

# Setting the Global Research Agenda for Community-Based HIV Service Delivery through the Faith Sector

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## **For which topic were research priorities identified?**

community-based HIV service delivery through the faith sector

## **In which location was the research priority setting conducted?**

international

## **Why was it conducted at all?**

While leading AIDS organizations expect faith and health collaborations to play a crucial role in organizing and scaling up community-based HIV services, it is unclear how this can be realized. Little primary research has been conducted into which strategies for collaboration and service provision are most effective, efficient, scalable and sustainable. Seeking to align research with urgent needs, enhance coordination and increase the likelihood that results are used, this study aimed to set an inclusive global research agenda that reflects priority research questions from key stakeholders at the intersection of HIV healthcare and faith.

## **What was the objective?**

to set an inclusive global research agenda that reflects priority research questions from key stakeholders at the intersection of HIV healthcare and faith

## **What was the outcome?**

a list of 10 research topics

## **How long did the research prioritization take?**

No information provided.

## **Which methods were used to identify research priorities?**

COHRED approach

## **How were the priorities for research identified exactly?**

Step 1: collecting research questions: from document analyses and five focus group discussions with faith leaders and healthcare workers. Step 2: expert meeting: to formulate the scope of the priority setting process, ensure engagement of potential key users, and help set the scene for the research priority setting. Step 3: development of tailored research priority approach combining the COHRED guidelines with elements of the Delphi method. Step 4: interviews with stakeholders about needs for research. Step 5: preliminary list of research questions and themes was formulated. Step 6: survey: participants asked to rank and add research topics, no new topics were added. Step 7: expert review: topics and questions were reviewed and adjusted by researchers and working groups. Step 8: formulating a draft research agenda which was checked by experts. Step 9: agenda with research priorities was presented at several national and international conferences, discussed with key funders and other stakeholders

## **Which stakeholders took part?**

Faith leaders, policymakers, healthcare providers, faith leaders, academics, HIV activists. Focus group discussions: 170 participants. Interviews: 53 participants. Survey: 110 participants. Expert review: 21 participants. Interview and survey participants: 107 researchers, 96 policymakers, 63 faith leaders, 70 healthcare professionals, 70 HIV activists.

## **How were stakeholders recruited?**

The project team purposively sampled a core group of experts with extensive global work experience and used snowballing.

## **Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?**

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.