

# KP CONNECT:

## STRENGTHENING the ALLIANCE RESPONSE to KEY POPULATIONS in AFRICA 2014-2017

An International HIV/AIDS Alliance programme implemented in partnership with the Positive Vibes Trust and financed by the Swedish International Development Agency

KP Connect aims to contribute to a more enabling environment for HIV, health and rights programming with key populations (KPs). We work in 10 African countries: Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

### PARTNERS

KP Connect works primarily in partnership with Linking Organisations (LOs) and key partners of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Africa. LOs are national or regional civil society organisations that make up the Alliance in Africa. They are all focused on promoting an effective community response to the HIV epidemic in their countries and on the continent.

This programme aims to strengthen the LOs institutionally and programmatically, so that they are better able to contribute to changing the situation facing Key Populations in Africa. LOs should be a significant force for change in their own countries: reducing the denial of rights, addressing exclusion from services, and challenging social stigma and systemic discrimination suffered by people who belong to Key Populations.

We also engage actively with LGBT+<sup>1</sup> organisations, sex worker organisations and organisations of drug users with the aim of encouraging stronger, more equitable and effective partnerships between KPs and LOs.

### OUTCOMES

KP Connect contributes to three main outcomes (see opposite), the achievement of which will assist in:

- addressing exclusion;
- challenging social and systemic stigma and discrimination; and
- realising rights for Key Populations

### KEY POPULATIONS (KPS)

In KP Connect, 'KPs' refers to:

- men who have sex with men (MSM)
- transgender people
- sex workers and
- people who use drugs

### 3 MAIN OUTCOMES

#### Better KP programming and service provision

1. Improved capacity among civil society organisations to promote KP access to HIV, health and rights services.

#### Shifts in policy and practice: more enabling national environments for KPs

2. Increased engagement of national policy makers in KP issues.

#### More (and more effective) learning, cross-pollination and innovation

3. Improved processes for regional knowledge sharing and learning between regional, national and local organisations doing work with KP people and issues.

1. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and other people who face stigma, discrimination and minority stress because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

## PROGRAMME ELEMENTS

KP Connect offers LOs a range of supportive and developmental services, processes and curricula. The diagram opposite summarises our basic 'menu'. This is adapted to the unique needs, goals and contexts of partner organisations.

### Accompaniment

One of the key strengths of the programme is the opportunity to work with LOs over an extended period of time and establish relationships of trust and cooperation. We aim to work in solidarity and partnership to support change and development. KP Connect programme advisors/facilitators engage regularly with LO leaders and managers, as well as other core staff and partners.

### LILO

*Looking In, Looking Out (LILO)* is the title of a series of Positive Vibes' curricula and methods. LILO was initially designed to support people from marginalised and vulnerable groups (e.g. LGBT+). LILO workshops and processes activate the *Inside-Out Process* which is the basis of Positive Vibes' approach (See back page for further information).

KP Connect has expanded the LILO series by developing and rolling out LILO KP – a 3-day workshop which positively influences general population members' attitudes towards KPs. Participants have included government officials, religious leaders, AIDS Council members, health workers and much wider application is possible.

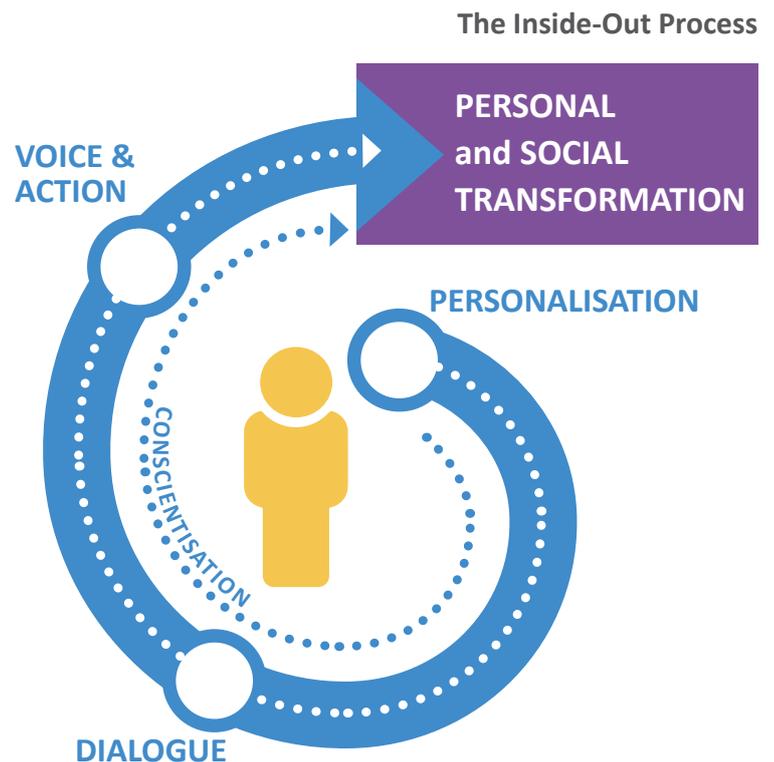
This workshop has been effectively implemented with all LO leaders, as well as most staff. Many LOs have begun to integrate LILO KP into their own programming and advocacy plans.

