

Enhancing gender-based violence (GBV) support and response through health facility engagement: the FHI 360 EpiC Liberia experience

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Background:

In Liberia, marginalization and discrimination is high among key populations (KP) and increases risk of HIV and GBV. Between October 2021 and September 2022; violence was reported by 673 KP, primarily (75%) female sex workers.

The PEPFAR/USAID-funded EpiC project, implemented by FHI 360, supports KP-friendly HIV services including GBV.

Objective:

To improve the provision of comprehensive GBV services to increase referral from the community to health facility.

Methodology:

In December 2022, EpiC trained 26 KP friendly ART clinicians from 13 health facilities on GBV, including mentorship, tracking survivors, and provision of LIVES: Listen, Inquire about needs and concerns, Validate their experiences, Enhance and provide Support through a comprehensive package (HIV, STI, contraceptives, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)).

Period	Referred	Received comprehensive services	Percentages
Jul - Dec 2022	96	32	33%
Jan - Dec 2023	849	707	83%

Conclusion:

The training improved the offering and quality of comprehensive services and facilitated an increase in referrals from the community to health facilities.

