



Tool 8.12 Responses to the vulnerability to HIV/AIDS of victims of trafficking in persons

Overview

This tool discusses responses to the vulnerability of trafficked persons to HIV/AIDS.

Government response

At the normative level

Governments should:

- Ratify the Trafficking in Persons Protocol
- Ensure that people vulnerable to human trafficking are recognized as most-at-risk populations in their relevant national AIDS strategies and action plans
- Ensure that HIV/AIDS services are recognized as deliverables for people vulnerable to human trafficking under their relevant national anti-human trafficking strategies and action plans

At the operational level

Governments should commit themselves to:

- Providing information and education on HIV/AIDS
- Providing voluntary and confidential HIV testing and counselling
- Promoting condom use
- Treating sexually transmitted infections
- Providing anti-retroviral treatment and palliative care for persons with AIDS
- Reviewing repatriation policies to incorporate HIV/AIDS prevention and care services
- Strengthening laws to counter stigmatization of and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, especially victims of trafficking

In the Political Declaration on AIDS, annexed to General Assembly resolution 60/262, adopted on 15 June 2006, Member States committed themselves to:

pursuing all necessary efforts to scale up nationally driven, sustainable and comprehensive responses to achieve broad multisectoral coverage for prevention, treatment, care and support, with full and active participation of people living with HIV, vulnerable

groups, most-affected communities, civil society and the private sector, towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010.



The full text of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS is available at:
http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2006/20060615_HLM_PoliticalDeclaration_ARES60262_en.pdf

Civil society/non-governmental organization response

Civil society organizations working in this area should commit themselves to providing health, social and legal assistance services to victims of trafficking, including:

- Comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care services for repatriated victims of trafficking
- Assistance in reintegration, with a view to avoiding revictimization (through stigmatization and discrimination)



The Code of Good Practice for non-governmental organizations responding to HIV/AIDS is available at:
www.ifrc.org/what/health/hivaids/code/

United Nations response

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) brings together UNODC, UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), WHO and the World Bank to work towards the goal of achieving universal access to HIV prevention and treatment. Universal access includes access for potential and actual victims of trafficking. The essential programmatic actions for HIV prevention recommended by UNAIDS are:

1. Prevent the sexual transmission of HIV
2. Prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV
3. Prevent the transmission of HIV through injecting drug use, including by means of harm reduction measures
4. Ensure the safety of the blood supply
5. Prevent HIV transmission in health-care settings

6. Promote greater access to voluntary HIV counselling and testing while promoting the principles of confidentiality and consent
7. Integrate HIV prevention into AIDS treatment services
8. Focus on HIV prevention among young people
9. Provide information and education to enable individuals to protect themselves from infection
10. Confront and mitigate HIV-related stigma and discrimination
11. Prepare for access to and use of vaccines and microbicides



Source: www.unaids.org

“Safe mobility package” of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The Trafficking in Persons Protocol calls on countries to provide “for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons, including . . . medical, psychological and material assistance” (art. 6.3).

The UNODC “Safe mobility package” is intended to assist countries in providing people vulnerable to trafficking with information to protect themselves from trafficking situations and from HIV infection. The safe mobility package tailors HIV prevention, treatment and care programme components for delivery at each stage of the trafficking process.

There are eight components of HIV programming:

- Information, education, communication (to raise awareness and provide knowledge to equip action)
- Use of male and female condoms to significantly reduce HIV infection
- Substitution treatment for injecting drug users
- Needle and syringe exchange programme for injecting drug users
- Voluntary counselling and testing (see Tool 8.14)
- Anti-retroviral treatment and palliative care
- Sexually transmitted infection diagnosis and treatment
- Anti-discrimination and stigma

For women who are pregnant or lactating, additional measures to prevent mother-to-child transmission are provided.

These eight components of HIV programming are to be matched to the various temporal and geographic stages of the trafficking process, understood (in this context of safe mobility) to be:

- Pre-departure
- Departure
- Travel/transit
- Arrival/exploitation
- Identification
- Rescue/other separation
- Rehabilitation
- Repatriation
- Reintegration

For example, pre-departure interventions might be limited to information, education, communication, while during the exploitation stage, the full range of services might be called for.



More information about the UNODC response to HIV/AIDS can be found at:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/hiv-aids/index.html