

Transforming the National AIDS Response

MAINSTREAMING GENDER EQUALITY
AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS
INTO THE "THREE ONES"



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

About the publication

Transforming the National AIDS Response: Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights into the 'Three Ones' highlights approaches and examples to promote and protect gender equality as a key element in strategies to prevent and address HIV and AIDS.

The guide outlines a number of successful local, national, regional, and international initiatives that demonstrate how mainstreaming a gender equality perspective into HIV/AIDS programmes and policies can yield positive results and transform the national AIDS response.

An excellent resource for policy makers, programme planners and civil society groups, the publication includes a number of practical tools, checklists and guidelines on how to conduct gender and human rights audits and analyses to inform HIV/AIDS policies and frameworks and their implementation.

Key findings

Within the 'Three Ones' there are four broad challenges in addressing gender equality and women's empowerment:

- (1) An enabling legal and policy environment is lacking in many countries to support improved HIV and gender equity outcomes;
- (2) Resource allocation by governments and donors for components of HIV/AIDS programmes that address the gender dimensions of the epidemic remains insufficient;
- (3) Policy makers and programme planners often lack the requisite knowledge and skills to conduct gender analysis and mainstreaming in HIV/AIDS programming;
- (4) Women's participation at all levels of the decision-making, implementing and monitoring stages of the national AIDS response remains low. In particular, the specific concerns of HIV-positive women cannot be addressed unless they are able to participate meaningfully in national HIV/AIDS processes.

Recommendations

- National AIDS Frameworks and HIV/AIDS policies must be aligned with CEDAW and other international commitments and declarations that speak to gender equality, women's human rights and the AIDS pandemic.
- Fully costed National AIDS Frameworks must be gender-responsive, and funds should be assigned for ongoing capacity building in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming for staff and/or for engaging technical experts on gender.
- The voices of HIV-positive women must be included in HIV/AIDS policy processes, and women's organisations working on HIV related issues together with positive women's networks must be strengthened.
- Monitoring and evaluation processes and indicators should be designed in consultation with women's groups, including HIV-positive women's networks.
- Gender-responsive budgeting tools should be used for tracking whether HIV/AIDS allocations and expenditure on prevention, treatment and care services benefit women. Sex-disaggregated HIV/AIDS data must be complemented by qualitative analysis that measures changes in men's and women's attitudes, practices and knowledge as national AIDS policies and programmes are implemented.

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http://www.unifem.org/attachments/products/TransformingTheNationalAIDSResponse_eng.pdf

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