

ACCESS to and EFFECTS of Social Protection on Workers living with HIV and their Households: An analytical report





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FOREWORD

This report analyses research findings from four countries — Guatemala, Indonesia, Rwanda and Ukraine — on "Access to and Effects of Social Protection on workers living with HIV and their households". The report is the result of a process that included a global literature review, development of a research methodology guide through consultation with experts, and research in four countries. The report analyses the social protection policy environment through the lens of HIV. It highlights the challenges faced by workers living with HIV and their households in accessing social protection programmes; examines the effects of such programmes on their lives; and makes evidence-based recommendations.

HIV-sensitive social protection is increasingly recognized for its key role in reducing the disadvantages and inequalities that make people vulnerable to the HIV infection, helping overcome barriers in access to HIV treatment and mitigating the impact of HIV on households. The ILO Recommendation concerning HIV and AIDS and the world of work, 2010 (No. 200) states that 'measures to address HIV and AIDS in the world of work should be part of national development policies and programmes, including those related to labour, education, social protection and health'. Social protection is also one of the ten goals of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Strategy, which recognizes that investments in social protection are necessary to achieving the vision of zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Creating and extending social protection floors is one of the areas of critical importance identified by the ILO. Key principles of the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202) include universality of coverage, non-discrimination and gender equality. Undertaking research to guide action is an important aspect of the ILO's work, and this research is our contribution to filling the existing knowledge gaps, to enable scaled-up HIV-sensitive social protection programmes in the world of work.

The report shows that even though policies do not exclude people living with HIV, they face challenges in accessing the existing social protection services; primarily a lack of adequate knowledge about the programmes, complicated procedures for accessing programmes, and stigma and discrimination. Workers in the informal economy, particularly women and key populations – sex workers, transgender people and men who have sex with men – face greater challenges, which must be addressed.

This report contributes to the body of knowledge on HIV and social protection, promotes HIV-sensitive social protection with gender equality at its centre and provide guidance to stakeholders in expanding the coverage of HIV-sensitive social protection programmes at the global, regional, country and local levels. As the development community prepares for the post-2015 era, it is important to invest in policies and programmes that leave no-one behind.

Alice Ouedraogo
Chief
HIV/AIDS and the World of Work Branch (ILOAIDS)
Conditions of Work and Equality Department (WORKQUALITY)

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- Ms Rosalia Rodriguez-Garcia wrote this report, after thoroughly reviewing
 the four country research studies. Rosalia was also engaged by ILOAIDS
 to develop the Research Methodology Guide, which was finalized after
 consultation with experts. Country research teams used the guide making
 necessary country-specific adaptations.
- Ms Anna McCord and Ms Carmen Leon Himmelstine from the Overseas
 Development Institute (ODI), UK. The ODI was engaged by the ILO
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 2013, which provided a synthesis of the available research and identified
 knowledge gaps.
- The research teams of the following institutions conducted the country research:
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 - Dr Vedaste Ndahindwa, Ms Assumpta Mukabutera, Ms Stella

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