

LINKING POLICY TO PROGRAMMING

A regional project to reduce HIV risk and improve sexual and reproductive health of young key populations in the Southern African Development Community



OVERVIEW:

The Linking Policy to Programming (LPP) regional project is part of the global action undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and its partners to implement the recommendations of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law on issues of discrimination; criminalization of HIV transmission, exposure and non-disclosure; key populations; women, children and youth; intellectual property law; and the global fight for treatment.

Access to HIV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for young key populations are limited due to several interrelated factors, including restrictive political and legal environments such as age specific laws and policies (e.g. age of consent and mandatory parental consent and notification requirements) that restrict autonomous access to SRH services such as HIV testing, contraceptives, abor-

tion, and pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP and PrEP). Lack of youth friendly SRH services in health facilities, schools and prisons as well as limited capacity of service providers and lack of data and information also continue to pose challenges for young people's access to services including for young key populations.

Linking Policy to Programme is implemented by UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (lead), in partnership with the African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMShEr), and the Health Economics and HIV and AIDS Research Division HEARD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The project is financially supported by the Leave No One Behind initiative of the Netherlands Government on improving sexual health and rights of young people in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

The project aims to improve SRH outcomes for young key populations in the SADC countries by strengthening HIV and SRH-related rights of young key populations.

OBJECTIVES:

- To strengthen the capacity of national governments to put in place laws, policies and strategies in the context of HIV and SRH that respect the rights of young key populations.
- To strengthen the capacity of regional and national civil society organizations, including community-based groups to claim rights and advocate for rights-based national HIV and SRH-related laws, policies and strategies that improve HIV and SRH service provision for young key populations.
- To strengthen the capacity and leadership of SADC to support member states to put in place and implement legal, policy and strategy environments that respect the rights of young key populations.
- To strengthen understanding and application of human rights and HIV and SRH related indicators and milestones for young key populations in national and regional frameworks.

INTERVENTIONS:

UNDP

- National Legal Environment Assessments and development of National Action Plans.
- Civil Society Advocacy Engagement Scans.
- Capacity strengthening of parliamentarians, policy makers, law enforcement and the judiciary.

- Development of tools on the HIV/SRH-related needs and rights of young key populations.
- Strengthen SADC regional frameworks to address HIV/SRH needs/rights of young key populations.

AMSHER

- Capacity strengthening of young key populations to engage in policy processes related to HIV/SRH rights.
- Develop mechanisms for community inputs into policy development and service provision.

HEARD

- Country level baseline studies to identify gaps in knowledge of young key populations SRHR.
- Mid-term review and development of M&E indicators.
- Operational research exploring barriers to access and service/programme needs.
- Resource tracking.
- Cross country comparative analysis.

FOCUS:

The project focuses on young key populations,¹ i.e. young sex workers, young men who have sex with men, young people who use drugs, young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex and young people in prisons.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:

The project covers Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It also supports the SADC Secretariat to integrate young key population issues in regional strategies and programmes.

DURATION:

October 2016 to December 2020.

1 The WHO definition of young key populations includes people aged 10–24, including children 10–17 who are sexually exploited, young adults 18–24 who are sex workers, and adults who have consensual sex with same sex partners.

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Or visit our website:

<http://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/about-us/projects/linking-policy-to-programming/>

<https://www.amsher.org/projects/>

<https://www.heard.org.za/>