

# Quality Project HIV Best Practices Briefer #2

## Developing Comprehensive Package Policies for Key Populations\

### Background

In 2013, the Quality Project assisted groups of national stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan to review the global guidance documents, summarized by Quality Project for use in Central Asia and translated into Russian, and to develop a national Comprehensive Package of Services for each key population, to be adopted through local policy or legislation (as appropriate).

All three packages were based on WHO standard guidance, with the following combinations of outside guidance being used as supplementary materials:

- For PWID, the 2012 updated WHO guidance developed in collaboration with UNODC and UNAIDS, supplemented with the 2010 PEPFAR guidance on PWID
- For MSM, the 2011 WHO guidance issued, supplemented with the 2011 PEPFAR guidance for MSM
- For SW, WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and NSWP (funded by PEPFAR) guidance that describes a set of HIV combination prevention guidelines

In July 2014, WHO released a consolidated guidance document that addresses common issues in programming and monitoring and evaluation for all key populations. This consolidated guidance contains the same interventions described in the original guidance docs above, but allows for additional specificity on gender-sensitive and youth programming, as well as providing more guidance on moving from policy to implementation, and monitoring implementation progress.

### Implementation Details

While each country used a slightly adapted version to implement the policy development process, the following general steps were taken by each Quality Project country team:

1. Development of a reference guide (done at the regional level)
2. Establishment of consensus with stakeholders on the need for national policy, through a multi-sectoral stakeholder roundtable
3. Selection of a local expert team, to lead policy drafting and revision (1-3 individuals)
4. Creation of a working group to review and confirm drafts
5. Survey of existing information and recommendations by local expert team
6. Interviews and consultations with stakeholders by local expert team
7. Drafting of country recommendations by local expert team, and gathering feedback on first draft
8. Presentation and discussion of revised draft by local expert team, after incorporation of feedback
9. Seeking adoption by CCM and confirmation through Ministry of Health and other ministries, as appropriate, by Quality Project team

Extensive details on this process, as implemented in Kyrgyzstan for the PWID package, are available in the report *Developing a Comprehensive Packages of Services for People Who Inject Drugs in Kyrgyzstan – A Process Analysis*, by Pinkham et al.

### Outcomes

The development and adoption of comprehensive packages are ongoing processes in each country, and will need continued support during the implementation and monitoring phase. However, since this process is unique in the developing world and may inform upcoming USAID initiatives including the global *Linkages* key populations initiative, it is important to recognize the following intermediate outcomes:

- Process established in each country for developing key populations-related policies to guide the

HIV response.

- Final draft policies developed for PWID and MSM in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.
- Final draft of PWID and MSM policies used to guide Global Fund Concept Note development in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- Final draft of PWID and MSM policies utilized as guidance for structuring WHO midterm review of National HIV Strategy in Tajikistan (Autumn 2013) and for planning of the next National HIV Strategy, 2015-2020.
- Final draft of PWID and MSM policies made available to Republican AIDS Center in Kazakhstan for use in developing national HIV strategic plan as part of next national health sector strategy for 2016-2020 (*plan not yet released for public review*).

### Suggested Next Steps

While the Quality Project considers the early policy work on comprehensive packages to be a success in this novel area of policy development, much is left to be done to achieve implementation. Suggested next steps include:

- The Quality Project should assist national partners in reviewing previously-drafted policies to include critical updates from the 2014 WHO Consolidated Guidance on HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care for Key Populations. Special attention should be paid to the addition of overdose prevention as a core intervention for PWID; the clear distinction of transgender individuals as a risk group separate from MSM; and an increased emphasis on monitoring of service delivery.
- The Quality Project should also continue to support full adoption of national policies by all relevant bodies, including Ministries of Health and CCMs in Year 5 of the project. The new WHO Consolidated Guidance provides a helpful Policy Brief that may be useful in presenting this policy to decision-makers.
- Future USAID initiatives should focus on helping countries to create and execute detailed implementation plans, and monitoring implementation, with a particular focus on NGO involvement in implementation where appropriate.
- Global Fund Implementation Units and CCMs should consider comprehensive package implementation plans when developing Concept Notes and during the grant making stage with the Global Fund Secretariat, to assure that plans are appropriately funded.

Throughout all of these phases, it is highly recommended that all parties consult the updated WHO consolidated guidance, which gives recommendations on implementation and monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive packages.

### Further Reading

World Health Organization. 2014. Consolidated Guidance on HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care for Key Populations. Geneva, Switzerland. Accessible at:

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/128048/1/9789241507431\\_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/128048/1/9789241507431_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1)

Pinkham, Sophie; Burrows, Dave; Bolotbaeva, Aisuluu. October 2013. Technical Report: Developing a Comprehensive Packages of Services for People Who Inject Drugs in Kyrgyzstan – A Process Analysis. USAID Quality Health Care Project in the Central Asian Republics, Abt Associates Inc.

McCallum, Lou; Burrows, Dave and Parsons, Danielle. 2013. *Comprehensive Package of Services for Sex Workers: A Reference Guide for Implementation in Central Asia*. USAID Quality Health Care Project in Central Asia. [Unpublished draft]

McCallum, Lou; Burrows, Dave and Parsons, Danielle. 2013. *Comprehensive Package of Services for Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender People: A Reference Guide for Implementation in Central Asia*. USAID Quality Health Care Project in Central Asia. [Unpublished draft]

Burrows, Dave & Parsons, Danielle. 2013. *Comprehensive Package of Services for People Who Inject Drugs: A Reference Guide for Implementation in Central Asia*. USAID Quality Health Care Project in Central Asia. [Unpublished draft]