

Dissemination of the WHO Guidelines on HIV and STI Prevention and Treatment among MSM and Transgender people

Funder: German BACKUP Initiative

In 2013-2014, ECF was funded by the German Backup Initiative to implement a project aimed at supporting the dissemination of the WHO guidelines in South Africa, South Sudan, Kenya, and Uganda, through the Eastern and Southern Africa Learning Hub Network (ESAKH). The German BACKUP Initiative has been assisting applicant countries to utilize Global Fund grants effectively since 2002.

The global health programme is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and, since 2013, additionally funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

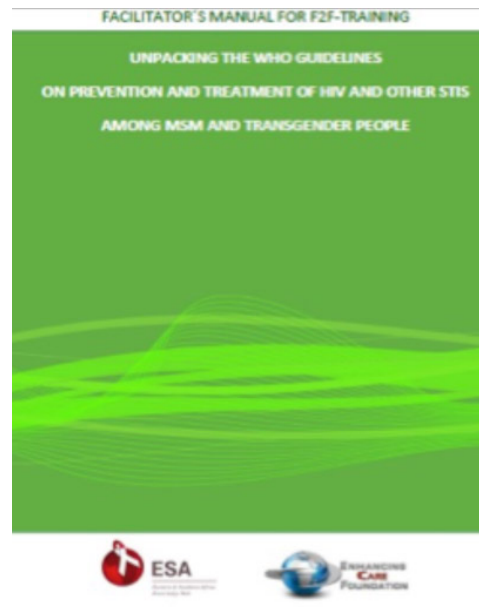
In the area of technical support coordination, BACKUP cooperates closely with the Global Fund Secretariat and other bilateral providers of technical support, as well as with the United Nations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



The above-mentioned project involved the development and piloting of an innovative 'blended' learning programme aimed at sensitizing health workers to the barriers MSM and transgender people face on accessing preventative and curative health services, encouraging acceptance of sexual diversity, and supporting strategies to improve the MSM and transgender friendliness of health services.

The project involved developing a training programme for health workers, training trainers from African countries, and supporting the pilot training of health workers by these trainers. The training programme was blended because trainers and health

workers were initially trained in face-to-face workshops, followed by an online eLearning course.



This project was implemented at a time when a massive wave of intense homophobia was sweeping across Africa, including attempts by the Ugandan government to enforce the Anti- Homosexuality Bill. Despite these challenges, pilot trainings were successfully conducted with health workers in Uganda, South Sudan and South Africa.

This successful project produced user friendly and internally and externally reviewed Trainer and Participant manuals, utilized innovative training methodologies, and produced a functional eLearning programme that further developed the material covered in the face-to-face trainings.

After the completion of the project, Dr Pragasi Pillay of ECF presented a talk titled 'Becoming comfortable with sexuality: a pilot training programme for sensitizing health workers to the fluidity of gender, sexual orientation, and sexual play in transgender people and MSM' at the 2nd Trans* Health Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa in May 2014.