
Subject: Re: Stigma and Discrimination

Posted by [UNAIDS_RAL](#) on Wed, 02 Apr 2014 17:09:13 GMT

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On behalf of the Human Rights Division of the Rights, Community, Gender and Prevention Department, UNAIDS Secretariat, we would like to support the recommendations submitted by the ICRW on behalf of the Global Stigma and Discrimination Working Group.

The new questions suggested as well as the minor adaptation of Q932 in the HIV module, are used to construct indicators measuring stigma and discrimination, that have been developed through a participatory and rigorous process initiated in 2009, and galvanized by the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2011 (available at http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/document/s/document/2011/06/20110610_un_a-res-65-277_en.pdf), which explicitly endorsed elimination of stigma and discrimination as a key focus of the response to HIV (para 77-80). These commitments have translated into targets on reducing stigma and discrimination included in many HIV national strategic plans. UNAIDS Strategy also has as one of its pillars the aspirational Goal of Zero Discrimination. Indicators allowing to track progress towards achieving these results are imperative.

The process to develop these indicators on drivers and manifestations of stigma, and discriminatory attitudes in the general population, was envisioned and led by GNP+, ICRW, IPPF, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, HPP and UNAIDS. As part of the process that has lasted throughout more than 4 years, an expert meeting and 2 stakeholder consultations were held, extensive work was carried out virtually, leading to over 1,000 questions on S&D across 3 populations reviewed, and 8 questions being finalized and field tested in Rwanda in 2011, in a Survey similar to a DHS with over 4000 respondents.

Seven of these questions were used to construct 3 indicators, submitted to the MERG Indicator Review Panel in 2013. Following a comprehensive review of these indicators, it has been recommended that one is included in the core GARPR indicators, and 2 more indicators are included in the Indicator Registry (available at <http://www.indicatorregistry.org/?q=taxonomy/term/677>), with the recommendation that data be collected and submitted to authors for finalization of indicators. In order to ensure that this very important data is collected, we recommend that questions are included in the DHS questionnaire, as described by the ICRW.
