

Global HIV Prevention Working Group (GPWG) Meeting

Virtual meeting, 1 June 2022

Participants: Mitchell Warren (AVAC, GPC Co-Chair), Sheila Tlou (GPC Co-Chair), Elizabeth Benomar (UNFPA, GPC Co-convener), Tim Sladden (UNFPA), Chewe Luo (UNICEF), Boyan Konstantinov (UNDP), Christine Stegling (Frontline AIDS), Clare Morrison (Frontline AIDS), Susie Mclean (GFATM), Aditia Taslim (INPUD), Alex Garner (Mpact), Maya Sunderam (BMGF), Irene Benech (CDC), Alison Cheng (USAID), Tisha Wheeler (USAID), Kate Ploudre (USAID), Caya Lewis Atkins (GFATM), Marie Laga (Institute for Tropical Medicine, Antwerp), Raymond Yekeye (Zimbabwe NAC), Nyasha Sithole (Athena/AFRIYAN), Ruth Laibon (Kenya NAC), Clemens Benedikt (GPC sec)

Observers: Damilola Walker (UNICEF), Hege Wagan (GPC sec), Lycias Zembe (GPC Sec), Souad Orhan (GPC Sec, Rapporteur),

Apologies: Paula Munderi (UNAIDS, GPC Co-convener), Rachel Baggaley (WHO), Ruth Morgan-Thomas (NSWP), Monica Ciupagea (UNODC), Katherine Ward (World Bank), Mc Siobhan Crowley (GFATM), Nazneen Damji (UN Women), Sara Klucking (PEPFAR OGAC), Sonal Mehta (IPPF), Judy Chang (INPUD), Yana Panfilova (Teenergizer),

Summary of Updates, Discussions, Recommendations and Action Points

1. Opening remarks

GPC Co-Chair, Sheila Tlou, opened the meeting by welcoming participants and introducing Maya Sunderam as the new member representing BMGF following Gina Dallabetta's retirement. Prof. acknowledged Gina as a key founding member of the GPC and thanked her for her relentless and valuable support to the Coalition and its Secretariat.

2. Report back from the Task Teams on CSE and Key Populations

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)

Clare Morrison, Frontline AIDS, briefed participants about the first meeting of the CSE task team that took place on 3 May, presenting the main action points that were agreed upon for the GPC to undertake. The task team agreed on the importance of showing that HIV forms a big part of the agenda of the new global partnership forum on CSE (a network of 62 different organizations) by ensuring that HIV prevention is well reflected in the forums advocacy work and research agenda. In this context, the team discussed working together with the Global Partnership Forum to commission specific research and generate evidence on the CSE experiences of young people living with HIV in and out of school and its effectiveness. Another area of work in which the GPC can play a key role is facilitating conversations with National AIDS Coordinating authorities and generating high level political support for CSE from frontline ministries including the ministries of health, education, gender and youth. A third area of work is to develop some simple and consistent messages on CSE that could be used by members of the GPC at different levels to make sure that CSE is elevated within the different HIV policy fora in which the members operate including AIDS 2022, the upcoming NAC Managers meeting, UNAIDS PCB,..etc. Other actions include working with GPC members, civil society organizations, youth leaders and faith based organizations to get them to speak out and champion CSE; facilitating engagement of men and boys using CSE and the education sector as a platform; contributing to the HIV specific content of the CSE academy that is being

developed by UNFPA and UNESCO to build CSE knowledge; and enhancing accountability related to CSE as part of enhancing accountability to HIV prevention by looking at the indicators and baseline assessments that are part of the country scorecards and thinking about how to link to some existing data on the provision of CSE.

Key populations

Tim Sladden, UNFPA, provided an update on the key populations community of practice (COP) work and how it relates to the task team on key populations. Established in 2021 and coordinated by Genesis Analytics with the support of the GPC Secretariat, the COP represents a multisectoral and holistic way of getting all of the expertise and stakeholders working on key populations together to discuss areas of interest. In 2021, the COP organized 3 meetings including a meeting to launch it, a meeting that discussed the building blocks for scaling up impactful programmes with key populations; and a meeting that addressed the legal and structural barriers to scale-up access of key populations to services. The next virtual meeting of the COP will take place on 7 June and will focus on scaling up effective HIV prevention programmes with young key populations. Other future sessions will address the updated WHO consolidated guidelines on HIV, STI and HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations; funding and sustaining key populations programmes within HIV Responses at country level; and measuring and monitoring the Key population programme outputs and outcomes at national and global level (for more details on the COP objectives, participants, and upcoming meetings please check [PowerPoint presentation](#)).

