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## WPATH symposium 2014 : *HIV vulnerability and Transgender / hijra women in India*

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16 February 2014

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**Alliance**

## Vulnerabilities of Transgender women

- Worldwide, the available evidence suggests that, HIV prevalence rates reach as high as 68 percent in trans\* communities, with new case incidence from 3.4 to 7.8 per 100 person-years.
- Across south Asia countries there are similar pattern reported for harassment and violence again trans people.
- Epidemiological research for other STIs indicates high rates for syphilis, rectal gonorrhoea, rectal Chlamydia and other STIs among Asia-Pacific trans\* women.
- International guidelines missing (PEPFAR guideline designed for MSM population)



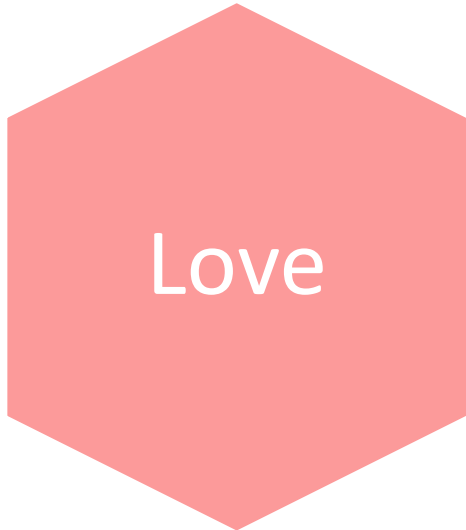
- High vulnerability to HIV in transgender and hijra community in India - 8.82 % HIV prevalence on 3 central surveillance sites
- UNDP study - 166,665 – reported by CBOs in 42 sites. However, the correct estimate is still ambiguous.

Epidemiological data and intervention strategies are missing. Low self esteem and high substance abuse reduces capacity to negotiate condom use.

Daily violence and police harassment disrupt existing HIV interventions. Lack of awareness about rights discourages reporting of violence.

Lack of other employment opportunities limit options to professions like sex work.



