



CONNECTING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV: **NAVIGATING THE WORK IN PROGRESS**

This overview has been prepared by the Interagency Working Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV Linkages (IAWG). This group is convened by UNFPA, WHO and IPPF and works with 16 other organizations¹ to:

- advocate for political commitment to a linked SRH and HIV agenda;
- support national action to strengthen SRH and HIV linkages at the policy, systems and service delivery levels; and
- create a shared understanding of SRH and HIV linkages by building the evidence base and sharing research, good practice and lessons learnt.

Rationale²

The majority of HIV infections are sexually transmitted or associated with pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. Sexually transmitted infections can increase the risk of HIV acquisition and transmission. The interactions between SRH and HIV are now widely recognized. In addition, sexual and reproductive ill-health and HIV share root causes, including poverty, gender inequality and social marginalization of the most vulnerable populations.

The international community agrees that the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved without ensuring access to SRH services and an effective global response to HIV. In the post-MDG world, SRH and HIV linkages and integration remain critical for human rights and development.

Benefits³

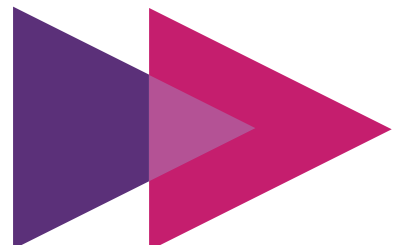
- Improved access to and uptake of key HIV and SRH services
- Better access of people living with HIV to SRH services tailored to their needs
- Reduction in HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- Improved coverage of underserved/vulnerable/key populations
- Greater support for dual protection
- Improved quality of care
- Decreased duplication of efforts and competition for scarce resources
- Better understanding and protection of individuals' rights
- Mutually reinforcing complementarities in legal and policy frameworks
- Enhanced programme effectiveness and efficiency
- Better utilization of scarce human resources for health.

To find out more please visit www.srhivlinkages.org

1. For IAWG members see back cover.

2. WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS and IPPF (02005). *Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS: A Framework for Priority Linkages*.

3. Taken from IPPF, UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS, GNP+, ICW, Young Positives (2008). *Rapid Assessment Tool for SRH and HIV Linkages: A generic guide*.



SRH and HIV linkages in practice

Rapid Assessment Tool for SRH and HIV Linkages

The Rapid Assessment Tool supports national assessments of the bi-directional linkages between SRH and HIV at the policy, systems and services levels. 48 countries (shaded dark blue on the map) have rolled out the Rapid Assessment to date – each gathering and generating information to determine priorities and shape national plans and frameworks for scaling up and intensifying integration and linkages. These country experiences and good practices will also inform regional and global agendas. Country summaries are available from www.srhshivlinkages.org

Key achievements



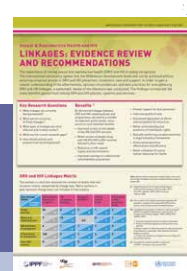
2004: The Glion Call to Action and the New York Call to Commitment galvanized political commitment among the international community to intensify and strengthen programmatic linkages between SRH and HIV.



2005: To increase understanding of SRH and HIV linkages **A Framework for Priority Linkages** was developed that outlines key concepts and a set of policy and programme actions to strengthen linkages between SRH and HIV.

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2007: To build the evidence base for SRH and HIV linkages a systematic review of the linkages research literature published between 1990 and 2007 was commissioned. The results of this review are available in the **Linkages: Evidence Review and Recommendations** and have been used to enhance commitment for SRH and HIV linkages, including among donors.

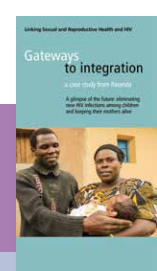


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2008 onwards: A **Rapid Assessment Tool for SRH and HIV Linkages** was developed to support national assessments of bi-directional SRH and HIV linkages at the policy, systems and service delivery levels. The Tool has been rolled out in 48 countries and summaries of the findings and recommendations are available for 25 countries.

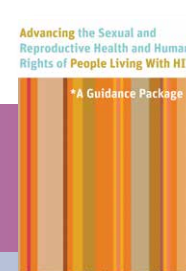


2008 onwards: **Gateways to Integration Case Studies** were published to promote good practice examples of different models of SRH and HIV integration. Case studies now available for Kenya, Haiti, Serbia, Swaziland and Rwanda.



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2009: The guidance package **Advancing the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Human Rights of People Living with HIV** was developed to help policy makers, programme managers, health professionals, donors and advocates to better support the SRHR of people living with HIV.



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2010: The IAWG on SRH and HIV Linkages developed and launched an online **SRH and HIV linkages resource pack** – to build a common understanding of SRH and HIV linkages and be a repository for linkages resources.



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2011: A background paper – **SRH Services and HIV Interventions in Practice** – was developed for the 26th UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and outlined the conceptual basis and key principles for linking SRH and HIV, situated the linkages agenda in the current development environment, presented the evidence to date, and provided illustrative practical country experiences of integrating services and recommendations.