With the establishment of the GPC task team on key populations to focus on prevention issues, members of the key populations COP steering committee and the GPC Secretariat have been collaborating together to ensure that their respective work is complementary, aligned and is in synchronization, including with the Interagency Working Group on Key Populations.

Discussion points

- The key populations COP, the task team on key populations and the Interagency Working Group on Key Populations have all to look outwards to engage new players rather having the same audience attending all their meetings. Consideration should be given to encouraging the engagement of the NACs, the Ministries of Health, Education, Justice Sector, key population networks at community and local level and thought leaders, and expanding these fora to engage with the general populations.
- The Key Populations Community of Practice currently has around 1500 subscribers to its webinar series and newsletter, mostly at country level. This represents an outward looking orientation which differentiates the community of practice from other purely global fora.
- It is important to consider how we could engage Ministers and NAC Directors on key populations topics, make them recognize key populations challenges and talk about how they should be addressing them.

Action points:

- *The write up of Op eds on CSE will be tabled as an action point to discuss during the next CSE Task Team meeting*
- *The GPC Secretariat will develop a graphic showing the structure and linkages of the different COPs, task teams, working groups and the South to South Learning Network (SSLN). This graphic should serve as an organizing schematic or a framework of reference for the different moving parts that are GPC related.*

3. GPC Secretariat update on the HIV Prevention 2025 Road Map

Clemens Benedikt, UNAIDS, provided an update on the status of the road map, which is currently in design stage and is being translated into French, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian. He shared an outline for the AIDS 2022 satellite session on the new prevention road map, asking members of the working group to provide feedback on the agenda and confirm the speakers within their spheres of influence (Timeline given by IAS for confirming the speakers is by 15 June).

Discussion points

- It is important to focus attention on which high-level national speakers could be invited to speak at the satellite session.
- We should look critically at the road map milestones and bring to the satellite session speakers that could talk to the different elements and show where things are happening the way we want them to happen. For example, we could bring a country speaker that could talk about effectively integrating HIV prevention in other sectors programmes. For the financing part, we could bring PEPFAR or Global Fund to share their perspective around it.
- It is suggested to convene a subgroup to discuss the country people that should be invited to the satellite session and work with these people to show case where things have worked but also reflect on the struggles they faced and how they have overcome them.
- We need people to hear from the satellite session about what has been holding us back, what should be done differently and what is the new version of the road map going to do to help achieve the targets. The closure of the session should focus on 'what's next' so we are not just celebrating a document but plotting a way forward.
- We need to look at how we diversify the engagement of the GPC in AIDS 2022 beyond the specific satellite session and keep momentum around the road map during the conference to make sure that people are aware of the road map, how it will be implemented, how we will be accountable about it and how the communities will be involved. We need to have a set of key messages linked to the new road map that GPC members/ gov's and GPWG can push throughout the whole conference, in different sessions and platforms.
- For engaging with country leadership to speak during the conference, it is essential to find someone to speak on behalf of the government and community, recognizing the barriers facing community led responses and talking about the importance of community leadership as part of the national system rather than only engaging communities.
- UNICEF will be launching the new Global Alliance on Children and Adolescents at AIDS 2022 and one of the new pillars for PMTCT is to strengthen prevention both for pregnant adolescent girls and women as well as lactating adolescent girls and women. We thus need cross fertilizing messaging around enhancing prevention in its diversity including in pregnant and lactating women.
- The key messages document requires reworking, chopping and being more focused on what's new.

Action points:

- *The GPC Secretariat will collect and catalogue all AIDS 2022 activities that are GPC oriented and share with the group so members can try to ensure that the road map features in the different discussions and deliberations.*
- *A subgroup will be created to identify speakers at country level for the satellite session and move the work in communicating with people behind the scenes to work on the talking points of high-level speakers.*
- *Another subgroup will be created to work on the key messages for AIDS 2022, identifying the 3 topline messages, developing twitter handles and preparing a communication strategy for the GPC in AIDS2022. Members of the GPWG who volunteered to join the subgroup include Nyasha Sithole, Susie Mclean, Elizabeth Benomar, Mitchel Warren, Sheila Tlou and Aditia Taslim. A UNAIDS person from Comms should also be joining the group.*
- *The GPC Secretariat will engage with UNAIDS Comms team on how to move forward on the prevention messages and how to make sure they fit with the bigger picture for the conference. UNAIDS and UNFPA Comms teams will also be brought in to help with the Op ed.*
- *Members of the GPWG will confirm speakers for the AIDS2022 from their agencies in one week time.*

