Removing Legal Barriers to Prison health and Human rights:
Legal training for African Lawyers

International Allies in Prison Reform Panel

UNAIDS Regional Support Team, Eastern and Southern Africa
Closing the Gap

• Ensure prisoners’ access to the health services available without discrimination
• Adopt protective laws, policies and programs that are adequately resourced, monitored and enforced
• Introduce a comprehensive package of interventions for HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings
• Provision of the full range of HIV services as part of prisons health services.
• Peer support programs run by long-term prisoners/ex-prisoners.
• After-release programs—establish links with prevention and care programs in the community.

What Interventions?

• Availability of condoms, sterile syringe and needles and skin piercing equipment and promotion of consistent and correct use of condoms.
• Access to drug treatment programs, especially drug substitution treatment, with adequate protection of confidentiality.
• Access to HIV counselling and testing, antiretroviral and tuberculosis treatment and care and quality sexually transmitted infection treatment.
• Review of drug control laws; provision of alternatives to imprisonment for minor drug-related offences; offer treatment for drug users instead of imprisonment.
• Structural interventions to reduce overcrowding, pre-trial detention period and speedy trial and sentencing reform.
• Separate accommodation and facilities for young prisoners.
What Interventions? (continued)

- Providing condoms and water-based lubricants in prisons and closed settings, including in countries in which same-sex activity is criminalized
- Adopting policies and strategies for the prevention, detection and elimination of all forms of violence
- Offering harm-reduction programs, including opioid substitution therapy and needle and syringe programs
- Reforming laws to ensure that people who are dependent on drugs, engage in sex work or have same-sex relations are not criminalized
- Ensuring that people who are dependent on drugs can access voluntary treatment as an alternative to incarceration
- Improving access to legal representation for people who have been detained and increasing the availability of non-custodial alternatives, including community service and bail