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2012: **What Works? briefs for SRH and HIV linkages** were developed to help programme managers, advocates and policy makers to more effectively link SRH and HIV services for key populations.

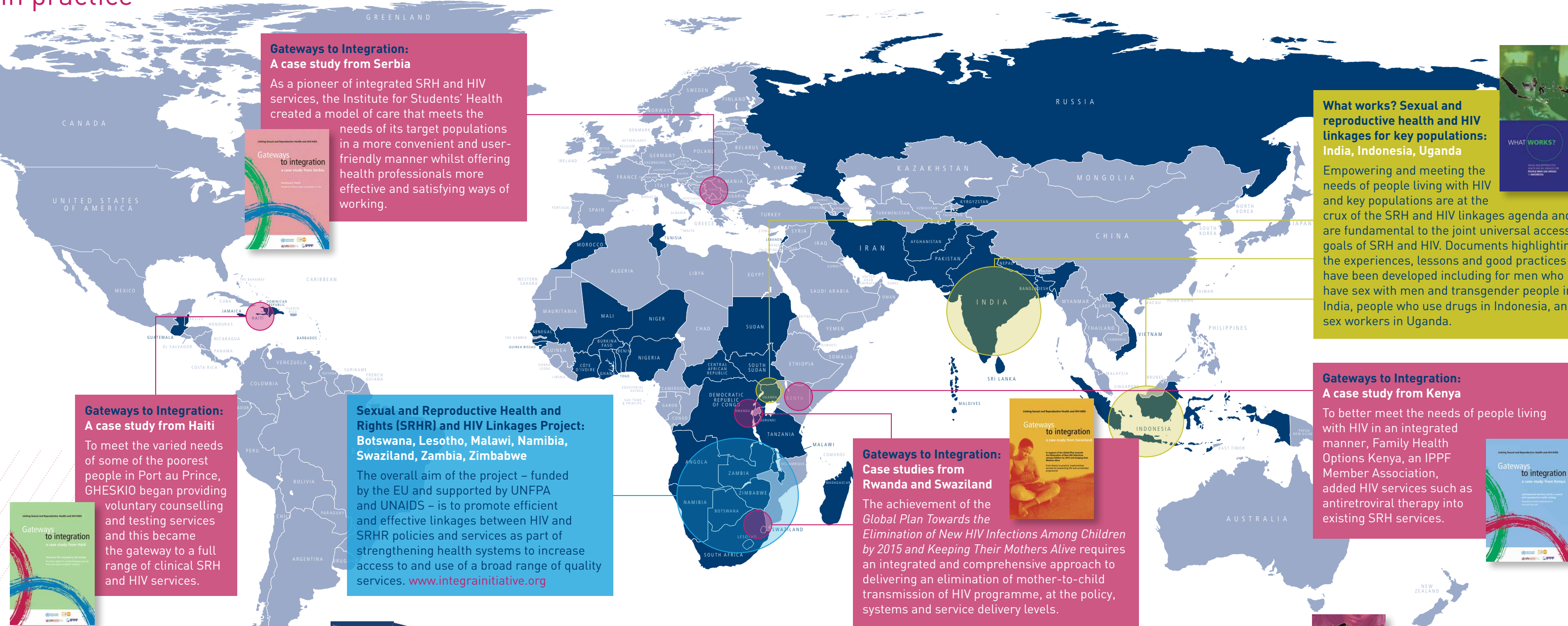


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2013: A stakeholder symposium held on a draft compendium of **indicators to measure SRH and HIV linkages** and three new indicators that measure integration were pilot tested.



All publications are available to download at www.srhshivlinkages.org



Gateways to Integration: A case study from Serbia
As a pioneer of integrated SRH and HIV services, the Institute for Students' Health created a model of care that meets the needs of its target populations in a more convenient and user-friendly manner whilst offering health professionals more effective and satisfying ways of working.

Gateways to Integration: A case study from Haiti
To meet the varied needs of some of the poorest people in Port au Prince, GHESKIO began providing voluntary counselling and testing services and this became the gateway to a full range of clinical SRH and HIV services.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and HIV Linkages Project: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe
The overall aim of the project – funded by the EU and supported by UNFPA and UNAIDS – is to promote efficient and effective linkages between HIV and SRHR policies and services as part of strengthening health systems to increase access to and use of a broad range of quality services. www.integrainitiative.org

Gateways to Integration: Case studies from Rwanda and Swaziland
The achievement of the *Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive* requires an integrated and comprehensive approach to delivering an elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV programme, at the policy, systems and service delivery levels.

What works? Sexual and reproductive health and HIV linkages for key populations: India, Indonesia, Uganda
Empowering and meeting the needs of people living with HIV and key populations are at the crux of the SRH and HIV linkages agenda and are fundamental to the joint universal access goals of SRH and HIV. Documents highlighting the experiences, lessons and good practices have been developed including for men who have sex with men and transgender people in India, people who use drugs in Indonesia, and sex workers in Uganda.

