



## Adolescent Girls and Young Women

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PHOTO: IRENE ANGWENYI/USAID KENYA

PEPFAR empowers, protects, and supports adolescent girls and young women, helping them to pursue their dreams.

### The Challenge

- Every day, about 1,000 **adolescent girls and young women** are infected with HIV.
- Girls and young women account for 74 percent of new HIV infections among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa.

### PEPFAR's Impact

- PEPFAR, along with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Girl Effect, Johnson & Johnson, Gilead Sciences, and ViiV Healthcare, implements the ambitious **DREAMS Partnership** to help girls develop into Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe women. The complementary **DREAMS Innovation Challenge** supports innovative approaches to meet the complex needs of adolescent girls and young women, which specifically put them at risk for HIV infection.
- For the first time, the latest PEPFAR data show significant declines in new HIV diagnoses among adolescent girls and young women. In the 10 African countries (63 districts) implementing PEPFAR's pioneering DREAMS public-private partnership, the majority (65 percent) of the highest-HIV-burden communities or districts achieved a 25-40 percent or greater decline in new HIV diagnoses among young women. Importantly, new diagnoses declined in nearly all DREAMS intervention districts.
- Gender-based violence is a violation of human rights and fosters the spread of HIV/AIDS. Girls who experience violence are up to three times more likely to be infected with HIV. **Violence Against Children (VAC) surveys** in 11 countries, most supported by PEPFAR, found that an average of one in three young women reported their first sexual experience as forced or coerced.
- The **PEPFAR Dashboards** disaggregate data by sex, age, and geography, helping target and tailor PEPFAR's efforts to reach adolescent girls and young women most in need.

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