

## Announcement

### Applied research services on inter-linkages between Gender Based Violence and HIV

March 2015

The partnership of the [Health Economics and HIV and AIDS Research Division \(HEARD\)](#), [Salamander Trust](#), [AIDS Legal Network](#), the [ATHENA Network](#) and [Project Empower](#) announce that they have been selected as diverse research institutions to support the design of an implementation and monitoring framework for community based organizations in six countries based on the latest evidence and promising practices related to gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV. This work aims to document and determine effectiveness and lessons learnt.

The inter-linkages between GBV and HIV have been reflected in recent reports by WHO, UNAIDS, and others (UNAIDS, 2014; WHO, 2013). These include recognition of four main forms of GBV that need to be considered: 1) intimate partner violence (IPV), that is violence between people in a sexual relationship; 2) violence beyond IPV that results from “heteronormative” gender norms and inequalities (such as targeted sexual violence or rape against lesbian women); 3) structural violence, that is violence perpetrated by social arrangements (such as stigmatising and discriminatory attitudes of many health care workers and limited access to justice or property rights for many women); and 4) the widespread sexual violence often perpetrated as a weapon of war.

GBV intersects with other structural inequalities – poverty, disability – and other factors such as HIV status, sexuality and gender identity, sex work and drug use. These operate in such a way that women in additional contexts of marginalisation are more likely to be exposed to potential forms of GBV. In addition women often have fewer resources to protect themselves or to seek redress. Thus there is a complex and entwined interface between all these factors, HIV vulnerability, exposure, acquisition and transmission, and GBV in all its forms.

Our Consortium, contracted by and working closely with [UNAIDS](#), will undertake the following pieces of work, grounded in human rights and using participatory approaches to:

- Design an implementation framework to be used by CBOs, based on the latest evidence and including promising community practices related to reducing GBV in the context of HIV - This will integrate both an understanding of underlying drivers of GBV in the context of HIV, as well as a practical framework that guides programmatic decision-makers and CBOs in working to overcome GBV. The framework will reflect and be applicable in both generalised and concentrated epidemics. Diversity of views will be ensured through a global reference group (GRG) comprising women living with HIV in all their diversity and women from other key affected populations. In addition there will be a UNAIDS Expert Group to ensure wide input and expert guidance.
- Develop selection criteria for implementing CBOs - Engaging with UNAIDS and the GRG, the team will develop selection criteria for the CBOs that our



Consortium will work with. CBOs play a critical role in representing local voices and experiences as well as the different HIV epidemics globally. Many CBOs are already implementing programmes responding to the complexities of GBV. The selection criteria will integrate different components to ensure a wide range of CBOs are identified.

- Create a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework that aligns with the implementation framework - The team, working closely with UNAIDS and CBOs, will develop an M&E framework grounded in globally and nationally agreed indicators, to assess the very initial intermediate impact of the implementation framework to address GBV. Depending on identified needs, this will include support in developing questionnaires, securing ethical approval, training around data collection and data synthesis. The team will work with local research organisations to provide high level and practical guidance on establishing baselines to enable strong M&E.
- Provide technical support, CBOs, in coordination with and guided by UNAIDS Country Offices (UCOs) – There are two approaches to providing the technical support. The first is a three-day global workshop with the selected CBOs, UCOs and local research partners to enable cross-learning. The workshop will provide support to countries around the implementation framework, as well as on establishment of an M&E framework to assess implementation. The second approach includes in-country visits to provide additional technical support.
- Produce a journal article – Approaches and lessons learnt will be documented to generate global learning and provide an independent review of this work. The team will review data generated over the implementation period of the project and consolidate this in a peer-reviewed journal article. In addition, the Consortium will develop alternative publications, such as a summary document shared through newsletters, listservs and other media.

For additional information contact:

**Samantha Willan**  
**Programme Leader**  
**Gender Equality and Health, Health Economics and HIV and AIDS Research**  
**Division (HEARD): University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**  
**E-mail: [samantha.willan@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.willan@gmail.com)**

