

# **Early Directional Findings of a Global Working Group on Children of Key Populations**

**July 16 2016 – Durban**  
*Children and HIV: Equity Now! Symposium*

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*“My children need to know  
that I love them. I am working  
for them.”*

*- a sex worker from South Africa*



# Two year ago we asked:

What do the children of  
HIV-affected key population  
adults need most?



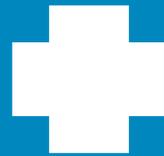
# It provoked a 2<sup>nd</sup> question:

## Why don't we know the answer?



# Why ask these questions?

Mounting anecdotal evidence  
from service providers



Key population networks being  
told this is a priority



Equity-based response  
required



# Our international working group:

- The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS;
- Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP);
- The Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+);
- Harm Reduction International (HRI);
- International HIV/AIDS Alliance (The Alliance);
- International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD);
- The Global Forum of Men who have Sex with Men (MSMGF);
- Regional Interagency Task Team on Children and HIV for Eastern & Southern Africa (RIATT-ESA);
- UCSF Center for Excellence in Transgender Health.



# We set out to:

1. Document the issues;
2. Ask parents what they want to see for their children; and
3. Determine advocacy priorities



# Four-part project

1. Info-gathering

2. Analysis

3. Advocacy strategy development

4. Advocacy!

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# This presentation

1. Info-gathering

2. Analysis

# Info gathering was in 3 stages

- 1 a. Info-gathering: Survey of organizations
- b. Info-gathering: Reviewing documents
- c. Info-gathering: Community consultations

# Organizational Surveys

- 1 a. Info-gathering: Survey of organizations
- b. Info-gathering: Reviewing documents
- c. Info-gathering: Community consultations

## 1a. Survey of organizations

### Questions asked were:

1. Are you providing service or advocacy? And if not, why?
2. Are you willing and able to provide service and/or do advocacy? And if not, why?
3. What other organizations are doing this work?

## 1a. Survey of organizations

### Response rate:

1. Service orgs: 35 orgs responded out of 217
2. Key population orgs: 10 responded out of 32

Key message: There's an untapped opportunity to do more – *if supported and encouraged*

## 1a. Survey of organizations

### **Key themes – service organizations:**

1. Very few providing service – with some shining examples;
2. Even fewer doing advocacy;
3. Mainly school support;
4. Half were ready to do more – but lacked capacity or funding, or weren't sure how to respond

## 1a. Survey of organizations

### **Key themes – key pop organizations:**

1. A greater percentage – half – providing support;
2. Those who do, do so in a comprehensive way;
3. Many want to do more – but identify the same barriers ... and others, including:
  - Lack of ability to respond to parents not being mobile;
  - Self-stigma of parents

## 1a. Survey of organizations

### **The opportunity:**

- A willingness of organizations to do more – if supported

# Review of collected documents

1 a. Info-gathering: Survey of organizations ✓

b. Info-gathering: Reviewing documents

c. Info-gathering: Community consultations

## 1b. Review of collected documents

- 52 documents
- Documents were sorted, classified and annotated
- Key messages:
  - Some interesting research and models jumped out, but a more comprehensive literature review is clearly needed – encompassing all key populations
  - More research is needed... but from an agenda set by key population parents.

## 1b. Review of collected documents

### Why the need?

- In the words of Imogen Byrne:

*“While a large body of research has shown that problematic drug use does impede parenting skills, there are a wider range of experiences of functional drug using adults and their families that research has historically ignored.”*

## 1b. Review of collected documents

### **Commentary:**

- Documents were apples to oranges
- Some interesting research and models jumped out, but...

...A more comprehensive literature review is clearly needed – encompassing all key populations

# Community consultations

- 1 a. Info-gathering: Survey of organizations ✓
- b. Info-gathering: Reviewing documents ✓
- c. Info-gathering: Community consultations

# Again, we asked parents:

What do the children of  
HIV-affected key population  
adults need most?



## 1c. Community consultations

### Methods:

- Consultations in Indonesia, Guyana, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Ukraine;
- Mix of key populations
- Community consultants did interviewing
- One-on-one interviews & focus groups
- 8 final reports submitted to the working group in April

## 1c. Community consultations

### Issue #1: Child protection & safeguarding

*“My children are very young and I leave them with my neighbour but [one of my children] got raped... there was no support for me even now I never go for counseling...the person who raped my child is the son of my nanny...she denied [it] and said her son never did such a thing.”*

## 1c. Community consultations

### **Issue #1: Child protection & safeguarding**

- The parents' dilemma: Food or safety?
- Mostly an issue for sex workers, but lack of flexible, safe, after-hours childcare is an issue for all key populations
- Occasionally, police apprehension also an issue

