Recent Interventions to Reduce Stigma & Discrimination in Nigeria

By ENR
Background

• Nigeria has developed initiatives to reduce stigma and discrimination at national or local settings
  • Community mobilization and IEC;
  • Mass media;
  • Workplace policies; and
  • Development of effective anti-stigma legislation

• In the last National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS (2010 – 2015) the development of anti-discrimination laws was considered the major strategy

• Measurement of success and indicator for the thematic area was the passing of appropriate legislation
ENR and the development of anti-discrimination laws

• Enhancing Nigeria’s Response to HIV and AIDS (ENR) Considered Stigma as a major barrier to accessing services

• Worked with government and civil society to get anti-stigma laws passed in focal states

• Till date 7 of the 8 ENR focal states have anti-discrimination laws passed in the country (Kaduna, Nasarawa, Benue, Cross River, Enugu, Ogun and Lagos)
Measuring Impact of the Laws

• Need to determine the effect of laws on the level of stigma and discrimination existed

• need to be able to measure stigma credibly

• This led to the two interventions that this presentation describes
  • Process monitoring through the Stigma Diary
  • Outcome monitoring through the Stigma Index Survey
Measurement of Stigma in Surveys

- Many countries have used composite Indexes from the general population surveys to measure stigma (NARHS, NDHS etc.)
- Other surveys have attempted to measure stigma within sectors (health, education, community etc.)
  - These actually measure perceptions rather than actual acts
  - No clear picture of the actual magnitude of it.
  - Persons with wrong attitudes may not result in actual acts of stigma
  - Persons with “perceived good attitudes may actually stigmatize and discriminate
The PLHIV Stigma Index Survey

• collects and examines HIV-related stigma **experienced** by PLHIV,
• explore its direct and indirect effects on individuals

• We measure what percentage of PLHIV actually experienced Stigma

  **NOT**

• The potential of people to discriminate

• A smaller survey was carried out in 2010; the 2014 is more robust (sample size increased from about over 700 to 4000)
Goal

• to determine the level of HIV stigma and discrimination directed against PLHIV
• profile human rights violations against PLHIV in Nigeria.
• assist in future decision, planning and advocacy efforts.
• Collect information about:
  • the experiences of PLHIV related to stigma and discrimination
  • steps taken to seek redress in such cases.
Objectives

• To determine the level of stigma and discrimination against the PLHIV in Nigeria
• To document and analyze Human Right violations of PLHIV in Nigeria
• To document efforts made by PLHIV to seek redress where their rights have been violated
• To determine the factors/variables that influence, the experience of HIV-related stigma
• To compare the experience of HIV-related stigma and discrimination across different settings within the country
• To document and broaden understanding of the stigma- and discrimination-related experiences of people living with HIV;
Study

- Type of Study: Descriptive Cross-Sectional Survey
- Study Population: People Living with HIV/AIDS who are living within Nigeria at the time the survey is conducted
- Sample Size: 360 per state
- 12 states (2 per zone except for North East) – security issues
- Sources of respondents
  - PLHIV Support groups:
    - General population support groups
    - Key target population support groups
    - (Interviews to be conducted in the usual support group meeting venue)
  - Health facilities
Selection Criteria: Support groups

• Those sampled from Support groups of People Living with HIV will have the following criteria:
  • be eighteen (18) years of age on their last birthday or older
  • be a member of a support group of persons living with HIV
  • be known by the support group to be HIV positive
Process So far

• Tool was interviewer administered (by a PLHIV)
• 6 interviewers per state were recruited by NEPWHAN
• All questionnaires were retrieved
• Data editing, cleaning and entry has been completed
• Preliminary analysis has occurred
• This will be followed by Report writing
FINDINGS
Demographic Characteristics

Background Characteristics 1

- Male: 32%
- Female: 68%
- 18-24 years: 9%
- 25-29 years: 16%
- 30-39 years: 40%
- 40-49 years: 24%
- >50 years: 11%
Background Characteristics 2

**Work Status**

- Full time employment: 27.20%
- Part time employment: 5.60%
- Full time self employed: 19.80%
- Casual, parttime self-employed: 29.90%
- Unemployed: 0.70%
- Retired / Pensioner: 15.50%

**Years Living with HIV**

- <1 year: 35%
- 1-5 years: 59%
- 6 years+: 2%
- No Response: 3%
Types of Discrimination by Setting

Types of Discrimination experienced

- Exclusion from Social Gatherings: 8.7%
- Exclusion from Religious Gatherings: 5.2%
- Exclusion from Family Activities: 7.7%
- Aware of being gossiped about: 25.8%
- Verbally Insulted: 17.9%
- Been Physically harassed or threatened: 11.9%
- Physically assaulted: 10.7%
Other Settings where Discrimination is expressed

- Forced to Change Residence: 6.00% Male, 9.30% Female
- Lost job or income: 4.50% Male, 11.50% Female
- Refused Employment or Work: 6.40% Male, 5.00% Female
- Changed Job Description or nature of work: 3.80% Male, 2.80% Female
- Denied Health Services: 2.30% Male, 1.60% Female
Seeking Redress

- 52.1% of persons aware of existing anti-discrimination legislation
- 8.6% of persons believe that their rights had been infringed upon in the last 12 months
- Only a quarter (25%) tried to seek redress
- Most of these had commenced

Result of Seeking Redress

- Matter resolved: 62.6%
- The Process is still ongoing: 8.7%
- The matter was not resolved: 20.2%
- No Response: 8.5%
What was the reason for not trying to get legal redress

- Insufficient financial resources: 76.1%
- Process of addressing the problem: 23.9%
- Felt intimidated or scared to take action: 3.5%
- Advised against taking action by confidants: 1.7%
- No/little confidence that the outcome will be favourable: 4.5%
- None of the above: 3.1%
- No response/ I don't Know: 3.8%

7,3
Disclosure of Status to Associates

- I told them
- They don’t know my HIV status

- Husband/wife/partner
- Children in family
- Friends/neighbor
- Other PLHIV
- Co-workers
- Employers/bosses
- Clients
- Injecting drug partners
- Religious leaders
- Community leaders
- Health care workers
- Social workers/counselors
- Teachers
- Government official
- The media

- 78% told
- 28% told
- 51% told
- 59% told
- 14% told
- 27% told
- 68% told
- 72% told
- 83% told
- 86% told
- 84% told
- 84% told
- 90% told
Attitude of Associates to Known status

Chart Title

- Discriminatory
- Supportive
Challenges

• Would have liked to include more states however funding was limited
• Insecurity in the North East led to only One state being sampled
Summary of Findings

• Stigma still exists (5.2% – 25.8%)
• Most stigmatizing attitudes experienced in the home for females and at work for males
• PLHIV not really seeking redress
• Still no confidence in the legal system and most do not want further exposure

• Disclosure of status is done to mainly health workers and spouses
• Persons who know HIV status are mainly supportive but stigma still displayed by some (spouse 11%; employers 15%)
Conclusion

• Getting to zero stigma is achievable
  • Not there yet

• The work continues
THANK YOU!!