



# PEPFAR

U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

## Community Level Approaches to Preventing Violence Against Children

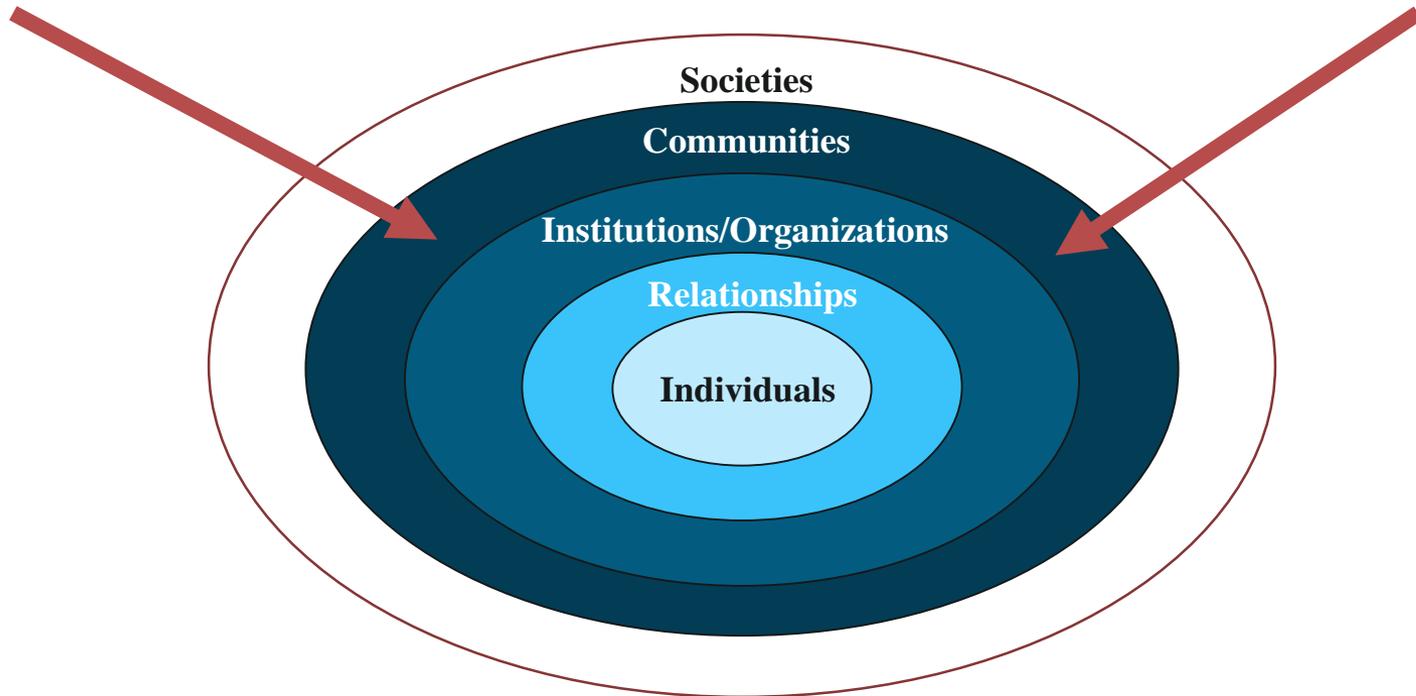
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Janet Saul, PhD  
May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**15 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES THROUGH AMERICAN GENEROSITY AND PARTNERSHIPS**

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# Circles of Protection – Levels of the Social Ecology



