

RAPID ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV LINKAGES Assessing the African Impact

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“The current level of SRH and HIV linkages could not have been achieved without having undertaken the Rapid Assessment.”

What Do We Mean by “Linkages” & “Integration”*?

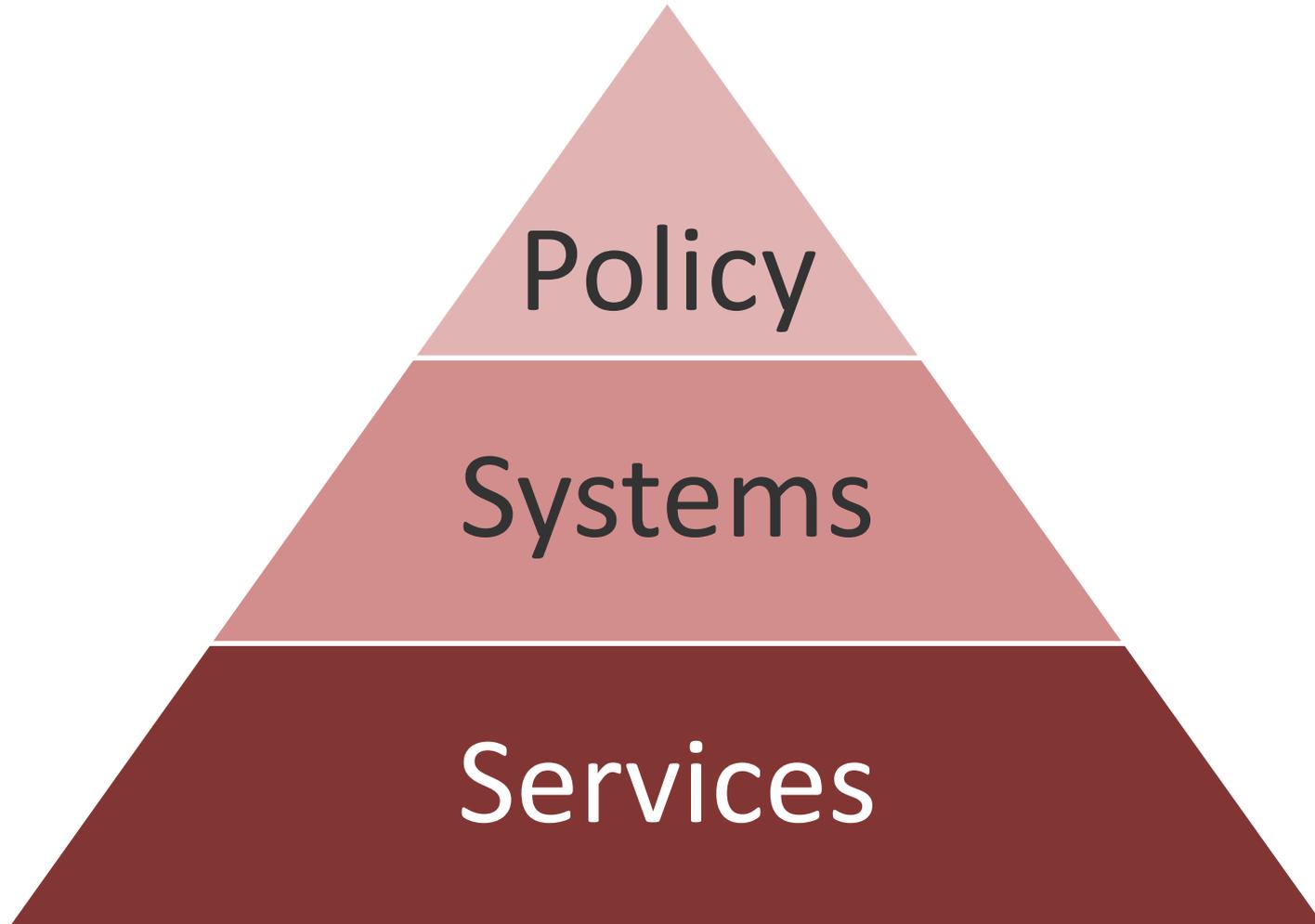
- **Linkages** - The bi-directional synergies in policy, programmes, services and advocacy between sexual and reproductive health and HIV. It refers to a broader human rights based approach, of which service integration is a subset.
- **Integration** - Different kinds of sexual and reproductive health and HIV services or operational programmes that can be joined together to ensure and perhaps maximize collective outcomes. This would include referrals from one service to another, for example. It is based on the need to offer comprehensive services.

