



This series of Research Group Fact sheets shows ongoing research projects related to INCLUDE, the Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies

Economic empowerment, political positioning and participation of sex workers in Kenya and Ethiopia

Sex workers are vulnerable. They are often stigmatized and excluded in terms of political rights and access to welfare, education, health and housing. Their vulnerability increases their personal insecurity regarding economic issues, health and violence. The research project 'Creating Opportunities? Economic Empowerment, Political Positioning and Participation of Sex Workers in Kenya and Ethiopia' analyzes, firstly, how sex workers can be supported by strategic actors (officials, agents of the justice system, NGOs and sex-workers' organizations) and, secondly, how sex workers can be economically empowered to make developments in the sector more inclusive. The project will also study the impact of the sharing of knowledge that is generated as part of this research.

Main question

- In what ways do institutional, legislative and (inter)national directives and practices increase sex workers'(SWs') vulnerability? Which (by)laws and regulations positively influence the SWs' situations? What are the moments of dialogue between stakeholders and SW-led organizations and what factors obstruct the transformation of these dialogues into further collaboration?
- How does economic autonomy/dependence, financial (il)literacy and financial (in)security contribute to or hamper the decision-making power and opportunities for SWs regarding their livelihoods, sexual health and resilience to violence?
- How does the translation of the research outcomes into advocacy-oriented knowledge sharing activities strengthen SWs rights and enhance their inclusion in society?

Consortium led by

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Consortium

- AIDSfonds, the Netherlands
- International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH), Kenya
- Hoymas / Kenya Sexworker Alliance, Kenya
- Nikat Charitable Association, Ethiopia
- University of Nairobi, Kenya

Country focus

- Kenya
- Ethiopia

Planned activities

- Mapping of the stakeholder network and identifying relevant local and national policies and legislation that produce exclusion and stigmatization
- Interviewing of key national and local actors and focus groups
- Survey on the contemporary situation of sex workers
- Qualitative research using ethnographic and participatory methods
- Organizing capacity building workshops
- Advocacy interventions to influencing public opinion and policy and to strengthening the sex worker community
- Organizing public advocacy events
- Organizing cultural events including festival presentation of films
- Organizing policy labs, journalist workshops
- Organizing mid-term and final workshops with stakeholders