5. Brief on planning for a National AIDS Commissions Meeting

Lycias Zembe, UNAIDS, briefed participants on the ongoing planning for a meeting of the National AIDS Commissions Directors, which is a critical step leading up to the launch of the roadmap to get the buy-in and actual endorsement at country level. The meeting will aim to provide a platform to review progress made and outstanding challenges in the implementation the Global HIV Prevention Roadmap 2020, and to discuss and identify opportunities for uptake and national implementation of the new HIV Prevention 2025 Road Map as a means of bolstering institutional country commitments to achieving the global HIV prevention targets. It will also look at programmatic issues that affect implementation at country level, such as the commodities issues.

The GPC Secretariat has been discussing the meeting with the NAC Secretariat in Kenya and it has been suggested to organize it in early July to allow some time to flag any issues related to the road map before the AIDS 2022 session. It has also been suggested that the meeting should involve prevention focal points from National AIDS Control Programs (Ministries of Health), with support from UNAIDS country offices, along with the GPC Co-conveners and members of the GPWG.

Lycias presented different options to the GPWG about the best way to organize the NACs meeting, given the tight timelines. These include organizing:

1. A face-to-face meeting early July for the 28 GPC NAC Managers, prevention focal points in ministries, UNAIDS country offices, GPC Co-conveners and members of the GPWG;
2. A hybrid meeting with face-to-face participation of NAC Directors from the GPC focus countries, GPC Co-conveners and members of the GPWG, and virtual attendance of the ministries focal points;
3. A virtual meeting for the NACs before AIDS 2022 and another face to face meeting after the AIDS 2022 involving focal points the ministries of health prevention focal points and the other suggested participants.

Discussion points

- With many road maps, calls to actions and initiatives coming out in Montreal as well as new guidance on key populations, testing and injectable PrEP coming out in July and August, it's

going to take some effort to get an agenda to help NAC managers get oriented to all of those moving parts. This, together with the limited resources, makes it difficult to organize a meeting for the NACs in July.

- It would be useful to have a virtual meeting for the NAC Directors before the international AIDS conference to sensitize them around the new prevention road map. It is also important to know which NAC Directors are coming to the IAC and engage with them around the road map before the conference so that by the time of the satellite session they would already be familiar with the road map discussions and ready for later follow up after the conference. Having an in-person meeting after the IAC Satellite session could then help drive the accountability agenda that is the intention of the session at the AIDS conference and ensure that there is action taken from the road map.
- With the Global Fund gearing up to intensify, improve and prioritize their investment in prevention for NFM 4, one of the big challenges they are facing is how the intensified focus on prevention will land from the governments' perspective. As such, an important topic to put on the agenda of the NACs meeting is a session on Financing with a discussion on the Global Fund grants as a supporting mechanism to advance the road map elements in each country.
- The issue of commodities is an issue of transition that is happening across most of the countries, especially countries with high HIV incidence where the ongoing discussions are about using extra funds for commodities. In this context, there is risk that prevention is going to be left behind because of the current available fiscal spaces. For example, most of what is discussed now in Kenya is about managing treatment while prevention commodities like condoms are not being prioritized among things getting back into domestic resources. The issues of transitioning and sustainability should thus be given due attention during the NAC Managers' meeting as it is going to be a key element for the implementation of the road map moving forward.
- The issue of ownership of the road map at the country level should be of focus in the NAC Managers meeting to ensure that when the road map is taken at country level there is buy-in for it. It is thus suggested to have the extensive NAC Managers face-to-face meeting after the AIDS2022 Conference (around Septembers) but not so far towards the ministerial meeting because we need to have country leadership well aligned before the latter.

Action points:

- *The GPC Secretariat will share the concept note of the NAC Managers meeting with the GPWG members.*
- *The GPC Secretariat will communicate the discussion of the GPWG with the NAC Secretariat to plan for a virtual NAC Managers meeting before AIDS 2022 and a face-to-face one afterwards.*
- *The GPC Secretariat will follow up on how many NAC Managers will be attending AIDS 2022*

6. Update on measuring combination prevention think tank series

Clemens Benedikt, UNAIDS, briefed the group about the think tank series on measuring combination prevention, which has been organized responding to an internal as well as an external demand from partners, especially the Global Fund, for a new and more effective way of measuring combination HIV prevention. The series has been shaped around 5 sessions that have been looking at defining risk, measuring coverage of prevention programmes, outcomes and impact, and innovative

measurement approaches. The results of the series are supposed to inform Global AIDS Monitoring guidance, measurement frameworks of the Global Fund, and potentially other surveys such as the DHS, PHIA, IBBS.

