Safety and security for civil society organizations implementing prevention programs for key populations
Global Fund grant in Guatemala

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Guatemala social context: HIV and KP

Society and culture

- Conservative culture: structural problem, linked to patriarchy and machismo
- Homophobia and transphobia
- Violence and crime, impunity in law enforcement
- Large presence of conservative sectors
- Persecution due to sexual orientation or gender identity

Legal context

- There is no gender identity law
- There is no recognition of sex work
- There is no rights approach for LGBTIQ communities
- Few spaces for the defense of human rights and weak justice administration system
- Promotion of laws to limit the defense of human rights, and/or criminalize CSOs
- Criminalizatio of the HIV transmition (as most of the LAC countries)

The process

Overall

- Adapt Global FHI 360 tools on <u>assessing security strategies</u> for regional use. The tools are used to identify and then respond to safety and security risks.
- Adapted training materials to the Latin American and Carribean context.
- Identify funding available (reprogramming) for security implementation idenfitied by KPs; $15,000 USD per CSO in Guatemala to upgrade their security after they each assess their biggest risks and how they'd like to address those risks
- Training in Guatemala
- Work plan on S&S costed for each Sub-recipients.
- Lessons learned to other countries and repeat the process, beginning with the Dominican Republic.

CSO Sub-recipients:

- OMES – Famale Sex workers
- Otrans – Trans Women
- APEVHIS – Men who have sex with men/Gay men
- CAS - Men who have sex with men/Gay men
- IDEI - Men who have sex with men/Gay men
- INCAP (also PR) - Men in prison and detention

Self-assessment of situations of vulnerability of key population led CSOs

- 6 CSOs filled out the "checklist" self-assessment form
- Total responses received: 78 (people)
- Virtual interviews : 12 (key population, management positions, experts)

Field work

- 7 cities: Escuintla, Jutiapa, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango, Flores, Guatemala City.
- Met with 25 promoters, 5 supervisors and 3 directors of the 6 SR CSO
- Systematization and categorization

Services provided by SR CSOs and intervention places

Services provided

- Information and peer education activities for behavior change
- Information related to gender, sexual and reproductive health
- HIV testing
- Syphilis screening (MSM, transgender, and men in prison and detention)
- Distributiing HIV tests for self-testing
- Prevention packages: male and female condoms and lubricants
- Guidance and information on legal issues and human rights.
- Link to health services

Intervention locations

- Public parks
- Malls
- Streets where sex work ocurrs
- Houses where sex work is carried out
- Tests in clients homes and cars
- Bars and night clubs related to sex work
- Bars, saunas and other places for MSM
- Male prisons

TYPES OF RISKS AND VIOLENCE

CSO FACILITIES
- Robbery (or attempted) in the facilities, theft in the vicinity of the CSO, risk due to digital vulnerability, verbal threat to members of the CSO (includes offices, clinics and mobile unit)

DURING OUTREACH
- Common crime: Robbery, extortion, threats, assaults, murders.
- Aggression and discrimination against KP: femicide/murder, aggression, humiliation
- Sexual harassment of promoters by target KPV (clients):
    In the clients cars
    In the home of the clients
- Police aggression, discrimination and abuse
- Exposure to COVID-19

Security and protection problems and possible solutions identified by the promoters

Problems	Solutions	Who needs to take actions & resocurces needed
Lack of coordination and collaboration among sub-recipients to address common security issues. In all SR CSO/KVP	• Establish a coordination and collaboration strategy to exchange lessons learned, experiences and define common actions on security issues. • Establish an ongoing channel for Security issues that allow them to be addressed immediatley.	CSO-SR and PR No need funding/resources Change ways of working
Many promoters work alone, which puts them at greater risk. Sex work Trans	• In places/times of greater risk, have promoters work as a team or accompanied by the supervisor. • In some areas, promotors should be tracked by phone GPS and/or logbook. • They should check in and out with supervisiors ensuring their safe arrival and departure from hotspot.	CSO-SR and PR GF country teams No need funding/resources Change ways of working
The size and characteristics of the backpack where supplies and materials are stored is heavy and durable. It attracts the attention of thieves. In all SR CSO/KVP	• Include logo on backpack. • Provide a letter from the Ministry of Health authorizing items in the backpack and explaining their importance. • Promoters that reach KVP receiving bigger prevention packages or need to reach large targets, instead of using backpacks, use suitcase with wheels	CSO-SR and PR Some funding/resources can be allocated Need a change of working Coordination work
The mobile phone is a tool, however, it is an element that attracts the attention of thieves. Phone theft is widespread in all promoters. In all SR CSO/KVP	• Provide phones (no use of personal phone for work). • Hire insurance plans for mobile phones with greater coverage. • Protocols for telephone use and what to do in case of robbery.	CSO-SR and PR Some funding/resources can be allocated Need a change of working

