

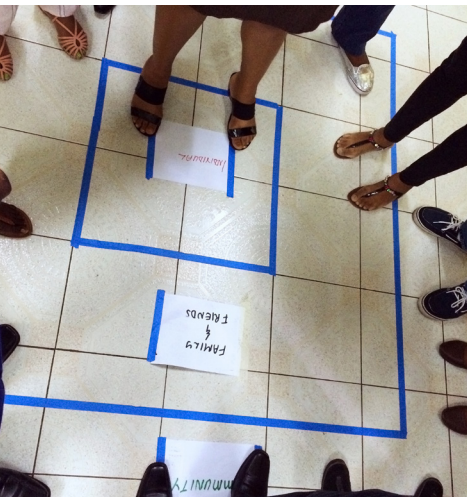


HEALTH POLICY PROJECT / JAMAICA

Building capacity for improved health policy, advocacy, governance, and finance.



The Positive Health, Dignity, and Prevention (PHDP) curriculum is launched at World AIDS Day and the Caribbean Regional Network Partners (CRN+) Annual Board Meeting, 2014, Kingston, Jamaica. Paula Samuels (right), President of the Jamaican Network of Seropositives, officiates the handover of the PHDP to CRN+ representative Falicia Adams (left).



Photos by Sandra McLeish

HPP led a participatory process to develop and implement a PHDP curriculum by and for PLHIV to enhance community leadership skills and improve health outcomes. Through workshops and field application guided by a technical working group comprising PLHIV, participants gained familiarity with the PHDP framework; identified priority gaps for PLHIV capacity building; and helped develop, pilot, and revise 15 modules. The process resulted in improved capacity for PLHIV and key population members to reach PLHIV, link to health services, and achieve care and treatment outcomes.

Overview

The Health Policy Project in Jamaica (HPP) partnered with government, academic institutions, and civil society to promote equity, inclusivity, and human rights through addressing HIV-related stigma and discrimination (S&D), gender inequality, gender-based violence (GBV), and harmful gender norms. The project

- Enhanced the coordination of policies and programming across sectors, including increasing the participation of civil society in policy dialogue
- Increased the availability and use of data to inform policies and programs for sexual and reproductive health
- Used social capital approaches to build social cohesion among people living with HIV (PLHIV) and key population leaders
- Fostered resilient health systems at the community, district, and national levels

Stakeholder Engagement Strengthens Policies and Systems

HPP facilitated linkages and dialogue across sectors, promoting collaboration to build long-term partnerships and identify policy solutions for a stronger health system. With its partners, HPP strengthened the skills of individuals and the efficacy of organizational systems.

- Facilitated strategic planning and stakeholder engagement during development of the National Integrated Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2012–2017).
- Strengthened the National HIV Discrimination Reporting and Redress System for PLHIV and key populations by facilitating stakeholder engagement and integrating the reporting system into an improved client complaint system.
- Promoted access to health services for PLHIV and key populations by engaging healthcare providers in policy dialogue to achieve stigma-free services, and promoted standards of care, including confidentiality.
- Fostered a more integrated, systematic approach to the screening and referral processes for GBV in key service centers for sexual health in Kingston and St. Andrew.

Increased Capacity Fosters Collective Monitoring

HPP strengthened the capacity of academic institutions, civil society, and organizations of PLHIV and key populations to conduct data collection and monitoring for improved decision making, planning, and accountability.

- With the University of the West Indies HIV/AIDS Response Program (UWI HARP), increased the availability and use of data across institutions by developing an electronic upload and retrieval system, called the Database of Sexual Health Research and Resources in the Caribbean.



“This PHDP Curriculum has the potential to improve the lives of positive persons and communities all over the world by providing the skills and tools to take greater personal charge of living with HIV or AIDS....This Curriculum represents a milestone in PLHIV advocacy for positive persons here in Jamaica and globally: to be quality team members in the HIV response, who bring value and improvement to service delivery and how resources are mobilized to improve the lives of positive persons where they live...”

—Devon Gabourel
JN+ Programmes Coordinator and
PHDP Facilitator

Select Publications

Positive Health, Dignity, and Prevention: Training Modules for Promoting Leadership Among Persons Living with HIV

Positive Health, Dignity, and Prevention (PHDP): A Curriculum by and for PLHIV to Promote and Advocate for High-Quality HIV Services

Addressing HIV Among Two of Jamaica’s Key Populations: Men Who Have Sex with Men and Sex Workers

Integrating Screening and Referrals for Gender-Based Violence into HIV/STI Services: Lessons from a Pilot Project in Jamaica

National Family Planning-HIV Programme Integration in Jamaica

- Developed participatory approaches and tools within the PHDP framework and policy monitoring to strengthen the capacity of PLHIV and key population leaders.
- Through the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition, facilitated leadership in capacity building among civil society organizations (CSOs) of key populations; together they piloted a participatory learning approach to increase the capacities of key population activists and reinforce policy monitoring systems within CSOs.

Strong Advocacy Promotes Equity and Inclusivity

HPP collaborated with JN+ and the Ministry of Health Unit for Greater Involvement of Persons with HIV and AIDS (GIPA) to build the capacity of PLHIV and key populations to mobilize communities and advocate stigma-free health services.

- Provided stigma reduction training among healthcare providers and in community settings to help overcome service- and provider-level barriers.
- Developed the Positive Health, Dignity, and Prevention (PHDP) curriculum for PLHIV leaders, while expanding outreach to PLHIV and thus increasing the membership of JN+.
- Supported the involvement of PLHIV and key populations in Jamaica’s Country Coordination Mechanism, resulting in increased funding for national-level programs focused on key populations.
- Brought communities of key populations together to discuss advocacy agendas and increase leaders’ ability to animate support group discussions using evidence and material in the PHDP curriculum.
- Strengthened the organizational capacity of JN+ in leadership and governance, furthering their presentation skills and active participation in policy dialogue with representatives of health facilities and health systems.

The Way Forward

Achieving a strong, resilient health system accessible to all populations including those most in need will require sustained attention to policies that promote equity, inclusivity, and human rights. Optimal care and treatment outcomes for HIV and “getting to zero”—zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths—will require continual emphasis on

- Stigma reduction—linking with civil society to strengthen capacity to advocate for stigma-free services and treatment.
- Capacity strengthening and monitoring of policies and the legal environment to support access to treatment, care, and support.
- Capacity strengthening to use and access data and improve policy monitoring to facilitate client feedback loops and community systems for stigma reduction and improved accessibility and reach of services.

Contact Us

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