Gateways to Integration: A case study from Kenya
To better meet the needs of people living with HIV in an integrated manner, Family Health Options Kenya, an IPPF Member Association, added HIV services such as antiretroviral therapy into existing SRH services.

Human rights are the cornerstone

“Upholding human rights is intrinsic to the [SRH and HIV] linkages agenda, in particular the human rights of people living with HIV, key populations, and women and girls.”⁴



4. UNAIDS (2010). 26th Meeting of UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, Background Paper: Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services with HIV interventions in practice, Paragraph 4 (page 5).



Building the evidence base

In order to gain an understanding of the effectiveness, optimal circumstances, good practices and potential trends for strengthening SRH and HIV integrated services, the IAWG discusses issues, identifies gaps and shares results on research projects that the group members have undertaken. These include:

Integra Initiative

The flagship Integra Initiative managed by IPPF in partnership with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Population Council is the largest ever evaluation of different models of HIV and SRH integration. The research was embedded within the day-to-day activities of 42 government and IPPF health facilities being studied in Kenya, Malawi and Swaziland.

The research findings demonstrate that there are benefits to using integrated models of service delivery in improving service delivery and health outcomes, and that client choice is important. However, the full benefits will only be realized if there is investment in scaling up integrated services and wider health systems and community factors around cost, stigma and unintended pregnancies are taken into account. www.integrainitiative.org

Integration for Impact

In September 2012 the Integration for Impact Conference brought together key stakeholders (particularly from sub-Saharan African countries) to present the latest research findings on the impact of integrating HIV and reproductive health services.

<http://integrationforimpact.org>



Measuring SRH and HIV linkages

A number of tools and indicators are being developed in order to capture progress toward linking SRH and HIV:

1. Compendium of SRH and HIV linkages indicators

A list of existing indicators that measure elements of SRH and HIV linkages has been compiled and three potential indicators are being reviewed. The first iteration of the compendium will be available in 2014 from www.srhhivlinkages.org

2. Index of Integration

The Integra Initiative developed a multi-dimensional 'Index', to account for the actual degree of integration at each facility over time.

The Index uses different data sources generated by the Integra Initiative to measure physical, temporal, provider and functional integration and weighted each to provide an integration score for each facility. www.integrainitiative.org

3. Impact of the Rapid Assessment Tool for SRH and HIV Linkages

An impact assessment is underway of the first 20 countries to complete the Rapid Assessment Tool between 2008 and 2010 to identify the effects of the Rapid Assessment on SRH and HIV linkages in the country.

Links with other interagency groups

The IAWG on SRH and HIV Linkages works closely with other interagency groups to ensure that the natural synergies between and expertise from each of these groups are maximized. These groups include:

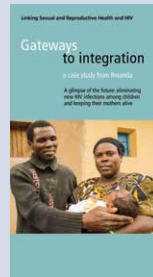
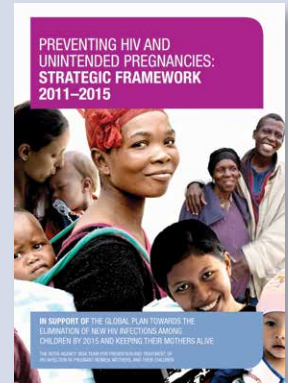
- **Integration Working Group of the IATT on the Prevention and Treatment of HIV Infection in Pregnant Women, Mothers and Children**
www.emtct-iatt.org
- **Interagency Working Group on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV**

- **Agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV**



The IATT supports country-led implementation of the *Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive (Global Plan)*. The Integration Working group is taking forward the relevant components of SRH and HIV linkages that support the operationalization of the *Global Plan* and has developed a number of tools:

- **Preventing HIV and Unintended Pregnancies: Strategic Framework 2011–2015**
- **Preventing Unintended Pregnancies and HIV**
- **Glimpse of the Future: Eliminating New HIV Infections in Children and Keeping Their Mothers Alive.** Case study and film to support countries scaling up various aspects of EMTCT



- **Job Aid** for health providers on all four prongs of EMTCT
- A **costing tool** for prongs 1 and 2 of EMTCT (forthcoming)
- **Guidelines on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV** being updated.

Members of the IAWG on SRH and HIV Linkages

Department for International Development (DfID), EngenderHealth, Family Health International 360 (FHI360), Guttmacher Institute, Institute for Global Health, International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP), International Civil Society Support (ICCS), International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), International HIV/AIDS Alliance, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Population Council, U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO).



To find out more

Visit www.srhivlinkages.org – a collection of more than 150 SRH and HIV linkages resources.

For more information please contact:

Lynn Collins collins@unfpa.org Manjula Lusti-Narasimhan lustinarasimhanm@who.int Jon Hopkins jhopkins@ippf.org