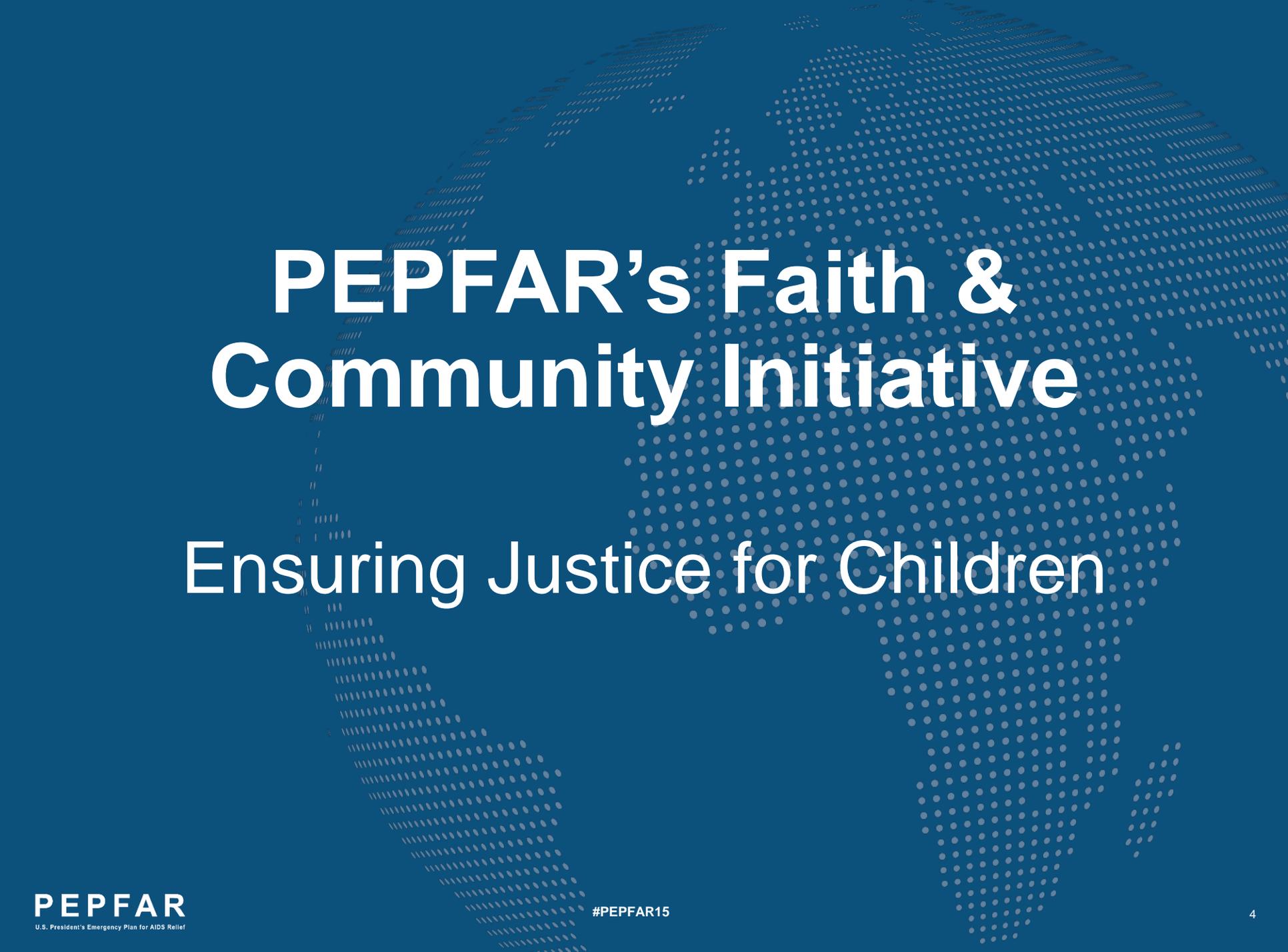
# Community Level – Leaders

**What are these interventions attempting to change?** -- Factors in the broader community relationships that put youth at risk for or protect them from violence

- Increase knowledge, change harmful norms, dispel myths among community leaders
- Build commitment of community leaders to engage in solutions

**Are they relevant to the contexts in which we work?**

- Some programs implemented widely in Africa (e.g., SASA!)
- Fairly new adaptations for faith and traditional leaders with swift uptake



