



Engaging female sex workers

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- Sex workers' risk for HIV infection occurs within a context characterized by powerful structural constraints
- Sex workers are exposed to multiple forms of stigma, discrimination & violence e.g. occupation, HIV, gender
- Without addressing these factors, the HIV response among sex workers is likely to be limited in its effectiveness



Community empowerment

- Community empowerment is an **approach**, set within a broader health and human rights framework, which shapes and creates synergy across intervention components (biomedical, behavioural, structural)
- Cannot be reduced to a specific activity (e.g., a drop-in-center or other “mobilization” activities)



Implementation

- Community empowerment often starts with the promotion of internal **social cohesion** and ensuring a safe space to gather
- Mobilization of **collective power** and action to address the social and structural context of HIV risk
- **Sex worker participation** in processes to influence access to material resources

Need to undertake this in the context of wider stakeholder engagement

Accessible services that address SW priorities

- Stakeholder engagement – Ministries of Health and Social Welfare, police, judiciary, politicians, media
- Community engagement – Safe space
- Staff training (both within and without specialist services)
- Support community mobilisation /empowerment activities
- Support for active follow up