

**The Application of the People Living with HIV Stigma Index in PNG  
Phase 1 Update  
Prepared by Dr John Rule and Don Liriope**



# Research Process

- International standardised questionnaire translated into Tokpisin
- Selection and training of PLHIV interview team - selective bias to persons of diverse sexualities and ensuring that the team had – MSM, sex worker, transgender, married men, married women, single women, single man
- Basic research methods training, basic ethics in research, basic data recording, basic field work responsibilities – strong on confidentiality and responsibility expectations of team.

# Research Process

- Selection of sites – Mt Hagen and Chimbu – based on epidemic patterns, service patterns and preparedness of local PLHIV group/s to be involved
- Prior on-ground consultations with relevant organisations and groups
- Negotiating entry to clinical spaces and sites where PLHIV gathered
- Eighty interviews conducted in late 2011 and data checking with interviewers conducted again in Port Moresby early in 2012

# Another way is through language

- ***What is stigma?***
- ‘bagarapim ol narapela manmeri’
- ‘pasin blo rabisim ol narapela manmeri’
- ‘tok basait long ol narapela manmeri’
  
- ***What is discrimination?***
- ‘wokim pasin nogut long ol narapela manmeri’
- ‘mekim nogut long manmeri’

# Preliminary Findings

- 80 x People Living with HIV were interviewed.
- Research was conducted in Chimbu & Western Highlands Provinces.

# Preliminary Findings

- More than half of the respondents were 15 -29 interviewed.
- High percentage of respondents interviewed live with HIV for 1 – 4 years then followed those between 5 – 9 years.
- More than half the respondents lived in the village around the town settings
- More than half the respondents said they earned more than K201 to over K1,00.00 annual.

# Preliminary Findings

- Nearly all respondents indicated that they are sexually active although less than a quarter of the respondents say they are married or cohabiting with a partner.
- Over 10% identified as belonging to the category of sex worker and a small percentage said that they belong to the group MSM or gay.
- A high percentage said that they had been physically assaulted in the previous twelve months and that it was because of their HIV status.

# Preliminary Findings

- Over 50% said they had not attended social gatherings because of their HIV status.
- Nearly half the respondents said they had feelings of being ashamed, guilty or blamed themselves because of their HIV status.
- Being gossiped about was identified by respondents as the most persistent, commonly occurring, disturbing and upsetting way in which they experienced stigma and discrimination



# Preliminary Findings

- 70% of the respondents have heard of the HAMP Act. ,however, they have never read, discussed or very much on the Act.
- Half the respondents said their rights have been abused as a Person Living with HIV.
- Nearly 75% said they have never seek redress in court due to poor support and lack knowledge in the process and protocols.

# Preliminary Findings

- Over half the respondents said they had confronted, challenged or educated someone who was stigmatised and discriminated them.
- 60% of respondents said they had never sought assistance with Legal Issues
- 70% of respondents said they have had supported their peers in dealing the stigma and discrimination (emotional and physical support)

# Preliminary Findings

- Over 60% respondents said they trusted their own peers.
- A quarter of respondents had disclosed to adult members of their families.
- Health Workers, teachers, social workers and Employers were least to be trusted to disclose.

# Preliminary Findings

- 95% said they will have access to ART even if they were not on it.
- ART was also a problem due to distance and financial problem.
- Low respondent to the question of having constructive discussions on sex and sexual reproductive health, sexual relationship, emotional well-being including drug use.