* Definitions agreed upon by the IAWG on Linkages

What is the Rapid Assessment Tool

- *Rapid*: three – six months
- *Generic*: Adapted in different ways by different countries
- *Stakeholder driven*: Broad-based assessment team.
- *Variety of methodologies*: Includes desk reviews and individual/group interviews
- *Budget*: \$30-50,000

Structure of the Tool



Implementation – to date

2008-2012
39 countries

19 Rapid
Assessment
Summaries



Impact Interviews
17 Countries

Impact Findings – Policy

As a result of the Rapid Assessment:

Policy changes resulting from the RA = 5

HIV Policy changes = 3

SRH Policy changes = 4

Revised SRH and/or HIV strategic plans = 4

Developed an linkages/integration strategy = 2 (4)

“The development of the plan of action for the integration of SRH and HIV is in progress and will be finished at the end of 2012” Burkina Faso

“The results of the Rapid Assessment informed the revision of the national HIV and reproductive health plans” Botswana

“STI and HIV have been integrated as essential components of the national SRH policy, revised in 2010” Cote d'Ivoire

Impact Findings - Systems

As a result of the Rapid Assessment:

- ↑ Partnerships = 8
- ↑ Coordination = 7
- Capacity building = 4 (2)
- ↓ M&E = 2 / 2 a little / (1)
- ↓ Logistics = 2 (1)

“M&E is still stand alone and not yet linked. However the national HMIS is undergoing strengthening to capture information for both HIV and reproductive and child health programmes” Tanzania

“TWG has been formed and endorsed as the SRH and HIV linkages and integration reference team.” Swaziland

“Strong communication between SRH and HIV sectors than before. We have seen excellent discussions on commodity flow to clinics especially in a system where logistics systems have a few pertinent challenges.” Malawi

Impact Findings – Service Delivery

As a result of the Rapid Assessment:

- ↑ service integration = 10
- ↑ HIV services into SRH = 7
- General integration = 3
- ↓ SRH into HIV = 0

“In family planning services many provide HIV testing as well as care and treatment to people living with HIV, whilst some also provide condoms, PMTCT and psychosocial support.”
Cote d’Ivoire

“Almost all services are now to some extent integrated”
Uganda

“There is increased integration at the local level because it is the same service provide who is providing all the services.” Benin

“Note that sexual health services include many HIV services. The opposite is more difficult to observe.”
Benin

Impact Findings – Key populations

Has the rapid assessment facilitated positive interaction with networks/organisations of key populations?

↑ Yes = 2

↓ No/little effect = 4

↔ Not necessarily = 1

↔ Too early to tell = 1

↔ No response = 2

“At the moment, discussions of key populations are not inclusive enough to discuss key areas involving key populations. Probably this is an area we need to put more effort to explore how we purposefully include issues regarding these populations” Malawi

“The Rapid Assessment process contributed to creating awareness among decision makers and managers regarding the rights of most at risk populations to access information and services” Tunisia

Impact Findings – Overall

8 countries said the current level of SRH and HIV linkages could not have been achieved without having undertaken the Rapid Assessment.

“The Rapid Assessment has built on existing efforts and also provided a systematic approach to integration.” Swaziland

“Bi-directional linkages were not so known and emphasised before the Rapid assessment.”
Botswana

“The Rapid Assessment has enlightened all stakeholders. While services were largely in place, the process has resulted in a systematic approach to SRH and HIV linkages. For example the technical working group is functional and active in order to facilitate and sustain the linkages; harmonising training materials and job aids to build skills for providing both services; and ensuring policy documents, strategies and guidelines emphasise SRH and HIV integration.” Tanzania

**Where can I find out
more?**

www.srhivlinkages.org

Thank you