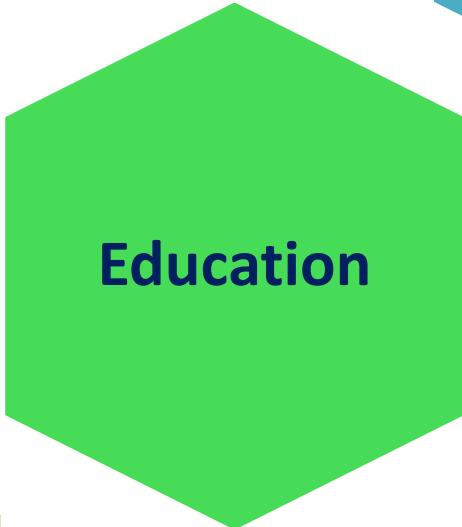


Love



Family

**Sex work**



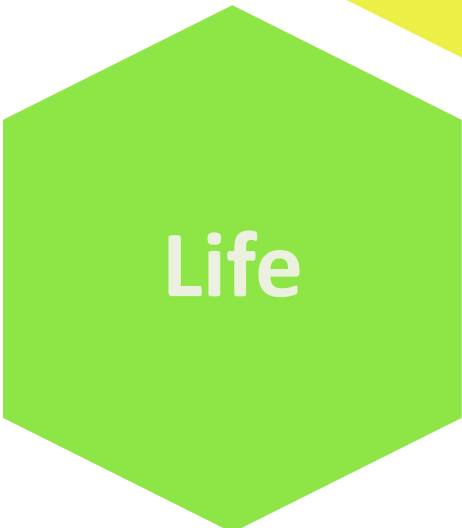
Education



Health



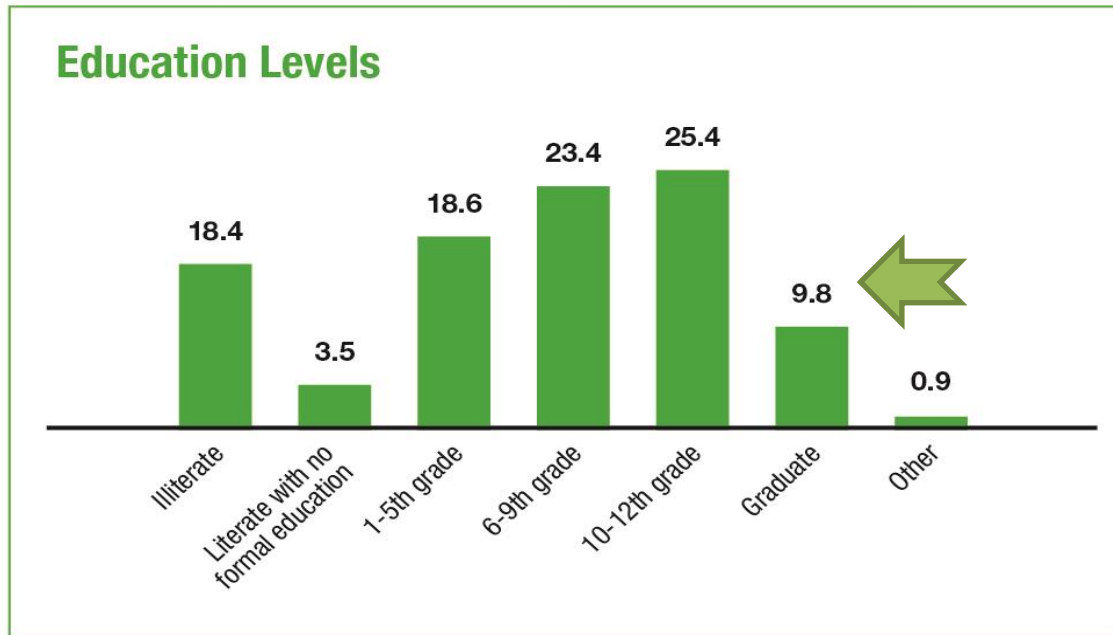
Violence



Life

**Access**

**Feminization**



- Effeminate behavior lead to gender discrimination and harassment
- Gender discrimination and violence discourage community from completing formal education
- Lack of family support and self guilt forces community members to migrate from their own states
- Discrimination at the educational institutes fails to recognize gender beyond binary gender expression

# Primary Occupations: Transgenders & Hijras

| Primary occupation        | AP         | KAR        | MAH        | TN         | UP         | WB         | Total      |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Unemployed                | -          | -          | 3          | -          | 6          | 6          | 2          |
| Student                   | -          | -          | 3          | -          | -          | 14         | 3          |
| Salaried employment       | 4          | -          | -          | 24         | -          | 9          | 7          |
| Family business/trade     | -          | -          | -          | -          | 6          | 6          | 2          |
| Non-family business/trade | -          | -          | -          | -          | -          | 3          | 1          |
| Agricultural labour       | -          | -          | -          | -          | 11         | -          | 1          |
| Non agricultural labour   | -          | -          | -          | 3          | -          | 11         | 3          |
| Self-employed             | 4          | -          | 3          | 14         | 11         | -          | 5          |
| Masseur                   | -          | 3          | -          | -          | -          | -          | 1          |
| Badhai                    | -          | -          | 13         | -          | 39         | 14         | 9          |
| Begging                   | 32         | 61         | 23         | 41         | -          | 17         | 32         |
| Dancing                   | -          | -          | 3          | -          | 11         | 3          | 2          |
| Sex work                  | 56         | 33         | 50         | 14         | 17         | 17         | 30         |
| Others                    | 4          | 3          | -          | 6          | -          | -          | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |
| <i>Base</i>               | 25         | 36         | 30         | 37         | 18         | 35         | 181        |

