

POLICY ANALYSIS TOOL

Preventing HIV Transmission among Women and Girls



ATHENA



HEARD

This tool is adapted from the “Framework for Women, Girls, and Gender Equality in National Strategic Plans on HIV and AIDS in Southern and Eastern Africa.” The original Framework is a collaborative initiative of 19 organisations. For more information, please visit <http://heard.ukzn.ac.za/Homepage.aspx> and <http://www.athenanetwork.org>.

Preventing HIV Transmission among Women and Girls

Specific interventions and approaches should include:	Strength	Gap	Priority	Comments
<p>National Strategic Plans on HIV and AIDS must reduce vulnerability to HIV, and address the structural determinants of HIV transmission for women and girls.</p>				
<p>Interventions to support women and girl's empowerment, such as "know your rights" initiatives</p>				
<p>Interventions to promote girls' enrolment and retention in primary and secondary education</p>				
<p>Interventions to promote women's literacy, including legal and economic literacy</p>				
<p>Interventions to promote women's employment, income, and livelihood opportunities</p>				
<p>Interventions to address cultural and traditional practices that are harmful to the health and rights of women and girls, such as early marriage and widow inheritance</p>				
<p>Interventions to support community mobilisation and women's leadership on tackling gender inequalities</p>				
<p>National Strategic Plans on HIV and AIDS must reduce HIV transmission to women and girls through specific interventions.</p>				
<p>Access to evidence-informed HIV prevention information specifically for women and girls</p>				
<p>Equitable access to female and male condoms, and interventions to build skills and confidence to negotiate condom use</p>				
<p>Access to, and programmes to support, the use of women controlled HIV prevention methods, including new prevention technologies as they become available, such as microbicides, pre-exposure prophylaxis, and vaccines</p>				
<p>Access to post-exposure prophylaxis, particularly for women and girls who have experienced sexual violence including rape</p>				
<p>Prevention of vertical transmission including attention to breast-feeding and infant feeding practices, nutritional support, post-natal care for women, women's ongoing access to anti-retroviral therapy as needed, and involvement of male partners</p>				
<p>Comprehensive sexuality education for all women, men, girls, and boys (both in and out of school) which includes factual information on knowing one's body and a focus on gender equality, human rights, and transforming social norms in order to enable women and girls to decide whether, when, with whom, and how to have sex</p>				
<p>Positive health, dignity, and prevention (HIV prevention for people living with HIV)</p>				
<p>Management of drug and alcohol substance use for individuals, including harm reduction for women who use drugs and specific interventions for women who are partners of injecting drug users</p>				
<p>Voluntary medical male circumcision (MMC) for HIV prevention needs to include strategies to ensure there are no adverse impacts on women and girls. Specific components include:</p>				
<p>Specific targeted and factually correct information on MMC and HIV for women and men, including information on partial protection for men and the continued need for condom use to prevent HIV transmission</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive counselling, including gender equality education for men, as part of MMC services 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive reproductive and sexual health programmes for men linked into the delivery of MMC 				
<p>Overall score on this component</p>				