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HIV Prevention Knowledge Base: Emerging Areas Intergenerational and Transactional Sex in Hyper-Endemic Settings

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Hyper-endemic scenarios, where HIV prevalence is over 15 percent in the general adult population, driven through extensive heterosexual multiple concurrent partner relations,¹ are occurring in sub-Saharan Africa. Almost two-thirds of all young people with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa, and 75 percent of all infections among young people aged 15 to 24 years are among young women.² Young women are two to four and a half times more likely to be infected than their male counterparts. For example, in South Africa, 15.5 percent of women aged 15 to 24 are HIV-infected, compared to 4.8 percent of men the same age. One hypothesis for this higher HIV infection rate is that younger women are having relationships with older men who are more likely to be HIV-infected than younger men. When young women have sexual relationships with men who are older, these relationships are referred to as “intergenerational” (IG) or cross-generational relationships. Intergenerational relationships often, but not always, involve the exchange of goods or money for sex, i.e., transactional sex (TS).

Both the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) general population survey and the Demographic Health Surveys define IG sex as having a partner 10 years or older. Intergenerational and TS can include sexual relationships between adult women with younger men and older men engaging in IG and TS with younger men; the emphasis in this document will be on IG and TS involving older men and young women.

¹(2007). *Practical Guidelines for Intensifying HIV Prevention: Towards Universal Access* p. 13. WHO/UNAIDS

² (2008). *Addressing the vulnerability of young women and girls to stop the HIV epidemic in southern Africa*. Geneva, Switzerland. WHO/UNAIDS

Updated September 28, 2009

There is direct evidence that intergenerational relationships place young women at high risk for HIV infection. For example, one study in Uganda demonstrated that HIV risk doubled for women who were 15 to 19 years old when they had a partner 10 years or older compared to those who had partners who were 0 to 4 years older. Some researchers have expanded the definition of intergenerational partnerships to include those in which the male partner is five years or older since there is also an increased risk of HIV infection as a result of this age difference.

The research literature recognizes that there is a continuum from coercion and vulnerability to active agency that factors into intergenerational and transactional relationships. One extreme is coercion in which girls and women have no control of when and with whom they have sex. Engaging in sex to meet basic survival needs, i.e., food, shelter, and clothing, is another motivator for IG sex. Globalization, civil conflict, displacement, and food insecurity have heightened the economic conditions that lead to poverty, and sex in exchange for economic or material support is one way for young people to survive. On the other hand, for some young women the motivations to engage in intergenerational and transactional sex are numerous and often intertwined, including strategies to find love and affection, and a marriage partner,³ and the desire for economic security or economic comfort, i.e., wants rather than needs. Given the lack of access to other resources, some women willingly initiate relationships with older men and use transactional sex as a way to increase their power and social status. However, despite these young women's control over establishing or terminating transactional relationships with older men, several studies have demonstrated that men have a great degree of bargaining power *within* sexual partnerships, specifically with condom use and sexual activities.

A key theme that emerges from the literature is that effective programming will have to be responsive to the context that influences sexual behavior, among adult men as well as adolescents. Promising practices have included a combination of micro-economic approaches linked with interpersonal and community activities that challenge socio-cultural norms that allow for age-disparate sex, and that empower girls and women to make healthier sexual decisions. Leaders in the field also call for greater involvement of men in HIV and AIDS prevention programs that challenge social and gender norms. Experts call for more programs that address intergenerational partnerships as well as evaluations to assess their impact.

³ (2002). *Negotiating Safer Sexual Practices. Cross-generational and Transactional Sexual Relations in Sub-Saharan Africa Prevalence of Behavior and Implications*. Kurz K., & Luke N.

What We Know: Summaries of Select Background Research

The following selected articles highlight research findings on intergenerational and transactional sex and their influence on HIV/AIDS in developing countries.

Age-Disparate and Intergenerational Sex in Southern Africa: the Dynamics of Hyper-Vulnerability

AIDS (2008). Vol. 22 Suppl. 4, pp. S17–25
Leclerc-Madlala, S.

Young women who are 15 to 24 years old have much higher HIV infection rates than men their age; this is attributed to their increased vulnerability, including sexual relationships with older men. This paper reviews what is known about intergenerational (IG) sexual relationships and their effect on HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. Current research demonstrates the complexity of IG sexual relationships. These relationships are not driven solely by a lack of economic opportunities but also by the social, physical, and psychological benefits of these relationships and as a means to achieve life goals. HIV risk behaviors are high among these types of relationships and there is a need for comprehensive prevention programs that address policy issues for women and girls, and also for programs that target men.

Transactional Sex with Casual and Main Partners among Young South African Men in the Rural Eastern Cape: Prevalence, Predictors, and Associations with Gender-Based Violence

Social Science & Medicine (2007). Vol. 65, pp. 1235–48
Dunkle, K. L., Jewkes, R., Nduna, M., Jamab, N., Levin, J., Sikweyiab, Y., & Koss, K. P.

This study explored the prevalence and predictors of transactional sex (TS) with casual partners and main girlfriends. This finding suggests that TS in both main and casual relationships should be viewed within a broader continuum of men's exercise of gendered power and control. A total of 1,288 men aged 15 to 26 from 70 villages in the rural Eastern Cape province of South Africa were interviewed about the kinds of resources they provide to sexual partners. A total of 17.7 percent of participants reported giving material resources or money to casual sex partners and 6.6 percent received resources from a casual partner. The research showed that giving was associated with higher socio-economic status, more adverse childhood experiences, more lifetime sexual partners, and alcohol use. Men who were able to resist peer pressure were less likely to report TS with casual partners and men who reported more equitable gender attitudes were less likely to report TS with main partners. The most consistent predictors of TS were a history of intimate partner violence and rape against women other than a main partner. The authors recommend that HIV prevention interventions need to explicitly address TS in the context of ideas about masculinity that emphasizes heterosexual success with and control of women.

