

Key Populations in the context of HIV and TB

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Defining Key Populations

“[...] groups that experience both increased impact from one of the diseases and decreased access to services. It also includes groups that are criminalized or otherwise marginalized”

– Global Fund

Defining Key Populations

1. [...] faces increased risk, vulnerability and/or burden [...] due to a combination of biological, socioeconomic and structural factors;
2. Access to relevant services is significantly lower for the group than for the rest of the population [...];
3. **The group faces frequent human rights violations, systematic disenfranchisement, social and economic marginalization and/or criminalization – which increases vulnerability and risk and reduces access to essential services.**

(Key Population Action Plan 2014 – 2017 of the Global Fund)

Who are “key populations” in terms of HIV?

- Men who have sex with men
- People who inject drugs
- Transgender persons
- Sex workers

- Prisoners
- People who *use* drugs
- Women
- Adolescent girls

- Often different groups are included depending on the agency, country, organisation, etc.
- Sometimes a distinction is made between “key populations” and “vulnerable populations” (e.g. The Global Fund)

Who are “key populations” in terms of TB?

- Prisoners and incarcerated populations
- People living with HIV
- Migrants
- Refugees
- Indigenous populations
- People who use drugs
- And others...

Cross-cutting factors

“Women and girls in all their diversity, including transgender women, experience an increased biological vulnerability to HIV, and are disproportionately exposed to violence and other forms of gender oppression that increase HIV risk. This is compounded for women and girls who work as sex workers and/or inject drugs and who may be described as “key affected women”

(The Global Fund)

Cross-cutting factors

- Populations do not exist in silos.
- Vulnerability cuts not just across Key Population but across TB and HIV as well
- Key elements of what drives vulnerability as a key population is interlinked when it comes to HIV and TB

Criminalisation

- Criminalisation of Key Populations, whether direct or indirect are linked to criminalisation of HIV and TB (e.g. criminalisation of sex work, criminalisation of same sex sexuality, anti-immigration policies, etc.)
- Criminalisation as societal control through legal means
- Key Populations are impacted by Criminalisation of HIV and TB due to their status, and specifically the societal stigma, as Key Populations