



Own, Scale-up & Sustain

Welcome to Ethiopia!
Home to ICASA 2011

About ICASA

The International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) is one of the major international AIDS conferences happening in Africa. Its current biennial hosting alternates between the Anglophone and Francophone African countries.

ICASA provides a forum for exchange of experiences and lessons learnt in Africa and around the globe in responding to HIV, AIDS and STIs. It also enables the consolidation of experiences gained in making evidence-based responses to HIV/AIDS and STIs in Africa, i.e. knowing the epidemic, its driving factors and responding accordingly in the context to Africa.

ICASA 2011

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) Council has selected Ethiopia to host the 16th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) in 2011. The selection is based on interest expressed by the Ethiopian government to host the conference, as well as set criteria including adequate logistics, security, communication, accommodation and conference venue.

The conference expects to welcome more than 10,000 delegates from around the world working in the fields of HIV/AIDS, STIs, TB & Malaria. It will also encourage the participation of young researchers, health care workers, and community representatives from the developing world by providing scholarships. Regional and Global leaders in the field are also expected to participate in the conference.

The conference will be held from 4-8 December 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the Millennium Hall which accommodates up to 35,000 people.



Objectives

- Serve as an advocacy platform to mobilize African leaders, partners and the communities to increase ownership, commitment and support to the response.
- Provide a forum for exchange of knowledge, skills and consolidation of experiences and best practices in Africa and around the globe to scale up evidence-based response on HIV/AIDS/STIs, TB and Malaria to achieve the MDGs.
- Use as a forum to link and hold accountable political and national leaders, the scientific community, practitioners, communities, civil societies, the private sector and partners to scale-up and sustain the response.
- Create opportunities to define priorities and set policy and program agenda to enhance mobilization and effective utilization of resources.

Key Dates

Call for Abstract, Registration and Scholarship application submission begin in January 2011. Visit ICASA's website for additional information on key dates and deadlines. <http://icasa2011addis.org>



Welcome to Ethiopia!

Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa and is bordered by Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan, Kenya and Somalia. The landlocked country covers 1.1 million sq km (450,000 sq miles) and with a population of more than 80 million, Ethiopia is the second most populous nation in Africa after Nigeria.

There are two seasons in Ethiopia – the dry season prevails from October until May with short rains in March, and the wet season runs from June until the end of September.

More than 80 languages and over 200 dialects are spoken in Ethiopia. Although, Amharic is the official language, the working languages of the national/regional governments may differ according to regions.

Addis Ababa - the Capital

Addis Ababa, a cosmopolitan capital, is where the ICASA conference will take place. The city is also home to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission of Africa.

Where To Stay

Addis Ababa has hotels that cater to all, from the luxurious Sheraton and Hilton hotels to hundreds of affordable hotels and cozy guest houses. Many of these hotels offer entertainment, tour operators, conference venues equipped with advanced audio-visual equipment, video editing suits, printing facilities, high speed internet connections (some with wireless), and catering services.



Getting There

The best way to enter the country is to fly into Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport. The country is home to Ethiopian Airlines, one of the leaders in African aviation and a global player in the air travel industry.

Ethiopian Airlines provides flight service to Addis Ababa from 31 cities as well as other cities across the globe. Multiple international airlines also operate regular flights in and out of Bole International Airport. Visas are attainable at Ethiopian Missions/ Consulates abroad, and upon arrival for nationals of certain countries.

Getting Around

A well established transportation network connects various locations within Addis as well as to all the regional capitals and other urban areas. Taxis, mini-buses and rental cars are easily accessible.



HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia

As in many sub-saharan African countries, HIV/AIDS remains one of the key challenges for the overall development of Ethiopia. The national HIV adult prevalence is estimated at 2.3% and approximately 1.1 million people live with HIV/AIDS. The country faces a mixed epidemic where prevalence is low among the general population, but high among sub-populations and geographic areas.

For more information, visit the Federal HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office website: <http://www.hapco.gov.et>

Response

The Government of Ethiopia, in collaboration with all stakeholders, has established numerous structures to coordinate efforts to deal with the epidemic. These include the national AIDS Council (NAC) chaired by the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office that is responsible for the leadership and coordination of the country's multisectoral response.

Ethiopia has also maintained strong partnership with civil societies, networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, the private sector, partners and donors.



Contact Information

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Useful Websites

HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office: <http://www.hapco.gov.et>

AIDS Resource Center: <http://www.etharc.org>

Society for AIDS in Africa: <http://saafrica.org>

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Ministry of Health

