ENSURING GOOD QUALITY AND EQUITABLE HEALTHCARE BY REDUCING HIV-RELATED STIGMA

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Background/Purpose:
The WHO has developed a Technical Brief that presents the latest evidence about providing good-quality HIV-related health care by ensuring dignity, equity and inclusion and reducing HIV-related stigma. It aims to contribute towards achieving universal health coverage, which encompasses central tenets of universality, non-discrimination, quality, and access to healthcare services.
The Brief presents practical considerations to address the actional drivers of stigma primarily for health policymakers and planners, facility managers, educators and others supporting the healthcare workforce

Approach:
A series of in-person and online consultations informed the process, comprising diverse community, academic and other health sector stakeholders. Some 113 participants responded to an online consultation in December 2023, and 45 joined a zoom-based consultation to review the principles and components in April 2024.

Outcomes/Impact:
A socio ecological model of health and human rights form the IAS~Lancet Commission on Health and Human Rights (2024) was adapted to focus on actionable approaches to promote quality and address stigma in healthcare settings (see Figure 1). Three priority principles and components were identified:
1 Ensuring people are at the centre and enabling quality of life
2 Improving the quality of healthcare for people living with HIV, key and priority populations
3 Ensuring environments and systems are enabling quality care for people living with HIV, key populations, and other communities vulnerable to marginalisation

Innovation and Significance:
Informed by a collaborative and consultative process, the Technical Brief offers a 'solutions'-oriented approach to look beyond stigma and focus on presenting practical approaches to ensure quality, equity, and inclusion in healthcare for all.
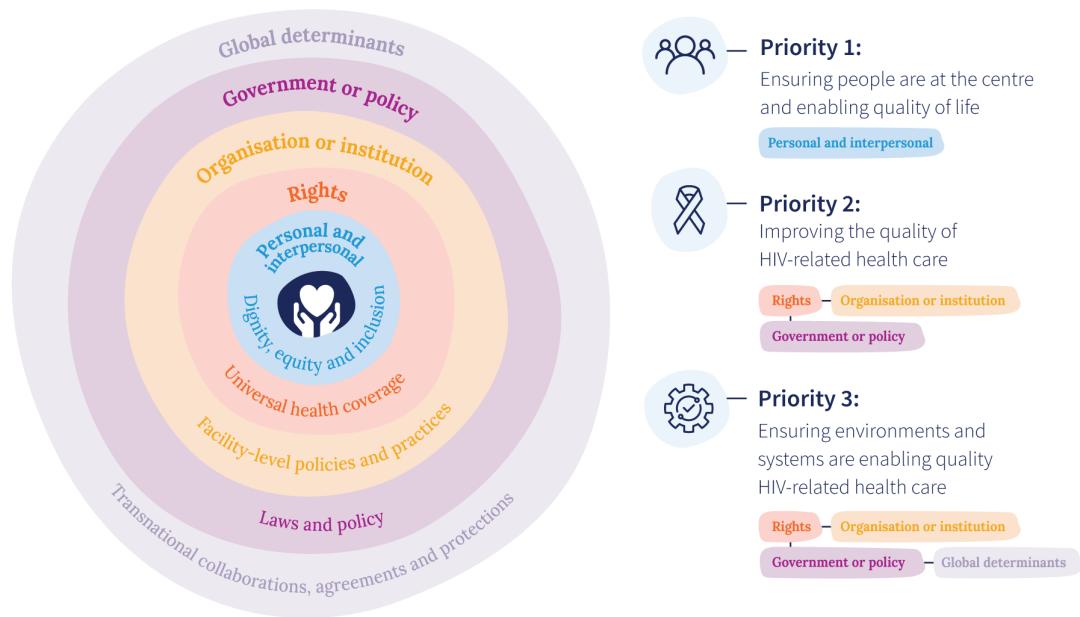
Figure 1 A socio ecological model of actionable approaches for ensuring quality and equitable healthcare by reducing HIV related stigma