In each of the sessions a proposition was presented looking at innovative dimensions of change. For population size estimates or defining who needs prevention, the proposition is to adopt a simpler and more pragmatic approach so that all countries, as part of their road map development, have a simple denominator for the different populations needing prevention. The second proposition looked at measuring coverage and how to change the current way of coverage measurement by measuring both coverage of clinical services but also community outreach. For the third proposition that looks at measuring outcomes, the particular need is to understand not only how many people use condoms or use PrEP or have gone for VMMC specific services but bring those different options together. In terms of measuring impact, the suggested way forward is to build on existing data (e.g. from routine testing) to understand impact as part of programmes since it is an expensive undertaking to understand HIV outcomes in terms of incidence. Session 5 on innovative approaches will take place on 10 June.

The next steps will be to revise the four propositions, build a core team to elaborate inputs for specific changes required to Global AIDS Monitoring, surveys and specific tools, and then follow through on those changes with the relevant partners.

Action point

- ✓ *The GPC Secretariat will share the consolidated meeting report of the five sessions with the GPWG once available.*

7. Key points from the Global Fund situation room meeting on the information note and NFM4

Susie Mclean emphasized that the global prevention targets are guiding the Global Fund in thinking through the implications of its investments. Taking the global prevention targets as guiding star for the results framework, the Global Fund is trying internally to be clearer about prevention outcomes or results for key populations and adolescent girls and young women and their male partners.

The Global Fund is making its steps to get ready for the new funding cycle, trying to align with the priorities articulated by the GPC through the 5 pillars approach, the prevention measurements sessions, which are important for the results framework, and other materials. She explained that the 3 priorities for the Global Fund are to 1. close the coverage gap and reach more people, 2. advance new prevention methods (like new formulations for PrEP) as well as existing ones (condoms, VMMC and harm reductions remain priority), 3. make prevention available in a wide range of platforms including trusted access platforms for expanded community-based responses but also increasing funding for prevention in SRH services and making prevention options available in different places like hot spots, pharmacies, etc.

The Global Fund is doing an information note for HIV investment priorities with the first section focusing on HIV prevention. The note signals continuing interest in emphasizing condom and PrEP programming in all its formulations, harm reduction, viability of testing, SRH service delivery platforms, protecting and expanding community outreach approaches to service delivery, VMMC availability, some behavioural change communication, and integration of human rights programming into HIV prevention. They also opened up a new window of interest in funding social and behavioural search so that country managers can have better data about sexual and drug using

practice in order to refine prevention, as well as safety and security for providing prevention services. The information note, which resulted from several consultations including in the situation room, also emphasizes WHO key populations guidelines, the GPC decision making aide for AGYW, the GPC trusted access platform and the GPC condom programming tools, which have been important for the prioritization agenda the fund has been trying to advance.

In terms of additional Global Fund instruments, there are the Gap tables that applicants are asked to fill in and countries will be asked to be much clearer in articulating the prevention gaps in them. The Fund is also bringing in the GPC prevention self-assessment tools (PSATs) as part of the assurance and risk managements processes.

Discussion points:

- Some of the things that the Global Fund is signaling as priorities will require changes in investments at country level. The NAC Managers meeting hence represents an opportunity for having a country dialogue about prioritizing prevention.
- In entering programme priorities for budget lines in the modular framework, the Global Fund is facing a challenge with how to emphasize or define key men in high incidence locations and the clear interventions required for these men. Support has been requested from other GPC members to help with this area.
- The Global Fund would require help from partners to identify which countries will need the most help in identifying their prevention gaps.

Action point

- ✓ *The GPC Secretariat will share the consolidated meeting report of the five sessions on measuring combination HIV prevention with the GPWG once available.*
- ✓ *The GPC Secretariat will support with drafting the NAC Managers face-to-face meeting agenda to ensure the integration of the topics suggested by the GPWG members including by the Global Fund.*

8. Planning for a face-to-face GPWG meeting

The GPWG members discussed the different possible dates and locations for holding a physical meeting. Most of the GPWG members were in favour of having a face-to-face meeting in connection with the NAC Managers meeting in September in South Africa.

Action point

- ✓ *The GPC Secretariat to develop and share a calendar of the different GPC related events until the end of the year.*