



## Process to Better Engage Key Populations

### Goal and Outcomes

NASTAD's goals for this project were to define regulatory barriers to improving health access for key populations in Zambia – including commercial sex workers (CSW), men who have sex with men (MSM), and injecting drug users (IDU) – and to help develop strategies to improve outreach and health care access for the populations.

### Strategy and Approach Used

NASTAD Zambia has provided technical assistance to Zambia's National AIDS Council (NAC) on issues related to research with key populations. Due to institutionalized stigma within some government units, progress towards investigating and understanding the needs of populations at greatest risk for HIV was limited. Leveraging its advocacy experience, NASTAD helped the study group (NAC, Population Council, and others) obtain an amnesty letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs and a support letter from the Drug Enforcement Commission which led to ethical approval to conduct a Formative Assessment of HIV Risk and Size Estimation among Key Populations.

### Products and Deliverables

- Report on Legal, Policy, and Socio-cultural Barriers to HIV-related Prevention, Care, Treatment, and Support for Key Populations in Zambia
- Lusaka Formative Assessment report (Contributing Author, in collaboration with Population Council)
- Key Populations chapter for the Revised National AIDS Strategic Framework, 2014-2016 (Contributing Author).

### Results

- Key Informant Interviews and Focus Groups Discussions conducted with key populations in eight sites in Lusaka, Kitwe, Solwezi, Kapiri-Mposhi, Livingstone, and Ndola
- Over 80 Key Informant Interviews conducted with health care and civil society staff

### Summary of Outcomes and Impact

NASTAD Zambia and Population Council have implemented the formative assessment and size estimation activities, conducting interviews and focus groups with members of the different key population communities, as well as with health care facility and civil society staff. These interviews will help define both the challenges faced by key populations in accessing medical and prevention services, as well as the training and capacity building needs of clinical care staff in relation to serving key populations.

NASTAD Zambia also facilitated and coordinated the Key Populations Technical Working Group, led by NAC, which was instrumental in directly engaging members of key populations with government agencies. With this group, NASTAD Zambia led the process to write the first ever Key Populations chapter for the Revised National AIDS Strategic Framework (R-NASF) 2014-2016, and contributed to the Country Coordinating Mechanism for Zambia Global Fund, ensuring a focus on key populations was included in proposed scopes of work in the Global Fund application.

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