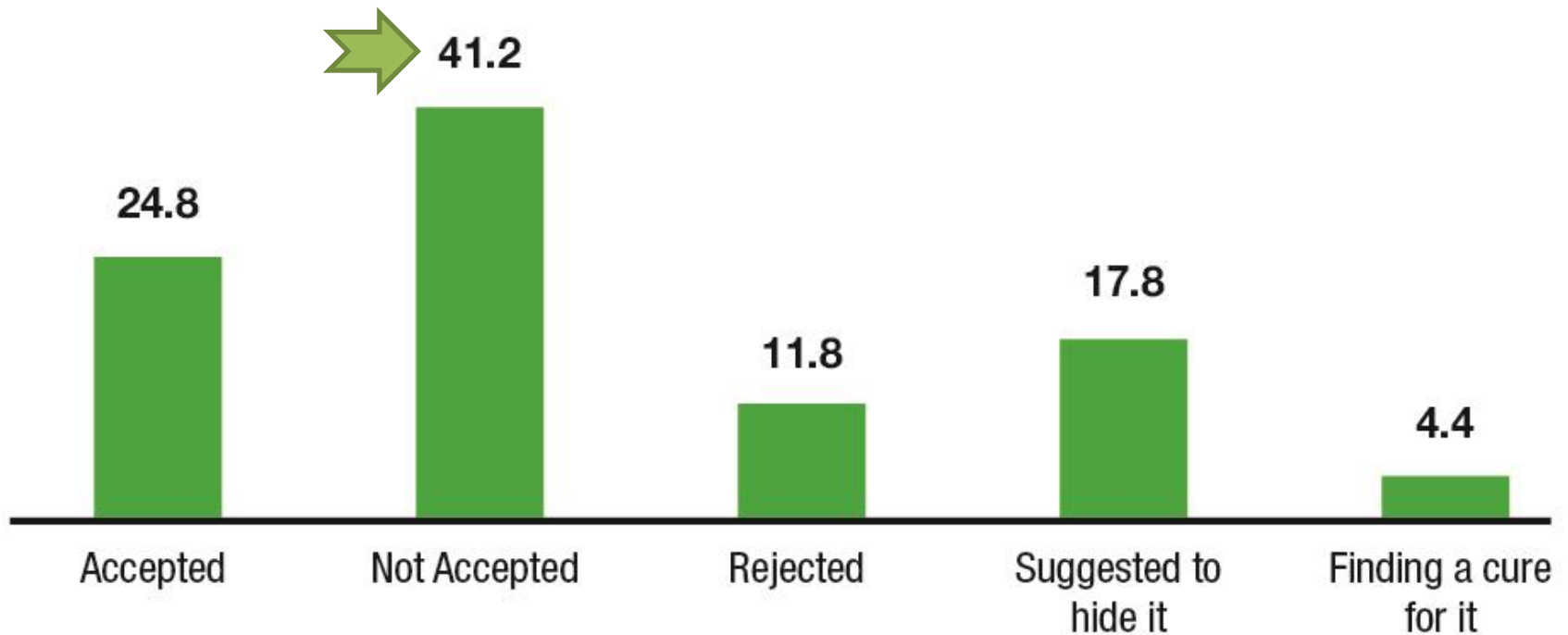
## Key Points

- Begging is the primary occupation for almost 1/3<sup>rd</sup> TGH – Highest in KAR
- In AP, more than ½ consider sex work as their primary occupation
- TGH who are salaried is observed to be high in TN
- Badhai is comparatively high in UP

