The State of the Stigma and Discrimination Response: Resisting Violence and Prejudice against People Living with HIV

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Prepared for the 41st Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board
13 December 2017
## Situation Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prejudice Type or Setting</th>
<th>Quality and Amount of Information</th>
<th>Validated Interventions exist?</th>
<th>Trends</th>
<th>Community Response</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internalized stigma</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Some places</td>
<td>PLHIV Stigma Index, other validated scales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced stigma/discrimination</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Some places</td>
<td>PLHIV Stigma Index, other validated scales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment, education, &amp; housing discrimination</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Some places</td>
<td>PLHIV Stigma Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toward children &amp; youth</td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intersecting HIV and key population stigma</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Extremely limited</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Some places</td>
<td>PLHIV Stigma Index, Health Facilities Survey from HP+, Global Men’s Health and Rights Survey (MSMGF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminalisation of PLHIV</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Advancing HIV Justice I, II, and III, HJN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith settings</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Framework for Dialogue, UNAIDS/WCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare facilities</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>PLHIV Stigma Index; Reducing HIV Stigma and Discrimination in Health Facilities, HP+; other validated scales</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About the Stigma Index

- International Partnership: GNP+, ICW, and UNAIDS
- Provides evidence-informed advocacy, policy reform, and service delivery
- Builds capacity of PLHIV networks — GIPA principle in action

As of October 2017:

- >100,000 PLHIV interviewed from 90 countries in >50 languages
- 2,000 PLHIV trained as interviewers

**Announcing: PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0**
Funding for revisions from USAID and PEPFAR
Available December 2017
It is difficult to tell people about my HIV infection
Being HIV positive makes me feel dirty
I sometimes feel worthless because I am HIV positive
I am ashamed that I am HIV positive
I feel guilty that I am HIV positive

High Rates of Internalized Stigma (2017)

- Uganda (n=401)
- Senegal (n=406)
- Cameroon (n=400)
Stigma Affects HIV Care Cascade (2017)

- Cameroon (n=400): 23%, 28%
- Senegal (n=406): 32%, 25%
- Uganda (n=401): 41%, 21%

Delaying entering care because:

- Not ready to deal with HIV infection (16–33%)
- Worried others would find out status (11–13%)
- Afraid health workers would treat me badly or disclose status without consent/had a bad experience with a health worker previously (4–11%)
Experiences of Stigma and Violence due to Key Population Membership (2017)

- Verbally Harassed: Gay and MSM 44%, Female sex workers 41%, People who use Drugs 29%, Transgender people 72%
- Physically Harassed: Gay and MSM 28%, Female sex workers 31%, People who use Drugs 36%, Transgender people 14%
- Blackmailed: Gay and MSM 33%, Female sex workers 44%, People who use Drugs 14%, Transgender people 43%
- Sexually Assaulted: Gay and MSM 30%, Female sex workers 41%, People who use Drugs 29%, Transgender people 29%
Stigma Toward Key Populations Impedes Health Seeking (2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>MSM (Afraid to seek health services)</th>
<th>Sex workers (Afraid to seek health services)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>MSM (Avoided seeking health services)</th>
<th>Sex workers (Avoided seeking health services)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Protecting the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women Living with HIV

A Values and Preferences survey among women living with HIV became the foundation for the 2017 WHO Consolidated Guideline on SRHR and women living with HIV.

High rates of violence were reported before and after diagnosis, increasing from 6% to 53% in health settings.

Violence was more common for women who also identify as gay, lesbian, transgender, sex workers, or using drugs.
Where HIV-Related Prosecutions Have Been Reported (October 2015-September 2017)
Advocacy against HIV Criminalisation
What Action is Needed?

• **Talk**
  • Keep attention focused on HIV-related stigma and discrimination

• **Research**
  • Include HIV stigma and discrimination indicators in all HIV prevention, treatment, and intervention research

• **Money**
  • Resource PLHIV and other key population networks to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination
  • Fund testing and validation of indicators and interventions in and beyond healthcare settings

• **Institutions, systems, and structures**
  • Ensure full and equal access to education, employment, housing, and justice and fund recourse mechanisms

• **GIPA**
  • Commit to the meaningful engagement of PLHIV and key population communities in all stages of the research and interventions

• **Resilience**
  • PLHIV and key populations have to be resilient. We need YOUR resilience, too. Political leaders, decision-makers, and researchers need to stay the course.
THANK YOU

To all of the people living with HIV worldwide who shared their experiences with stigma, discrimination, and activism. You made this presentation possible.

Salamander Trust, ICW, and WHO for the data on violence in healthcare settings faced by women living with HIV

PLHIV Stigma Index International Partnership: GNP+, ICW, & UNAIDS; Population Council/Project SOAR; & Laura Nyblade, RTI/HP+ & Stef Baral, Johns Hopkins University for the People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0 data/charts

*The PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0 revisions and pilot projects were funded by USAID and PEPFAR.*

HIV Justice Network/HIV Justice Global Consortium for the HIV criminalisation global data/maps

*The HIV Justice Global Consortium, an alliance of PLHIV networks, human rights organizations, and HIV/AIDS legal networks is supported by the Robert Carr civil society Network Fund.*
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