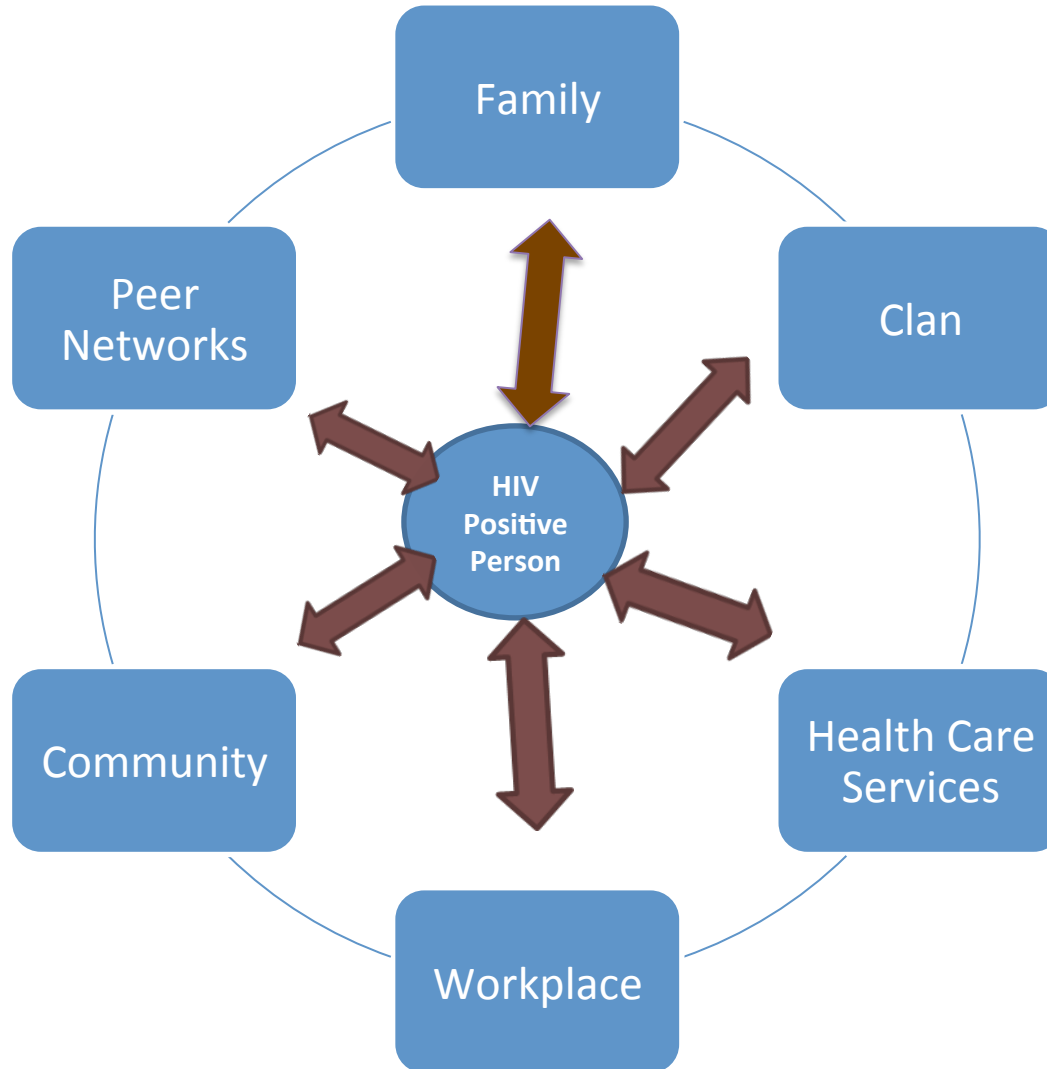
# Preliminary Findings

- 60% of respondents said they had never been given PPTCT services.
- 5 women said they were coerced in termination of their pregnancy.
- Nearly 90% said they were on ART. There was concern on side effects & 50% said service satisfaction.
- Health Care Workers, Media, Govt employees Social Workers were least if the participants list to disclose

