

Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition & Centro De Orientación E Investigación Integral

Three Year Regional Project Supported By Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Grant



About The Project

Countries of Implementation

- 1 CVC:
Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname
and Trinidad and Tobago
- 2 COIN:
Cuba, Dominican Republic, and
Haiti

Target Populations

- ✓ PLHIV, MSM, SW, PWUD, TG, MY
and Cross Cutting: Migrants and
Inmates

Principal Recipient

- UNDP United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

The Project Objectives Are:

The three-year, Global Fund supported, Caribbean Regional project of CVC-COIN (2016 - 2019), seeks to reduce the spread and impact of HIV in key populations across the Caribbean. Interventions will be undertaken to fully integrate KPs into the continuum of HIV care. There will be a strong focus on reducing or removing the barriers of stigma, discrimination, and rights breaches, which act as barriers to a successful HIV/AIDS Response.

The project will be implemented in eight countries and will see a series of coordinated and complimentary activities addressing Legal Barriers and Health as well as Community System Strengthening. It will strengthen Key Population networks and civil society's capacity for advocacy and for playing stronger more effective and diverse roles in HIV service delivery; and will also strengthen the ability of CSOs and NAPs to integrate community service delivery into the national response.

The coalition of project partners led by CVC and COIN includes University Rights Advocacy Project (URAP) as a technical legal support partner and the Caribbean Sex Work Coalition (CSWC), Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities (CariFLAGS), and the Caribbean Regional Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS(CRN+).

- a Improved legal and policy environments support delivery of and access to health and justice services for key populations.
- b Health care workers deliver services free of stigma and discrimination to key populations, improving access to and retention in care.
- c Community systems and key population networks use effective advocacy to obtain social accountability mechanisms and scale-up of best practice interventions by national programs.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Removing Legal Barriers to Access

With the exception of Cuba, and the partial exception of the Dominican Republic, no Caribbean country has moved significantly to remove the well documented legal and policy barriers to HIV-related human rights. The target countries have legal, policy, and social environments that are punitive towards key populations, making it difficult to provide or to access the services needed for preventing HIV and for treating those who are already infected. The project will undertake interventions to address policy and legislative change.



Health Systems Strengthening: (a) Health & Community Workforce

Strengthening community systems, is recognised by the Global Fund as “essential to ensuring that health programs are comprehensive and that they are responsive to needs, in particular the needs of marginalized groups”.¹ The importance of system strengthening is also recognized in the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework 2014-18. The project will build awareness of and receptivity to the contributions that KP communities can make, strengthen capacity of health care workers and systems and will seek opportunities to collaborate with government and NACs to link KP communities to the continuum of HIV care.

Health Systems Strengthening: (b) Community Systems Strengthening

Building capacity of KP communities is important for creating better understanding, more effective advocacy, and improved implementation options with respect to stigma, discrimination and human rights and health overall. The majority of Caribbean governments report that they address stigma and discrimination as cross-cutting issues in their national AIDS strategies. However, In light of continued reports of high levels of stigma and discrimination blocking effective HIV responses, the project will address the urgent need for increased understanding of what is being done and what more can be done to implement key human rights programmes in national HIV responses.



REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LINKAGES:

The CVC/COIN program will support the bottom up approach by CVC and complements and strengthens PANCAP's top- down approach and its proposed work to engage high-level decision-makers and parliamentarians by ensuring that:

- a Mobilized KP communities have the capacity to bring grassroots pressure to bear on political leaders;
- b Strengthened KP organizations can sustain momentum generated by the PANCAP, CVC/COIN, and other regional proposals;
- c Public sector institutions responsible for guaranteeing rights, including the judiciary and law enforcement, have the training to deliver appropriate services;
- d Training of community leaders and health workers to reduce stigma and discrimination will contribute effectively and durably to an enabling environment for key populations.
- e In country consultations were held with CSO, NAPs and Government and specifically with the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) to ensure non-duplication of activities.

Removing Legal Barriers

Other

Legal and Policy Environment Assessment & Law Reform

- a. Conduct legal assessment in 2 countries

Legal aid services and legal literacy

- a. Develop legal literacy manuals and IEC materials to build capacity of KPs using country- and population-specific information in 7 countries
- b. Strengthen CSOs/KP on human rights report writing, developing presentations, and engaging with regional and international human rights mechanisms
- c. Training of KP peers in human rights and as legal aides / community paralegals
- d. Support sub-awards to Member networks to support improved documentation, reporting, redress, and advocacy
- e. Training of Pro Bono lawyers to support strategic litigation/ KP case management
- f. Support Pro Bono Lawyers Panel

Policy Advocacy

- a. CSOs meetings to develop advocacy action plan
- b. In-country meetings to validate Regional Advocacy Plan
- c. Coordinate and support to facilitate KP and CSO participation in High Level Meetings undertaken by PANCAP
- d. Increase media presence and advocacy on legal and Human Rights issues
- e. Convening meetings within trained judicial officers and duty bearers to disseminate data, and undertake advocacy

Community Based Monitoring of Legal Rights

- a. Establish/support a CSO virtual database capability in 7 countries
- b. Training on Database use and legal literacy training (annual national trainings for 10 CSO community paralegals)
- c. Support to facilitate KP participation in and reporting to regional and international human rights bodies
- d. Support HR Observatory in the Dominican Republic
- e. Develop a manual and protocols to ensure technical quality of the documentation by participating CSOs and networks
- f. Support community paralegals to facilitate access to justice and provide peer outreach and training to KPs on their rights
- g. Provide Technical Assistance

- a. Identify security and safety imperatives for KP human rights defenders.

Health System Strengthening

Scaling up health and community systems.

- a. Meetings with NAPs and CSOs to agree integration of Peer-to-Peer intervention models to support increased testing and retention
- b. Support Model peer-to-peer interventions that increase access to testing, access to health services in 8 countries
- c. Social mobilization, building community linkages, collaboration and coordination
- d. Engage EQUITAS to support cross movement building sharing
- e. Training community leaders, including religious leaders on sexuality and sexual health - Sexual health and sexual diversity trainings rolled out in countries for key community and religious groups in 6 countries
- f. Institutional capacity building, planning and leadership development
- g. Institutional and operational capacity assessments of KP networks executed and capacity development toolkits developed

PROJECT ACTIVITIES



“To Deny People Their Human Rights Is To Challenge Their Very Humanity” - Nelson Mandela

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Community Systems Strengthening

Social Mobilization Building Community Linkages Collaboration & Coordination

- a. 2-day Regional Consultation & Training Package for 30 participants
- b. Country level meetings/workshops that strengthen and orient lead NGOs/CBOs executed
- c. Capacity building in Human Rights Advocacy; coordination and oversight developed
- d. Technical Assistance in Advocacy for social accountability
- e. Sub- Award to regional Networks (CRN+, CSWC and CariFLAGS)
- f. Regional Advocacy Training for community leaders from the different KP Networks

- h. Support and fund 5 Regional KAP network advocacy campaigns developed and implemented by KP networks that include both a regional and local action plan
- i. Strengthen leadership capacity of young leaders from regional network in monitoring governance
- j. Strengthen leadership of Trans leaders from regional network in monitoring governance
- k. Award of four Community Monitoring Programme Packages in 4 countries to groups of HIV positive youth

Others

- a. Support and Resources provided for the development of 6 model gender based violence programmes supported during 2 years in 6 countries.
- b. Monitoring and Evaluation
- c. Mid Term Evaluation



Stay Connected:

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