### Other elements

- **Strategy and Programming**  
Facilitating review, design and development of strategies, programmes and projects to address KP issues.
- **Resource Mobilisation**  
Strengthening fundraising systems, practices and plans.
- **Organisational Change and Development**  
Facilitating improved alignment between the organisation and its strategy and plans; shifting internal and external relationships.
- **Advocacy**  
Developing or adapting advocacy strategies and plans; resourcing some research (evidence generation) and direct advocacy work (e.g. implementation of LILO KP; high level meetings; campaigns).

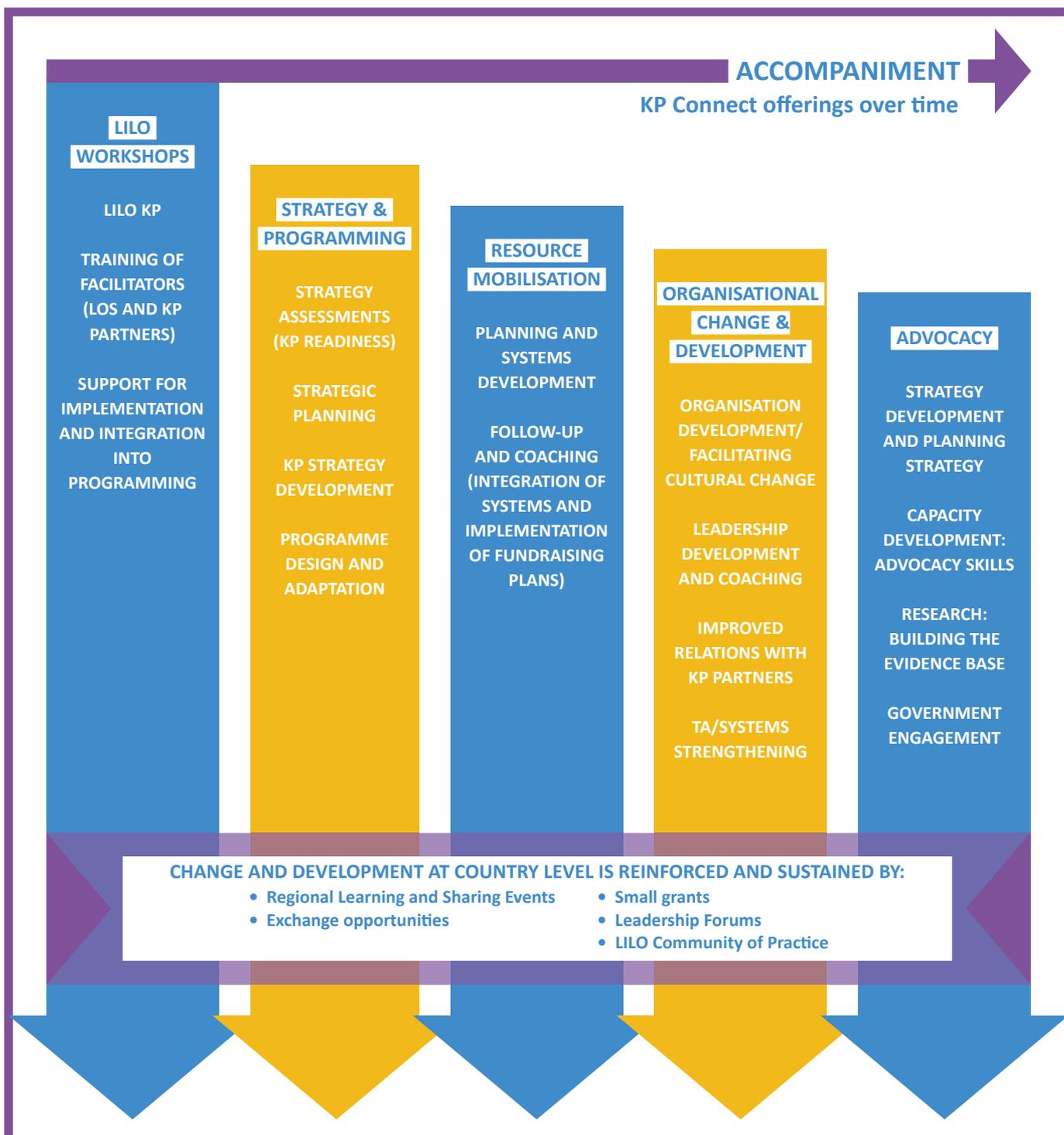
### Reinforcing and sustaining change

Much of the work described above takes place at country-level. In addition, we facilitate opportunities for exchange between LOs and host regional Learning and Sharing Events. We are also in the process of building a LILO Community of Practice to provide ongoing support and development to LOs and other practitioners who adopt Positive Vibes' LILO curricula.





# KP CONNECT PROGRAMME MODEL:



## OUTCOMES

- Improved technical capacity among civil society organisations to promote KP access to HIV, health and rights services, by end of 2017.
- In at least six countries, the Alliance can demonstrate increased engagement of national policy makers in KP issues, by end of 2017.
- Improved processes for regional knowledge sharing and learning by LOs and KP CSO, by 2017.

## HOW WE WORK: approach and theory of change

Positive Vibes (PV) is a solidarity organisation. In other words, we walk alongside emerging movements and organisations of marginalised and vulnerable people (e.g. KPs). This work is about accompaniment, facilitation, catalysing change and being a reflective partner.

We believe that people can:

- take charge of their own lives, voices, organisations and movements;
- strengthen themselves to more effectively shape their own futures; and
- contribute towards the larger goals of social inclusion, social justice and equity.

At the same time, we aim to influence changes in the attitudes, ideas and practices of other intermediary organisations, service providers, gatekeepers and policy makers. All with the aim of creating a more enabling environment for KPs and other marginalised group so that they can engage effectively and realise their rights.

Our *Inside-Out model* (see page 2) captures PV's basic theory of change. It is an iterative process that begins with **personalisation**: "What does this mean for me and my life? How does this issue (e.g. of exclusion/discrimination) connect to my experience? What is my part in creating this reality?"

