



HPTN

HIV Prevention
Trials Network

Best Practices in Recruiting Sex Workers (Kenya Experience)

HPTN annual Meeting

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Agenda

- Background information on sex work in kenya
- Community engagement team
- Factors to consider when reaching out to Sex workers
- Recruitment strategies

Background

- Sex work is one of the oldest profession
- Some sex workers get involved to meet their basic needs in many developing countries
- Widely practiced in Kenya
 - Female sex work
 - Male sex work
 - Special categories
- Contribute to the greater HIV burden in Kenya
- Illegal in Kenya

Background: Kenyan Penal Code

- The Kenyan Penal Code does not criminalize sex work
- Defines two types of offences with respect to sex work, namely “living on the earnings of prostitution” and “soliciting or importuning for immoral purposes.”
 - Detention of females for immoral purposes (section 151)
 - Male person living on the earnings of prostitution or soliciting (section 153)
 - Woman living on earnings of prostitution or aiding, abetting or compelling an individual to engage in sex work (section 154)
 - Premises used for prostitution or residing in or frequenting or living in a house wholly or in part on the earnings of prostitution (section 155)
 - Running a brothel (section 156)

Community Engagement team

- Have diverse experience in recruiting different categories of participants
- Self motivated and special interest in the different categories of target population
- Include CAB members
- Include members from the community who fall within the target population

Factors to consider when recruiting sex workers

- Sex worker category
- Membership/affiliation to associations and organization
- Age and length of experience in sex work
- Locality and 'control' of hot spots
- Type of clientele
- Ability to freely participate in research study
- Legal and social and logistical recruitment barriers
- Available local intervention programs that target sex workers

Community entry process

- Involvement of CAB (have a representative)
- Sensitization and involvement of the key partners/ gatekeepers (MOH, Social Services, NGOs, National government)
- Sensitization of key female sex worker affiliated stakeholders
- Identification of peer/community recruiters
- Referral and scheduling of participants
- Real-time response to feedback

Best Practices

- Involve the CAB in all decision making process
- Involve the members of sex work in every process. Let them own the process
- Respect the profession and always identify with them
- Be patient with the demands even if they sound unrealistic

Best Practices cont.

- Share correct information don't raise high expectations
- Recognize the role they play in the study and where possible reward achievements
- Peer recruiters contribute significantly to getting sex workers from their networks
- Ensure you secure support from legal and law enforcement organizations where sex work is illegal

Summary

- Participation of sex workers in research will depend on their involvement in the process, respect for their profession and safeguarding their rights as individuals

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Kisumu CRS staff

Study participants

Community engagement team, Kisumu

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