Analysis Tool Addresses Policy Barriers to HIV-Related Services for Key Populations

Males who have sex with males (MSM), transgender (TG) people, and sex workers (SW) are at higher risk for HIV transmission than other individuals, even in generalized epidemics. Structural and policy issues have created barriers for MSM/TG/SW in seeking services and adopting individual and community harm reduction strategies. The Policy Analysis and Advocacy Decision Model for HIV-Related Services: Males Who Have Sex with Males, Transgender People, and Sex Workers, published by the Health Policy Project and AMSHeR (African Men for Sexual Health and Rights) with support from USAID and PEPFAR, is a collection of tools that helps users assess and address policy barriers that restrict access to HIV-related services for MSM/TG/SW.

Designed to help country stakeholders build a public policy foundation that supports access to and implementation and scale-up of evidence-informed services for MSM/TG/SW, the decision model helps to clearly identify and address policy barriers to services. Its policy inventory and analysis tools draw from the extensive body of international laws, agreements, standards, and best practices related to MSM/TG/SW services, allowing the assessment of a specific country policy environment in relation to these standards. This customizable, in-depth, and standardized approach will build stakeholders’ capacity to identify incremental, feasible, near-term opportunities to improve the legal environment and the resulting quality of and access to services for MSM/TG/SW while long-term human rights strategies are implemented.

The model can be used to support implementation of national HIV strategies that incorporate key populations and national human rights strategies that support marginalized communities, and for monitoring the policy and legal environment for MSM/TG/SW broadly.

Key Features

Policy analysis tools and guidelines mapped to the components of an overall policy environment required for effective program implementation:

- Framework
- Community partnership
- Legal environment
- Intervention design, access, and implementation
Comprehensive inventory of policies related to:

- HIV counseling and testing
- Antiretroviral therapy
- Sexually transmitted infection services
- Condoms and lubrication
- Information, education, and communication
- Outreach
- Environments of community-based and prison programs

The decision model expands the scope of policies that have an impact on services for MSM/TG/SW. It makes the connection between advocating for service-specific policies and a human rights-based approach, and identifies the value of targeted, incremental policy change within a long-term human rights policy agenda. It is a valuable and comprehensive resource for advocates, policymakers and decision-makers, national committees and advisory boards, program developers, service providers, clients, nongovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders interested in identifying and addressing the policy barriers affecting access to and sustainability of key services for MSM/TG/SW.

About the Health Policy Project

The Health Policy Project (HPP) aims to strengthen policy, advocacy, governance, and finance for strategic, equitable, and sustainable health programming in developing countries. HPP works with host country partners to build local capacity to advocate for a supportive HIV policy environment, enhance policy and program monitoring and accountability, develop policy decision-making tools, and engage key populations in the policy process. HPP assists countries to improve health outcomes by addressing barriers due to stigma and discrimination, gender inequalities, socioeconomic status, operational issues, and other factors that prevent people from seeking the HIV prevention, treatment, and care services they need. For more information, visit www.healthpolicyproject.com.

About AMSHeR

African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHeR) is a regional coalition of MSM/LGBTI-led organizations in Africa that work to address the vulnerability of MSM to HIV. AMSHeR provides a platform for exchange, learning, and advocacy among grassroots MSM organizations, human rights organizations, national agencies, and other stakeholders working with and/or for MSM/LGBTI communities. For more information, visit www.amsher.net.

To Access the Decision Model

- The Policy Analysis and Advocacy Decision Model for HIV-Related Services: Males Who Have Sex with Males, Transgender People, and Sex Workers is available in English.
- The Policy Analysis and Advocacy Decision Model for HIV-Related Services: People Who Inject Drugs, a companion publication, is available in English and Russian.
- To download either decision model please visit www.healthpolicyproject.com/t/HIVPolicyModels.cfm.
- To order a hard copy of either decision model please contact policyinfo@futuresgroup.com.