Development Connections (DVCN)

Capacity Building for Integrating HIV and Violence against Women Programmes and Policies
Presenting Author: Dinys Luciano

Results of the course on "Empowerment, HIV and Violence against Women"

- **Quality of the course from the participants' perspective:** On average, participants have given the course 8.9 out of a maximum 10 points.

- **Application of skills, knowledge and resources (SKR)** obtained in the course: 9 out of 10 participants surveyed reported that they had used the acquired SKR.

- **Main areas in which the SKR have been applied**
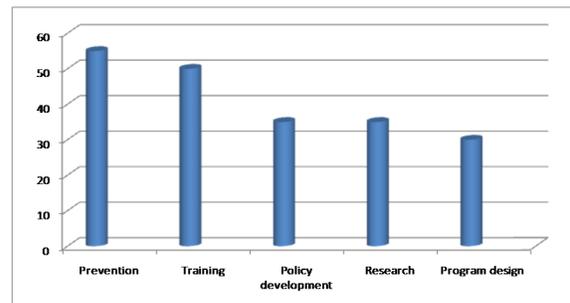

Advocacy and policy dialogue

- Presentations for panel discussions, seminars on HIV and/or VAW, sexual and reproductive health.
- Advocacy with policy-makers to include HIV and VAW within the disaster risk management plan.
- Design of advocacy materials focusing on facts about HIV and VAW.
- Advocacy within the UN system.

Project and program development

- Prevention of HIV and VAW within the education system with: students, school leaders.
- Education and sensitization programs for communities living under extreme poverty conditions.
- Educational materials on: "Situation of Women's Human Rights in Villa El Salvador: VAW as a risk factor to HIV" (Flora Tristán, Peru) http://www.flora.org.pe/pdfs/SITUACION_VIH_VIOL.pdf

Training

- Technical documents for training activities.
- Projects on training for governmental agencies, community leaders, justice system workers.
- Adaptation of training guidelines for peer education with adolescents within the health sector.
- Training with health service providers on adolescents' health and HIV/STI prevention.
- Workshop for social workers on VAW and Thanatology.
- Integration of the course content into the diploma program on gender equity and health.
- Diploma for health service providers, police and prosecutors working on the border between Mexico and the US.

Research

- Research on the key components of the intersections on HIV and VAW.
- · Paper on lessons learned on promising practices for integrating sexual and reproductive health and HIV, as well as M&E and ethical considerations when researching HIV and VAW, and advocacy and policy to protect rights.
- Design of a research protocol on HIV and VAW using qualitative methods from service users' perspective.
- Systematization of a project on healthy sexuality and promotion of healthy behaviours in adolescents from rural and urban areas.
- Thesis research project on HIV and VAW for a masters degree.

Main barriers and limitations to implement SKR acquired in the course on "Empowerment, HIV and Violence against Women"

Institutional barriers

- Lack of institutional support.
- Lack of services tailored to address the needs of specific populations (indigenous, ethnic minorities).
- Competing priorities with the planning and budgeting process.
- Lack of funding.
- Weak coordination with community groups to use the SKR on HIV and VAW for prevention strategies at the local level.

"I will use the references provided, as well as theories and models in planning and integrating programming. I have actually already used some of the course content in work — such as making recommendations for integrated SRH and HIV programming to address intersections of VAWG. Also, I found the forum on research ethics very important and will make sure to observe the considerations of conducting research on sensitive subjects like VAW." Participant from the Global Edition of Course on "Empowerment, HIV and VAW" 2009

Access to available data

- Reluctance of some agencies to share information.
- Lack of data within the country on the linkages between HIV and VAW.
- Data sources on both issues use different surveillance systems (collection methods, analysis, reporting), none of which share common variables or indicators.
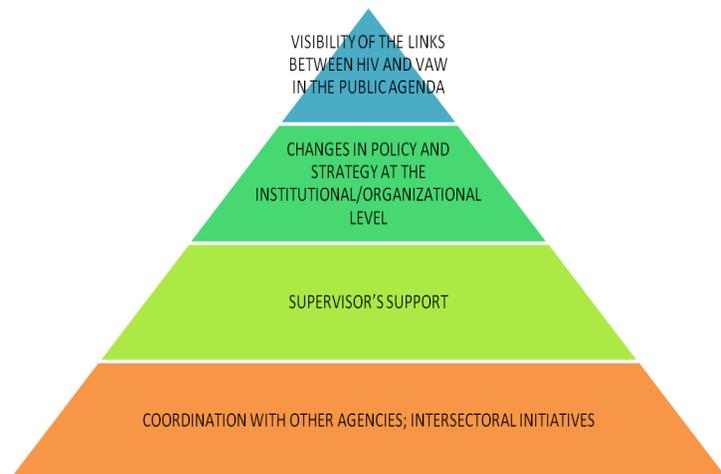
Practices among policy makers

- Policy-makers give low priority to the linkages between HIV and VAW; senior management decides to focus on other sectors.
- Low or non-existent public investment on the intersections between HIV and VAW

Barriers to disclosure

- Women, survivors of violence or living with HIV, are afraid to disclose their experiences.
- The lack of safety, privacy and confidentiality measures prevents women from sharing information on HIV and/or violence.

Factors influencing success when applying the SKR obtained in the course (hierarchal order)

VISIBILITY OF THE LINKS BETWEEN HIV AND VAW IN THE PUBLIC AGENDA

CHANGES IN POLICY AND STRATEGY AT THE INSTITUTIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL

SUPERVISOR'S SUPPORT

COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES; INTERSECTORAL INITIATIVES

Source: Survey with participants of the course "Empowerment, HIV and VAW". DVCN, 2010 (Initial results)