

Partners and portfolio of the German BACKUP Initiative on gender-responsive HIV programming in Sub-Saharan Africa

Background

The German BACKUP Initiative has been supporting governmental and civil society partners in accessing and implementing Global Fund grants since 2002. In this way, BACKUP has made the response to combating HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria more effective.

In 2009, the German BACKUP Initiative introduced a gender approach that aims to increase the allocation of (global) resources for gender-sensitive and gender-transformative HIV programmes (see [background paper on the gender approach](#)). BACKUP promotes gender-responsive HIV programming and has established cooperation with civil society and government partner organisations in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania. In each country, the aim of these initiatives is to enhance the capacity of partners to plan, implement and monitor gender-responsive HIV programmes and to advocate for such programmes and the funding they require. BACKUP provides technical and financial support to these innovative initiatives.

BACKUP takes a broad view of gender, focusing not only on women and girls, and on gender equality issues, but also addressing men and boys and vulnerable, marginalised groups, such as sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual (LGBTI) persons (see [BACKUP's gender guidelines](#)).

Partners and portfolio

BACKUP conducted project identification missions to each of the five countries in which potential partner organisations at national and/or district level expressed an interest in the following areas:

- Advocacy of gender-responsive HIV policies, strategies and programmes
- Design, implementation and monitoring of gender-responsive HIV programmes
- Improvement of HIV monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems in terms of the gender dimension, i.e., sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender-specific indicators
- Improvement of the quality of gender-responsive HIV services in the health sector.

All initiatives are implemented in cooperation with GTZ country programmes, their political partners and national coordinating structures and are aligned with national frameworks and strategies.

In Burkina Faso, BACKUP supports advocacy and integration of gender dimensions into national HIV policies and programmes.

Partner organisation: *Secrétariat permanent du Conseil national de lutte contre le Sida et les IST* (National AIDS Commission - NAC).

Project: Development of an Action Plan for the Inclusion of Gender in the National Response to HIV in Burkina Faso.

Brief description: A newly established gender work group in the NAC will coordinate the integration of gender dimensions into the new national HIV and AIDS strategic framework 2011-2015. Capacity building, including training sessions on gender budgeting and gender-sensitive M&E, will support the gender work group in ultimately making operational a gender-responsive action plan to respond to HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Project duration: March 2010 - September 2012

Partner organisation: *Initiative Privée et communautaire contre le VIH SIDA au Burkina Faso (IPC)* works with community-based organisations and the Government of Burkina Faso to improve access to HIV-related services.

Project: Civil society initiative to promote increased budgeting for and integration of gender dimensions within national HIV policy, programmes and projects.

Brief description: IPC will ensure through its established platform of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) a concerted action to make a gender approach more effectively operational in national policies, programmes and plans of action against HIV. To strengthen the position of NGO partners in the development of the new HIV strategic framework, IPC is organising training sessions for NGO platform members on gender in HIV programmes and on advocacy skills. IPC will also capitalise on existing promising gender-responsive HIV initiatives and will use these documented examples for purposes of advocacy. An advocacy strategy will help IPC and the NGO platform to systematically develop effective advocacy actions.

Project duration: March 2010 - September 2012

In Cameroon, in cooperation with the German-Cameroonian health and AIDS programme, BACKUP supports prevention and awareness programmes for selected vulnerable and most-at-risk populations.

Partner organisation: Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaoundé

Project: Analysis of the HIV, tuberculosis and blood-borne sexually transmitted infection situation and needs assessment in Cameroonian prisons.

Brief description: By combining sero-prevalence and behavioural studies, the needs assessment study seeks to gather data on: a) HIV prevalence in Cameroonian prison communities; b) patterns and nature of sexual behaviour in those prisons; c) perceptions and attitudes towards HIV among prison populations, prison staff, and partners/ families of the incarcerated; d) an analysis of the current state of TB and blood-borne sexually transmitted diseases. The data collected will permit an analysis of the current state of HIV and AIDS and associated health problems that are as complete as possible. It will define the need to address these problems and elaborate an evidence-based action programme tackling HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis, hepatitis, and sexually-transmitted infections as appropriate from a gender perspective.

