

Technical Support for PLHIV Leadership in Implementation of the PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0



WHAT IS THE PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV STIGMA INDEX 2.0?

- Designed to be led by and for people living with HIV.
- A participatory research methodology for measuring and monitoring HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
- Measures intersectional stigma and discrimination experienced by PLHIV including key populations.
- Using a standardized methodology to allow for comparisons over time and across different settings.
- A critical data collection tool to fuel evidence- and rights-based interventions and advocacy to reduce stigma and discrimination.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT CONTINUUM:

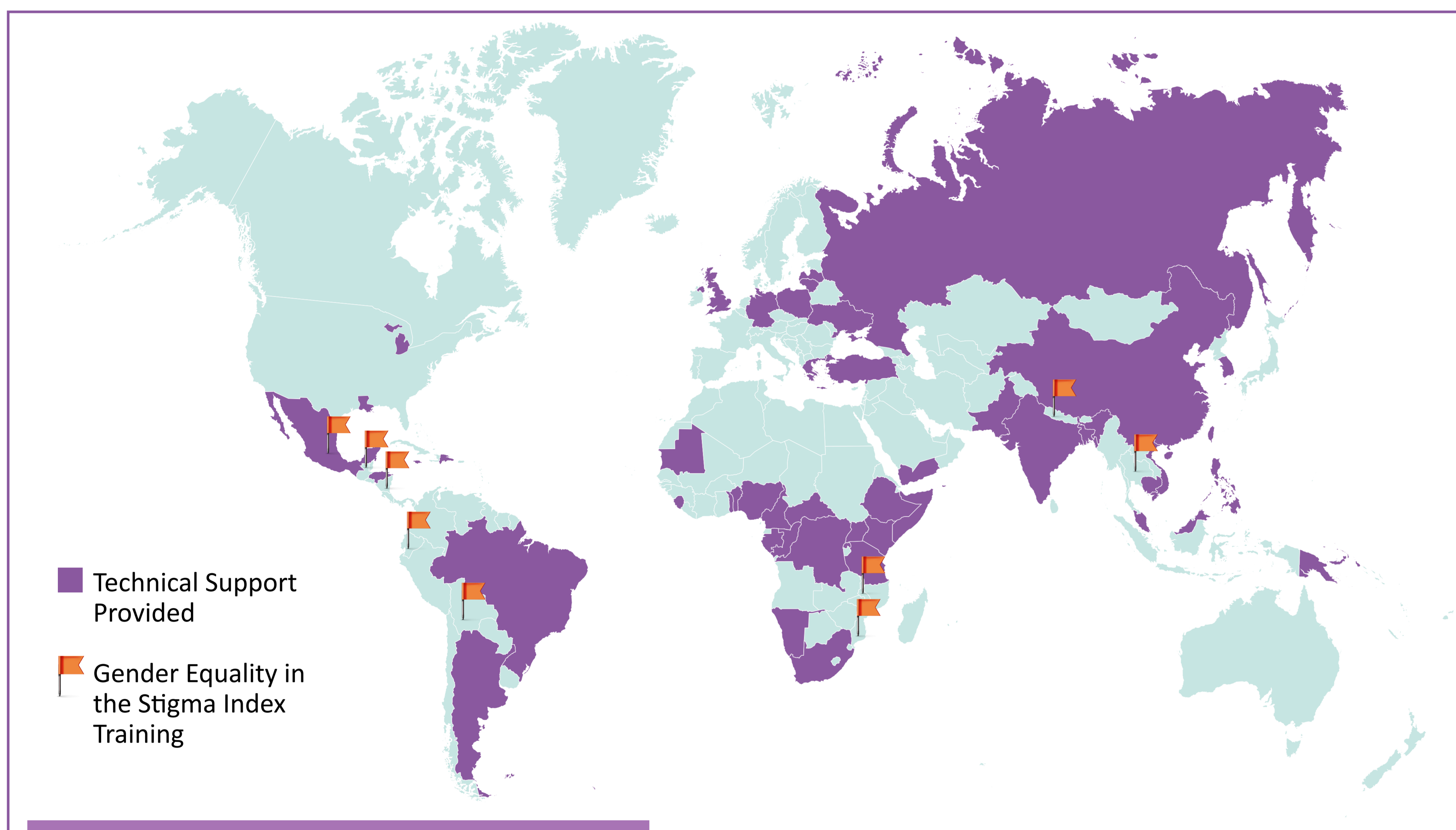
Since 2020, the International Partnership of the PLHIV Stigma Index has provided technical support for PLHIV Stigma Index implementations:

About the International Partnership of the PLHIV Stigma Index

The International Partnership of the PLHIV Stigma Index consists of the the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW Global), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), with support of Johns Hopkins University (JHU).



