

Towards an Enabling Environment:
Enhancing Partnerships between Law
Enforcement, Criminal Justice and HIV
programs working with key populations

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What do we know?

- Police can play an incredibly important role in the HIV response
- Partnerships between police, criminal justice systems, HIV programs and civil society in the HIV response are supported by multiple UN resolutions
- Partnerships are happening around the world at the local level more often than the national level
- We need to design programs that lead to partnership opportunities

Creating Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

- Police understanding professional responsibility for **protecting themselves** (workplace safety) and their role to **protect the rights of diverse and vulnerable people, especially their right to access HIV prevention services (by creating an ENABLING ENVIRONMENT)**

Police policy and principles, resources and training institutionalised across police academies and police stations

Overarching Principles for Police involvement with diverse populations

- Respect for the needs of affected groups of population
- Prioritization of immediate harms, basing policy and practice on evidence
- KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY

Case Studies – The Win Win Principles

- Partnerships should result in benefits for police and the community
- The WIN WIN principle

South Asia

- Community-based policing models in Bangladesh
- 3000 police officers trained on the role of police in HIV prevention at community level
- Police create “tolerance zones” where police, drug users and NGOs understand that HIV prevention is the first priority.
- Result: NGOs report that HIV risk behavior of injecting drug users decreased significantly, police report less community disturbance

NEPAL

- Royal Nepal Police design HIV Policy and Strategy in 2005, also started the Human Rights Unit of the Nepal Police.
- Results: Services for HIV prevention among Key affected populations increases from 20% coverage to almost 80% coverage (MSM and IDU). Police divert drug users out of custody and spend less police resources on drug related arrests

Australia

Whole of Government approach to HIV prevention among
Injecting Drug Users

Scale up of Needle Syringe Programs

Police become key partner of the programs

- Result: HIV among drug users remains under 1% since 1987.
Police able to use discretion powers and save time and
resources

Vietnam

- Scale up of community based methadone across several provinces in Vietnam with police helping refer drug users to community based treatment
- Results: Police report a significant drop in crime and a drop in the size of the drug market.

What are the key ingredients to partnerships between police and the community?

1. LEADERSHIP

The Importance of LEADERSHIP

- Leadership from both police and civil society
- We need people who can meet regularly and represent the views of their organisations.
- Respectful and collaborative leadership

2. Working with and respecting NGOs and Civil Society

Importance of coordinating mechanisms between police and NGOs and government health sector

- Case examples highlight that building collaboration with NGOs can result in very positive outcomes for police
- Joint trainings between police and NGOs
- NGOs can be your best friends and biggest helpers

3. POLICE REFORM

The importance of police operational, educational and cultural reform

- Development of harm reduction and HIV prevention curriculum (role of police)
- Without police reform progress difficult
- Police need to feel supported in their reform efforts

4. COMMUNICATION

The Importance of formal and informal communication channels between police and civil society and HIV programs

- Provincial and local task forces
- Key actors from both sectors knowing each other

5. ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL DRIVERS

Addressing Structural Drivers

- Violence, intimidation, biases and corruption
- Policy and practices, MOUs, SOPs
- Scaled up programs
- Working with NGOs and Government to make sure program design specifically prioritises a Law Enforcement Advocacy and Partnership plan

6. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

The need for monitoring and evaluation of the enabling environment

- What are the variables of interest?
- Decrease incidence of police harassment
- Better community engagement
- Better understanding of the needs of vulnerable groups
- Increase in public health service uptake
- crime reduction

End Game

- Help support investment strategy options that enhance partnership development
- Align the science of the enabling environment with the politics
- Work towards a Health in All Policies approach

Figure: Road map for building enhanced partnership between law enforcement, public health and civil society

