



IPHASA
2023

2nd International Paediatric HIV/AIDS Symposium in Africa: Abstract submission guidelines

Call for abstracts

All abstracts must focus on paediatric HIV (infants and children 0-15 years old), including the perinatal and in utero periods, studies on vertical transmission and children exposed to HIV. We encourage work that introduces new ideas, as well as analyses of both successes and failures. Authors are invited to submit abstracts focusing on solutions that close the [implementation knowledge gap](#). We particularly encourage submission of abstracts focusing on lessons learnt through country programmes and project or policy implementation or management.

abstract submitters are asked to choose one of the five topics for their abstracts:

- Topic A: Innovative HIV testing services for children
- Topic B: Prevention of vertical HIV transmission, including children with perinatal HIV exposure
- Topic C: Paediatric HIV care, treatment and monitoring
- Topic D: Optimizing care for children amidst COVID-19 and other public health emergencies
- Topic E: Community engagement, differentiated service delivery, peer support, psychosocial support, primary healthcare, health system, school system, strengthening and monitoring

Please read the following guidelines carefully before submitting your abstract:

- Abstracts can be submitted via the [online platform](#) only. Submissions by fax, post or email will not be considered. The deadline to submit your abstract is 30 **September 2023, midnight CEST**.
- All abstracts must be written in English.
- It is the author's responsibility to submit an abstract with the correct wording. Any errors in spelling, grammar or scientific fact in the abstract text will be reproduced exactly as the author has submitted it. Abstract titles will be subject to copy editing if the abstract is selected for presentation.



Policies for submission

Copyright policy

Abstracts should not include libellous or defamatory content. Material presented in abstracts should not violate any copyright laws. If figures, graphics and/or images have been taken from sources not copyrighted by the author, it is the author's sole responsibility to secure the rights from the copyright holder in writing for both worldwide print and web publication. The author must bear all reproduction costs charged by the copyright holder.

Resubmission policy

An abstract that has been previously published or presented at a national, regional or international meeting can be submitted to IPHASA 2023 only if the author can demonstrate new methods, findings, updated information and/or other valid reasons for resubmitting.

If preliminary or partial data have been published or presented previously, the submitting author will be required to provide details of the publication or presentation, along with a justification of why the abstract merits consideration for IPHASA 2023. The IPHASA 2023 Selection Committee will consider this information when making final decisions.

If the author neglects to provide these required details and justification, or if evidence of previous publication or presentation is found, the abstract will be rejected.

Plagiarism

IPHASA 2023 regards plagiarism as serious professional misconduct. All abstracts are screened for plagiarism and, when identified, the abstract and any other abstracts submitted by the same author are rejected. In addition, the submitting author's account and scholarship application, if one has been submitted, will be cancelled.

Ethical research declaration

IPHASA 2023 supports only research that has been conducted according to the protocol approved by the relevant institutional or local committee on ethics in human investigation. Where no such committee exists, the research should have been conducted in accordance with the principles of the [Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association](#). The IPHASA 2023 Selection Committee may enquire further into ethical aspects when evaluating abstracts.

Abstract submission process

Account

Authors must create an [IPHASA 2023 account](#) to submit an abstract. More than one abstract can be submitted through an account. After an abstract has been created, modifications can be made until 15 September 2023.

Choosing a topic

The topic is the general heading under which the abstract will be reviewed and, if accepted, later published in IPHASA 2023 materials. The author should choose the topic that best describes the subject of the abstract. During the submission process, you will be asked to select one topic for your abstract.

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Abstract structure

IPHASA 2023 offers two options for abstract submission:

Option 1

This is suited for research conducted in all disciplines. Abstracts submitted under Option 1 should contain concise statements of:

Background:	Indicate the purpose and objective of the research, the hypothesis that was tested, or a description of the problem being analysed or evaluated.
Methods:	Describe the study period, setting and location, study design, study population, data collection and methods of analysis used.
Results:	Present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings and/or outcomes of the study. Please disaggregate data by age and gender where possible and summarize any specific results.
Conclusions:	Explain the significance of your study's findings and/or outcomes for HIV prevention, treatment, care and/or support and future implications of the results.

