

# PANAMA GENDER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

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The workshop was held in Panama on February 16, 2016 with the participation of 40 representatives from Government, Civil Society, Academy, NGOs, etc. There was a preliminary review of 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, sexual diversity living conditions, gender norms and gender inequity, socio-economic factors of gender differences.

## Gender advances

- Sources of information are disaggregated by age, sex, geography, sexual orientation.
- There is information about what population groups that 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.
- There is an assessment related to Adherence and retention “Evaluación de la adherencia al tratamiento antirretroviral componentes de la Cascada de atención y Factores modulares institucionales que influyen en la adherencia a la TARV” that provides information about the majority on treatment are men, the adherence is higher in ages of 66-75 years.
- Evidence of gender inequities have been use to develop national plans and strategies.
- Panamanian laws do not penalize same sex relations, explicitly prohibit discrimination and are not biased against women and girls.
- The existing policies/laws have being actively disseminated to civil society by MoH, National AIDS Program.
- There are several community agencies that help people to have safe sex practices, promote human rights and life skills ( APLAFA , MDDP , HMNP , Grupo Genesis Panama Positivo, AICV Networks )
- Many projects from cooperating agencies and community-based organizations and NGOs have driven the organization of the community to promote the reduction of the GBV, to reduce new HIV infections.
- At country level, there are relevant advances on gender policy, reduction of barriers that cause gender inequity, improve commitment to increase citizen’s understanding of legal framework for gender equity, and advocate for effective application of supportive legislation.
- Programs, including PEPFAR programs, are increasing significantly the key population participation on planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and are also committed to create local capacity through institutional strengthening activities, especially with KP NGO’s. There is also a program from United Nations System called “Prevencion de Violencias en Panama”
- Women are taking certain decision, especially those related to family and child issues.

## Gender Gaps

- There is limited analysis of information related to key population, especially socio-economic determinants.
- Transgender women are not mentioned in the laws.
- There are structural , economic, educational factors that influence gender differences
- Gender roles are affecting gender equity. Gender norms affects sexual behavior (risky), social construct of machismo, and 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 TAR) and poverty.
- Being part of a key population still being discriminated, although there are programs that drive health services to this population. Key populations feel discriminated, especially in excluded areas (Region Nögbe) .

- LGBTI are in disadvantage in certain areas: lack of gender identity law, exclusion of Family Law, suffering S&D (school, family, community, police), low income
- The media do not address gender issues
- In rural areas, men take decisions.
- The stigma and discrimination affects people from accessing health services.  
The women cannot negotiate condom use with their sexual relations.
- There are external dynamics related to social structure that increase S&D, economic vulnerability that led to social exclusion and GBV.
- Gender inequities expresses on salaries differences and working overload for women, TG women only accesses informal work.

