



## Differentiated care for female sex workers, Kenya

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### OVERVIEW

Family Aids Initiative Response (FAIR) is an organization that serves female sex workers (FSWs) in Kenya. We are based in two counties in Kenya and operate in three drop in centers (DICs). The DICs are a safe space providing comprehensive biomedical services including condom and lubricant distribution, HIV testing, STI screening and treatments and cervical cancer screening. Clients who test HIV positive are referred for care and treatment at the nearby Ministry of Health Facility (MOH) or any facility of their choice.

Clinical characteristics of most of our clients indicate stability, however, the unstable are under care and constant monitoring. Most of our clients are concentrated in the urban setup where the HIV prevalence is higher. The major challenges being addressed are long queues for triage, stigma and discrimination at the government facilities, distance, and client preference to access care at the DIC.

### LINKAGES PROJECT

This is a prevention programme that assists the key populations to know their status, get started on ART and attain viral suppression. We encourage those who have tested negative to use all the availed prevention strategies to ensure they remain so. The model is a fixed, community-based ART delivery models. All services are provided at the DIC and there are some members of the key populations (KPs) employed to serve our clients. We partner and work hand in hand with the nearby Government of Kenya (GOK) hospital facility for necessary clients referrals and provision of drugs.

The DIC operates daily on weekdays for all clients with different needs and also meet the PLHIV twice a month for psychosocial support and ART refills. Arrangements are also made by the DIC nurse to provide services late in the evening or over the weekend.

**Table 1: The building blocks of the LINKAGES FAIR programme for FSWs**

	<b>ART refills</b>	<b>Clinical consultations</b>	<b>Psychosocial support</b>
<b>WHEN</b>	Monthly	Every 3 months	Twice month
<b>WHERE</b>	DIC	DIC	DIC
<b>WHO</b>	Nurse/clinician	Nurse/clinician	Nurse/clinician
<b>WHAT</b>	ART refills Support group meeting	Routine check ups OI treatments	Support group meeting Art refills Other heath needs

### IMPLEMENTING THE INTERVENTION

Key populations living with HIV among the FSWs were identified, a peer leader identified to offer leadership and a psychological support group formed. FAIR works with the Ministry of Health (MOH) Sub County Hospital to provide care and treatment, however, due to FSW preference to access care at the DIC, a clinician at the MOH facility, schedule one a month at the DIC, usually to coincide with the Support group meeting to dispense ART and attend to other needs.

### DATA

At the DIC a total of 124 HIV positive FSWs access services. The differentiated service model started in November 2016 with 15 HIV positive FSWs and has now grown to serve 50 HIV positive FSWs. Eight of the clients are between the ages of 19 -21 years and this model has been a success as members of the support group have reduced self-stigma. The young and the old interact freely and 30 of them have attained viral suppression with more samples taken at the DIC for viral testing.



### **CHALLENGES AND SUCCESS**

Partnering with the government facility made it easy to access clients' information and drugs. The CCC is in charge of attending the support group to enhance the psychosocial support messaging and support the peer navigator and the clinical team. The major challenge is self-stigma - the clinical team ensure the facility is stigma free and youth friendly for the clients.