

## DFID SRH & HIV RPC at the XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto, 2006

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### Abstract

#### **MOPE0983 - Mainstreaming HIV into a sexual and reproductive health (SRH) response - a means to a common end**

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**Issues:** The mainstreaming of HIV into different sectoral responses (humanitarian; corporate; etc) is widely recognised as an imperative. Yet the exact nature of how and when to mainstream remains a challenge. The sexual and reproductive health (SRH) community is a crucial sector for mainstreaming because the bi-directional linkages with HIV/AIDS ensure positive benefits in both areas. Recognising this, IPPF (The International Planned Parenthood Federation) as part of the SRH community is actively mainstreaming HIV into all areas of its work.

**Description:** In 2004 IPPF produced and piloted a 'Mainstreaming Checklist and Tools', providing structure and guidelines for our Member Associations (MAs) to mainstream HIV/AIDS. Following this, IPPF funded projects in 6 countries facing different HIV/AIDS epidemics to test the checklist and tools and to provide lessons for other MAs.

#### **Lessons learned:**

1. Mainstreaming is a process, not just an end in itself. The lessons learnt are important for any organisation aiming to mainstream HIV. Three structural levels for successful mainstreaming have been identified: policy; people and programmes.
2. Programme: Local adaptation of tools is necessary for ownership – how mainstreaming occurs will depend on the organization's capacity and the HIV/AIDS epidemic it faces.
3. People: Political and leadership commitment by the SRH community is vital – mainstreaming relies on changing the individual attitudes of management, service providers and volunteers, as well as providing clinical supplies and technical knowledge.
4. Policy: Delivery of the SRH mandate is key to HIV prevention and care - Mainstreaming benefits both the HIV/AIDS and SRH communities, reflecting the bi-directional linkages between these two fields.

**Recommendations:** The IPPF "Mainstreaming Checklist and Tools" provides a model for SRH organisations to mainstream HIV/AIDS into their core activities. Yet the importance of mainstreaming has key lessons for all sectors about the very nature of this process from the policy, personal and programming perspectives.