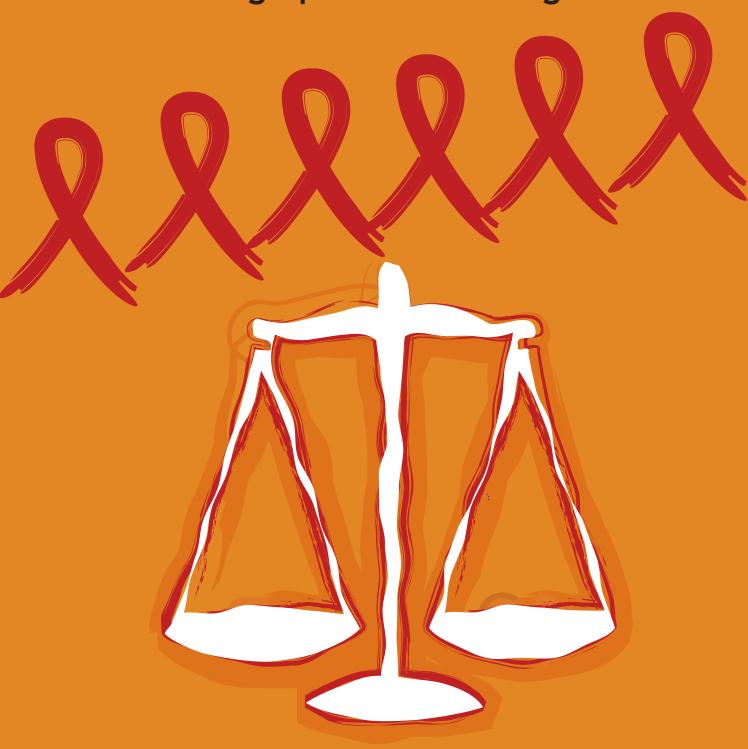
Toolkit: Scaling Up HIV-Related Legal Services









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International Development Law Organization

Viale Vaticano, 106 00165 Rome, Italy Tel: +39 06 4040 3200 Fax: +39 06 4040 3232 idlo@idlo.int; www.idlo.int

and

United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS

20, Avenue Appia CH-1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland Tel: +41.22.791.3666 Fax: +41.22.791.4187 www.unaids.org

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UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations to respond to AIDS. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through the UN theme groups, and the joint programmes on AIDS. Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS web site at www.unaids.org

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the largest development agency in the world, working in 166 countries. UNDP recognizes that addressing HIV is integral to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As a Cosponsor of UNAIDS and as the lead agency on human rights and law, UNDP focuses on enabling legal environments, stigma reduction, addressing inappropriate criminalization, access to justice, gender – including sexual minorities, and human development. Visit the UNDP website at www.undp.org

PREFACE

This Toolkit has been developed through a joint initiative of IDLO, UNAIDS and UNDP.

The content of this Toolkit was informed by the International Expert Meeting on Strengthened and Expanded Legal Services for People Living with HIV and Vulnerable Groups convened in Rome, 3-6 May 2009 by IDLO, UNAIDS and UNDP.

The Toolkit was also presented in draft form at the seminar on Strengthened and Expanded HIV Legal Services held at the International Congress on AIDS in Asia Pacific, Bali, 8 August 2009, convened by IDLO, UNAIDS, UNDP and the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+). The responses of seminar participants to the draft Toolkit were incorporated into the final version of the Toolkit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Financial support was provided by the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). OFID is the development finance institution of OPEC member states, established to provide financial support for socio-economic development, particularly in low income countries.





FOREWORD

It is a pleasure and an honour to contribute a few paragraphs to mark the appearance of this important and useful new tool from IDLO, UNAIDS and UNDP. As a judge who came to the Bench from legal practice, I have some professional experience of how important HIV-related legal services are. But as an African living with HIV on the continent worst-affected by the epidemic I speak also with deep personal knowledge of what the law and proper access to it can do to mitigate the harsh effects of AIDS.

Our talk of human rights protections in the epidemic will remain empty unless we can back it up by ensuring that those whose rights are violated and who experience discrimination because of HIV get good, effective access to legal services. And that should include appropriate legal information, advice and representation.

With good legal information and advice, those affected by the epidemic – those living with HIV and AIDS, and their loved ones – have at least some means to deal with threats to their jobs, homes, social security entitlements, physical security, privacy and dignity. But without legal information and advice, they are immeasurably more vulnerable than a potentially deadly disease, one more stigmatized than possibly any other disease in history, already makes them.

Countries and communities that have made best progress in combating the harsh effects of AIDS are those where networks of people living with HIV and affected communities have known their legal and human rights and have been able to assert them.

Activism by those living with HIV and their supporters has played a vital part in gaining access to the justice system. And affordable legal services is often the key to successful activism.

So this Toolkit is very welcome. Its contents reflect its drafters' deep personal experience of the epidemic. It is clear and sensible, and full of good advice and suggestions. And it provides much-needed practical guidance for organizations seeking to plan, fund, implement and expand HIV-related legal services programmes.

I warmly commend the Toolkit to all organizations, governments and donors interested in such programmes. My hope, which all those who contributed to the Toolkit share, is that it will help expand these services in the communities most in need of them. We desperately need such expansion for a just and effective response to HIV.

Edwin Cameron

Constitutional Court of South Africa

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND TERMS

AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

ARVs Antiretroviral drugs

AusAID Australian Agency for International Development

CBO Community-based organization

DFID United Kingdom Department for International Development
GIPA Greater involvement of people living with HIV and AIDS
Global Fund Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ICASO International Council of AIDS Service Organizations

ICTC International Centre for Technical Cooperation on HIV/AIDS

IDLO International Development Law Organization

ILO International Labour Organization
NGO Non-governmental organization

OHCHR Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

OSI Open Society Institute

PEPFAR President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

PMTCT Prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV SIDA Swedish International Development Agency

STIs Sexually transmitted infections

UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNGASS United Nations General Assembly Special Session

UNICEF United National Fund for Children

USAID United States Agency for International Development

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