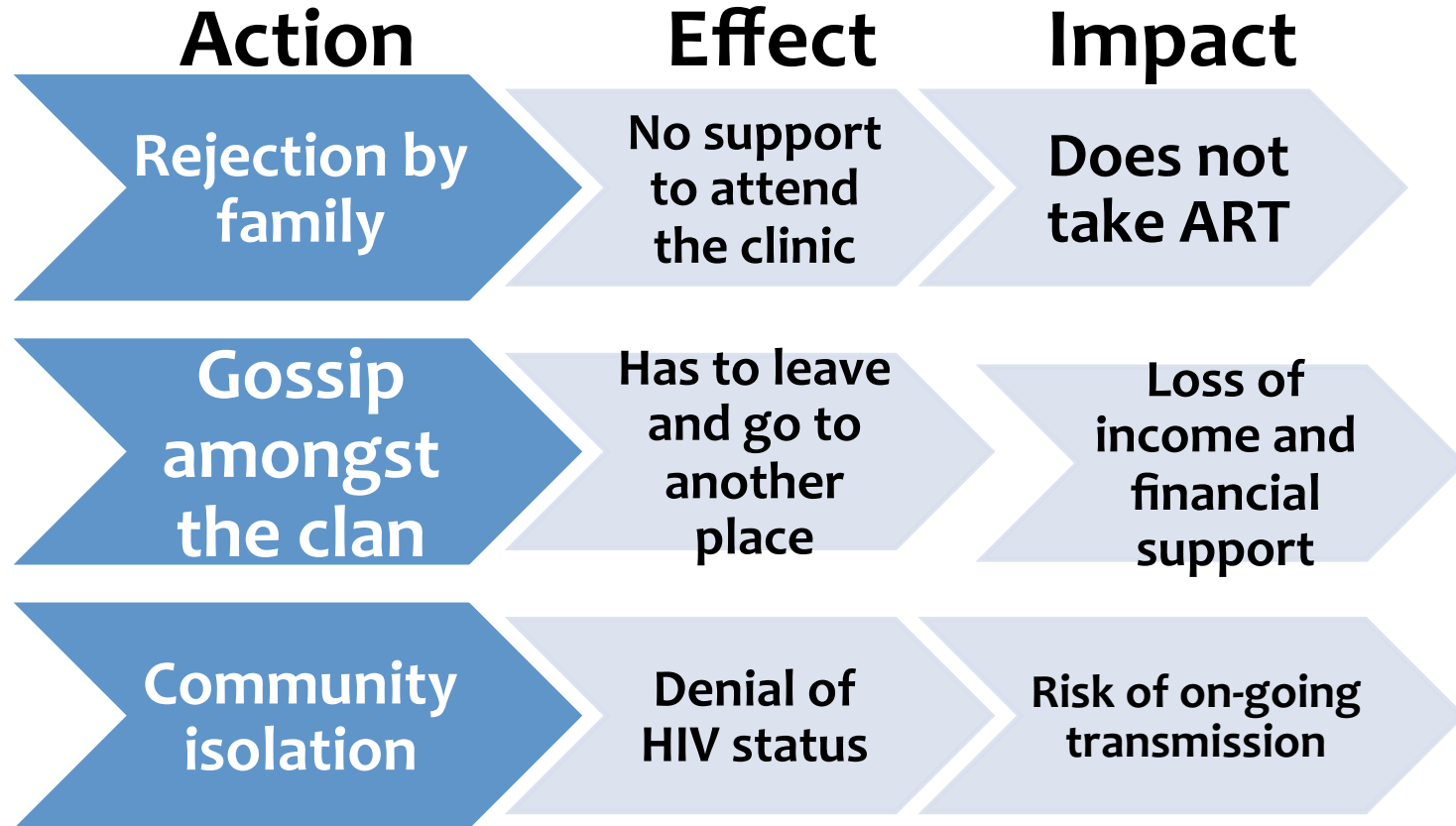
# Preliminary Findings

- 2 quarter said they found their disclosure very empowering.
- Shame & Fear including living in denial related to Testing & Diagnosing.
- &70% said they were confronted with internal stigma.
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# One way of showing how it is happening



# Another way.....





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**Thank you**