Problems	Solutions	Who needs to take actions & resources needed
The pressure to achieve goals forces promoters to carry out interventions in high-risk areas. High levels of competivity among other programes/donors workers. MSM, Trans, Sex work	• Record Security challenges in a systematic way (e.g., during check-in meetings after outreach) • Create an interactive map of high-risk areas that is continually updated with real time data and used in advocacy for changes in strategies to respond to increased risk. • Appoint and organize activities with users in low-risk places in the intervention area. • Use online outreach to identify and engage with individuals who can then be met in lower risk locations. • Supervision based on the fulfillment of goals, based on the protection of the promoter (indicators on S&S). • Establish a system based on alert codes during interventions at times and places of high risk. • Prepare a directory of support in cases of emergency.	GF country teams CCM CSO-SR and PR Need funding/resources Need a change of working
Traveling between municipalities or during course from the place of the interventions to home, the risk increases exponentially, since transport is where the thefts occur. In all SR CSO/KVP	• Review per diem policy. • Assign an institutional vehicle for mobilization in high-risk areas and times.	CSO-SR and PR GF country teams Need funding/resources Need a change of working

Problems	Solutions	Who needs to take actions & resocurces needed
There are no security and protection protocols Differentiated risks in key populations during interventions in places and times. In all SR CSO/KVP	• Prepare an inter-institutional protocol differentiated by KP on S&S which includes a budget for its implementation and clear responsibilities at different levels across the organization and among the donor. • Establish different security protocols during risk intervention by place, time and key population. • Insurance (life, accident, or medical)	CSO-SR and PR GF country teams CCM Need funding/resources Need a change in ways of working
There is no crisis support after episodes o violence, sexual assault or harassment. In all SR CSO/KVP	• Psychological Support, including access to a free mental health provider • Legal support • Social activities	CSO-SR and PR GF country teams CCM Need funding/resources Need a change in ways of working
There is no safety and security training program In all SR CSO/KVP	Design a safety and protection training program for SR promoters. It should include sensitization on organizational security protocols and clear understanding of the protections in place if something happens.	CSO-SR and PR GF country teams Need funding/resources Need a change of wo
There is no infrastructure and technical support to protect the sensitive information of organizations. In all SR CSO/KVP	• Purchase of equipment, software and technical support for data protection. • Align with existing guidance on keeping KP data safe. This could be used: https://www.fhi360.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/resource-epic-ensuring-compliance-with-the-epic-data-safety-and-security-checklist.pdf	CSO-SR and PR Need funding/resources Need a change of work

Problemas	Solutions	Who needs to take actions & resocurces needed
Incomplete Security Systems in CSOs: • Alarms • Cameras for video surveillance • Sensitized guards • Visitor registration system There is no infrastructure and technical support to protect the sensitive information of organizations. In all SR CSO/KVP	• Have a Security specialist do an audit of physical locations and make recommendations on Security investments. • Design a security system appropriate to the needs of organizations based on institutional priorities. • Purchase and/or contracting of the necessary equipment. • Purchase of equipment, software and technical support for data protection. • Align with existing guidance on keeping KP data safe. This could be used: https://www.fhi360.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/resource-epic-ensuring-compliance-with-the-epic-data-safety-and-security-checklist.pdf	CSO-SR and PR Need funding/resources

Suggestions for the works plans

- Prioritize the design/update of protocols and instruments/tools for the safety and protection of CSOs and key populations.
- While there are some similar vulnerabilities and strategies to address amongst KP, each CSO/population may have unique vulnerabilities and solutions and they should work this way rather than have standardised plans.
- Prioritize low-cost, high-impact investments for the protection and security of key populations.
- Possible areas of work for costed work plans:
  - Guidelines, protocols and institutional instruments on protection and security.
  - Actions focused on the security and protection needs of promoters
  - Actions focused on the security and protection of institutional physical spaces
  - Actions related to the psycho-social needs that promote the well-being of the promoters, such as: anti-stress sessions, leisure activities, strengthening collaborative and team work).
- Prioritize the well-being of those who implement the programs, especially for those who have already suffered damage.
- Include in the security protocol the monitoring of the frequency of security events.
- Review and update interventions maps with a category to mesure risks by place.
- The security and protection protocols must be focused on the promoters.
- Include in the grant´s oversight activities indicators on S&S to messure frequency and severity of risk events.
- Political advocacy work, articulated to solve security and protection problems
- Guatemala is nearing the end of the NFM3 grant and will prepare a new funding request in May 2023.
- Opportunity to link the safety and security plans pilot with NFM4.

"If we are working to save lives, why can't our lives be saved?"

Many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean still experience high rates of stigma and discrimination towards key populations. In many, violence and aggression have cost the lives of many activists.

Investing in safety and security during Global Fund grants is a way to make the response sustainable and ensure that those on the front lines of interventions can do their jobs safely and put people's well-being at the center of the response.