



"Use of a rapid assessment tool to strengthen linkages between SRHR and HIV policies"

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# Project overview



- EU funded regional UNAIDS/UNFPA initiative to support seven Southern African countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe), 2011 - 2014



# Project objectives



- Support to 7 countries in Southern Africa for integration of HIV and SRHR, in the national health and broader development strategies, plans and budgets
- Enable 3 countries in Southern Africa to better link and effectively scale up efforts in SRHR and HIV integration
- Stimulate formulation and dissemination of lessons learned in the Southern Africa Region, documentation of best practices and South-South Cooperation

# Overview - RAs



- Based on rapid assessments conducted in all countries
- In each country:
  - desk review covering 10 - 20 national policies, guidelines, strategic plans
  - 200+ in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with policy-makers, programme managers, service providers and clients drawn from various health facilities and geographical settings
- Findings from RAs basis for identification and endorsement of SRHR-HIV linkages priorities

# RA findings: Policy level



## Main Achievements

- Integration is not a new concept in most countries
- Policy-makers committed
- Linkages/integration mentioned in most policies and strategies
- Policy/legal environment mostly conducive to human rights approach
- All mentioned key population but only 2 specifically MSM

# RA findings: Policy level



## Main Gaps

- Inappropriate policy/legal environment for groups like MSM, SW, women, and PLHIV
- Integration usually not systematically articulated
- Unbalanced financial priority between HIV and SRHR – challenge to joint budgeting
- Overall “vertical” mindset, including among donors, leads to weak leadership on integration.
- Competing national priorities and limited capacity in the countries to take on this new agenda

# RA findings: System level



## Main Achievements

- Progress is made towards joint planning (training, guidelines) and budgeting;
- Governance structures are established with varying levels of functionality
- More integration of HIV into SRH than vice-versa.

## Main Gaps

- There is shortage of health workforce, labs, referral system, logistics, infrastructure
- Weak “linkages” indicators
- Insufficient youth-inclusion.

# RA findings: Service level

## Main Achievements

- Three types of integration identified (same provider @ same service point, referral within same facility, referral to another facility)
- HTC, FP, STI prevention & management, Mother and Newborn Care services most likely to be integrated
- Stronger integration at smaller HF (“by default”)
- Overall good and improving coverage of most SRH and HIV services (although not integrated)





# RA findings: Service level



## Main Gaps

- Inadequate capacity, increased work load/time with patient, low staff motivation & insufficient supervision
- Hardly any services for key population
- High stigma and discrimination, in particular towards key and vulnerable populations, including PLHIV
- SRH services less likely to be integrated: GBV, cervical cancer screening, safe abortion or post-abortion care, PMTCT prongs 1 and 2
- User fees discourage SRH and HIV integration (ZIM, Lesotho)

# Conclusion

- Accelerate advocacy on harmonised policies, plans, guidelines and budgets
- Strengthening health systems, ensure comprehensive services and reduce barriers to access
- Opportune time to accelerate integration of linkages of SRHR/HIV in important policy and management documents – further policy review under-going in 7 countries
- National policies/plans mention key population – open up space for providing services

# Summary of progress



- 2012 AWP's:
  - consultation meetings on legal barriers
  - development of SRHR-HIV linkages service guidelines
  - capacity building of service providers and key population
  - demand generation for integrated services
  - review and alignment of training curricula
  - male involvement strategies
  - harmonized SRHR and HIV M&E data tools



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