

Since accepting the responsibility of being a LUCSA Resource person representing ELCSA (N-T) in 2014, I have attended all workshops organized by LUCSA HIV and AIDS Desk annually, sometimes bi-annually.

At all the workshops LUCSA HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2012-2017 was evaluated to determine achievements and challenges which were shared by all member countries (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe). My observation as a previous Southern African Development Community's South African Coordinator of health issues including HIV and AIDS, was that there was a lot of duplication in what the Governments are doing and what LUCSA with limited resources was trying to do. I am pleased to report that ultimately LUCSA HIV and Desk with partner countries are now focussing on Mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS in its 2018-2022 Strategic focus.

LUCSA describes MAINSTREAMING as: A process that enables organizations to identify and address both the direct and indirect or underlying factors that increase the risks of HIV infection and worsen the impact of AIDS internally, that is, within their workplaces and externally through their usual work (UNAIDS 2005).

The mainstreaming process provides means for scaling-up responses that are informed by situational analysis and that are monitored for appropriateness to address HIV and AIDS within the care functions, policies, programmes and projects of the organizations. It is also important to acknowledge that "Gender, HIV and Development" are linked. I am quite confident that the Church's role will be that of Prevention of illness, Promotion of health and Rehabilitation of those who are afflicted, which is very relevant.

A base-line study was conducted on the ELCSA (N-T) congregations' HIV "Knowledge" on transmission attitudes and status of HIV and AIDS and Stigma and Discrimination 2016, the findings were used to determine needs which informed the development of LUCSA HIV and AIDS Needs Assessment for the 2018-2022 Strategic Plans below.

LUCSA HIV and AIDS Needs Assessment for Strategic Plan 2018-2022

Pre-Strategic Planning Requirements – ELCSA (N-T)

Category of people	Needs	Extent of problem	Role they wish to play
Young Adults	Policy	100 %	Participation in the development of policy guided by the church leadership
Seniors	Policy	100%	Participation in the development of policy guided by the church leadership

