



**PEPFAR**  
U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief



GIRLS FROM THE DREAMS-SUPPORTED SAUTI PROJECT IN TANZANIA (PHOTO: SAUTI)

# DREAMS PARTNERSHIP

## Why DREAMS?

Despite substantial declines in new HIV infections globally, the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to disproportionately impact adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in many countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, 67 percent of new HIV infections in young people occur in AGYW. Data show that **AGYW are up to 14 times more likely to become HIV-infected than their male counterparts**. The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is responding to these alarming statistics, and the doubling of the youth population in sub-Saharan Africa to 200 million since 1990, by rapidly evolving and increasing our investment in AGYW.

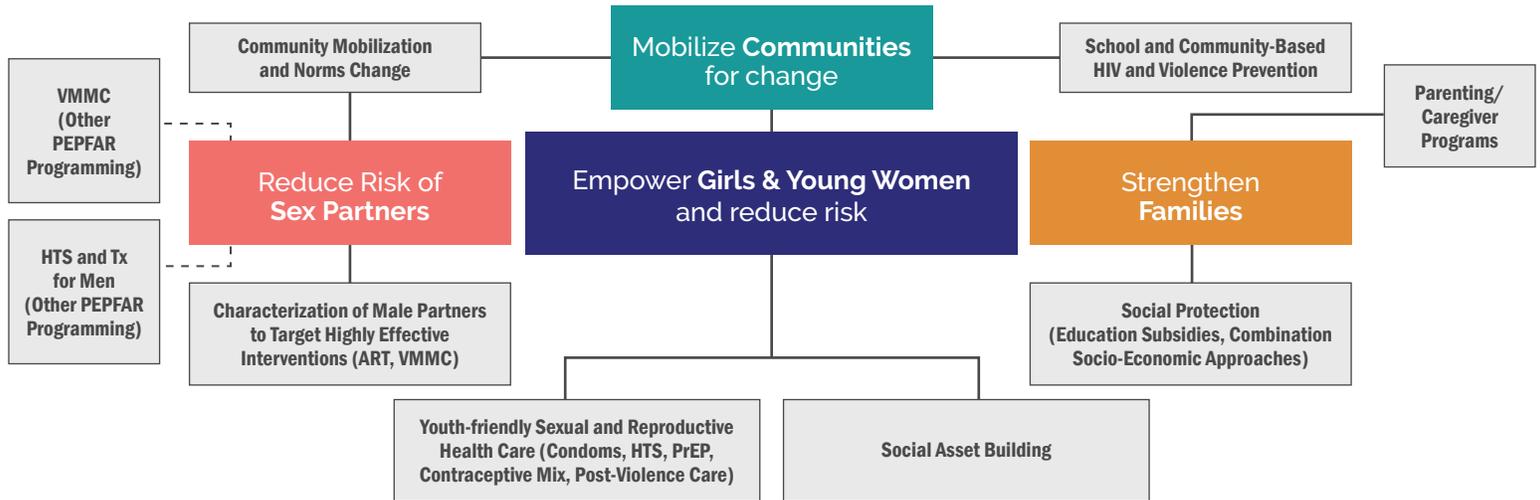
## What is DREAMS?

PEPFAR announced the DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) Partnership on World AIDS Day 2014 with private sector partners: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Girl Effect, Gilead Sciences, Johnson & Johnson, and ViiV Healthcare. DREAMS is implemented across 15<sup>1</sup> countries and conducted in close collaboration with partners, experts, advocates, and AGYW. Over the last four years, PEPFAR has invested over \$800 million through DREAMS.

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## DREAMS Approach

DREAMS provides a comprehensive package of core interventions to address key factors that make girls and young women particularly vulnerable to HIV. These include structural factors, such as **gender-based violence, exclusion from economic opportunities, and a lack of access to secondary school**. DREAMS layers multiple interventions at once so that AGYW are surrounded with critical support to keep them safe from HIV and other risks.



## DREAMS Impact

DREAMS **reduced new HIV diagnoses among adolescent girls and young women by over 25% in the majority (>60%) of its intervention regions**; 85% of these regions showed additional declines in 2018.

DREAMS has driven a greater global focus on the unique risks and opportunities experienced by AGYW. It has pushed partner governments to renew their commitments on gender equality and its impact on adolescent health and development. It has enabled multilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations to advocate more successfully for greater attention on and investment in AGYW. Critically, AGYW are meaningfully engaged at every step of DREAMS for their unique insights and leadership.

**DREAMS is not a moment, it is a movement.**

1. Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

