ADDRESSING GENDER AND HIV/AIDS

Addressing gender norms and inequities is essential to reducing HIV risk, mitigating its impact, and increasing access to services for men and women. The U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) promotes the integration of gender throughout its prevention, care, and treatment programs, with a focus on:

- Increasing gender equity in HIV/AIDS programs and services, including in reproductive health
- Reducing violence and coercion
- Engaging men and boys to address norms and behaviors
- Increasing women and girls’ legal protection
- Increasing women and girls’ access to income and productive resources, including education.

PEPFAR efforts include, for example, investments in comprehensive gender-based violence (GBV) and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programming, implemented in collaborative partnership with in-country civil society and government representatives, service providers, U.S. Government agencies, and other partners.

A number of resources aimed at facilitating integration of gender within HIV programs and platforms have been developed as a result of this collaboration. Many recent tools were produced in partnership with AIDSTAR-One, which provides support and technical assistance resources to increase the capacity of HIV programs to integrate gender strategies into their activities, and disseminates evidence on how they are being implemented or replicated by programs around the world.
Gender-Based Violence
• A Step-by-Step Guide to Strengthening Sexual Violence Services in Public Health Facilities: Lessons and Tools from Sexual Violence Services in Africa
• Program Guide for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response in PEPFAR Programs: Tools and guiding principles for GBV integration in prevention, PMTCT, testing and counseling, treatment, care and support, and OVC interventions.
• Case studies from Vietnam, Ecuador, and Swaziland describing GBV services, approaches, and elements of success
• Technical brief on integrating GBV in HIV program planning, design, and implementation

Addressing Young Girls’ and Adolescents’ Vulnerability
• Go Girls! Community-based Life Skills for Girls Training Manual: Toolkit to facilitate comprehensive programming addressing young girls’ HIV risk from the “Go Girls” Initiative

Gender Strategies for Most-at-Risk Populations (MARPs) in Concentrated Epidemics
• Case studies describing how programs in Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East are integrating gender into HIV activities for MARPs
• Technical brief on approaches, challenges, and recommendations for MARPs programming

Engaging Boys and Men
• Engaging Boys and Men in Gender Transformation: Manual adapted for the Male Norms Initiative to guide community mobilization, clinical service, and group education male engagement efforts

Cross-cutting
• Africa Gender Compendium: Summaries and case studies of HIV programs in Africa using gender strategies to improve services and reduce vulnerability.

Sites with Tools, Trainings, and Additional Resources
• Interagency Gender-Working Group (IGWG): A network of NGOs, implementing agencies, USAID, and other organizations and donors that promote gender equity www.igwg.org
• Gender and Health Toolkit: Resources and methodologies for integrating gender in health programs www.k4health.org/toolkits/igwg-gender
• Facilitating South-to-South Technical Support Toolkit: Framework and tools to guide south-based technical support to build capacity around gender integration in HIV programs www.aidstar-one.com/gender