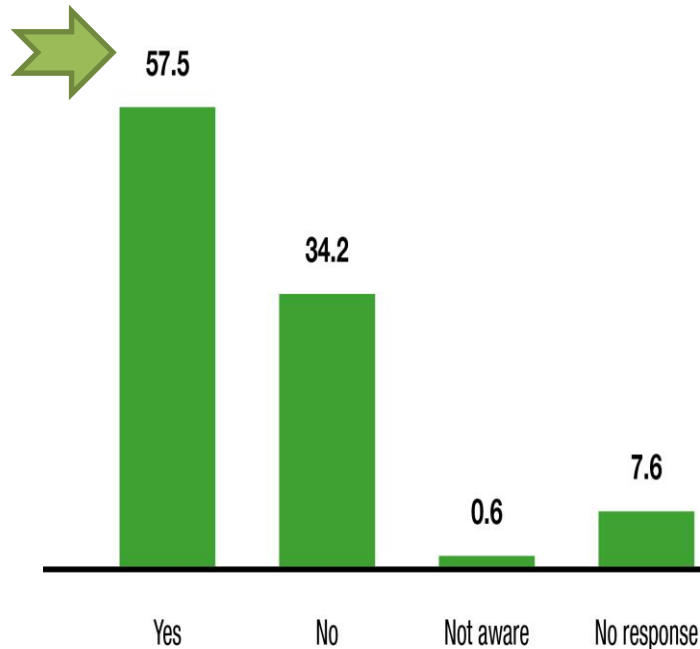
## Baseline

32% ranked salaried job as the main occupation, while 9% ranked sex work as the main occupation.

## TG/Hijras: Acceptance by Family and Society



Have you ever faced violence by police, goondas or others in profession



**48% (midline 2012) of the respondents had faced one of the forms of stigma and discrimination in the four areas:**

- Ever faced problem from police / law enforcement agencies (%)
- Ever been discriminated due to your MTH behaviour/identity (%)
- In the past year, has anyone forced or coerced you to have sexual relations against your will? (%)
- In the past year, has anyone slapped you, punched you, hit you, or caused you any other type of physical harm (%)

**Baseline -31%**



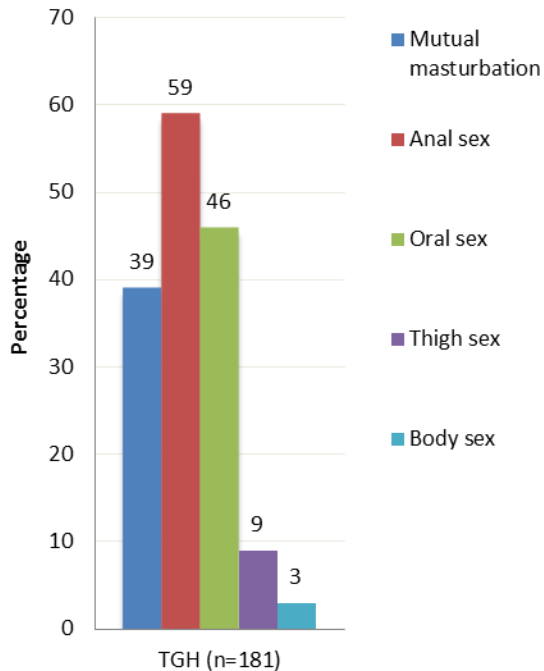
# Male Partners of Transgenders and Hijras

