

MEANINGFUL INCLUSION OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY LED MONITORING IN ZIMBABWE

BACKGROUND

Over the years, transgender persons have not been included in all community initiatives particularly those involving monitoring and evaluating the impact of programs. Not only has this been a hindrance to the meaningful involvement of the community, but it has also had a bearing on the attainment on positive public health outcomes. The program sought to deliberate on ways in which transgender persons could be meaningfully involved in the community led monitoring mechanisms in Zimbabwe.



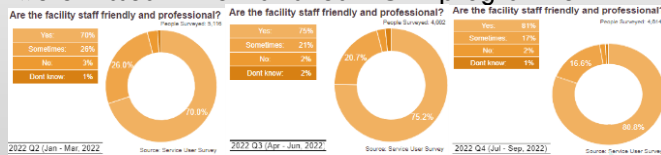
OBJECTIVES

1. To create space for the transgender communities to lead in implementing and monitoring of health service delivery
2. To develop a stigma free CL program model for Transgender and Intersex persons
3. To advocate for the inclusion of gender affirming health care services in public health facilities for the transgender and intersex persons.



DESCRIPTION

As an active implementer of the CLM program with support from UNAIDS in Zimbabwe, I have gained an understanding of how the programme is designed, its shortcoming and enablers for optimal delivery. I work with a group of community health advocates who were trained in technical areas that aid their advocacy work such as lobbying and advocacy, monitoring and evaluation. Using the skills gained, community health advocates from the transgender community have been conducting monitoring in selected health facilities in both rural and peri urban areas. This programme has assisted the advocates to surface key issues and experiences of the transgender communities which were missed in the mainstream CLM programme.



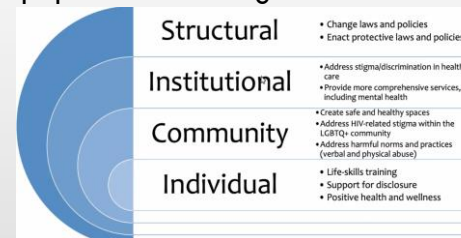
Data across the three quarters shows an increase in the proportion of clients reporting friendlier staff (70-81%), and a corresponding decrease in the proportion of clients reporting otherwise (29 – 18%)

LESSONS LEARNED

One key lesson was that transgender and intersex persons are best placed to solicit for feedback and document experiences of their community as they relate to accessing services from health facilities. Qualitative data collected through the community health advocates reflected several unknown realities such as that Transgender and Intersex persons seeking to access services from facilities were either denied access or recorded under sex workers or MSM despite them being totally different communities with peculiar needs.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Trans Smart Trust will advocate for the development of a National CLM strategy that has a structure which is inclusive of all the various Key and Vulnerable populations existing in Zimbabwe



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WHAT IS CLM IN ZIMBABWE

Community Led Monitoring is a PEPFAR Funded project which aim to compliment the efforts of the Government of Zimbabwe through community driven approaches to gather evidence as far as HIV and TB programming is concerned based on the lived realities of communities to better inform HIV and TB responses.

The project aims to improve the accessibility, affordability, appropriateness, acceptability, availability, efficiency and effectiveness of the TB and HIV services at facilities level.

This project seeks to strength community voices as it is of paramount importance that no one is left behind in ending HIV by 2030

This project will target community members and service users to document their narratives through lived experiences and realities in accessing HIV and TB with the aim improve health care service provision.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify barriers to accessing high quality health services in health facilities
2. Refer and track barriers to relevant authorities for resolution
3. To strengthen community voices to influence HIV policies and strategy development
4. Increase provision of targeted HIV testing services and proportion of eligible ART clients with documented viral load results in the 44 PEPFAR Districts Zimbabwe.