

Supporting community action on AIDS in developing countries

# Impeding and advancing civil society responses: The politics of HIV & AIDS

Caroline Halmshaw  
Head of Policy Team

International HIV/AIDS Alliance

## The politics of

- Funding
- Inclusion
  - Decision making & leadership
  - Discrimination

## Politics of funding – community perspective

### Three broad categories from a CS perspective

- Budget support
  - National governments rarely have the capacity or will to fund CS organisations
  - Stigmatised or illegal groups will be excluded
- MAPII
  - Requirements to give to civil society – but disbursement is slow or fails
- Principle Recipient – Global Fund
  - Faltering but early signs of benefits to CS organisations

## Principle Recipient Global Fund

- March 2004 – political crisis Ukraine
- Poor performance of MoH
- Temporary Principal Recipient – grant \$90m
  - Sub-granting
  - Procurement and treatment targets
  - Training

Supporting community action on AIDS in developing countries

## Politics of funding – recommendations for community responses

- To fund civil society responses we need innovative approaches which don't rely on national governments
- Careful selection of NGOs to take on this role
- Funding must be accompanied by TS
- Comparative case study evaluations of mechanisms for providing financial and technical support to NGOs & CBOs

## Politics of Inclusion

- Improving at international level, but full of problems at a national level
- Existing laws/power relationships create limited space for involving key populations
- Our solutions to stigma & discrimination are very lacking
- Even when space is made, CS not always able to take part effectively

## Politics of discrimination – many stories

- Nigeria – men who have sex with men
  - 5 year prison sentence
  - Prosecution of organisations who support work with MSM

## Politics decision making - Senegal

- Effective framework for dialogue between Civil Society and government didn't exist
- L'Observatoire – 5 NGOs
- Involvement in L'Observatoire
- Transparent aims
- Well received by Government?!

## Politics of inclusion – recommendations for community responses

- Good for donors to stipulate involvement but be aware of consequences
- Donors have an important role in upholding the rights of key populations
- Work with umbrella organisations and networks
- Senegalese solution
- Where this is working all parties benefiting

## Conclusions

- Politics of funding HIV/AIDS has led to under-funded community responses – we should be replicating and developing creative funding mechanisms
- Donors need to stipulate that CS should be involved in decision making – including upholding the rights of key populations
- We are being naive if we are entrusting national governments to work with key populations
- As we move into a phase of asserting the rights of national governments this becomes more problematic