

A Community Guide to the Global Fund's Strategy in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities (SOGI)



Regional Platform
for Communication and Coordination
on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
For Anglophone Africa

BEFORE WE GET STARTED, A REMINDER THAT THE GLOBAL FUND IS COMMITTED TO:

Supporting public health interventions that address social and gender inequalities, as well as behavior practices that fuel the spread of the three diseases, with an emphasis on health education.



Eliminating stigmatization of and discrimination against those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, especially for women, children and vulnerable groups.

As part of improving impact amongst vulnerable groups, the Global Fund adopted a Gender Strategy. It consists of the Gender Equality Strategy and the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities (SOGI) Strategy. Here we deal with the SOGI Strategy.

WHAT ARE SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITIES?

Each person's capacity for emotional, affectional and sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, other individuals (of the same, different or more than one gender)

Each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not be the same as the sex assigned at birth, including the personal sense of the body and other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerisms.



A focus on sexual orientation and gender identities is about all people whose sexual orientation, gender identity and/or sexual behaviours do not conform to majority norms and values, focusing on adults engaging in consensual sexual behaviours that increase their health-related vulnerabilities.

WHO ARE SEXUAL MINORITIES?

These communities have different experiences, vulnerabilities and health risks. They face challenges in being able to access or benefit from Global Fund grants and face social and structural barriers to the realization of their health and rights.

In contexts often characterized by stigma and discrimination based on sexual orientation, prevention services to these people haven had limited reach and marginalization and criminalization have led to the denial of health care.



SOME FAST FACTS:

- HIV/AIDS disproportionately impacts sexual minorities
- HIV prevalence among sex workers is higher than in the general population
- HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men is high (**25%** in Africa, **11%** in the Caribbean, **28%** in southeast Asia and as high as **51%** in some parts of Latin America).
- Even higher HIV prevalence rates are found among transgender people

IN ORDER TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF SOGI COMMUNITIES, THE GLOBAL FUND IS FOCUSING ON A NUMBER OF KEY ACTIONS. SOME OF THESE ARE SUMMARIZED HERE:

ACTION	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?	WHAT ABOUT US?
1. Improving Country Coordinating Mechanisms	1. Provide guidance to improve experience and expertise related to SOGI	The Global Fund wants to make sure that (especially when it comes to SOGI) grassroots knowledge and experience are harnessed. In contexts SOGI initiatives are marginalised, the Global Fund offers funding proposal opportunities outside of the usual country-coordinating mechanisms.
2. Revising the Guidelines for Proposals	2. Ensure experience and expertise related to SOGI are part of funding proposals	
3. Working with the Global Fund Partnership	3. Going forward, gender issues and vulnerabilities will be part of all partnerships. There will be support for community strengthening	
4. Advocacy and Communications	4. Monitor and make know human rights violations and criminalisation related to SOGI.	



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