



Key Population Community of Practice NEWSLETTER

Dear Colleague,

As a member of the global Key Population Community of Practice, we'd like to share with you our first newsletter including updates, a short summary of the launch as well as various helpful resources.

Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030

In June 2021 - just two weeks after the launch of the key populations community of practice - United Nations Member States committed to reducing annual new HIV infections to under 370,000 and annual AIDS-related deaths to under 250,000 by 2025, and eliminating all forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

[The Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030](#)

emphasises an evidence-informed and human rights-based HIV response that a) Continues and increases support for populations most affected by HIV, b) Further strengthens community-led approaches, c) Seeks further domestic funding for community-led/based responses, and d) Works on structural issues to uphold human rights, prevent stigma and discrimination and tackle punitive laws.

Member countries have committed to 'tailoring HIV combination prevention approaches to meet the diverse needs of key populations' and commit to 'reinforce global, regional, national and subnational HIV responses through enhanced engagement with a broad range of stakeholders, including key populations'.

The declaration aligns to [the new Global HIV Strategy 2021 – 2026](#) which seeks to get every country and every community on track to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

As part of capacity strengthening initiatives to achieve the new global targets, the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC) secretariat launched a Community of Practice focusing on Key Populations.

As part of the Declaration, member states "committed to prioritize HIV prevention and to ensure by 2025 that **95 per cent of people at risk of HIV infection, within all epidemiologically relevant groups, age groups and geographic settings, have access to and use appropriate, prioritized, person-centred and effective combination prevention options.**"

"Key Populations in every country around the world, carry a disproportionate burden of HIV, and yet our population sizes are relatively small. We are at greatly elevated risk of HIV infection when compared to the remainder of the populations in all regions, in all epidemic settings."

Ruth Morgan Thomas – Global Network of Sex Work Projects during the launch of the KP Community of Practice

The Launch of the Global Key Population Community of Practice

The Community of Practice was launched virtually on the 25th of May in the presence of national stakeholders and partners from over 60 countries.

Dr Shannon Hader, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS, officially opened the Key Population Community of Practice.

She highlighted that the new Global HIV Strategy 2021 – 2026 will have a strong focus on Key Populations across all dimensions of programmes.

For “NAC managers in the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, the Key Population Community of Practice is a top priority (...) and is indeed one pathway towards success of HIV prevention.”

Dr. Ruth Laibon Masha – CEO, NACC Kenya & Chair GPC NAC Forum during the launch of the KP Community of Practice

To find the agenda, presentations and recordings of the launch, click on these links (both sessions had the same agenda and presentations but different speakers and audiences):

- [Key Population Community of Practice Session I](#)
- [Key Population Community of Practice Session II](#)

New WHO Key Population Guidelines on its way

During the launch of the Key Population Community of Practice, the update of the [WHO consolidated guidelines on HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations](#) was discussed. The updated guidelines will now include all relevant recommendations for hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care as well as HIV and will provide guidance for prioritising packages of interventions for different key population groups. As previously, both health related and enabling interventions will be included in the guidelines in recognition of the critical importance of addressing structural barriers experienced by many key population members. Several new recommendations will be deliberated on at the guidelines development group meeting which will take place in August/September 2021. We look forward to sharing the new WHO Key Population Guidelines with you soon.

Key Population Implementation Tools

Implementation tools jointly developed by partners from different sectors translate HIV guidelines for Key Populations into practical, “how-to” guidance to support high-quality key population programming.

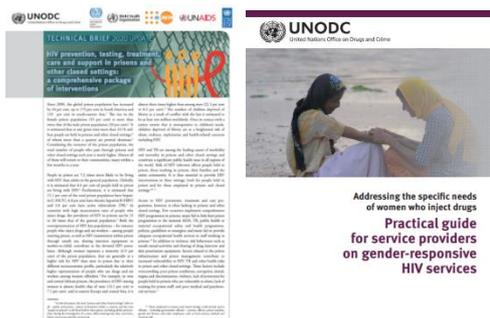
They include:



Where can you access them?

- [Implementing Comprehensive HIV/STI Programmes with Sex Workers](#)

- [Implementing Comprehensive HIV and STI Programmes with Men Who Have Sex with Men](#)
- [Implementing Comprehensive HIV and STI Programmes with Transgender People](#)
- [Implementing Comprehensive HIV and HCV Programmes with People Who Inject Drugs](#)



UNODC has issued specific technical guidance documents on addressing the needs of women who inject drugs and women in prison and other closed settings.

You can access them [here](#) and [here](#)

Key Population programming in the time of COVID19

The impact of COVID-19 makes progress in the HIV response more difficult, in particular considering the need for more urgent action. **In response, a number of documents and considerations are available to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on key population programme staff and community members while safely maintaining access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services:**

- [Going Online: A Budgeting and Programming Aid for Virtual HIV Interventions, FHI 360, May 2021](#)
- [Strategic Considerations for Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Key Population Focused HIV Programs, FHI 360, May 2020](#)
- [Statement of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS \(UNAIDS\) Interagency Working Group on Key Populations on the need to ensure access to quality, safe, and non-discriminatory services for HIV key populations and migrants in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

We are moving forward to support Key Populations programming – so, join us!

Keep an eye on your email inbox for more information on the Community of Practice. As Dr. Shannon Hader, Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, UNAIDS mentioned during the launch, *“it’s going to take all of us working together to really develop a Community of Practice that is going to make a difference”*.

Reach out to us

For more info on the Global Prevention Coalition, the Key Populations Community of Practice, or to be notified of future learning opportunities and webinars, kindly send an email to BenediktC@unaids.org, sladden@unfpa.org or kerrym@genesis-analytics.com.

Or [visit the GPC’s website](#) for more resources.

If you or someone you know would like to register for this community of practice, please send an email to karabos@genesis-analytics.com.

Best wishes,



The Global HIV Prevention Coalition

[supported by The South-South Learning Network]

*Key populations include: gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs and people in prisons and other closed settings

