PEPFAR Priority Areas

Adolescent Girls and Young Women: Creating Gender Equality

December 2016
Key Issues, Challenges, and Priorities
Due to the Millennium Development Goals’ success at reducing child mortality by over 50 percent as well as continued high fertility rates, significantly larger numbers of young women who survived childhood are now entering their most vulnerable years for HIV infection, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Young women have higher HIV rates than young men

Inside this youth bulge, young women are being infected at a disproportionately high rate. Adolescent girls and young women account for 75% of new infections in sub-Saharan Africa.

HIV Prevalence among Young Women & Young Men
(15-24 years old) in Select African Countries, 2012

In 2013, almost 60% of all new HIV infections among young people aged 15–24 occurred among adolescent girls and young women.

Source: UNAIDS, 2013
Who is infecting whom?

Young adult men (23 – 35) infect adolescent girls & young women (15 – 24).

In turn, they go on to infect their male peers (24 – 29), continuing the cycle.

There are more than 1000 new infections every day. This must change.
PEPFAR Activities and Impact

Adolescent Girls & Young Women
We created DREAMS to break the cycle of infection

On World AIDS Day 2014, PEPFAR, along with partners like Girl Effect, Gates Foundation, and Johnson & Johnson, announced an innovative partnership to address this problem: DREAMS.

DREAMS, a program designed to keep young women Determined, Resilient, Educated, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe, focuses on prevention because we believe all young women deserve to live HIV-free lives.

Besides prevention, there are other goals to the program:
• Keeping young women in school, as research shows that higher levels of education keeps women HIV-free
• Preventing early pregnancies
• Preventing sexual violence
Core package:
• Empowering girls and young women
• Reducing risk of sexual partners
• Strengthening families
• Mobilizing communities for change

Because of the aims of the core package, there are a number of positive complementary activities that benefit the whole community:

• Strengthening community-based partners
• Testing of male partners
  • If HIV-positive, linking to treatment
  • If HIV-negative, linking to VMMC services
• Bridge to employment
DREAMS is elevating the issue globally

DREAMS is an incredible advocacy contribution, and this is the first time there has been this level of investment on the issue of AGYW. DREAMS has singlehandedly made sure this is on everybody’s radar screens, and countries are responding by expanding the investment.

**South Africa:** DREAMS has inspired national focus on AGYW, resulting in rollout of a national campaign entitled She Conquers and new National Strategic Plan focusing on AGYW

**Swaziland:** Joining forces with Global Fund & National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA) resulting in close to national coverage
Using Data in New and Better Ways

• Use Girl Roster™ to find the universe of girls in the program area, and identify those most vulnerable based on age, schooling, marriage, childbearing and living arrangements

• Look at data that is divided by age and sex to ensure DREAMS is reaching the right adolescent girls and young women

• Track program data based on age and sex to ensure that DREAMS is reaching the groups it is intending to reach

• Collect data (Violence Against Children Surveys, Public Health Impact Assessments) on factors that put young women at risk, such as gender based violence, early pregnancy, early marriage, and education status
Data 4 DREAMS: Innovative Data Solutions

As part of the DREAMS Innovation Challenge, PEPFAR announced five Data 4 DREAMS winners who are applying data to increase impact:

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<tr>
<th>Five Winners Announced in Data4DREAMS Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Advocates</td>
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<td>VOTO Mobile</td>
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<td>Ushahidi Inc.</td>
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<td>William &amp; Mary</td>
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• Taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has been proven to substantially reduce the risk of HIV infection in people that are at high-risk for infection.
• Through DREAMS, PEPFAR is offering PrEP to young women for the first time.
• 5 of 10 DREAMS countries – Kenya, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, and Zimbabwe – will offer PrEP.
PEPFAR Results

DREAMS programs are in full implementation now in ten of the highest HIV burden countries and locations in sub-Saharan Africa, and we look forward to the impact of these programs in the next year.

So far, PEPFAR has reached over 1 million adolescent girls and young women with critical comprehensive HIV prevention interventions through the DREAMS partnership to reduce their risk of HIV, help them to know their HIV status, and ultimately prevent HIV through education and social support to keep girls in school, as well as through programs, such as after-school and community-based adolescent girl and young women clubs for risk reduction, life-skills and economic development.
Where do we go from here?

We will use the lessons learned and best practices from DREAMS to inform programs in other countries, with a focus on innovation and partnership.

We will use public-private partnerships to explore new ideas that can bring an end to HIV as a public health threat.
Public-Private Partnerships

The world is looking to the private sector for leadership, fresh energy, and inspiration to renew our efforts to create an AIDS-free generation.

PPPs can be used to:
• Collaborate with community-based partners to find sustainable solutions that will achieve scale and impact in priority geographies and populations
• Collaborate with new actors to apply and contribute their expertise and knowledge to think creatively about how to tackle the complicated factors driving the HIV/AIDS epidemic
• Pilot new ideas and demonstrate potentially scalable innovative solutions
• Demonstrate a cost-effective way to expand, deepen, and accelerate impact

Our engagement with the private sector helps us
• Find the girls
• Listen to them using consumer insights
• Reach the girls
• Market services and products to them.
Thank You!