RESULTS - IMPACT OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT:



55 countries receiving technical support

- More than **100 countries** have completed the study and over 100.000 people living with HIV have been interviewed about their lived experiences.
- ICW began offering gender equity technical assistance on proposals and we have increased gender equitable reports.
- Guarantee that the GIPA principle is met and ensure the meaningful leadership of networks of people living with HIV, networks of women living with HIV and networks of key populations living with HIV.

GENDER EQUALITY IN MOZAMBIQUE'S STIGMA INDEX IMPLEMENTATION

- **Goal:** Strengthen the leadership of women living with HIV in the SI country implementation.
- **Technical Support:** On May 27th, 2022, ICW Mozambique held a Workshop on Gender Equality on the Stigma Index which aimed to strengthen the involvement of networks of women living with HIV in the implementation of SI. Eight activists from ICW Mozambique and four from Kuyakana participated in the workshop, totaling 12.
- **Outcome:** Women living with HIV building partnerships with national women's networks to present action plan and replicate knowledge of Gender Equality in the SI for central and northern areas.

PLHIV LEADERSHIP IN MOROCCO'S PLHIV STIGMA INDEX IMPLEMENTATION

- **Goal:** In July 2021, Morocco initiated the PLHIV Stigma Index implementation under a specific circumstance of non-existing national PLHIV network to lead the implementation.
- **Technical Support:** The International Partnership guided the country team consisting of PLHIV representative in the GF CCM, MoH, and UNAIDS country office, to form an ad-hoc committee to bring together PLHIV community leaders and form a leadership group for the implementation. Further, the committee selected a national NGO to serve as fiscal host to support administrative and financial aspects of the implementation.
- **Outcome:** By having this ad-hoc leadership group of PLHIV community, Morocco successfully completed the PLHIV Stigma Index using the standardized methodology. The study report was launched in June 2022.

CONCLUSIONS

- The leadership of PLHIV can sometimes be undermined or questioned by national stakeholders.
- Existing inequalities can impact equitable engagement.
- In contexts where national laws criminalize KPs, coordinated efforts of communities, donors, and technical partners are needed to safeguard the engagement of KPs as respondents.
- Quality and long-term TS provision, based on a partnership between communities, academia, and technical agencies creates a strong foundation for community-led research. Wider engagement of PLHIV with previous SI implementation experience as TS providers will help increase the number of countries that regularly collect data on stigma and use it for advocacy while further expanding PLHIV involvement.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TOOLS & TRAININGS

Implementation Guidelines

A handbook to support networks of PLHIV to conduct the SI.

Advocacy Toolkit

A toolkit to equip networks of PLHIV to take forward advocacy actions based on key findings and recommendations from SI Reports.

Gender Advocacy Toolkit

A toolkit to strengthen the engagement of networks of women living with HIV in the SI.

Qualitative Research Toolkit

A guide to support networks of PLHIV in conducting qualitative research for the SI.

PLHIV Stigma Index Academy

A regional virtual learning space for PLHIV community to increase the technical skills of the PLHIV community in SI implementation.

Gender Equity in the SI Training

A virtual workshop to deepen the gender analysis and ensure gender equity in SI implementations.

PLHIV STIGMA INDEX THROUGH A GENDER LENS

ICW analyzed 19 final reports from countries that have implemented the People Living with HIV Stigma Index released from 2016 through 2020.

- 14 out of 19 SI implementations had no gender lens.
- Only 3 of the reports had any policy recommendations specifically related to gender.
- Reports where gender was disaggregated and gender analyses were conducted, recommendations to address the gendered concerns were largely missing.

Technical Support for WLHIV Leadership

- Every SI now has gender disaggregated data.
- Five SI implementations are being led or planned by women living with HIV.
- Data disaggregation based on gender and Key population is essential for understanding the forms of stigma and discrimination.
- Four national workshops and one regional workshops for Gender Equality in the Stigma Index (GESI) Training.

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