

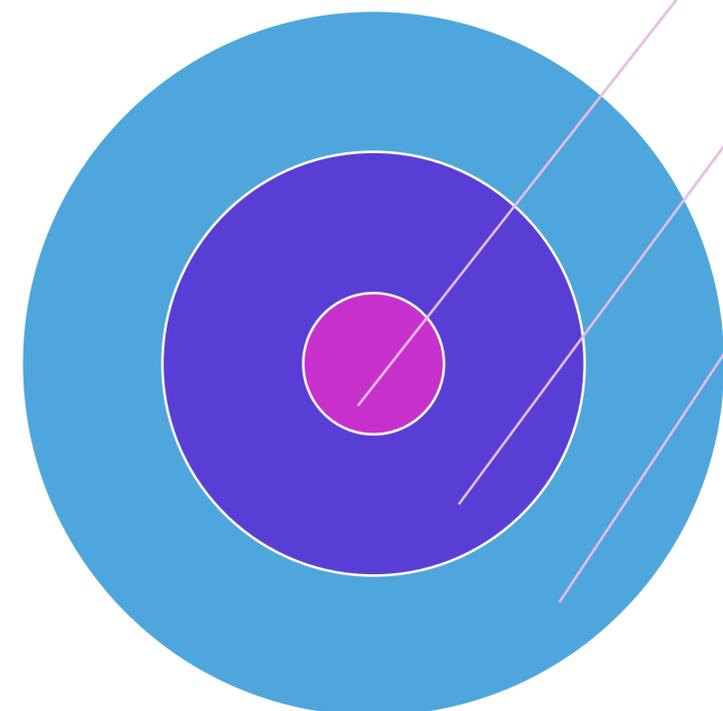
# Creating Supportive Environment For Enhanced KP HIV Prevention Programming And Increased Access To HIV Prevention Services for LGBTI+ People

## Background

Zimbabwe's adult HIV prevalence (14%) is one of the highest in the world. The country however has made tremendous progress over the past decade in scaling up HIV prevention (reduced incidence 2 to .45) and AIDS treatment and care services but the epidemic among LGBT people, especially among MSM and transgender individuals, continues to grow. The current HIV prevalence for MSM is estimated to be 23.5 while that for WSW is 32.6. No prevalence studies have been done for transgender women, but regional studies have shown that HIV risk is 49 times higher in transwomen than the general population, Currently PrEP is being offered only in 6 sites country wide. The country has already developed guidelines for the role out of PrEP. During its initial introduction and pilot studies, PrEP was being offered only to Sex Workers consequently resulting in a general misconception that PrEP is for Female Sex Workers. This has made PrEP uptake in all other high-risk populations significantly low. PrEP sensitization has not been comprehensively done and knowledge on PrEP is significantly low in the priority populations and even lower in the general population.



## Project Achievements



### Objective 1:

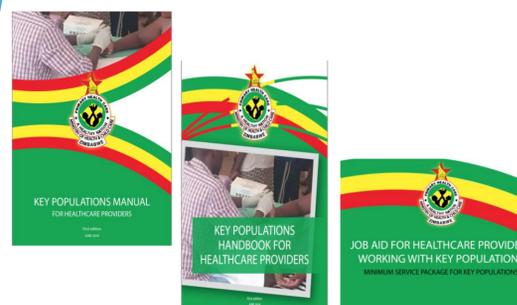
- Community sensitization programs were conducted in Harare and Bulawayo reaching to more than 1200 LGBT+ community members
- Number of public health facilities offering PrEP increased from 6 to 24, thereby increasing access
- National HCP training manual on was developed (together with handbook and Job aid)
- Minimum service Package for KPs was developed (with PrEP being priority for all KPs)
- 2 Harare based and 3 national health care provider trainings were done, training more than 350 HCP
- Capacity building of Peer Educators to strengthen sustainable community sensitization, HIV prevention literacy and demand for PrEP and other HIV services (60 PE Trained)

### Objective 2

- Formative study was conducted
- Volunteers were recruited and trained
- Data collection started on 25 March to end mid-June 2019
- Results expected end of 2019

### Objective 3

National KP Implementation plan was developed  
Plan is yet to be signed and launched before 30 April 2019



### Networks Created and Sustained

- ❖ Became member of the Zimbabwe Advocacy Core Team
- ❖ Became member of the National Key Population Forum
- ❖ Became member of the PrEP Technical Working Group
- ❖ Became member of the HIV Prevention Partnership Form

## LESSONS LEARNT

- **Functional Partnerships:** I understood through my project that advocacy pursuits ought not to be solo projects. The forging of networks, coalitions, synergies and complementary efforts among advocates, CSOs, development Agencies and Government are sine qua none, if advocacy goals are to be realized
- **Strategic Planning:** Advocacy is a strategy of effecting change. Planning and foresight are critical skills essential to advocacy success. As an advocate I had to predict possible responses from my targets, and that would help me plan the next strategy.
- **Knowledge and Evidence:** Advocacy is only powerful when backed by authentic evidence. Pursuing an advocacy agenda that serves sexual minorities in my context showed me that stakeholders need to be convinced by the concrete evidence, and as an advocate, I also needed to convince stakeholders that I was knowledgeable on the subject matter.
- **Being Opportunistic:** advocacy requires paying attention to negligible windows of opportunity that at times can change the trajectory of the whole project. The drive to push for the development of the KP implementation plan was as a result of one justification presentation we did at the KP forum, and it was during that meeting where stakeholders resolved the immediate need to start the process.
- **Flexibility:** Evidence and local context can change at any time and this can affect overall outcomes. When I started the fellowship, the objective was to develop a National Strategic Plan, but along the way, new evidence and schools of thought resulted in us changing to develop an Implementation plan.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AVAC Team: Manju Chatani Gada, Cindra Feuer, Angelo Kaggwa for being great mentors in my advocacy work  
GALZ staff: Chesterfield Samba (*Director*), Samuel Matsikure (*Prog Manager*), Gilbert Kunyarimwe (*Finance Manager*), Tash Dowell (*Communications Officer*)  
MoHCC: Taurai Bhatasara-(*National KP Co-ordinator*) Getrude Ncube-(*National Prevention Coordinator*)  
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