Addressing gender inequality & violence as a critical enabler in the HIV response

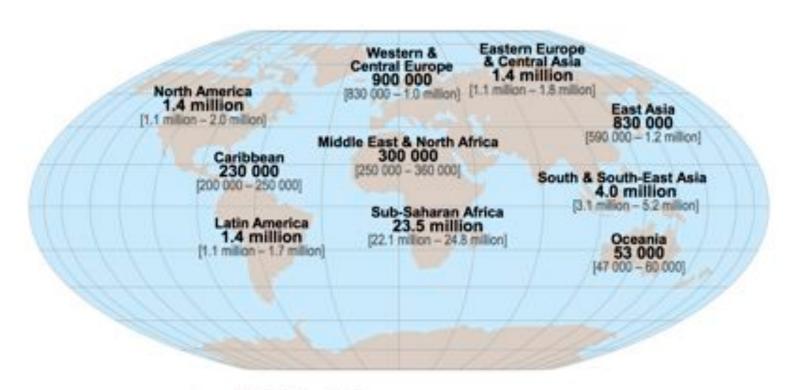
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Globally 34 million living with HIV

Adults and children estimated to be living with HIV | 2011



Total: 34.0 million [31.4 million – 35.9 million]

and the second s

Every minute, a young woman is newly infected with HIV.

As a result of their lower economic, socio-cultural status in many countries, women and girls are disadvantaged when it comes to negotiating safe sex, accessing HIV prevention information and services.



HIV is the leading cause of death of women of reproductive age.10

Globally, young women aged 15-24, are most vulnerable to HIV with infection rates twice as high as in young men, and accounting for 22% of all new HIV infections 9



Only one female condom is available for every 36 women in Sub-Saharan Africa.8



of women aged 20-24 years in the developing world marry before they are 18 years old.7

Approximately 40 percent of pregnancies worldwide are unintended, increasing risk of women's ill-health and maternal death.6



of young women have comprehensive and correct knowledge on HIV.5

11-45% of adolescent girls report that their first sexual experience

was forced.1

Women living with HIV are more likely to experience violations of their sexual and reproductive rights, for example forced sterilisations 2



Two-thirds of the world's 796 million illiterate adults are women.3



practices on property and inheritance rights further increase women's vulnerability to AIDS and reduce their ability to cope with the disease and its impact.

32/94

not regularly involved in formal processes to plan and review the national HIV response to HIV in 32 out of 94 countries.4







- Sources
 1. UNAIDS World AIDS Day report 2011
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- 6. Singh et al., Adding It Uc: The Costs and Benefits of Investing 9. UNAIDS World AIDS Day report 2011 in Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2009 8. UNFPA Media Fact Sheet: Comprehensive Condom

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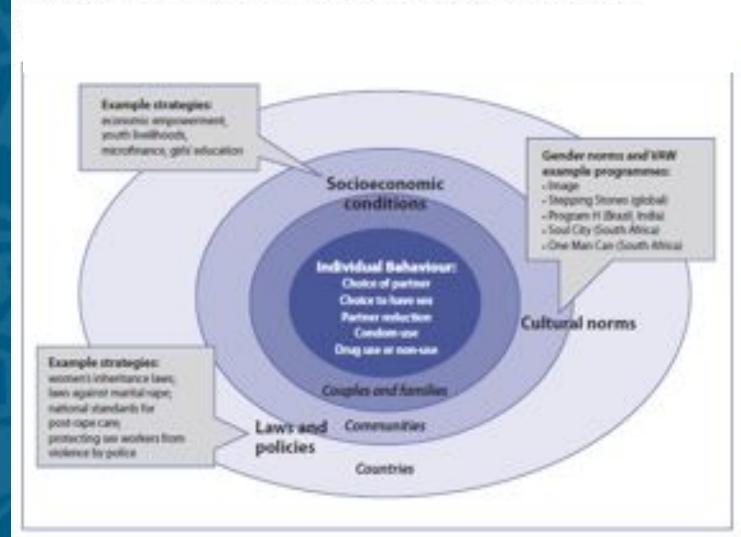
- 10. Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda 7. UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 2011: Adolescence:
 - 02012 UNAIDS. All rights reserved.

How do these factors increase women's & girl's HIV vulnerability?

- Poverty & transactional sex:
 - young girls have sex with older men to access resources. This seeds HIV into younger age groups
- Gender inequality & violence:
 - women have difficulty negotiating sex or condom use when economically dependent on partner & fear violence
- Limited livelihood opportunities:
 - Women's economic dependence on partner
 - Labour migration, separation of families
- Stigma & discrimination:
 - prevents those most vulnerable to HIV from accessing or supporting HIV programmes



Multiple levels of intervention





Source: UNAIDS/WHO 2010

Example 1 Zomba cash transfer program, Malawi: Paying girls to stay in school





Impacts both on HIV & other outcomes

Investment

Cash transfer scheme to keep girls in school – Zomba, Malawi

\$10/month provided to in and out-of-school girls (13-22 yrs)

(Baird et al., 2010 & 2012)

Outcomes

35% reduction school drop-out rate



40% reduction early marriages



76% reduction in HSV-2 risk



30% reduction in teen pregnancies



64% reduction in HIV risk









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SEF Small Enterprise Foundation





Intervention combined Microfinance with participatory training on gender, violence & HIV



Significant impacts on violence & HIV risk behaviours over 2 years

Among participants:

- Past year experience of IPV reduced by 55%
- Households less poor
- Improved HIV communication

Among younger women:

- 64% higher uptake HIV testing
- 25% less unprotected sex



No wider community impacts



Building an effective response for women & girls

Information & social power

HIV prevention technologies that work for girls & women

Effective prevention

Money,
economic
skills &
opportunities





Many thanks

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