

Giving Women Power Over AIDS: Traveling Exhibit Guidelines for setting up the artifact table

The items included in this box can be used as artifacts in the “Giving Women Power Over AIDS” exhibit. They will compliment the main exhibit and will reinforce concepts and/or insight into daily life that has already been introduced in the main section. We have included artifacts that the viewer can touch and that is not of high value as we cannot guarantee the security of these items.

As you will note all items have been packaged, labeled, numbered and color-coded to correspond to the table at which they should be displayed. Please use this list, the photos and tent cards to set-up each of the artifact tables that you choose to use. When you have finished with the display please package each item the way that you found it and use this list to ensure that you have collected all items that were sent to you.

The following is a description and corresponding color of the items that are displayed at each table. A further explanation of some items is provided The tables do not have to be in a particular order.

GROUND MAIZE TABLE

TENT CARD: Ground maize is the staple that nourished Ruth and her family. Food production in Zimbabwe is declining as women farmers die and graves encroach on fertile farmland.

ITEMS TO BE DISPLAYED (coded red):

- Two empty bags of ground maize. Can also be stuff with newspaper to make it look full. (BAG 1)
- One cooking spoon (BAG 1)
- One bag of ground maize: Can be displayed in packaging provided or a fancy bowl. Bowl not included (BAG 2)
- One cooking apron (BAG 3)



UNSAFE SEXUAL PRACTICES TABLE

TENT CARD: To please men who prefer “dry sex”, Zimbabwean women often use herbs, cloth, or astringents to dry and tighten their vaginas. Elsewhere,

women use douches and sprays as vaginal cosmetics. All these practices increase vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases.

ITEMS TO BE DISPLAYED (coded green):

- Three pieces of dettol (BAG 4)
- Two pieces of snuff (BAG 4)
- One piece of laundry soap (BAG 5)
- Two bottles of douche (BAG 6)
- Vuma – herbal root used to make STD treatment and prevention (BAG 7)
- Vile of traditional herbal liquid used orally to treat and prevent STD (BAG 7)
- Dried herbs used vaginally to treat and prevent STD (BAG7)



FURTHER EXPLANATION: In Sub-Saharan Africa, many women routinely insert substances into their vaginas—natural herbs, potions, or powerful astringents, such as Dettol, laundry soap, snuff. This practice is in part a home remedy to control discharge that results from undiagnosed and untreated vaginal infections. In part, it evolves from the belief that men prefer “dry sex” and associate women’s lubrication with infidelity and promiscuity.

OBITUARIES TABEL

TENT CARD: Funerals in Sub-Saharan Africa are unrelenting. Stigma limits mention of AIDS, but behind the silence, everyone knows that 20- to 30- year olds are not supposed to die.

ITEMS TO BE DISPLAYED (coded black):

- Newspaper obituaries (BAG 8)



MICROBICIDES TABLE

TENT CARD: Microbicides are being developed in many forms: a gel or cream inserted with an applicator, a sponge or time-released suppository, or an intra-vaginal ring that could be used for months at a time. The samples here do not have proven microbicidal

properties, but more than two dozen products are currently under investigation by scientists.

ITEMS TO BE DISPLAYED (coded yellow):

- Placebo microbicides (BAG 9)
- Microbicides applicators (BAG 9)
- Hair gel: This entire item should NOT be displayed. Rather, use a dollop of gel on the Petri dish to represent one formulation of microbicides. We chose hair gel because it doesn't melt over a couple hours like the placebo. (BAG 10)
- Petri dishes. Use this to display the hair gel. (BAG 10)

SHOES TABLE

TENT CARD: Around the world, 14 million children have already been orphaned by AIDS. These shoes represent just a few of the children like Martha and Tafadzwa who will have to fill their parents' shoes too soon.

ITEMS TO BE DISPLAYED (coded white):

We do not have items for this table yet. Stay tuned for more information.

Good luck and have fun! You have worked hard to make this exhibit a reality. If you have questions send an email to Ananth Thambinayagam (athambinayagam@path-dc.org)

