



UNAIDS



ZNNP+



THE PEOPLE
LIVING
WITH HIV
STIGMA
INDEX

Terms of Reference

Research Partner for *The Zimbabwe People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0*.

These Terms of Reference are for the Research Partner to join the coordination team for *The People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0*. The Research Partner must agree with the ethos of the initiative and advise the research process for the country in accordance with the *Standards for Country Rollout* defined by the International Partners (UNAIDS, GNP+ and ICW).

Background

Zimbabwe last conducted a full-scale Stigma index in 2014 and the report indicated that stigma and discrimination based on known or perceived HIV positive status was quite high. In the same report, self-stigma was also identified to be a huge challenge among the community of People living with HIV. In order to understand the impact of stigma and discrimination on the lives of people living with HIV we need to measure the opinions and experiences of people living with HIV themselves. Determining whether HIV related stigma is attributable to HIV status or because of associated factors (e.g. sex work; injecting drug use; sexual orientation; poverty) or a combination of these elements is critical. HIV programming and related interventions need to be informed by the findings of such studies to determine scope and priorities for action.

The *People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0* will use participatory and operational research methodologies to collect data, analyse the same and enhance our understanding of HIV related stigma and discrimination for informed interventions. The evidence gathered will allow for a comprehensive picture of stigma and discrimination to emerge for the invaluable benefit of both programmers and the PLWHIV themselves. This can be used for informing policy and programme change and addressing the challenges caused by HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

The Aims of the Stigma Index: *Process and Product*

The *People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0* provides a tool to measure and detect changing trends in relation to stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV. The rigorous quantitative and qualitative research process is designed to:

- **Increase advocacy and build an evidence base:** Use of the Stigma Index increases our understanding of how stigma and discrimination is experienced by people living with HIV. The evidence helps shape programmatic interventions and policy changes to reduce stigma.
- **Operationalise the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV (GIPA) principle:** The Stigma Index is a tool to be used by, as well as for, people living with HIV. The Stigma Index supports the GIPA principle as it is driven by people living with HIV and their networks. By acting on this principle the Stigma Index will empower the individuals and communities most affected by the epidemic.

Purpose and objectives of the PLHIV Stigma Index

The purpose of this study is to collect information on stigma and discrimination and the experience of stigma and discrimination by virtue of perceived, known or unknown HIV positive status in every sphere of community life including private and public spaces against people living with HIV or perceived as such. All over the world, Stigma and discrimination act as barriers to access to HIV/AIDS services and this is a huge challenge as HIV burdened countries strive to attain 95,95,95 global HIV and AIDS targets for testing, treatment and viral suppression. The findings of this study will contribute to the improvement of the HIV response for Zimbabwe as service providers, employers, government civil society and all concerned citizens will be able to deduce stigma and discrimination and address these social ills in all spheres for the betterment of the country's national response to HIV thus contributing immensely to the achievement of the 95,95,95 targets.

Specifically, the objectives of the Stigma Index 2.0 include:

- 1) **To gather robust evidence to improve policies** that reduce stigma and ensure that policies are grounded in the realities of people living with HIV. The findings from the Stigma Index 2.0 will be used to promote the human rights of people living with HIV and advocate for policy change on key issues including but not limited to criminalization of HIV transmission.

- 2) **To inform and improve programmes influenced by the perspectives of people living with HIV** to better meet the needs of people living with HIV and improve access to, and uptake of, HIV services.
- 3) **Models of best practice for the greater involvement of people living with HIV (GIPA)** by putting people living with HIV at the centre of the process and ensuring that it is led by, and for, people living with HIV throughout all stages of implementation.

Purpose of the Research Partner:

The main purpose for the research entity in this work will be to strengthen the research capacity of people living with HIV for this assignment in Zimbabwe. The work shall include training and mentoring for ZNNP+ and its national partners to manage and analyse the PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0 findings as well as training research personnel in quantitative and qualitative research methods and communicating the results of the research with a wide range of audiences (policy makers and politicians, individual people living with HIV, health service providers, human rights defenders and other civil society and community led organisations and networks).

Specific tasks for the Research Partner include:

- Support the development of the research protocol for the rollout of *The People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0* in accordance with the methodology guidelines provided by the International Partnership.
- Share the draft research protocol with the International Partnership for feedback, and respond to comments, incorporate suggestions and support ZNNP+ in finalising the research protocol.
- Seek ethical approval and, prepare the set of documents for a national ethical committee in accordance with the national legislation and guidelines and respond to any follow-up questions from the ethical review board.
- Optional: if requested by ZNNP+, support drafting additional country-specific questions, including the ones for case studies and focus groups.
- Support the set-up of a system for digital data collection and develop training and

guidance to the team on working with this.

- Work together with ZNNP+ to pilot the questionnaire and/or additional questions.
- Circulate draft research protocol for comments by the Steering Committee and respond to comments, incorporate suggestions and finalise the same.
- Guide the development of the training programme for the interviewers and provide requisite facilitation for the training.
- Recommend software (SPSS/Excel/other) to be used to capture and analyse the data.
- At the end of the initial data cleaning and entry (the research organization will work closely with ZNNP+ to analyse the data, as well as providing the data to the International Partnership in a format to be determined so that it can be used for further analysis and cross tabulation with other countries and regions to provide comparative analysis.
- Work together with ZNNP+ on writing of the final report.
- Communicate regularly and work closely with the Steering Committee and the secretariat of the International Partnership of The People Living with HIV Stigma Index 2.0.
- Review the last Stigma Index Survey findings and report on any changes based on the current findings.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

If you meet the above criteria and you have the requisite experience and drive, please send your application including a financial proposal indicating the rate per day and three contactable referees by Close of business (COB) on 07 August 2020. People Living with HIV and or entities of PLWHIV are encouraged to apply.

Applications should be addressed to: **The Secretariat to the Stigma Index Steering Committee, No 28 Divine Road, Milton Park, Harare or via email info@znnp.org.**