

## **Kenyan Key Population Recommendations for the PEPFAR Country Operation Plans 2015**

We, as key Populations networks commend the PEPFAR team for describing key populations as a priority in the PEPFAR response over the coming 3 years. We after going through the strategic direction summary would like to submit several recommendations with regards to key population programming and policy.

### Key Population Mapping and Integration:

The SDS rightly notes the challenge in determining accurate estimates of key population size. For the program to effectively reach key populations, there is urgent need to revise size estimation for key populations especially MSM to ensure effective programming. A mapping of the community needs to be done to be able to ensure that programming reaches the right numbers of MSM, Sex Workers and PWIDs. We are concerned that current estimates are most likely very conservative, and therefore targeting is under-ambitious. Therefore PEPFAR should prioritize improving size estimates and updating these targets accordingly.

### Key population transition sites:

Although we have been assured that key populations are prioritized in all the counties, we would like to highlight with concern that there is no comprehensive listing of key population centered and managed drop-in centers in the list of sites given by PEPFAR. We request clear mention of sites catering to key populations and integration of key population centered healthcare services that are managed by key population organizations in facilities listed in the saturation and maintenance counties to allow of sustainability and capacity building of key population organizations to provide services. We also need the SDS to clearly state how the 27 non priority counties will increase programming for key populations—what are the targets and budgets for the work in these 27 counties

### Increase in commodities:

While PEPFAR has said that key populations will be prioritized in all the counties, the description of core, near core and non-core activities state that key populations in the maintenance counties will only access condoms and lubricants. This is inconsistent with the commitment to expand service delivery for key population in these countries to be similar with 20 priority counties to ensure saturation of services to key populations and to achieve better impact.

## Human Rights:

During civil society group discussions of the SDS, biometric registration was mentioned to PEPFAR as a concern by key populations due to criminalization of our populations. The SDS mentions under the priority and key population prevention section that “enhanced monitoring protocol of all key population and tracking and retention will be done.” Monitoring and retention should only be done in a way that ensures the safety of key populations in the country, reduces fear of service seeking and does not violate human rights.

Increase of programs targeting advocacy by key population groups should be supported. Increased support for sensitization and human rights programs targeting police and law makers are necessary and the repulsion of the anti-prostitution pledge that stops sex workers from accessing PEPFAR funding should be repealed.

There is also need for a greater focus on programs that reduce stigma and discrimination such as training of healthcare workers to handle key populations.

## Community System Strengthening:

There is need to increase the reach of HIV testing and counselling through the increase of door to door testing and community healthcare workers working in the communities and not mainly focusing on the provider initiate testing. The initiative would ensure people in mainly non-care seeking communities are not missed by the vital HIV services required to end the epidemic and would broaden the access of key population service provision not only to hot spots.

## Effective Engagement of Key Populations:

We note that in order to ensure strong, representative and accountable consultation with key populations going forward, the key population representative requires more support, we request that PEPFAR, together with the K.P representative, convene adequate representatives from all the Key population (eg for quarterly review meetings) in order to adequately address the K.P issues in all its diversity. As Key Population we are taking steps to increase our representation at the leadership level.