Option 2

This is suited for lessons learnt through programme, project or policy implementation or management. Abstracts submitted under Option 2 should contain concise statements of:

Background:	Summarize the purpose, scope and objectives of the programme, project or policy.
Description	Describe the programme, project or policy period, setting and location, structure, key population (if applicable) and activities and interventions undertaken in support of the programme, project or policy.
Lessons learnt:	Present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings and/or outcomes of the programme, project or policy. Include an analysis or evaluation of lessons learnt and best practices. Please summarize any specific results that support your lessons learnt and best practices.
Conclusions/next steps:	Explain the significance of the findings and/or outcomes of the programme, project or policy for HIV prevention, treatment, care and/or support and future implications of the results.

Selection criteria

Abstracts submitted under Options 1 will be scored using the following review criteria:



1. Focus and significant: Is there a clear focus on a major implementation challenge for paediatric HIV and have a justified objective?
2. Research method: Is there an evidence based intervention identified, measurement of at least one implementation outcome? And use of an implementation framework? How well is the study design related to the question?
3. Results: Are the results clearly presented? Are the conclusion supported to the results?
4. Impact: How much of a difference would these findings make for children living with HIV and families affected by HIV?

Abstracts submitted under Option 2 will be scored using the following review criteria:

1. Focus and significant: Does the abstract focus on a major implementation challenge for paediatric HIV?
2. Description: Is the programme and/or context well described?
3. Lessons learned: are the lessons clearly presented? Are the lessons supported by either analysis or collated information?
4. Impact: How much of a difference would these lessons make for children living with HIV and families affected by HIV?

Disaggregated sex and other demographic data in abstracts

Authors are encouraged to provide a breakdown of data by sex and other demographics, such as age, geographic region, race/ethnicity and/or other relevant demographic characteristics in submitted abstracts, when appropriate. Abstracts should include the number and percentage of females and males (and additional breakdown by gender, age and/or ethnicity, if appropriate) who participated in your research or project, and results should be disaggregated by sex/gender and other relevant demographics. Analyses of any gender-based differences or any other differences between sub-populations should be provided in the Results or Lessons learnt sections, if relevant.

Word limits

The abstract body has a 350-word limit. Titles have a 30-word limit.

A maximum of two tables and/or graphs can be included in total. A graph/image (in JPG, GIF or PNG, ideally at least 600dpi) counts as 50 words and a table counts as five words per row (50 words maximum).

Common reasons for abstract rejection

- Poor clarity of writing
- Not enough new information
- No clear objective and/or hypothesis
- Incomprehensible linkage between different parts of the abstract
- Duplicate or overlap with another abstract
- Erroneous or unsupported conclusions

Reasons for abstract rejection (specific to Option 1):

- Inadequate and/or insufficient methods (either quantitative or qualitative) to support conclusions
- Inadequate and/or missing summary of essential results

Reasons for abstract rejection (specific to Option 2):

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- Inadequate and/or insufficient description to support conclusions
- Inadequate and/or missing lessons learnt

Recommendations

- If English is not your native language, it is strongly recommended that you have your abstract reviewed by a native English speaker before submission

Submission confirmation

After submission of the abstract, a confirmation email will be sent to the abstract submitter. To receive confirmation, please ensure that emails from jphasa@iasociety.org are not marked as spam by your email provider.

Abstract review and selection process

Abstract review

All submitted abstracts will go through a blind peer-review process carried out by the IPHASA 2023 Selection Committee. Each abstract will be reviewed by at least two reviewers.

Abstract selection

Abstracts can be selected for oral presentation and/or the poster exhibition. We are pleased to offer free registration to presenting authors who have an accepted abstract.

Notification of acceptance or rejection to the corresponding author

Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent to the submitting (corresponding) author in September 2023. Please note that only the corresponding author will receive an email concerning the abstract; this author is responsible for informing all co-authors of the status of the abstract. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted will receive instructions for the presentation of their abstract.

Publication of accepted abstracts

The submission of the abstracts constitutes the authors' consent for publication. If the abstract is accepted, the authors agree that their abstracts are published under the [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported \(CC BY 3.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/) licence. The licence allows third parties to share the published work (copy, distribute, transmit) and to adapt it for any purposes, under the condition that IPHASA 2023 and the abstract authors are given credit and that in the event of reuse or distribution, the terms of this licence are made clear. Authors retain the copyright of their abstracts, with first publication rights granted to the IAS – International AIDS Society – the co-organizers of IPHASA 2023.

Accepted abstracts may, therefore, be published on the IPHASA 2023 website, the IAS abstract archive and the *Journal of the International AIDS Society* (JIAS).