Project duration: October 2010 - December 2011

Partner organisation: Regional Delegation of Penitentiary Administration, Littoral Province

Project: Promoting gender-sensitive responses to HIV and AIDS in prisons of the Littoral Region.

Brief description: To protect the rights and needs of women in prisons, the project foresees a gender sensitisation programme for regional juridical and penitentiary administration staff, prison staff, prisoners and their families in the Littoral region. Violence against women will be addressed as an issue through the training of prison guards and through improving regulations and health information services for women in line with women's needs. The programme will also address the needs of minority groups such as minors, who constitute a common group of rape victims, and men who have sex with men. The project will be implemented in at least four prisons of the Littoral region.

Project duration: September 2010 – September 2012

Partner organisation: *Réseau National des Associations de Tantes (RENATA)* is an NGO that promotes the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young women.

Project: Piloting a pre-school approach to the prevention of violence and sexual abuse of children in Yaoundé.

Brief description: The pre-school approach aims to address the issue of school-related violence against girls and boys; to integrate sexual violence prevention programmes, including HIV and AIDS prevention education, into school-based settings (primary school and kindergarten); and to advocate for increased 'safe schools' responses. RENATA will raise awareness among teachers and parents to prevent future violence and will advocate for the integration of this model into basic education at the national level.

Project duration: October 2010 - May 2012

Partner organisation: *Femmes-Santé-Développement (FESADE)* is an NGO that promotes women's health.

Project: Implementing innovative gender strategies to reduce the spread of HIV by preventing violence against women and girls.

Brief description: FESADE will work with five communities and train community-based organisations, community-based HIV committees and local leaders on the links between HIV and violence against women and girls. These groups will launch advocacy actions to sensitise the population and influence decision-makers in regard to community-based HIV programme design. At the national level, FESADE, together with two other partner NGOs, will advocate for the integration of a gender approach to the new national HIV strategic framework and making gender-responsive HIV programmes operational through the use of strategic information and experience gained from the five communities.

Project duration: October 2010 - June 2012

In Kenya, in cooperation with the GTZ Health Sector Programme, BACKUP promotes capacity development, networking and advocacy in favour of civil society organisations that promote the rights and needs of sexual minorities. The focus is on men who have sex with men, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual (LGBTI) persons.

Partner organisation: Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya (GALCK)

Project: Developing the capacity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual (LGBTI) umbrella organisation GALCK and increasing the access of LGBTI persons to specialised, non-discriminatory quality health services.

Brief description: The project aims to increase the effectiveness and overall performance of GALCK to provide member services and to spearhead advocacy of LGBTI issues at national and decentralised levels. GALCK will develop a good practices model for the provision of non-discriminatory quality health services, and a public health facility.

Project duration: September 2010 - September 2012

Partner organisation: Liverpool Care and Treatment (LVCT)

Project: Strengthening implementation of the MSM component within the Kenyan National AIDS Strategic Plan III Translating Policy into Practice.

Brief description: In alignment with the Kenya National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (KNASP III), LVCT will support the initiation and sustaining of the integration of programmes for men who have sex with men as part of sexual and reproductive health and HIV-related service delivery, along with monitoring by stakeholders. On the district level, the organisation will pilot the provision of MSM-friendly services and project monitoring.

Project duration: September 2010 - September 2012

Partner organisation: Health Rights Advocacy Forum (HERAF)

Project: Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to engage in gender sensitive programmes and interventions on HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment.

Brief description: HERAF will cooperate with the Health NGOs Network (HENNET) to increase the knowledge, understanding and networking of civil society organisations in the areas of gender and HIV prevention, treatment and care. The project will also strengthen the capacity of CSOs to step up the use of gender analysis in planning, implementation and monitoring of HIV and AIDS programmes.

Project duration: September 2010 - March 2012

Partner organisation: National Commission on Gender and Development

Project: Updating the gender, HIV and AIDS sections of the Kenyan Gender Profile.

Brief description: The gender commission will provide an analysis of secondary data and a review of existing national laws, policies and guidelines relating to gender, HIV and AIDS, and the health sector. The aim is to identify gaps in the integration of gender into the policies and strategies of the Kenyan HIV and Health Sector response.

