



KAZAKHSTAN

Improving access of women from marginalized populations to mainstream gender based violence services

RESEARCH INSTITUTION

Social Fund “Center for Scientific and Practical Initiatives”

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CONTEXT

Gender-based violence (GBV) which includes intimate partner violence (IPV) and other forms of violence against women (VAW) remains a serious public health threat in Central Asia. Although data on GBV/IPV is greatly lacking due to underreporting, global estimates indicate about one-quarter (24%) of women in Central Asia have experienced physical and sexual forms of IPV (WHO, 2013), and more than a third have been physically abused by an intimate partner (UNFPA, 2015). The project seeks to evaluate and implement an integrated GBV response programme to address service gaps for marginalized populations of women: women who use drugs, women who trade sex, women living with HIV, and transgender women in Kazakhstan. The project is a partnership between selected domestic violence crisis shelters in three communities in Almaty, Kazakhstan and NGOs that primarily provide harm reduction services to marginalized groups of women.

STUDY CONTRIBUTION

The project will provide proof of concept of an innovative evidence-based intervention in combination with a coordinated community-based approach into the mainstream GBV facilities in Kazakhstan, thus increasing access to and addressing critical GBV service gaps to women from marginalized groups. The project will also provide evidence for community-based solutions that can be adopted by government to widen access to GBV mainstream services among marginalized groups of women. This study will advance the science of GBV implementation research and contribute to community engagement regionally and globally for addressing GBV by documenting the CABs’ influence on local adaptations of WINGS and CTC community coordinated response intervention.

PROJECT AIM

The project aims to identify and increase linkages to GBV services for women from marginalized groups by evaluating the effectiveness of implementation, feasibility, and sustainability of an enhanced integrated model of a computerized self-paced intervention with the multisectoral community-coordinated response in several communities of Almaty in Kazakhstan.

The project will focus on adapting, evaluating and implementing a package of two evidence-based interventions: Women Initiating New Goals for Safety (WINGS) - which is a GBV screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment/services tool - and the Community that Cares (CTC) intervention which is an evidence-based community coordinated response intervention that has been used to reduce violence and substance misuse in different countries. WINGS had been successfully piloted and implemented in Kyrgyzstan by our partnering Global Research Institute Foundation (GLORI) under the leadership of Mr. Danil Nikitin, who will be the Senior Consultant for our study. GBV providers along with partner organizations serving marginalized populations of women will be trained on how to deliver WINGS and expand their reach and quality of services to key affected populations. To this end, the project will adapt a computerized and self-paced version of WINGS for easy and convenient delivery by a facilitator, counselor, social worker, and/or case manager with minimal prior training. In addition, we will form Community Action Boards (CAB) that will be comprised of key stakeholders in each of the three communities that will implement the CTC intervention to promote a community coordinated response to addressing IPV and GBV among women who use drugs, women who engage in sex work, women living with HIV and transgender women.