Mean age at first sex

13.99

Mean age of partner

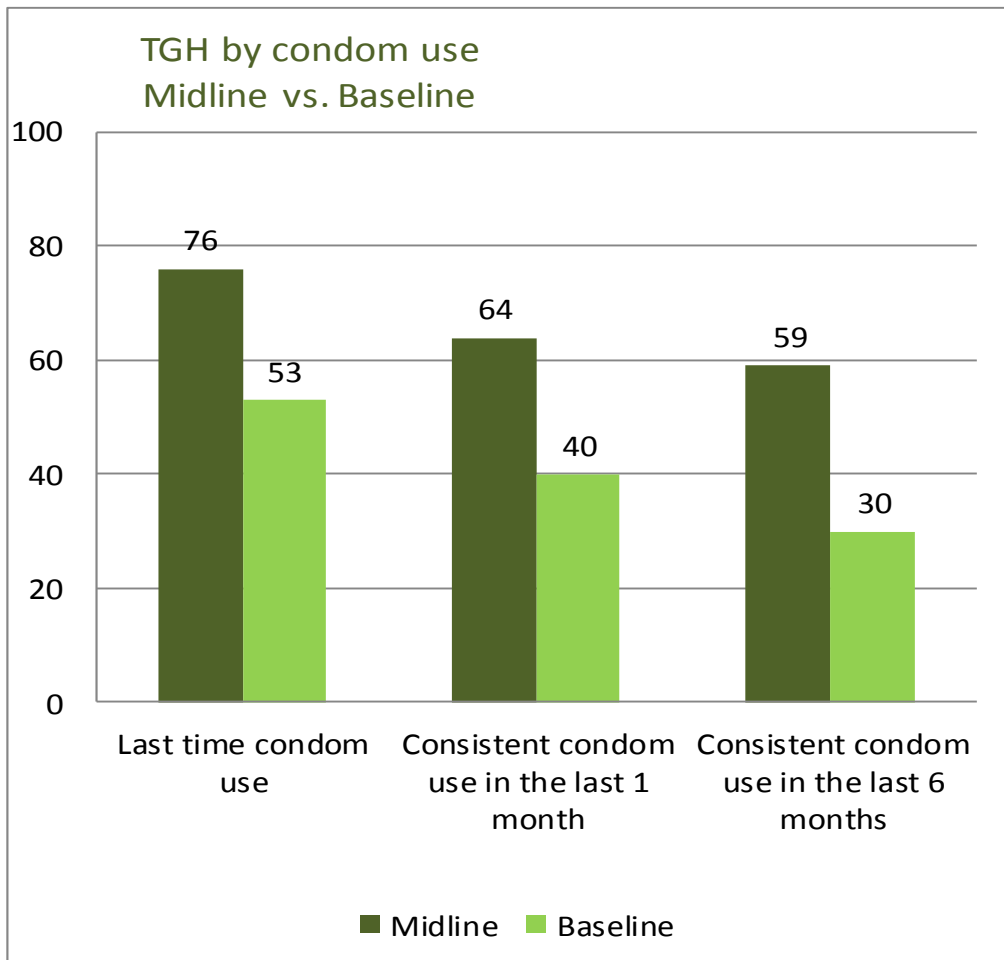
20.55



| Partner               | %          | Type of sex                              |
|-----------------------|------------|--|
| Co-worker             | 4          | Mutual masturbation (57%)                |
| Friend                | 35         | Anal sex (66%)                           |
| Relative              | 22         | Mutual masturbation (50%)                |
| Neighbor              | 27         | Anal sex (60%)                           |
| Commercial partner    | 3          |  |
| Someone unknown to me | 6          | Mutual masturbation & anal sex (6% each) |
| School teacher        | 1          |  |
| No response           | 3          |  |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>100</b> |  |
| <i>Base</i>           | <i>181</i> |  |

Total to exceed 100 due to multiple responses

## Condom use : regular MTH partner during anal sex



- High partner turn over among transgender and hijra
- Condom negotiations are low due : fear or losing partner
- Condom use linked with the domestic violence of the partner
- Low self esteem and influence of substance abuse

