

***RIGHTS PROTECTION AND PROGRAMMING FOR
KEY POPULATIONS IN GHANA: THE ROLE OF THE
GHANA POLICE SERVICE CONDUCTING
INTEGRATED BIO-BEHAVIOURAL SURVEILLANCE
SURVEY***

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ISSUES

- **Ghana has recorded significant progress in the fight against HIV over the last decade.**
- **Prevalence has plateaued around 1.31% in the general population (15-49yrs) but in 2015 the prevalence inched up a little to 1.67%.**
- **Significant challenges exist amongst key populations (KPs) where prevalence is 15 times higher than the general population -11% for FSWs and 17% for MSMs according to 2011 IBBSS estimates.**
- **however, prevalence among FSWs in the recent IBBSS conducted in 2015 recorded 6.9%**

ISSUES (2)

- **The enforcement of laws by law enforcement agents such as the Police stand in the way of progress in addressing HIV especially amongst KPs.**
- **Therefore, the involvement of the police in KP programming is critical to facilitate success in implementation of activities targeting KPs.**

DESCRIPTION

- **Factoring the contribution of KPs to the overall basket of HIV infection is critical to enable effective decision making and programming.**
- **An IBBSS was conducted in 2015 with objectives that included identification of potential linkages between Core Transmission Groups (KPs) and the General Population.**

DESCRIPTION

- **A key component of the IBBSS related to the law enforcement regime and the need to ensure that the said environment did not jeopardize the study.**
- **The Ghana Police Service (GPS) aids control programme was therefore positioned to address security perspectives regarding the study.**
- **Police also conducted focus group discussions and key informant interviews.**

LESSONS LEARNED

- **The police hierarchy's knowledge and approval of the study was critical. Sex Work and Unnatural Carnal Knowledge are crimes under the laws of Ghana;**
- **Misdemeanor for those 18years and above and**
- **Severe punishment (felony) when one partner is a minor.**
- **The support from the police hierarchy stemmed from high level advocacy consultations on the study and the benefits thereof**

LESSONS LEARNED (2)

- **This resulted in**
- **a) Meaningful Police engagement to protect study sites,**
- **b) Formation of Rapid Response Teams at both national and regional levels to respond to security threats**
- **c) Engaging leadership of participating NGOs on security tips.**
- **However, inadequate security at some sites gave room for raids.**

ISSUES ENCOUNTERED

- **Hate speech on local radio stations**
- **Challenges with recruitment**
- **Break-ins at the study sites**
- **These challenges provided bases for re-designing the current study with is on-going**

NEXT STEPS

- **Meaningful engagement of the police enables better security awareness and adoption of appropriate measures for effective conduct of research involving KPs.**
- **The Ghana Police Service is committed to protecting the rights of KP during such evidence gathering activities.**