

Milestone. Dr Kiragu attributes the milestone in the fight against HIV/Aids to the practical and openness of Ugandans, which has enabled UNAIDS to forge practical partnerships with the government and individuals.

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Uganda is registering success in the fight against HIV/Aids, an official from Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has said.

Dr Karusa Kiragu, the country director, UNAIDS, says between 2010 and 2016, Uganda has managed to reduce HIV/Aids infections by 35 per cent making it one of the succeeding countries in Africa.

She says the other successful area in the fight against HIV/Aids has been the reduction of mother to child transmission where by in 2016, the infections were below 4,600 due to the efforts by government and other stake holders to reduce HIV infections among women.

This has been attributed to increased anti-retroviral (ARVs) availability and family planning methods that have helped women not to get unwanted pregnancies.

However, despite the achievements registered, there are 1000 new infections per week, which is still a big chal-

Fight against HIV registers success amid challenges



A couple attends a counselling session recently. Instead of relying on a partner's HIV/Aids results, it is advisable that couples test together. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

lenge.

"The most affected are both men and women, especially among the marginalised groups, people who engage in same sex activities, sex workers and fishing communities," Dr

Kiragu says. She advises people to avoid engaging in sexual activities with people whose HIV status they are not aware of.

"There is need for faithfulness among the married people and every one should test

so as to know their status and contribute to the fight against HIV," she says.

Stigma has also been identified as among the factors hindering the fight against HIV/Aids. This is because people don't test for

fear of being marginalized in their respective communities.

Dr Kiragu says no one should be afraid of testing positive because it helps one to protect them from re infection.

To bring HIV infection and its related death cases to an end by 2030, UNAIDS has embarked on the ABC strategy, this is advocating for treatment, brokering partnerships and categorizing action where they are monitoring 23 countries in Africa including Uganda where they intend to reduce infections among children by 86 per cent.

"We are advocating for the test and treat policy so that people start on treatment upon testing positive instead of waiting until they fall sick. We also mobilise resource and monitor the epidemic globally working in partnership with government," She adds.

She adds that their success is reflected on what the countries have achieved since they act as the voice of the voice less.



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