Challenges of service delivery for gay men and other men who have sex with men in Nigeria

35th meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), Geneva 9-11 December 2014

Ochonye Bartholomew Boniface, Country Director
Heartland Alliance International – Nigeria
Nigeria’s HIV Prevalence among population sub-groups

Source: Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance Survey 2010
Challenges

- Stigma and discrimination
- Punitive laws
How we have managed

• Identified allies in government and CSO
• Sustained Services delivery
• Establishment of safe spaces
• Paralegal trainings for the community
• Community - to - community care
• Engagement with healthcare workers
• Engagement with lawyers and
• National Human Rights Commission
How do we want to move ahead!

• Service delivery is a MUST
  - Prevention
  - Treatment and care
  - Legal services and protection
• Enabling environment is ALTIMATE
  - Assess and review punitive laws
  - Responsive healthcare providers
What do we need!

• Service delivery, community led interventions
• Access to legal support, protection and justice
• Sustained high level advocacy to governments
• More accurate data/evidence for programming
• Skills to document & report human right violations
Conclusion

• Criminalization and violence directed towards gay men and other men who have sex with men including bisexuals, fuel human rights abuses and increase the risk of HIV transmission. It drives the key population farther away from needed prevention, treatment, and care/support services. Every stakeholder must make conscious efforts to end all forms of discrimination against the key affected population (MSM, FSW and PWID)!