

OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

Responding to the health and protection needs of people selling or exchanging sex in humanitarian settings



The United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees
and the United Nations
Population Fund

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Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| AGD | Age, gender and diversity (policy) |
| AIDS | Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome |
| ART | Antiretroviral therapy |
| DIC | Drop-in centre |
| EC | Emergency contraception |
| GBV | Gender-based violence |
| HBV | Hepatitis B virus |
| HCV | Hepatitis C virus |
| HIV | Human immunodeficiency virus |
| HIVST | HIV self-testing |
| HPV | Human papilloma virus |
| HTS | HIV testing services |
| IAFM | Inter-Agency Field Manual (on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings) |
| IASC | Inter-Agency Standing Committee (on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings) |
| IDP | Internally displaced person |
| KESWA | Kenya Sex Worker Association |
| LARC | Long-acting, reversible contraceptive |
| LGBTIQ+ | Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer |
| MoH | Ministry of Health |
| mhGAP | Mental health gap action plan |
| MHPSS | Mental health and psychosocial support |
| MISP | Minimum initial service package (for reproductive health in crisis situations) |
| NSWP | Global Network of Sex Work Projects |
| PEP | Post-exposure prophylaxis |
| PMTCT | Prevention of mother to child transmission (of HIV, syphilis and HBV) |
| PrEP | Pre-exposure prophylaxis |
| PLHIV | People living with HIV |
| PSS | Psychosocial support |
| SOGIE | Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression |
| SRH | Sexual and reproductive health |
| STI | Sexually transmitted infection |
| SWIT | Sex Worker HIV/STI Implementation Tool (for comprehensive HIV/STI programmes with sex workers) |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| 5Cs (of HTS) | Consent, confidentiality, counselling, correct (results), connection to services |

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Glossary: Definition of terms

Child: a human being below the age of eighteen years, unless, under the law applicable to the child, the age of majority is attained earlier.¹

Adolescent: a person aged 10–19 years.²

Age, gender and diversity policy: requires that an age, gender and diversity sensitive approach is applied to all work aspects.

Young person/people: A person/people aged 10–24 years.

Minor: a person under the age of majority – which legally demarks childhood from adulthood and is generally 18 years, but can vary according to context and local laws.

Gender-based violence: an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private. The term is most commonly used to underscore how systemic inequality between males and females, which exists in every society in the world, acts as a unifying and foundational characteristic of most forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls. It also includes sexual violence committed with the explicit purpose of "reinforcing gender-inequitable norms of masculinity and femininity". It is increasingly used to highlight the gendered dimensions of certain forms of violence against men and boys – particularly forms of sexual violence committed with the explicit purpose of reinforcing gender inequitable norms of masculinity and femininity.³

Harm reduction: a comprehensive package of policies, programmes and approaches that seek to reduce the harmful health, social and economic consequences associated with injection drug use. The use of the term has expanded over time to other areas, namely sex work⁴ and abortion.⁵

Intersectionality: describes the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

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