Working with these kinds of questions in a variety of creative ways, supported by a community of peers, strengthens self-esteem and self-efficacy – both for key populations, and for those working with and opening up space for them. Personalisation connects people intellectually and emotionally to their own realities and those of others – and begins the process of personal exploration and change that is needed to support wider relational and structural change.

This in turn enables more effective engagement with others through open **dialogue** and enables changes in behaviour – in how people use their **voices** and what **actions** they choose at personal and organisational levels. The actions people take, and the process of moving along the Inside-Out spiral through multiple iterations, leads to **personal and social transformation**.

**Conscientisation** is a consequence of the *whole* Inside-Out process: it is about being *for myself* (self-efficacy) and *for others*. To be conscientised means a change in perception, thinking and motivation; an understanding of one's own agency and how power works in one's context and society.

All of PV's methods (workshops, coaching programmes, curricula, etc.) are built on this core model, as is our approach to long-term accompaniment of LO partners.

Our experience shows that the immediate effects of this approach include, for example, better service uptake and health outcomes among men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people, and people living with HIV (PLHIV) – as a consequence of improved personal efficacy and a greater sense of community- and self-worth. At intermediary organisation level (e.g. LOs), it has begun to contribute to more positive attitudes towards KPs, significant shifts in organisational strategy, and more equitable relations with KP-partner organisations.

### LET'S CONNECT

For more information about **KP Connect**  
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KP Connect is a programme of the **International HIV/AIDS Alliance**.

The programme is implemented by a regional Capacity Building Unit hosted by **Positive Vibes**. Positive Vibes is itself an Alliance Linking Organisation.

This partnership is part of a broader Alliance move towards stronger Southern-led programming which aims to contribute to strengthening the Alliance's work with KPs in Africa.

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