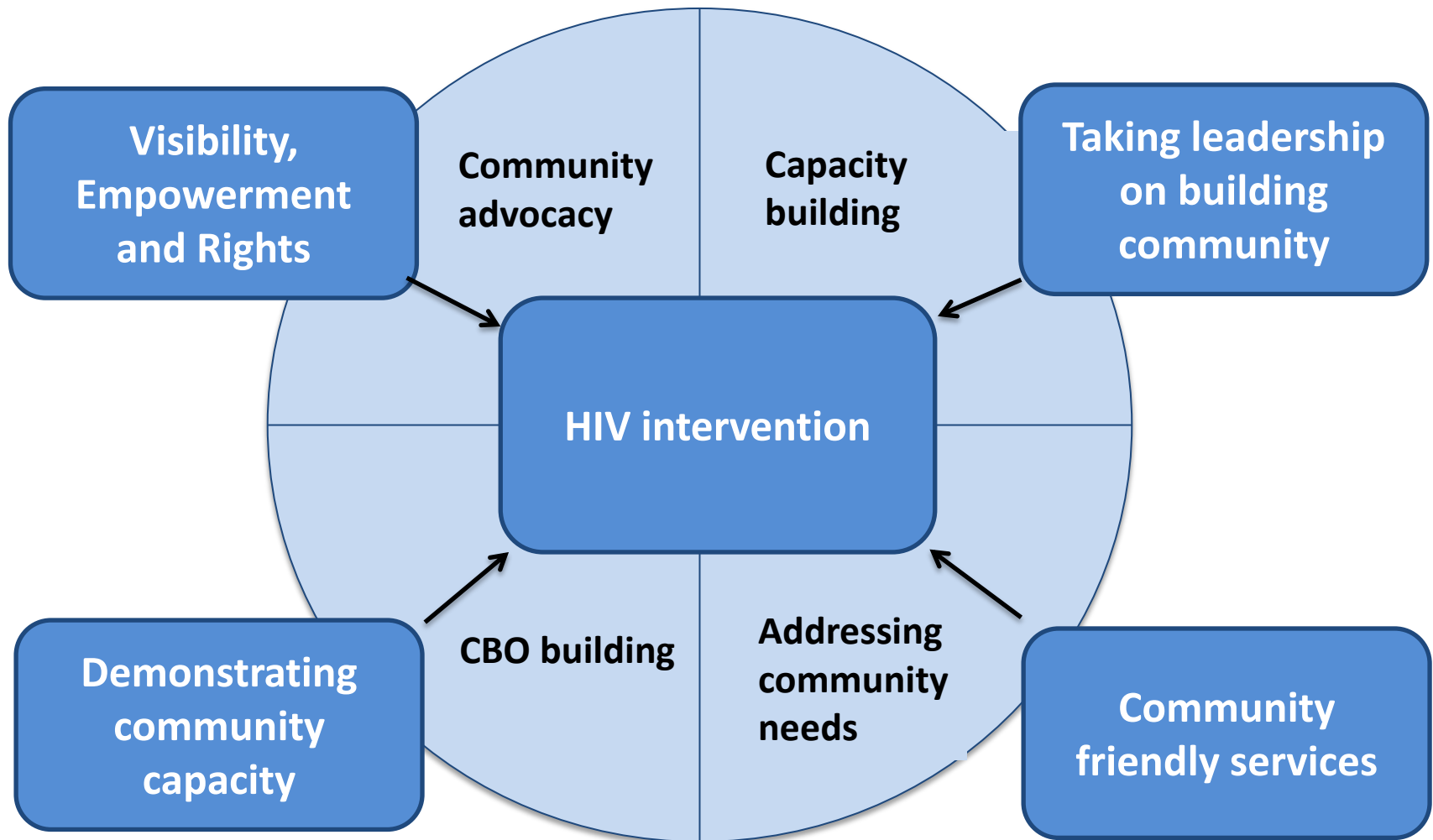


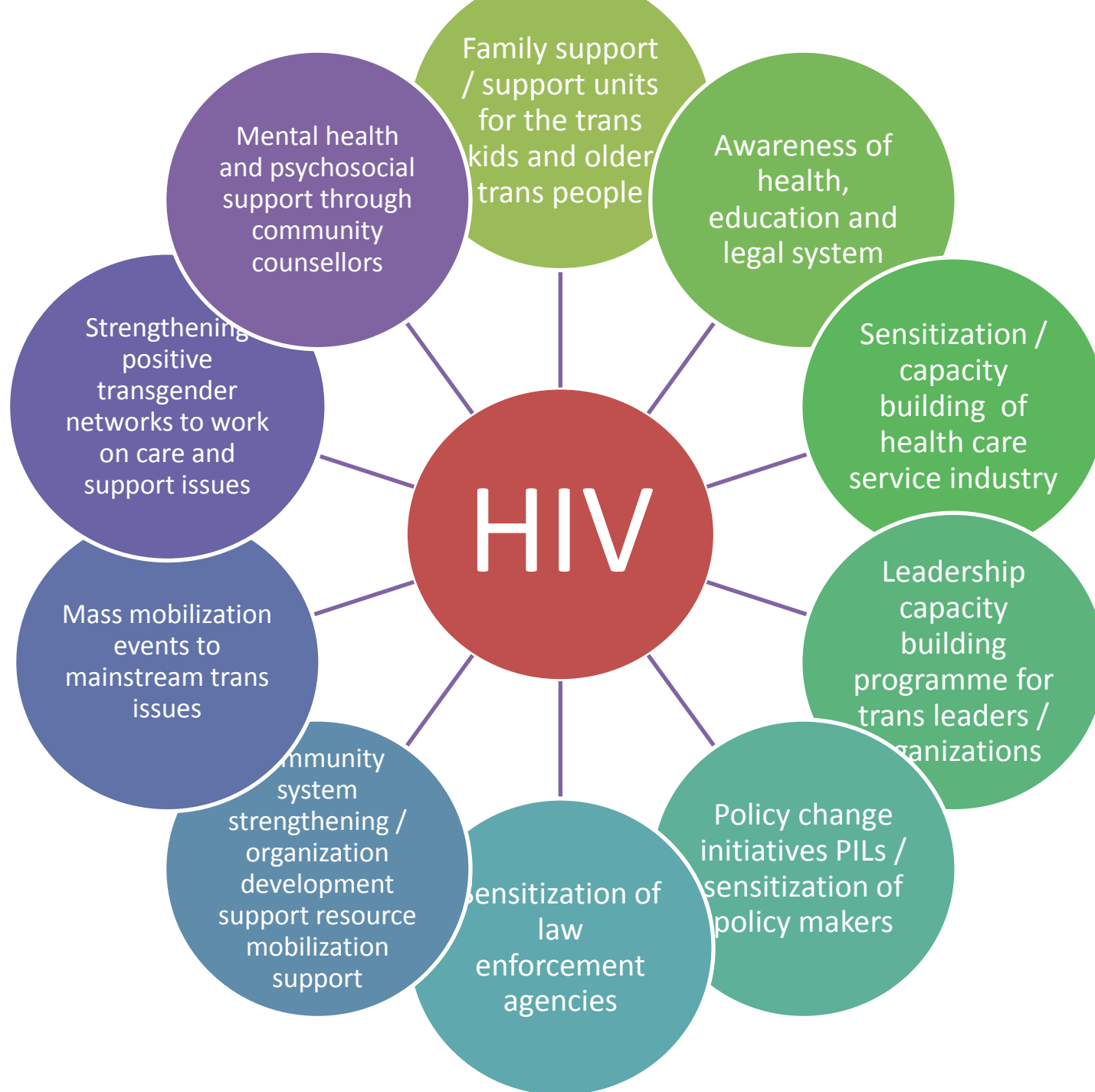
(Hindi: acknowledgement; acceptance; identity)

Global Fund-supported HIV programme that develops capacity of CBOs to provide improved HIV prevention services to more than 453,750 men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender (TG) and *hijra* community members in 17 states over five years (2010-2015)

**Key features:**

- 90 Pre-Targeted Interventions (TI) & 110 TI-Plus CBOs
- Capacity building of organisations and individuals
- Community-friendly services
- Advocacy and policy initiatives
- Community systems strengthening and community preparedness





# 207 against 377

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**NO** ~~377~~  
**GOING  
BACK!**