

## **Terms of reference for the Provincial MIPA Forum**

### **1. The Background**

The principle of meaningful involvement of PLHIV in HIV and AIDS, (MIPA) in all aspects of HIV and AIDS programming seeks to promote the integration of PLHIV in the planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of interventions addressing HIV and AIDS. Such an approach is critical to the ethical, efficient and effective response to HIV and AIDS. It is essentially a policy position which rationalises and secures the position of PLHIV as legitimate participants in policy and decision making. The concept is anchored on “Denver principles” of 1983 where positive activists announced a set of principles destined to revolutionise the way the world responded to the HIV epidemic. The “Denver principles” set forth standards for human rights and self-empowerment of PLHIV.

The MIPA concept was originally expressed through the acronym “GIPA” which referred to a stated intention to greater/ increased involvement of PLHIV. The GIPA concept was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS (UNGASS DoC) in 2001. In 2003, PLHIV lobbied for a new GIPA initiative, one that shifted the focus from increased involvement to a more expansive vision for meaningful involvement of PLHIV, focussing more on the overall empowerment of PLHIV. Lack of adequate implementation and popularisation of GIPA, resulted in some stakeholders questioning its appropriateness and effectiveness, and adopted a reinvention of the term to Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS (MIPA). Initially PLHIV were involved as mere recipients of HIV services but with the evolution of the epidemic PLHIV have assumed leaderships positions at all levels.

At a national level, Zimbabwe has committed itself to integrating the principles of GIPA and MIPA. The operationalisation of this commitment has

been through the establishment of a MIPA Desk at National AIDS Council whose role is to coordinate the PLHIV activities at all levels. Through the MIPA Desk the National MIPA Forum has been established, whose membership is drawn from representatives of organisations for or working closely with People Living with HIV (PLHIV). A MIPA Strategy has also been developed, guided by the ZNASP 2015 -2020.

At Sub National Level, coordination has been adhoc whereby some provinces have come up with well-established Provincial or Regional MIPA Forums whilst some are still operating on an adhoc basis. A national monitoring team was established in 2012 and has been conducting visits to all the provinces. A need to cascade the Community Monitoring Programme to sub-national level was realised and some provinces have established provincial and district monitoring teams and others are yet to. There is also need to share information between the national and sub-national levels,

It is against this background that these Terms of reference are developed.

## **2. MIPA Forum**

### **2.1 Composition**

The MIPA Forum will be comprised of a maximum of 20 organisations, institutions, networks, and support group representatives of PLHIV operating at Provincial Level and duly registered with relevant authorities include National AIDS (NAC). The Members of the Forum must be having tangible structures and activities in the provinces for them to participate in the Forum. The organisation should be working with PLHV as a service provider or running programmes that directly benefit PLHIV. Technical Partners such as Ministry of Health can be co-opted to offer technical Advise on service provision. Provincial MIPA should

have at-least a representative from each of the provinces as well as members representing Adolescents and Women Living with HIV

### **3. The objectives of the MIPA Forum will be:**

- To establish and strengthen mechanisms for coordination, collaboration, accountability and communication between PLHIV representatives, support groups, organisations, networks and the broader community of PLHIV.
- To share information and experiences in MIPA, and Support Groups initiatives among PLHIV.
- To provide technical support on MIPA issues to the programme, policy makers and implementers dealing with HIV and AIDS at Provincial level.
- To facilitate the identification and prioritisation of the capacity enhancement and other PLHIV needs.
- To champion activities aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination against PLHIV.
- To organise and conduct MIPA activities such as Community Monitoring, treatment Literacy, Candle Light, Memorials. Awareness campaigns etc
- To develop a common and coordinated approach to MIPA Programming.
- To monitor the implementation of programmes, trends and issues arising out of MIPA interventions
- To elect representatives to bodies such as the CCM, PLHIV Coordinating bodies.

### **4. Agenda Items for the meeting**

- Receipt and discussion of reports from districts and PLHIV organisations on MIPA activities

- Reports by Adolescents and Women Living with HIV representatives
- Identification of issues to be presented at the Provincial Stakeholders, PAAC and MIPA Forum Meetings
- Provide feed-back to provincial members from PAAC and National MIPA Forum
- Presentation by Technical partners on stake of affairs for ART Services
- Discussions on issues emanating from the community monitoring and identification of solutions.
- Identification of advocacy issues for the province

## **5. Meetings**

The Provincial MIPA Forum will meet once a quarter preferable before the Provincial Stakeholders Meetings so as to feed into the stakeholder meetings.

The MIPA Forum will be reporting to the PAAC, Stakeholders Meeting and MIPA Forum

## **6 Committee**

The Forum will elect a committee comprising of:-

- Chairperson and Vice chairperson
- Secretary and Vice Secretary
- Treasurer
- Two Committee Members

Secretariat services will be provided by NAC or an organisation designated by the Provincial Manager.