

# NICARAGUA GENDER ASSESSMENT

## SUMMARY

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The workshop was held in Managua on January 28 2016 with the participation of 80 representatives from Government, Civil Society, Academic Institutions, and NGOs. There was a preliminary review of over 120 documents that provided information about five questions related to: data disaggregation, information gaps (generation, dissemination, and use for decision making), legal and policy framework, policy implementation, cultural norms, stigma and discrimination, gender based violence, living conditions of sexual minorities, gender norms and gender inequity, and socio-economic factors of gender differences.

The below represents a summary of the discussion, which included a list of the advances related to gender issues identified during the workshop and a list of remaining gender related gaps.

### Gender Advances

- Sources of information are disaggregated by age, sex, geography, and sexual orientation.
- There is information about which population groups have more access to HIV services
- There is a wide gamut of laws, decrees and ministerial resolutions about gender based-violence prevention, stigma and discrimination and social inclusion.
- Evidence of gender inequities has been taken into account to develop national plans and strategies.
- Nicaraguan laws do not penalize same sex relations, and they explicitly prohibit discrimination and are not biased against women and girls. Policy and legislation implementation is improving.
- There are several recognized leaders among government, civil society, coalitions, and private citizens that advocate and promote the rights of women and sexual minorities.
- At the country level, there are relevant advances on gender policy, reduction of barriers that cause gender inequity, improved commitment to increase citizen's understanding of the legal framework for gender equity, and key players advocating for effective application of positive legislation.
- There are international donors interested in addressing structural factors that contribute to gender gaps.
- Programs, including PEPFAR programs, are increasing significantly the participation of key population representatives in planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and are also committed to create local capacity through institutional strengthening activities, especially with KP NGOs.
- Across the country women are involved more in decision-making, especially related to family and child issues.
- Female sex workers are increasing their capacities to negotiate condom use with their clients.

### Gender Gaps

- There is insufficient disaggregation of strategic information to analyze access, adherence and retention.
- There is limited analysis of information related to key populations, especially socio-economic determinants.
- Transgender women are generally included in MSM data.
- Lack of funding limits the dissemination and monitoring of law/policies implementation, therefore there is limited dissemination among civil society and the health sector, including medical doctors. Key actors are not fully aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- Gender roles are affecting gender equity. Gender norms affect sexual behavior (risky), social construct of machismo, promiscuity, GBV, and lead to higher risks for disease and social exclusion.
- Gender norms and S&D affect access to health services (less access to HIV testing and less adherence to ART) and are associated with poverty.
- LGBTI are at a disadvantage in certain areas: lack of gender identity law, exclusion from Family Law, suffering S&D (school, family, community, police) and low income.
- Media reinforces stereotype about machismo, homophobia and transphobia.
- In rural areas, men take decisions.
- Key populations still have low rates of condom, especially with regular partners.
- There are external dynamics related to social structure that increase S&D, economic vulnerability that lead to social exclusion and GBV.
- Gender inequities are seen in salaries differences and extreme workloads for women and TG women only have access to informal work.