



3. Accountability in action: Translating strategies and guidance to support effective implementation

WHAT TO DO?

- Create simple, accessible summaries of key strategies and guidance, to ensure that everyone affected by them can access and understand them. This could include infographics, images and written summaries.

WHY DO IT?

- Bridges gaps between women and the policy and practice that affects them.
- Opportunity for more granular feedback about what women are saying and experiencing.
- Encourages active participation in the decision-making, policies, interventions and practices that govern women's health, access and opportunities.
- Creates an opportunity to provide clear, concise and reflective feedback.
- Reinforces women's ability to be agents of change in their communities at both the micro and macro level.
- Expands access to and understanding of complex, academic and often inaccessible documents.

WHO BENEFITS?

- Women in all their diversity
- Decision-makers and policy-makers
- Implementers and direct service providers
- The wider community

STEP-BY-STEP

1. Perform an internal assessment of the strategy or guidance to be summarized. Highlight the most important points, and identify anything that is challenging to understand.
2. Create a lay summary that clarifies acronyms and technical jargon. This will become the text to work from. This can be done by a team to ensure optimal clarity and accuracy.
3. Identify key discrete areas, themes or components of the document to target the focus areas of the review.
4. User test your summary, with women from the community you are trying to reach, and revise further based on their feedback.
5. You can also support this process by convening a working group of women from the community whose feedback you want to elicit. Recruit women with community links and knowledge, and work with them to develop your summary, and recruit participants for consultation. If you do set up a working group, you should ensure that organizations and networks represented in the working group are credited in all outputs.
6. Design your summary to ensure it is both accessible and appealing. This can be a written document, an infographic, or another type of image. Decide what is most appropriate and accessible for the information you are conveying and the community you want to reach.

7. If you are consulting on the guidance or strategy, then develop clear simple questions based on the documents to lead virtual discussion (WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, etc.). You could also develop creative infographics to for each question to be used during virtual discussions. The same questions can also be used for in-person consultation or focus groups.
8. Develop recruitment flyers and infographics that detail: purpose, criteria, start date, and duration of the consultation opportunity.
9. Recruit women to participate. Work through existing participants, networks and partners to recruit widely. Have the working group members reach out to professional, academic and social contacts to promote a diverse group of participants.
10. Hold your consultation, ensuring you capture all feedback. Share the questions you have developed along with summary text and infographics.
11. Use the consultation to develop final summaries, and share these widely, with participants and with wider networks.



IN ACTION: UNAIDS PREVENTION GUIDANCE

We engaged AGYW across East and Southern Africa to engage around the 2016 prevention guidance from UNAIDS. Social media was utilized to engage AGYW in responding to the guidance, contextualizing and reacting to strategies outlined in the guidance, engaging directly with implementers and decision-makers, identifying barriers and challenges, and articulating solutions to these rooted in their lived experience, professional knowledge, and community understanding.



We then used the WhatsApp focus group to consult on the guidance. We shared each summarized strategy, one at a time, as an image on WhatsApp. We followed up with clear, focused questions about that strategy. The questions encouraged participants to share their own reflections on the strategy, whether they were aware of similar initiatives operating or available in their community, and their suggestions for successful implementation.

Data from the focus group was then thematically analyzed and used to develop a report, providing rich feedback on the UNAIDS guidance and specific recommendations. The guidance and these recommendations are summarized in the infographic on page 15.



ATHENA Network (2017), *#WhatWomenWant: HIV prevention that works for adolescent girls and young women*, available at: www.athenanetwork.org/news/new-report-whatwomenwant-hiv-prevention-that-works-for-adolescent-girls-and-young-women.html

The full guidance is a substantial, technical document, and not accessible or user-friendly for many adolescent girls and young women. This creates a barrier to meaningful engagement and consultation, a common challenge with such strategies and guidance. To overcome this barrier, we developed a simple, user-friendly summary of the guidance. At the core of the guidance are 12 core strategies. We developed a one page summary of each strategy, outlining what it meant and the actions UNAIDS were recommending to implement it.

UNAIDS (2016), *HIV prevention among adolescent girls and young women: putting HIV prevention among adolescent girls and young women on the Fast-Track and engaging men and boys*. Available at: www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/UNAIDS_HIV_prevention_among_adolescent_girls_and_young_women.pdf

UNAIDS (2017), *HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map – Accelerating HIV prevention to reduce new infections by 75%*. Available at: www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2017/hiv-prevention-2020-road-map

HIV PREVENTION FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND WOMEN



This diagram simplifies the UNAIDS 2016 recommended HIV prevention strategy mix for AGYW but places AGYW at the centre and within the context of their key priorities for HIV prevention that works. Source: ATHENA Network (2017) *#WhatWomenWant HIV prevention that works for adolescent girls and young women: Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) put HIV prevention on the Fast-Track by leveraging social media and young women-led movements.*

Through #WhatWomenWant, we asked adolescent girls and young women to define what accountability means to them. Their answers are a blueprint for the actions that governments, multi-lateral agencies, civil society, funding bodies, researchers, and policy and program makers alike, should follow.

Accountability means ...

"We need comprehensive information in what we should hold our leaders accountable to, for example if it's on SDGs we need to know them, know how our governments are planning on implementation, know what is it they're doing well and what more can they do, then we hold them accountable. In most cases young people/women cannot hold anyone accountable because we don't know what exactly our leaders have agreed to deliver and what have they not delivered."

YOUNG WOMAN, ZIMBABWE

"Accountability for me means being involved in any information, resources, facilities, good quality, accessible services offered for the protection and prevention as well as treatment in all possible health strategies for a better generation free from HIV and AIDS."

YOUNG WOMAN, UGANDA

"Accountability means knowledge of the constituencies you represent and the context in which your country is operating ... monitoring delivery and implementation. Simplify the declarations. Task governments with active dissemination and information sharing."

YOUNG WOMAN, ZIMBABWE

"To me accountability is being or simply taking the responsibility of resources and equal access of the services of the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS."

YOUNG WOMAN, KENYA

"Linkages on past accountability measures done before so that we don't start the same processes year in year out. A good example is if a young woman has an opportunity to represent at some meeting let it be documented and be shared what she was questioning or speaking about [so that] in future when such meetings are done the next representative should question the leaders that at some point somebody spoke about this what have you done about it, that's holding responsible leaders accountable. For me accountability means having the right resources, including information, skills, knowledge of the subject and the platform to question our leaders on what they have promised to deliver but have not done so."

YOUNG WOMAN, ZIMBABWE

"Accountability for me means visible translation of funding and other resources into meaningful, consistent, high quality and equally accessible services for the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS."

YOUNG WOMAN, UGANDA