



Priority Issues for Advocacy

Policy and Strategy Working Group on Stigma and Discrimination

Hyatt Hotel

Trinidad and Tobago

Ms Delcora Williams, Chair and Mr Lucien Govaard, Vice Chair

Role of the Policy and Strategy Working Group on Stigma and Discrimination

The Policy and Strategy Working Group (PSWG) on Stigma and Discrimination is a thematic forum for:

- the discussion, coordination, and monitoring of initiatives among local and regional key partners; and
- the provision of advice and recommendations on HIV related human rights actions in the Caribbean.
- Support the streamlining of discrimination indicators and data collection, the work of the PSWG will be linked to the Monitoring and Evaluation TWG.

Role of the Policy and Strategy Working Group on Stigma and Discrimination

- The PSWG functions as an external HIV specialized advisory group for The Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP). The group falls under the mandate of PANCAP and serves as a thematic forum and technical advisory group for PANCAP and national HIV programmes to advance Human Rights and support the elimination of stigma and discrimination in the Caribbean.
- The Working Group is composed of experts from different national and regional entities and focuses on activities related to the achievement of Zero Discrimination Targets for the sub-region. The PSWG will support PANCAP's mandate of accelerating the human rights agenda and reducing stigma and discrimination for the region.
- Given the common focus on stigma, advocate for the empowerment and inclusion of relevant key and vulnerable populations

Goal and Objectives

Overarching Goal

- To advance Human Rights in the context of HIV and support the elimination of stigma and discrimination in the Caribbean.

Objectives

- The Policy and Strategy Working Group will work toward the following objectives in support of CRSF strategic objectives 1.1 and 1.2:
- To influence regional and national agendas in support of enabling legal and policy environments.
- To promote increased access to sustainable health, legal, social and related services to key and vulnerable populations including the community of PLHIV in the Caribbean.
- To support national HIV responses with initiatives towards achieving zero discrimination targets and reporting progress towards the achievement of the health and HIV-related Sustainable Development Goals

Functions

- To provide advice and support to PANCAP and generate recommendations for Caribbean countries on Human Rights and HIV related actions with a view towards building upon past and current initiatives, leveraging synergies, and ensuring country ownership and sustainability.
- To analyse results and make recommendations to PANCAP regarding documentation (mapping), monitoring, and analysis of the progress towards achieving the Zero Discrimination Targets in the Caribbean region.
- To coordinate among partners the provision of technical support and organization of key activities related to Human Rights and HIV to address identified needs, improving synergies and efficient use of available resources.

Reporting

- As issues mature, proposals for presentation to the PANCAP Executive Board and Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) should be submitted to the PACC to determine which policy recommendation issues could be brought to the attention of Executive Board, COHSOD and other governance mechanisms.
- The Chair or his/her designate of the PSWG will report to the PACC at its quarterly virtual and semester face-to-face meetings. A brief (1-2 pages) summary of each Working Group meeting will be developed for submission to the PACC prior to its scheduled meetings

Priority Issues for Advocacy

- Law and policy reform, especially as it related to Stigma and Discrimination. Review of legal framework to facilitate Social Contracting; • Scale up advocacy for legislative access of adolescents to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services. There was a dissonance between age of consent and age for access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services;
- • Funding, especially for CSOs. Advocating for increased investment in HIV at the national level, especially for addressing gaps when donor funds were expended;
- • Mainstreaming of HIV funding: silos and vertical investments must stop. Integration could bring some challenges;
- • Transgender health rights in the Caribbean. Need for trans-inclusive procedures/processes;

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- • Linking violence prevention to HIV programme;
- • Development of model anti-discrimination legislation. PANCAP Model Anti-discrimination Bill was approved in 2012. It has not received a lot of support from Member States. The Bill would be discussed at the Parliamentarians Forum in Jamaica. PANCAP could follow up with Member States to determine current status of the Bill in each Member States;
- • Standardization of data collection tools/instruments;
- • International Development Partner engagement with CSOs;
- CSOs must be reminded of their roles so they could hold governments accountable for their commitments. PANCAP's website could be used as a repository and to support information sharing. National programmes should be informed of the work being done by CSOs



PAN-CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP



AGAINST HIV & AIDS

Thank you