



Code LINKS

hello

HELLO FROM THE CODE SECRETARIAT.

Welcome to the second edition of Code Links. Since our last update, the Code Team has finalised our first four Self-Assessment Checklists, which will help you measure your organisation's programmes along the lines of good practice in mainstreaming HIV, VCT, MIPA and stigma & discrimination.

We have also developed a tiered endorsement process to showcase signatories who have not just signed on, but integrated the Code's principles into their work. Go to the Check this out section to learn more.

Finally, we have an interview with one of our Code Champions based in Ecuador, Corporacion Kimirina, who tells us how and why the Code is an important tool for their work.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of Code Links!

Translations

The Code is now available in five languages: English, Russian, Arabic, French and Spanish. All signatories will receive a free copy in their relevant language in March 2008. Additional copies can be purchased through Oxfam (<http://publications.oxfam.org.uk>) and through regional distributors. Please visit the Code website for further information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Self-Assessment Checklists

The Code Secretariat has launched a Self-Assessment Tool to help you put the Code's principles into practice. The first four modules are now available, focusing on Stigma & Discrimination, MIPA (the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV), Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) and Mainstreaming HIV.

The modules can be downloaded from the Code website (www.hivcode.org) in English, Spanish, French, Russian and Arabic. After doing the assessment, send us your Action Plan and receive credit as an Implementing NGO, as outlined below!

Tiered Endorsement Process

The Code has developed a tiered system for NGOs to recognise signatories as they move forward on integrating the Code into their work. The process is as follows:



Endorsing NGO: an organisation that has endorsed the Code's principles and is committed to utilising the Code in their programmes.



Implementing NGO: an organisation that can demonstrate it is putting the Code principles into practice. Signatories must complete at least one self-assessment checklist and submit an Action Plan, or reference the Code in an organisational strategic document.



Code Champion: an organisation that can actively demonstrate use of the Code in its daily work or 'champions' the Code in its community, with other NGOs, at conferences - the possibilities are endless!

Use these logos on your websites and marketing materials to promote your level of endorsement.

A united response to a global challenge





ENDORSE the Code!

Is your NGO committed to continuous improvement and accountability?

If you haven't yet pledged your support for the NGO Code of Good Practice, you can do so today in 3 easy steps:

- 1. Download the endorsement letter template** from the Code website, which states that you are committed to applying the Code's principles in your organisation.
- 2. Make it official** - have it signed by the head of your organisation.
- 3. Send your letter** - to the Code Secretariat by mail or email (info@hivcode.org)



CHECK THIS OUT

Does your organisation meaningfully involve people living with HIV (MIPA) in your work?

What does MIPA mean?

The NGO Code of Good Practice defines MIPA as the right to active, free and meaningful participation in all aspects of the HIV response. Involving people living with HIV and affected communities is critical for not only ensuring the effectiveness of your HIV programmes, but reducing stigma and discrimination.

How does your organisation measure up?

The following four questions address baseline issues that should be considered when assessing the effectiveness your programmes in integrating MIPA.

1. We advocate for PLHIV to participate in decision-making or policy making bodies and that their input is equally valued. Yes / No
2. We advocate for PLHIV to be meaningfully involved in the design, planning and implementation of HIV interventions. Yes / No
3. We have an organisational environment that fosters non-discrimination and values the contribution of PLHIV and affected communities. Yes / No
4. We ensure PLHIV and people from affected communities have a variety of roles at different levels within our organisation. Yes / No

How can the MIPA self-assessment help you?

If you answered no to any of the above questions, please go to the Code's website to access the full self-assessment module and find resources to help you strengthen areas that require improvement.

Remember, if you send your completed action plan to the Code Secretariat, you will be considered an Implementing NGO, so go to www.hivcode.org to download the MIPA module today!



PASS IT ON
Help us to inform others about the Code.
Forward this newsletter to 5 of your colleagues.

Code CHAMPION

Excerpts from an interview with Amira Herdoiza, Executive Director of Corporacion Kimirina, a non-profit organisation based in Quito, Ecuador and a Code Regional Distribution Partner in Latin America.

Why is the Code important to Latin America?

In Latin America there has been a huge increase in NGOs working in the field of HIV. This in turn has seen an increase in organisations who have limited experience in managing their resources efficiently and unfortunately has led to a culture of non-transparency in many HIV NGOs in our region.

For this reason we view the Code as a vital tool in assisting us to change the parameters in which we and other NGOs work. The Code is a great reference tool for identifying good practice in the response to HIV, thus enabling us to work towards better programming and outcomes.

We believe that promoting and embracing the Code's guiding, organisational and programming principles will help all NGOs working in the field of HIV become more accountable to our beneficiaries - people living with and affected by HIV.

How does the Code support the work of Kimirina?



The Code guides our work. It provides an important framework that guides our programmes and processes in an accountable and transparent manner throughout the organisation.

We believe it's important to lead by example and therefore practice all the Codes principles internally. For example we refer to the Code's principles to guide our financial systems so that we allocate our resources effectively, and we ensure that the meaningful involvement of people living with and affected by HIV is at the centre of all our responses.

How are you championing the Code in your region?

Write to the Code Secretariat and be the next NGO to be featured in Code Links.

feed BACK

Every newsletter will feature a Champion, so write to us about how the Code has inspired your organisation, how you have used it in your work, and offer your expertise to other NGOs.

Supporting your efforts is our priority, so send your stories, photos, ideas and feedback to info@hivcode.org we look forward to hearing from you.

Code Contact Details

Address:

Ch. des Cretes 17
Petit -Saconnex

PO Box 372, 1211 Geneva
19, Switzerland

Ph: +41 22 730 4832
or + 41 22 730 4251

Fax: +41 22 733 0395

Email: info@hivcode.org

INTRODUCING

Steering Committee Members



Kevin Osborne

Kevin is a Senior HIV/AIDS Advisor for IPPF and Chair of the Code Steering Committee. Kevin and his team are proud to have integrated the Code into IPPF's recruitment and accreditation

processes, so that all new employees are introduced to the Code and affiliated organisations are guided by its principles.



Bernard Gardiner

Bernard manages the Global HIV/AIDS Unit at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, where the Code project is currently hosted.

One example

of how Bernard has championed the Code throughout the Red Cross Movement was when, at the recent General Assembly, he mobilised 35 National Societies to sign on to the Code.