**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Workshop on *“Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring and Evaluation of HIV Services for Women Who Use Drugs*”**

UNODC, a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), provides technical assistance to countries in the area of HIV/AIDS in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions by the GA, ECOSOC, CND and the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS. As the UNAIDS convening agency for drug use and HIV, UNODC, together with other UNAIDS cosponsors, national and international partners, assists countries to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV services for people who inject drugs and in prison settings.

UNODC is mandated to implement and support data collection and analysis and generation of strategic information with regard to drug use and HIV. More specifically, in the context of the UNAIDS Strategy 2016-2021 and UNAIDS 2016-2021 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) to fast-track HIV responses towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, UNODC is expected to provide guidance and support to expand human rights and evidence-based and gender-responsive approaches to reducing HIV infections among people who use drugs and to support countries in strengthening national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity for generation of routinely collected strategic information on key HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people who use drugs, and particularly for people who inject drugs (i.e. needle and syringe programmes, opioid substitution therapy, HIV testing and counselling and anti-retroviral therapy) in high priority locations using appropriate indicators, methods and tools.

Women who use drugs are often more vulnerable to HIV than their male counterparts. Females are more likely to be stigmatized and marginalized by society and are more likely to hide their drug use behaviour. With regard to injecting drug use in particular, unsafe injecting practices may be more common among females given the greater difficultly in accessing needle and syringe programmes or treatment for drug dependence and the lack of services tailored to women’s needs. The combined risks of unsafe injecting and unprotected sex substantially elevate the risks of HIV transmission among females.

UNODC has produced and disseminated, in partnership with WHO, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD), a policy brief entitled “Women who inject drugs and HIV: Addressing specific needs”. UNODC also delivers HIV services for women who inject drugs and enhances the capacity of service providers to provide evidence-informed, gender sensitive HIV services for women who inject drugs in several countries.

Scarcity in **gender-disaggregated data** on drug use, prevalence of HIV, Hep C and TB among people who use drugs poses a challenge to effectively plan and allocate resources and implement evidence-informed, gender-responsive harm reduction programmes.

***In 2018, UNODC will implement a 3-day workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Monitoring and Evaluation of HIV Services for Women Who Use Drugs in selected high priority countries.***

The workshop will aim at building capacity of service providers, programme managers and other relevant implementing partners and stakeholders in development and implementation of gender-responsive indicators, methods and tools; monitoring of HIV prevention, treatment and care services; and analysing and reporting of gender-responsive M&E data.

To key objectives of the workshop are to increase knowledge and skills in

1. Design of appropriate indicators and setting baselines and targets for monitoring and evaluation of HIV services for women who inject drugs.
2. Implementation of monitoring of the HIV services for women who inject drugs using appropriate methods and tools.
3. Data analysis and reporting.

***The workshop programme has been developed for 20-25 participants with tasks related to HIV harm reduction service monitoring and evaluation (including service providers, programme managers, representatives of civil society and community-based organizations, international organizations). The training curriculum will be country adapted in consultation with UNODC staff and local partners. The workshop implementation will combine different learning techniques bridging theoretical knowledge and practice.***

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