

# Global HIV Prevention Working Group Meeting

Virtual meeting, 21 January 2021

Participants: Sheila Tlou (UNAIDS, Coalition Co-Chair), Siobhan Crowley (Global Fund), Susie McClean (Global Fund), Chewe Luo (UNICEF), Christine Stegling (Frontline AIDS), Paula Munderi (GPC Coordinator), Elizabeth Benomar (UNFPA), Gina Dallabetta (BMGF), Sara Klucking (PEPFAR OGAC), Marie Laga (Institute for Tropical Medicine, Antwerp), Nyasha Sithole (Athena/AFRIYAN), Rachel Baggaley (WHO), Raymond Yekeye (Zimbabwe NAC), Ruth Morgan-Thomas (NSWP for key population networks), Daniel McCartney (IPPF),

Observers: Damilola Walker (UNICEF), Matteo Cassolato (Frontline AIDS), Clare Morrison (Frontline AIDS), Clemens Benedikt, (GPC sec), Souad Orhan (GPC Sec), Hege Wagan (GPC sec, Rapporteur)

Apologies: Mitchell Warren (AVAC)

## SUMMARY OF UPDATES, DISCUSSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION POINTS

### 1. Brief catching up on end of 2020 actions.

The GPC Coordinator opened the meeting with an overview of the agenda before providing an update of key actions and events since the last Global HIV Prevention Working Group (PWG) in August 2020. These included the third key populations deep dive session on “Planning for sustainable HIV prevention responses with key populations” which included discussions on social contracting. The final [GPC External review](#) report was received in October following input from the GPWG in August.

The [4<sup>th</sup> GPC progress](#) report with updated scorecards was finalized and the GPC Coordinator expressed appreciation for the input received from the GPWG. The report included results from a survey among member countries. It was launched during the GPC Ministerial meeting that took place on 18 November and was a huge success with several Ministers and the Vice President of Zimbabwe attending. The meeting report, presentations and country statements are available on the [GPC webpage](#). The main aim was to ensure an update on progress based on the 4<sup>th</sup> progress report and preparing the way for HIV prevention for 2021-25.

As part of the UNAIDS Strategy development process the secretariat organised an interesting focus group discussion with NAC Directors. The South-to- South Learning network has progressed in 10 countries with a focus on Key Populations and condom programming. Countries have completed assessments of their programmes led by Genesis analytics with the GPC Sec support.

In December UNAIDS released new targets and we reported back to the [PCB on the progress on prevention](#). The GPC received resounding support of the work of the coalition and the partnership. The external review report was shared and a [PCB decision point](#) recommended the GPC be extended and expanded, to include membership from countries and regions with rising epidemics, to the extent possible. A synthesis report on HIV prevention during the time of -19 was initiated and the GPC secretariat will share it shortly.

Following the update from the GPC secretariat the floor was opened for partners to share their updates.

WHO has been providing country support to continuation of prevention, testing and referral to treatment during COVID-19. They have been supporting the COPs process, looking at how countries

prioritise prevention. In addition, VMMC guidelines are being rolled out and a lot of work is done around PrEP and simplifying delivery during COVID-19 . Dapivirine ring is now pre qualified and together with the long-acting injectable cabotegravir WHO is looking at how to prepare for roll out of both.

KP Guidelines are being updated including a more substantive piece on Transgender people addressing health needs beyond HIV. Similarly work on Hep C with MSM. WHO also mentioned they are looking forward to action on Post ECHO from Global Fund as part of the Strategic Initiative. Together with WHO SRH colleagues they will shortly initiate virtual meetings with countries on FP and HIV integration.

Frontline AIDS tabled a discussion on the strategic approach for the GPWG ahead. While appreciating the honest update on progress from the coalition and the commitment and support received from the PCB, there was push back on central aspects related to prevention like CSE. Observing that 2021 is a year with several strategies and the HLM where negotiations around language will be critical, questions raised included: Does the GPC need to engage, lobby, advocate and prepare differently towards high level meetings and strategy development? How can we stand up for issues like CSE? Should UNAIDS take a stand rather than just providing updates ? It was called for the GPWG to discuss this as we move forward.

