

# Enabling the Scale-up of Efforts to Reduce HIV Stigma and Discrimination: A New Framework to Inform Program Implementation and Measurement

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# Issues

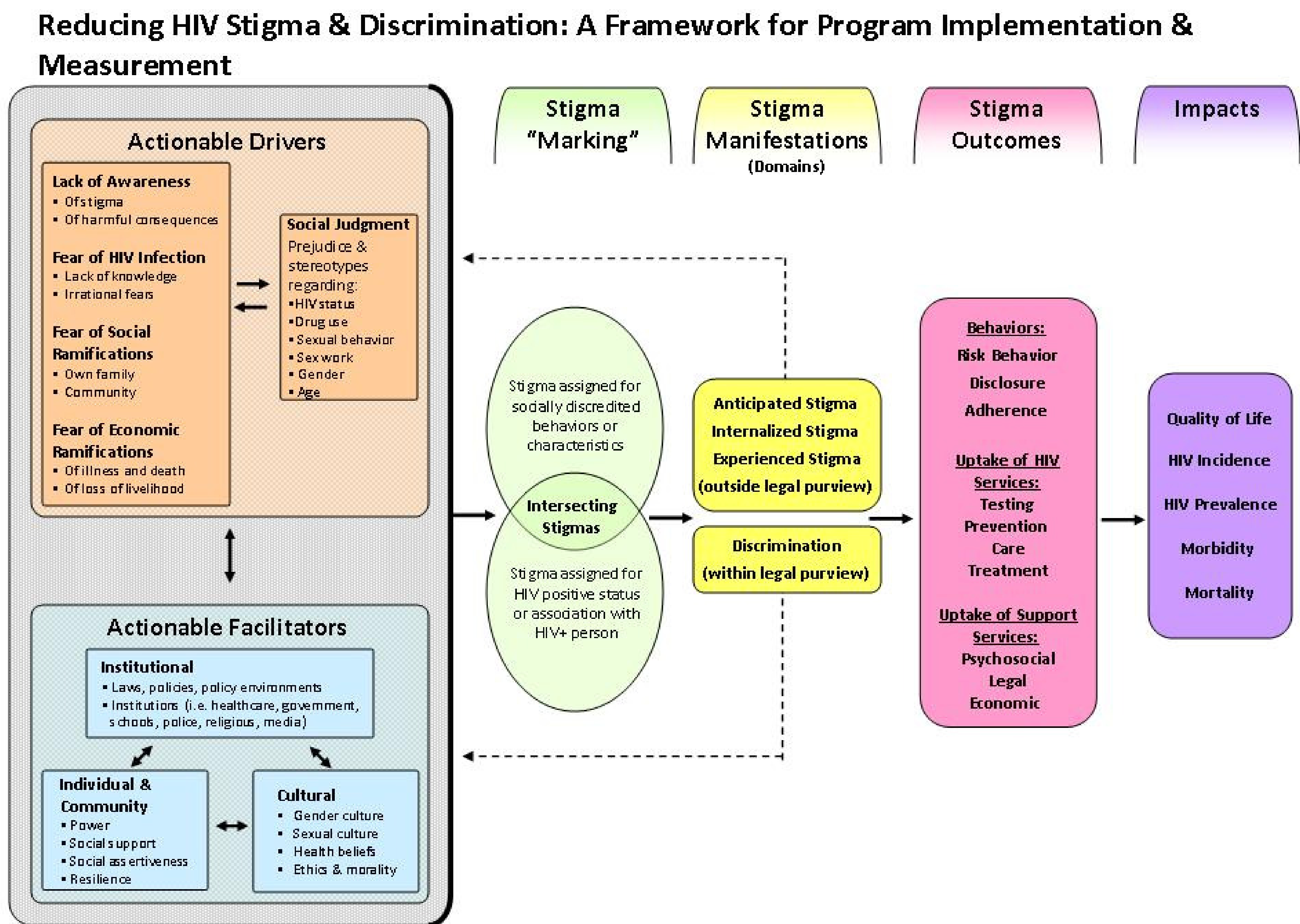
**R**educing HIV stigma and discrimination (S&D) is crucial to the success of global HIV and MDG efforts. While much progress has been made in developing programmes to reduce S&D, a significant barrier to scale-up is the lack of standardized indicators to assess and compare effectiveness and impact across contexts and over time. This gap stems partially from the lack of a conceptual framework that describes entry points for S&D-reduction programming and measurement.

## Description

Building on discussions from a meeting of S&D measurement experts and programme implementers convened by ICRW, JHU, IPPF, GNP+ and UNAIDS in November 2009, the new framework outlines key areas for S&D programming and measurement. The framework highlights ‘actionable drivers and facilitators’ of S&D and describes how S&D is assigned to and resisted by individuals and groups. The framework identifies four manifestations of stigma that influence the success or failure of programmes promoting universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

# Lessons Learned

To ensure that combination approaches are employed to address S&D, the societal and individual-level factors promoting S&D must be highlighted. So too the intersecting stigmas faced by vulnerable groups. The framework is based on the observation that all individuals can anticipate, internalize, experience and/or perpetuate S&D, acting as stigmatized or stigmatizers in different contexts. S&D programmes must therefore generate and use nuanced understanding of stigma manifestations and outcomes in different populations.



## Framework Overview

- Based on current evidence and gaps identified as critical areas for programming and measurement by the Stigma Indicator Working Group.
- Actionable drivers and facilitators are those that can be addressed directly through programmes.
- Drivers negatively influence the stigmatization process.
- Facilitators can have either a positive or negative influence
- Drivers and facilitators influence the marking of individuals or groups as socially unacceptable based on behaviors, characteristics and/or HIV status.

- Stigma manifests in one of 4 ways: anticipated, internalized and experienced stigma and/or discrimination.
- Stigma manifestations influence a range of outcomes, including behaviors, uptake of HIV services and uptake of support services, which ultimately influence individual quality of life, HIV incidence and prevalence.

## Next Steps

The framework is being used to establish a systematic array of entry points for S&D-reduction programming and to develop indicators that will be validated for use globally. Once standardized indicators are agreed upon, data collection can be harmonized across national and international reporting mechanisms to inform evaluation and scale-up of effective S&D-reduction programs globally.