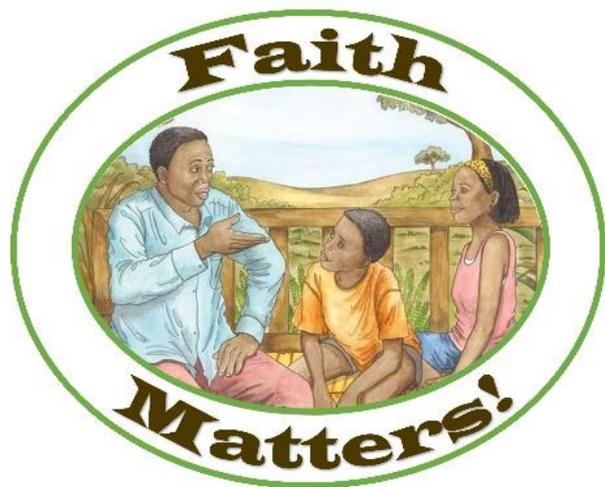
# PEPFAR's Faith & Community Initiative

## Ensuring Justice for Children

# Justice for Children – Activities

- 1. Educate faith leaders, traditional leaders, other community leaders, & parents about sexual violence against children in order that they can support prevention & response efforts in their organizations, families and the broader community**
  - Content to include magnitude of the problem, consequences for survivors and families, who the perpetrators are, relevant local laws, dispelling myths, and addressing victim blaming
- 2. Engage faith and traditional structures to implement evidence-based strategies**
  - Heavy focus on community mobilization and norms change interventions
3. Require PEPFAR implementing partners (both Primes & Subs) who provide programs or services under this priority to have child safeguarding policies and procedures in place
4. Engage justice sector systems

# Faith Matters! Program

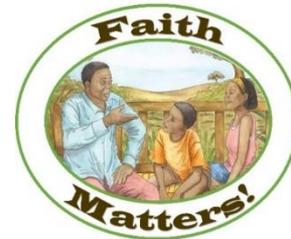


## Faith Matters! Program

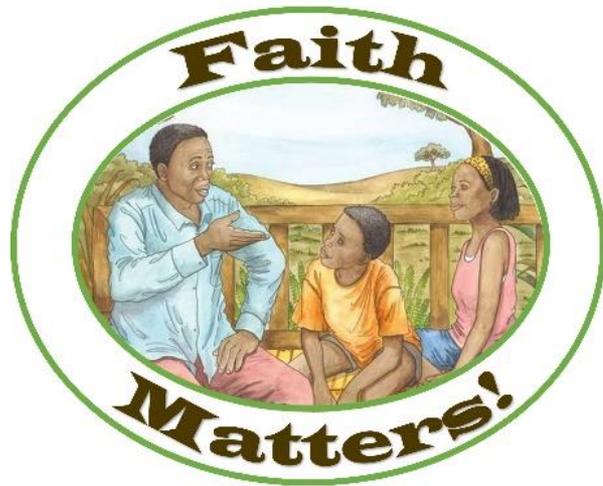
- Adaptation of evidenced-based **Families Matter! program (FMP!)**, which is geared towards parents of 9-19yr beneficiaries of DREAMS/OVC programming. FMP! builds strong parent-child relationships, positive parenting practices and effective communication between parents and children about sex, HIV and child sexual abuse.
- **Faith Matters! is a 2 Day workshop** developed specifically for Faith Leaders and delivered by FMP! Master Trainers
- Faith Leaders receive training in groups of 16-18 individuals
- Build capacity of faith leaders to address HIV prevention, treatment and care among adolescents and people living with HIV, and child sexual abuse.

# Faith Matters! Program Session Overview

- Session #1: Overview of Faith Matters and Pressures Adolescents Face
  - **Goal:** To increase religious leaders' awareness of the physical, emotional, and social changes adolescents face; to increase religious leaders' awareness of the situations adolescents face that may put them at risk.
- Session #2: Information about STIs, HIV and AIDS and other HIV related Topics
  - **Goal:** To provide religious leaders information on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, AIDS, and their prevention; to provide religious leaders with direct linkages to community health resources; to increase religious leaders comfort and skills in discussing difficult HIV and sex-related issues with adolescents.
- Session #3: Understanding Child sexual Abuse
  - **Goal:** To increase religious leaders' awareness about child sexual abuse; to increase religious leaders' understanding of their role in preventing child sexual abuse; to increase religious leaders' awareness of their role in guiding and supporting adolescents when responding to child sexual abuse.
- Session #4: Guiding and Supporting Adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV)
  - **Goal:** To make religious leaders more aware of the unique role they have in terms of supporting adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV); to increase religious leaders understanding of the challenges ALHIV face including those related to stigma, disclosure, adherence, and healthy relationships; to help religious leaders strengthen their skills to provide guidance and support to ALHIV around issues of stigma, disclosure, adherence, and healthy relationships; To provide religious leaders with information about living with HIV, antiretroviral therapy (ART), and resources in their community to help adolescents living with HIV.

