSION

Activities were successfully implemented with active participation of stakeholders present with no challenges encountered during the event.

Picture Gallery



Fig 1: The Vice Principal of Federal Government College addressing students during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.

The PRO BUA Cement Company Sokoto addressing participants during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.



Fig 3: Participants during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.

Fig 4: Students during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.



Fig 5: Members of the High table during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.

Fig 6: Students during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.



Fig 7: Cross section of participants during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.

Fig 8: Members of the High table during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.



Fig 9: The Vice Principal of Federal Government College and the State Coordinator of CiSHAN Sokoto State Chapter during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.

Fig 10: Cross section of participants during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.



Fig 11: CiSHAN State Coordinator making a presentation during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.

Fig 12: Group pictures of stakeholders during the the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025.



Fig 13: The Head Girl of Federal Government College giving a closing remark during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025



Fig 14: The Facilitator making a demonstration during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2025 that took place at Federal Government College on 3rd December 2025