

FACT SHEET

The Sex Work Tool Kit - targeted HIV/AIDS prevention and care in sex work settings

www.who.int/hiv/toolkit/sw

About the toolkit - Background and aim

- After more than a decade of research and intervention in sex work settings there is a substantial body of knowledge on the behaviours that put sex workers, their clients and regular partners at risk and on the contextual factors that create vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Some of this knowledge has been disseminated through published research and conference presentations but much knowledge and expertise has not been formally documented or exists only in unpublished reports.
- As part of its work for targeted interventions and with funding from GTZ, WHO led the collaborative development of a toolkit for interventions in sex work. The purpose of this toolkit is to make both published and unpublished information more accessible to a wider audience, and to contribute to global efforts to develop effective HIV interventions in sex work settings.
- The toolkit is intended for use by anyone involved in HIV prevention initiatives in sex work settings, particularly programme managers, field workers and peer educators.

How to use the toolkit

- The toolkit can be found online at: www.who.int/hiv/toolkit/sw
- A guidance text gives an overview about the basics in developing and implementing programmes in sex work settings. There are links to over 130 documents, manuals, reports, and research studies providing more detailed and in-depth information and accessible through direct links. Each such resource or tool has been annotated to assist readers in deciding whether it is relevant to their particular situations.

Toolkit development process

- The toolkit is a living document where new tools can and will be added. Most of the items in this toolkit focus on HIV *prevention* in such settings. Tools related to treatment care and support for sex workers living with HIV will be included as they become available.
- Before inclusion in the toolkit, items are reviewed by a committee of experts in order to determine their quality and relevance. The committee includes representatives from sex work networks, WHO, UNAIDS and national and international NGOs.
- New tools/resources will be added to the on-line collection as they are released. User feedback is welcomed in order to make improvements to the toolkit and to ensure that it continues to respond to emerging and changing needs.
- The resources in this toolkit are reproduced in their original language. Most are available only in English.

Inside the toolkit - examples of content

Some examples of documents and tools include:

- **Practical oriented "how to do it" documents** like '*Hustling for Health*' and '*Making Sex Work Safe*'. These handbooks, written by experienced sex worker groups and service providers to assist programme managers in setting up and maintaining projects as well as measuring their success in the European and global context.
- **Technical tools** like '*Algorithmes de Diagnostic et Traitement des IST chez les Femmes a la Clinique de Confiance*' - an easy-to-use table on how to diagnose and treat sexual transmitted infections created by a clinic for sex workers in Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Examples of Peer Educator programmes and activities** like '*Of Veshyas, Vamps, Whores and Women*' - a peer education campaign to empower sex workers in India
- **Case studies** like '*Police and Sex Workers in Papua New Guinea*' - an example of how successful workshops with the police in Papua New Guinea reduced "police line ups" and group rapes and involved the recruitment of police peer educators to inform colleagues about HIV.
- **Tools targeting male sex workers** like '*Tips, Tricks and models of good practice for service providers considering, planning or implementing services for male sex workers*' - a model of good practice containing practical oriented advice on starting activities, methods and services, training, networking and data collection.

All tools and documents can be found within the various sections or by using the search function by giving keywords or the first word of the title.

A screen shot of the online toolkit:

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "WHO HIV/AIDS Toolkit: Home - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by WHO". The address bar shows the URL: <http://who.arkit.net/sw/en/index.jsp;jsessionid=8AA40B6656D17A72B961FCA2B17F3381>. The page content includes the WHO logo, the title "World Health Organization - Sex Work Toolkit", and a navigation menu with links for "Home/Content", "Search", "Contact us", and "Glossary". A sidebar on the left lists the toolkit's sections: Context, Assessment, Planning and Design, Implementation, Management, Training and Capacity-Building, Monitoring and Evaluation, Additional Resources, Case Studies, and About this toolkit. The main content area features a section titled "About this toolkit" which includes a dedication to Paulo Henrique Longo (1964-2004) and a paragraph describing the toolkit's purpose. Logos for the WHO and GTZ are also visible.