## 1c. Community consultations

### **Issue #2: General stigma and discrimination**

*“Living in a country such as South Africa ... these children are regularly expected to ... preach to their parents with regards to their way of life. ...the children then suffer tremendously ... and isolate themselves.”*

## 1c. Community consultations

### **Issue #3: Exclusion from or decreased access to education**

Leigh Davids writes of the children of transgender parents:

*“Teachers and fellow scholars don’t understand them, bully and tease and see them as abnormal. ...This then has major effects on their daily learning.”*

## 1c. Community consultations

### **Issue #3: Exclusion from or decreased access to education**

Stigma



Bullying



Dropping out or changing schools

## 1c. Community consultations

### Other issues:

4. Inadequate, missing or siloed services
  - Lack of health services;
  - Lack of social services;
  - Lack of services in rural areas, versus in the big cities;
  - Siloing services;
  - Lack of uptake of services.

## 1c. Community consultations

### Other issues:

5. Dislocation from communities of origin – whose effect on the child is reduced access to support network, and a reduced connection to family and community history
6. Separation of children from parents
  - Child removal
  - MSM fathers being dislocated from their children

## 1c. Community consultations

### Other issues:

7. Legal barriers, lack of legal protection or lack of human rights protection – which have a knock-on effect on the child:

*“My child was defiled at 5 years and ...when I went to local authorities to report the case I was told that I am a prostitute and so I should not complain about what happened to my child.” (sex worker from Uganda)*

8. Compounding effects of poverty, which affects the children

## 1c. Community consultations

### **Other issues:**

9. Self-stigma:
10. Lack of birth registration due to lack of proper government ID of parent or child

## 1c. Community consultations

### **Support given – or not given – an uneven report card:**

Consultant Erastus Ndunda writes:

*“There is not a single sex worker-led organization (in Kenya) that support children of sex workers. The reason is that most groups are focused on addressing the issues faced by sex workers themselves.”*

## 1c. Community consultations

### **Support given – or not given – an uneven report card:**

On the other hand, those who were providing support were giving:

- Hampers for adults and children;
- School supplies;
- Social support for children;
- Social security... facilitating access to It (South Africa);
- Peer and other support to parents ;
- Memory projects/ identity work done with children of key populations.

**From all of this we asked ourselves:**

**What do the children of  
HIV-affected key population  
adults need most?**



# Analysis

- 1
  - a. Info-gathering: Survey of organizations ✓
  - b. Info-gathering: Reviewing documents ✓
  - c. Info-gathering: Community consultations ✓

## 2. Analysis

## Analysis: Five priority advocacy goals

Advocacy goal	Advocacy targets
<b>1. Putting children in adult key population advocacy strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• organizations doing advocacy, including key population networks and organizations</li></ul>

## Analysis: Five priority advocacy goals

Advocacy goal	Advocacy targets
<b>2. Better, safer, child care &amp; safe spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• community organizations providing child care &amp; the funders that support them</li></ul>

## Analysis: Five priority advocacy goals

Advocacy goal	Advocacy targets
<b>3. Breaking down of educational barriers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• schools &amp; school boards;</li><li>• families of other students;</li><li>• students.</li></ul>

## Analysis: Five priority advocacy goals

Advocacy goal	Advocacy targets
<b>4. Transforming services and clinics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• organizations doing advocacy, including key population networks and organizations</li></ul>

## Analysis: Five priority advocacy goals

Advocacy goal	Advocacy targets
<b>5. Targeted education &amp; action re: stigma effects on children of key populations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NGOS/CBOs/key population organizations</li><li>• urban communities &amp; organizations;</li><li>• schools;</li><li>• police;</li><li>• religious institutions;</li><li>• governments.</li></ul>

# Next Step: Advocacy Strategy Meeting – September 28-29-30

- 1 a. Info-gathering: Survey of organizations ✓  
b. Info-gathering: Reviewing documents ✓  
c. Info-gathering: Community consultations ✓

2. Analysis ✓

3. Advocacy strategy development

4. Advocacy!

## Advocacy strategy development: objectives

1. Agree on main problems and issues;
2. Develop/ confirm advocacy goals;
3. Develop an advocacy action plan for advancement by meeting partners.

# Advocacy work by partners: October 2016 and beyond

- 1 a. Info-gathering: Survey of organizations ✓  
b. Info-gathering: Reviewing documents ✓  
c. Info-gathering: Community consultations ✓
2. Analysis ✓
3. Advocacy strategy development
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# Support us in fighting for...

...what children of HIV-  
affected key population  
adults need most!





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