Athena updated on the challenges of COVID-19 and transitioning to virtual consultations only. This included overcoming barriers to support engagement online like “data stipend” etc. Despite this they have managed to conduct a regional dialogue to input to the UNAIDS Strategy and they presented to the SADC NAC managers meeting on how to engage AGYW in the situation of COVID-19. Athena also informed the meeting that it has moved from the US to be based in ESA.

Global Fund were present at the Ministerial meeting in November and EXD Peter Sands announced a bold commitment of at least 1 billion towards prevention in the next funding cycle. The Global Fund will update the GPWG on the amount of HIV prevention as part of the new grants when available. While there is increased attention to HIV prevention and AGYW and KP, it was expressed that overall prevention programming in Global Fund grants is still not at the level expected. To respond to this, Global Fund is promoting “precision prevention”, the right things, for the right people, in the right places at the right time. In addition, partners were encouraged to engage in the new GFATM strategy and ensure that sexual health is clearly articulated under HIV, as HIV programming is very different from TB and Malaria.

The GPC co- chair stressed the need for addressing the backlash seen in terms of CSE in several countries with the ESA Commitment not being followed through after its adoption. Addressing the issue of Co- Chairs, following Alvaro’s departure, the importance of having one politically tuned person and one from a CSO, was presented as critical. The Co- Chair will also keep the GPWG updated on ICASA and where it will be hosted (Kenya or Botswana).

UNICEF also supported the need for heightening GPC advocacy around CSE. They called on the GPWG to reflect on a more efficient use of entry points and pathways for delivery of HIV prevention with new prevention tools in the pipeline. This could include CSE as part of demand creation.

GFATM increased work on AGYW in ESA was commended together with a global focus on KP including in WCA. But UNICEF expressed concern about AGYW programming in WCA and indicated a need for attention to countries like DRC and Nigeria. UNICEF are developing a tool that will support WCA AGYW prevention programme mix, strategic prioritization and investment. They have also developed a toolkit on what works for AGYW programme implementation that will be shared when

available. In addition, targeting and quality improvement tools are being developed with UNDP and UNFPA.

The new acting director of prevention in OGAC, Sara Klucking has replaced Heather Watts. PEPFAR programme performance deep dive showed significant drop in prevention programming between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 due to COVID- 19. This includes drop in VMMC, PrEP and programmes requiring “in person” engagement like economic empowerment and mentoring. Programmes have since adapted and new guidance on how to ensure continuation of provision of PEPFAR services during COVID-19, including prevention, is available. Starting 2021 the focus is on “sustain the gains” and sustainability in terms of provision of quality services using new service delivery methods. Prevention is a priority in the ongoing COP, but there is more flexibility being provided to accommodate for a new global coordinator following Deborah Bix stepping down.

**Action points:**

- Analysis of HIV prevention as part of the new GF grants will be shared when available, GFATM
- PEPFAR guidance on continuation of services during COVID-19 for HIV prevention, link to be shared, PEPFAR/OGAC
- Update on ICASA will be communicated, Co- chair
- Engagement in the Global Fund strategy development, all

**2. Milestones for 2021, Elizabeth**

The co convenor, UNFPA, updated the meeting on the milestones for 2021. She requested members to share any additional events.

Jan/Feb: Prevention Think Tank Meeting organized by UNAIDS DXD; Management response to GPC external review will be elaborated and shared with GPWG for input; 4th HIV Research for Prevention Conference; Young key populations deep-dive session.

March: Special UNAIDS PCB for adoption of new Global AIDS Strategy.

April: Call for action on meaningful engagement of AGYW in scaled up national SRH rights and needs and HIV prevention programmes and possible key populations deep dive session.

June: High-Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS; Adoption of new Political Declaration and Commitments. In addition, the Generation Equality Forum will take place with the launch of the UNAIDS EXD flagship initiative, Education Plus.

July: GAM 2020 data on prevention.

August/October: HIV Prevention Road Map 2021-2025 development and GPC regional & country stakeholder consultation.

November/December: 5<sup>th</sup> and final progress report for the prevention road map 2020 and full GPC meeting with adoption of new road map 2021-2025.

