

Promising Policy Responses for Two Vulnerable Groups: Sex Workers and Males Who Have Sex with Males

Sex Workers		
	Key Factors in Vulnerability	Promising Policy Responses
Individual And Relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power differentials and greater pay to not use condoms. • Increased incidence of STIs . • Physical and sexual violence. • Poor self-esteem. • Increased drug and alcohol use. • Trust issues with stable partners and decreased likelihood of condom use. 	See below.
Social Norms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marginalized and stigmatized as “vectors” of HIV transmission. • Assumed that sexual violence toward sex workers impossible or not cause for concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs and media representation address stigma, shifting narrative of blame and shame. • Address norms of masculinity associated with violence, and risk-taking/ dominance (e.g., not using condoms).
Access To Information, Education, Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor access to needed, relevant information. • Stigma and discrimination in services and lack of access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to female condoms. • Relevant, explicit peer education programs. • STI programs that rely on education and respect for sex workers (not coercion). • Training to combat stigma & discrimination in services.
Policy and Legal Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police harassment and violence. • Policies that place responsibility on individual sex worker, not on clients and owners. • In some cases, mandatory testing policies that violate human rights. • Policies that prohibit congregating , directed toward effeminate-looking men. • Policies that inhibit sex worker exchange of information and organizing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights training for police; special centers or units to handle reports of violence and abuse (mixed evidence). • Policies that target responsibility of brothel owners and clients for safer sex and working conditions. • Policies/laws that do not interfere with ability of sex workers to organize, exchange information, etc <p>Note: Success of these depends on the amount of input and control sex workers have in their implementation, see below.</p>
Economic Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of access to economic resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to economic opportunities (microfinance, credit; education for children; youth livelihoods).
Social Networks and Political Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to organizing and participation in programs/policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for peer organizing /solidarity approach. • Inclusion of groups in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programming .

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Males Who Have Sex With Males

	Key Factors in Vulnerability	Promising Policy Responses
Individual And Relationship Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ MSM does not imply gay or bisexual identities. ⇒ Complex interaction between identity, desire, behavior and gender roles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Active and passive. ⇒ Patterns of protection with partners. • Sexual identity is source of stigma. • Lower self-esteem and sense of control. • Potential family & community rejection. • Link to drugs and alcohol . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive communities that are open about identity and sexuality are linked to increased self-esteem, self-efficacy, access to information, and protective practices. • See below.
Social Norms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homophobia limits recognition of MSM sexualities by policy makers & programmers, as well as men and communities at risk. • Culture of silence about sexuality. • Conservative religious environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs and media representations needed to break silence, promote positive coverage of MSM issues, human rights & HIV/AIDS • Challenge dominant norms of masculinities that sustain homophobia, and related S&D • Promote support in FBOs open to support for MSM, HIV, & HR issues
Access To Information, Education, Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of programs, information or services addressed towards diversity of identities and practices • Often secretive relations. Link between secretive relations and mobility make it harder to reach with information • Stigma & discrimination in services and lack of capacity among providers to address and respond to concerns • Inadequate focus on MSM in many health programs and systems (i.e. MOH) • Inadequate epidemiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions need to consider range of identities and practices in order to reach different groups and personalize understanding of risk and protective behaviors • Explicit, relevant information needs developed and shared via effective, peer-informed and peer-led outreach • Development of appropriate, accessible service and training to combat stigma & discrimination in services – and operational policies that provide for this • Adequate, nuanced epidemiology

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Males Who Have Sex With Males (continued)

	Key Factors in Vulnerability	Promising Policy Responses
Policy And Legal Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police abuse and harassment, especially of male sex workers, transvestites and “feminized” male clients • Existing laws and policies legislate against sexual rights and other human rights, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Laws against congregating ⇒ Laws that penalize same sex sexual relations and discriminate against sexual minorities ⇒ Vague morality laws used to persecute MSM • Where supportive legislation exists, disjuncture in laws and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritization of MSM issues within health system and policy • HR training for police on harassment/ violence • Legal and policy framework support sexual and human rights, and • Decriminalize sexual behavior • Permit sexually explicit information • Support freedom of movement/ congregation • Compliance with existing legal frameworks that support human rights in implementation and local ordinances • Capacity building at all levels and sectors to support HR approach
Economic Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and employment barriers due to stigma and discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach to livelihood needs included
Social And Political Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social stigma and hostile legal environment makes it harder to organize • Barriers to participation in programs/ policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for peer org. /solidarity approach • Inclusion of MSM groups in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programming