Project duration: June 2010 – December 2010

In Malawi, BACKUP supports civil society organisations in the advocacy and implementation of gender-responsive HIV programmes through coalition-building, capacity-building of CBOs and documentation of promising practices.

Partner organisation: Southern African AIDS Trust (SAT)

Project: Strengthening the capacity of community-based organisations to manage gender-transformative HIV and AIDS programmes within their communities.

Brief description: The aim is to increase the access of gender-sensitive programmes to funding through capacity development for SAT partner organisations. In response to a start-up needs assessment, community based organisations (CBOs) are provided with intensive capacity development measures with appropriate monitoring, mentoring and operational research in selected community settings. Four operations research projects focus on: partner reduction; the challenge of the lack of meaningful men's participation in HIV and AIDS home based care and support group activities; the challenge of the lack of acceptance and transparency among men in receiving treatment and care related to HIV and AIDS; and the addressing of HIV and AIDS risk factors specific to male and female orphans respectively.

Project duration: March 2010 - September 2012

Partner organisation: Coalition for Gender, HIV and AIDS Advocacy in Malawi (COGHAAM)

Project: Strengthening advocacy in favour of gender-sensitive and gender-transformative HIV and AIDS programmes in Malawi.

Brief description: As part of the project, a coalition of non-governmental organisations on gender and HIV will be established to intensify efforts, strengthen solidarity and mobilise effective advocacy for increased technical and financial support for gender-responsive HIV and AIDS programmes in Malawi. The eight initial coalition members will operationalise an advocacy coalition to increase the capacity of selected NGOs to address advocacy issues and to develop an effective advocacy strategy on operationalising gender-responsive HIV and AIDS components of the National HIV and AIDS Action Framework.

Project duration: March 2010 - December 2011

Partner organisation: Theatre for a Change (TfaC)

Project: Building the capacity of female commercial sex workers (CSW) to mobilise financial support for HIV programmes that support their rights and needs.

Brief description: This project seeks to use 'legislative theatre' methodology to foster the forming of groups and sharing of experience. The process facilitates dialogues through funding and policy-making forums with the aim of creating more inclusive attitudes toward sex workers. Such improved attitudes promote CSWs' gender and sexual rights by involving them in influencing funding and policy that impact their own social and economic development and that recognise the role of men in reducing the risks associated with sex work.

Project duration: March 2010 - December 2010

Partner organisation: Women and Law in Southern Africa Research and Education Trust (WLSA)

Project: Documentation of gender-transformative HIV Programmes in Malawi

Brief description: To increase awareness of existing but insufficiently documented case studies of gender-responsive HIV programmes, WLSA will document and disseminate selected promising practices employed by the gender-transformative or gender-sensitive approaches of HIV programmes. A DVD documentary will be produced that will showcase as many as five case studies. Civil society, donors and government institutions may learn from the case studies and may use them to advocate an increase in gender-responsive HIV and AIDS programmes.

Project duration: March 2010 - December 2010

In Tanzania, the German BACKUP Initiative and the Tanzanian-German Programme to Support Health seek to develop the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) and local government authorities (LGAs) to strengthen mutual partnership and promote networking and advocacy in the Mtwara Region.

Partner organisation: Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) in cooperation with the Tanzanian-German Programme to Support Health.

Project: Technical support to CSOs in Mtwara municipal and Masasi district councils in regard to advocacy of gender-sensitive and gender-transformative HIV programmes.

Brief description: The planned activities aim to address organisational development and coordination gaps among selected CSOs, umbrella organisations at district level, and government actors on Mtwara municipal and Masasi district councils. Interventions at community level will address structural and cultural factors as well as the creation of an enabling environment for women, girls and other vulnerable community members. As part of comprehensive knowledge management, a peer-to-peer learning approach for the stakeholders of the two districts will enable CSO actors and LGAs to use monitoring and evaluation to improve the quality and foster the consistent generation of gender-specific data. This would allow government representatives on the district councils to advocate for enhanced legislation, gender-responsiveness and the accountability of HIV responses on the community level.

Project duration: August 2010 – September 2012

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