

Ms. Millicent Obaso

CARE International Delegation to UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS

Millicent Obaso is an Anthropologist and Sociologist working for CARE International as Regional HIV/AIDS Advisor for East and Central Africa. Based at CARE's Regional Management Unit (ECARMU) Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to joining CARE she worked for the International Federation of Red Cross and American Red Cross Heading Women's Desk for Africa as a Senior Officer based in Washington DC. While in Washington, she was appointed and served as an Advisor to the President and CEO of the American Red Cross on International Women's Health Issues.

Millicent is one of the few African women who have served as Chief of Party and Team Leader for USAID and UNFPA projects in Swaziland and Tanzania Respectively. While in Swaziland she worked for Pathfinder International to build the capacity of Civil Society Organizations to implement HIV/AIDS programs in partnerships with the Private Sector and Public Sector to fight AIDS in the work place and at home through family life.

Prior to taking International jobs, Millicent served as Executive Director for the Family Planning Association of Kenya where she championed the implementation of Family Planning and Reproductive Health programs to improve the health of women and children. Millicent advocates for women's empowerment and rights and is a leader in ensuring women are freed from the HIV and AIDS bondage. She believes that scaling up HIV and AIDS prevention, care and support including treatment to all the women who need these services is a strategic move that will reduce HIV and AIDS prevalence, sickness and death by 60% since women and girls form 60% of people living with HIV and AIDS in Africa.

Millicent has conducted long-term consultancies for the Future Group based in USA, Chemonics International, USAID, World Bank, Ford Foundation, UNFPA, and her own Government among others. Millicent Obaso's passion is to fight for the rights of marginalized groups such as Women, Adolescents, OVC and PLWHA and to advocate for protection of their rights. Recently Obaso planned and implemented two regional conferences to address the issues of stigma and to promote accountability and transparency for PLWHA. Through her tireless efforts she sought the Anglican Arch Bishop of Kenya to join her and PLWHA in the fight against AIDS where the Bishop apologized to PLWHA for the bad treatment for PLWHA by the religious sector.

Millicent presented a paper at the 12 World Aids Conference on abuse of rights of refugee women and children as populations migrate or become internally displaced. Millicent worked with women and children who suffered gender based sexual violence in Refugee camps in Western Tanzania and explained what you can do to help women in the Refugee Situations the video is called "Women in Distress produced by UNFPA and is available in English and French.

A mother of three, and English speaking African woman, Millicent hails from Kenya and lives in Nairobi from where she combs the African Continent teaming up with CARE Country offices in ECA region and other partners especially CSO to reduce HIV related Stigma to pave the way for HIV and AIDS treatment, Care and support as well as prevention. Obaso famous quote “you cant help them if you do not know them but to know them we have to remove stigma and we need a big compelling voice of PLWHA and Civil Society Organization’s to be heard. I am pleased to present to you Millicent Obaso