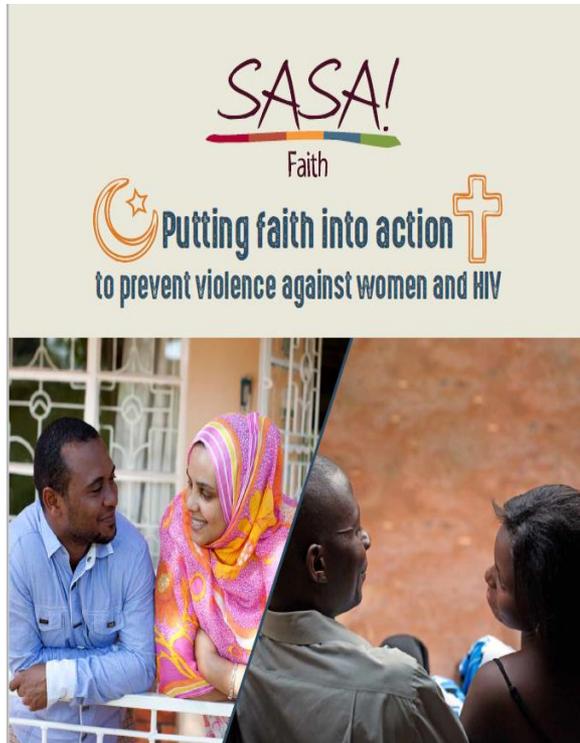


# Faith Matters! Program: Implementation Example



- Zambia Initial Implementation since August 2018
  - Expanded Church Response trained over **1,043 faith leaders** in Faith Matters! within church facilities
  - 8/10 provinces in Zambia
  - Full evaluation of Faith Matters! program is set to commence in **October/November 2019**

# SASA! Faith Program



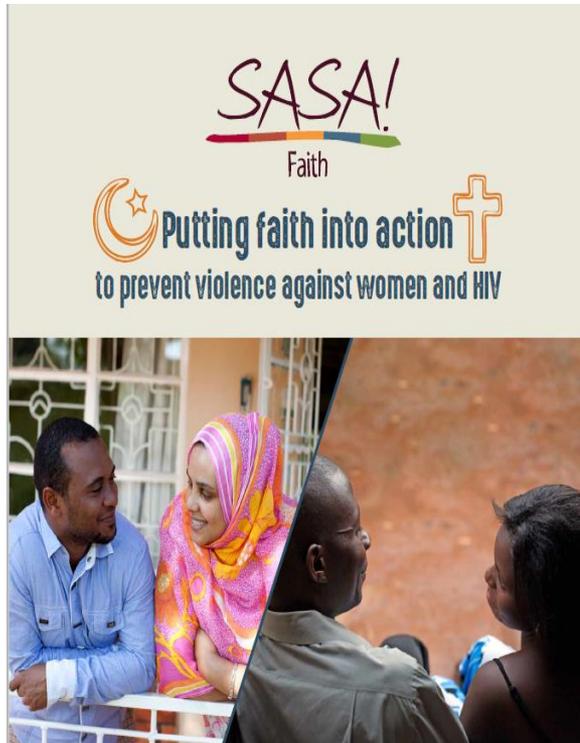
## SASA! Faith

- Adaptation of *SASA! An Activist Kit for Preventing Violence against Women and HIV* for Christian and Muslim leaders.
- Community mobilization approach for primary prevention of violence against women and girls, and HIV, which engages the community in living in faith-based values of *justice, peace, and dignity*.
- Train and engage faith community leaders to catalyze changes in norms and behaviors that perpetuate gender inequality, violence and increased HIV vulnerability.

# SASA! Faith: Session Overview

- Phase 1: **START**
  - Acknowledge there is a problem
  - SASA! Faith team addresses connection between violence against women and HIV
- Phase 2: **AWARENESS**
  - SASA! Faith Team & broader network engages faith community to become aware of connections between power inequities, violence against women and girls, and HIV
- Phase 3: **SUPPORT**
  - Help people consider alternatives while receiving support and encouragement from each other
- Phase 4: **ACTION**
  - SASA! Faith Team and Network engages the faith community to take action
  - Action takes the form of personal and institutional changes

# SASA! Faith: Implementation



## • Malawi Implementation in Salima

- MIAA (Malawi Interfaith AIDS Alliance) trained Muslim, Christian, and Traditional Leaders
- Goal is to reduce HIV and GBV among children
- Community Action Groups trained to lead sessions and discuss individual family issues
- Tie in related challenges: child marriage, harmful cultural practices, keeping girls in school
- Address power differentials between men and women
- All issues are discussed in context of religious teachings
- Anecdotal results: girls back in school, traditional leaders have incorporated bylaws on GBV, harmful practices have ceased



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# THANK YOU!

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