The importance of engagement in Feb to April on language around CSE, KP and SRHR towards the strategy and HLM was stressed in the follow up discussion.

- Action point: Members to share input to the calendar for 2021, all

### 3. The KP deep dive synopsis

The agenda item was recommended by the KP representative. Given the meeting was running behind time it was agreed that the GPC Sec circulates the presentation.

- **Action point: Share presentation and invite for the upcoming deep dive with the GPWG, GPC Sec**

### 4. Architecture of the GPC: GPC Co-Chairs and PWG Composition

A brief introduction provided an overview of the External Review findings and recommendations around the architecture of the GPC. The PWG evolving role and composition including the ToR adopted in 2018 was presented together with some of the key responsibilities of the GPC Co-chairs.

#### Co-chair characteristics and nomination

With Alvaro stepping down as Co-Chair, the need for a process for identifying and nominating a new Co-Chair was stressed. It was suggested and agreed that Sheila remains as a Co-Chair, maintaining her role around political advocacy and ensuring continuity. There was also a unison agreement that the second chair should be from civil society as recommended by the External review. The GPWG was informed that one nomination had been put forward by WHO.

A discussion around key attributes/characteristics of the co-chair to guide the selection criteria highlighted the following: a person that “Speaks truth to power; has access to power holders and be a political door opener; authenticity and authority; invested in the response and knows programming on the ground; ability to speak boldly in relation to KPs; capacity for high level political advocacy; provides new energy; has time to engage.”

It was suggested that the two co-chairs be complementary in terms of characteristics.

In addition to Co-chairs it was suggested to consider GPC ambassadors to capture different profiles/needs. It was suggested to explore existing UN ambassadors and strengthen their engagement in prevention as supporting Ambassadors requires substantial time and resources which the current GPC sec might not have available.

- **Action point: Circulate draft ToR for the Co-chairs reflecting the discussion for input and request for nomination; GPC sec and PWG members**

#### Composition and role of the Prevention Working Group.

While recognising the need for better representation in the PWG, it was stressed that the group needs to be of a manageable number. Over 25 people will challenge the space for in-depth engagement and discussion. A suggestion would be to have subgroups.

Building on the External review recommendations it was agreed that the GPWG should have additional key population representatives. It was suggested to also include young KP organisations. The group was asked to consider country managers from KP programmes and ensure better regional representation like EECA, LAC.

The aspect of nominal vs/or representational attendance was discussed given the GPWGs history of being nominal. It was agreed that moving forward the representational aspect of several members need to be recognized.

It was also observed that we are “mid -stream” in the development of the global strategy and that the composition of the GPWG should reflect the new priorities. It was observed that the human rights and gender constituency might need strengthening.

**Action points:**

- Draft ToR for the GPWG to be developed and circulated for comments, GPC Sec
- Nominations for members to GPWG, all

**Request for GPC membership**

The GPC Coordinator informed that the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), UNITAID, and the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) have requested membership in the GPC. IAPAC has detailed their commitment, while ICRC and UNITAID are still to provide details on their commitment. There were no objections to the membership requests.

The meeting was reminded that FP2020 expressed their commitment in the Ministerial meeting in November 2019 and we need to follow up as their participation would provide important ties to the work on SRHR and HIV linkages. The meeting also stressed the importance of working with the Platform to Eliminate Stigma and Discrimination.

**Action points:**

- Follow up on commitments with ICRC and UNITAID, GPC Sec
- Follow up with the Platform to Eliminate Stigma and Discrimination, GPC Sec
- Letter to IAPAC on membership in the GPC, GPC Sec

**5. Management response to the External review**

The group was informed about the delay in advancing the development of the management response and that the secretariat will get external support for the write up. A matrix for input will be circulated with a dedicated request for input from the GPWG. All members were asked to find time to provide feedback.

**Action points:**

- GPC secretariat to circulate matrix for feedback
- Input to be provided by all GPWG members to the management response.

The co convenors expressed appreciation for the GPWG taking the time to attend the call and for their continued commitment. A new call will be organized in 3 months.