

Title: Comprehensive care for survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in Mombasa, Kenya: scaling up provision of information on health related rights through integrating legal services in a hospital based clinic

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Text: Issues: Existing SGBV services are neither integrated nor coordinated hence available care has failed to comprehensively address the needs of SGBV Survivors. The Framework for comprehensive Care developed by the Population Council in 2006 shows that there must exist a strong link between the justice system, the medical fraternity and the community as a whole if we are to comprehensively care for survivors of SGBV. Lack of information on health related rights and what services to seek when violated customarily bars criminalized groups like Sex Workers (SW) and Men who Have Sex With Men (MSMs) from seeking care and support.

Description: The International Center for Reproductive Health (ICRH) has established a Health and Legal Rights programme working closely with Coast Provincial General Hospital (CPGH) to provide comprehensive medico -legal services .This is through integrating legal services in a hospital-based clinic, the Gender Based Violence and Recovery Clinic (GBVRC). A lawyer works closely with staff at the clinic. A total of 32 Peer educators drawn from ICRH's SW and MSM network have been trained on health related rights to provide a link with the community.

Lessons learned: Having an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive model of addressing SGBV enhances the health related rights of survivors and makes follow up easier. The location of the GBVRC within the referral hospital makes access possible for survivors who would otherwise receive no care. Expanding knowledge on health related rights among vulnerable populations enables survivors to learn about and pursue their rights and those of their peers. The presentation shall elaborate on the lessons learned together with the challenges.

Next steps: The program will with success demonstrate the need for integrating legal services as a component of this aspect of health care nationally.