Skinning the Goat and Pulling the Load: Transactional Sex among Youth in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

AIDS Care (2007). Vol. 19 No. 8, pp. 974–81
Maganja, R. K., Maman, S., Groves, A., & Mbwambo, J. K.

There is an association between risk of HIV infection and transactional sex in studies conducted in sub-

Saharan Africa as well as other regions. Women are vulnerable in a number of ways, including economically, which can put them at an increased risk of becoming infected with HIV. In this study, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions about sexual relationships, especially TS, were held with young men and women aged 16 to 24 years old in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The results of the study were utilized to develop programming targeted towards men to reduce violence and HIV. It was found that TS was common in all types of sexual relationships, both casual and more serious relationships, though reasons differed based on gender. Young women had expectations of material and monetary exchange in both committed and casual partnerships. The transactional expectations of women were one of the reasons for them having more than one partner. Young men were aware of the material/monetary expectations of women and reported that this exchange affected the length and exclusiveness of the relationship and that they sought multiple partners for sexual reasons. The authors recommend that programs designed to reduce the sexual risk of young people need to account for the transactional nature of their relationships and the differences between young men's and women's motivations for those relationships.

Sex, Money, and Premarital Partnerships in Southern Malawi

Social Science & Medicine (2007). Vol. 65, pp. 2383–93
Poulin, M.

In premarital sexual partnerships in rural Malawi, understanding the context within which money or resources are exchanged between sexual partners is critical to understanding these relationships. This study demonstrates that, contrary to typical expectations, money and gift transfers in sexual partnerships are part of traditional courting practices of young Malawian men and women and are the way through which love and commitment are socially communicated. Rather than conceptualizing these exchanges as wholly “transactional,” data from key informant interviews with boys and girls describe the complex meaning for them of sex-for-money in relationships.

Saying No to Intergenerational Sex: The Experience of Schoolgirls in Botswana

Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies (2007). Vol. 2 No. 1, pp. 1–11
Nkosana, J., & Rosenthal, D.

This qualitative study explored the factors that help school girls in Botswana avoid intergenerational relationships. The girls who were able to resist relationships with older partners had a number of strong attributes and beliefs, such as having a strong sense of self-worth, accepting their economic circumstances, and wanting to maintain some sense of power in decision making. Themes relating to social and cultural factors also played a role. For example, the girls had respect for marriage and believed that older people should be regarded as parents. They also reported religious beliefs and school connectedness. The authors recommended adapting these practices and program approaches into their HIV and AIDS prevention programs to empower girls to resist intergenerational relationships.

Milking the Cow: A PEER Research Study on Transactional and Cross-Generational Sex in Maputo

(2005).

Hawkins, K., Mussa, F., & Abuxahama, S.

[http://hiv.developmentgateway.org/uploads/media/hiv/Milking_the_cow_peer_report.pdf]

This report is based on the results of a qualitative study conducted in Maputo, Mozambique, with young

women engaged in cross-generational and transactional sex relationships. It was found that young women are involved in multiple sexual partnerships which they classified into four different groups: 1) the *namorados* (same-age boyfriends with whom there is a perception of trust), 2) *pitos* (partners for sexual pleasure and no economic exchange), 3) *sengue* (older married men), and 4) *amante* (lovers). The latter two, *sengue* and *amante*, are both seen as transactional relationships. Young women do not view themselves as prostitutes since they are involved in longer-term relationships with the men. They also view themselves as active agents in the relationships and are able to define their social and sexual identity. The young women reported a low-risk perception to HIV despite engaging in higher-risk behaviors. Program designs need to address the potential loss of power and status for these young women if they forgo their involvement in intergenerational relationships. Programs to reach these girls should go beyond risk for HIV infection to include information on pregnancy, unsafe abortions, and sexually transmitted infections. HIV prevention programs targeting men and challenging existing social gender norms should also be a priority.

Age Differences in Sexual Partners and Risk of HIV-1 Infection in Rural Uganda

J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr (2003). Vol. 32 No. 4, pp. 446–51

Kelly, R. J., Gray, R. H., Sewankambo, N. K., Serwadda, D., Wabwire-Mangen, F., Lutalo, T., & Wawer, M. J.

This study determined that HIV infection in young women was affected by the age differences of their sexual partners. This finding was based on a sexual behavior and socio-demographic questionnaire given to 6,177 ever-sexually active women aged 15 to 29 years old. The young women also provided a blood sample to determine HIV serostatus. There were three age categories for the male sexual partner, which included men ranging from 0 to 4 years, 5 to 9 years, and 10 or more years older. The results of the study demonstrated a direct link with older age of male sexual partners with increased HIV prevalence among young females. For example, the adjusted risk of HIV infection for women who were 15 to 19 doubled among those reporting partners 10 or more years older compared to partners who were 0 to 4 years older. There was some evidence of a similar effect among women who were 20 to 24 years old, although the effect was not statistically significant. The authors concluded that the large age differences in sexual partnerships between young females and males is one significant contributing factor to higher HIV/AIDS prevalence levels in this group.

Age and Economic Asymmetries in the Sexual Relationships of Adolescent Girls in Sub-Saharan Africa

Studies in Family Planning (2003). Vol. 34 No. 2

Luke, N.

This literature review summarizes findings from 45 quantitative and qualitative studies on intergenerational and transactional sexual relationships between adolescent girls and older men in sub-Saharan Africa. The literature showed that relationships with older partners and those that involve economic transactions are common in sub-Saharan Africa. Several studies surveying men aged 15 to 50 years of age showed that a large proportion of their sexual partners were younger than 20 years of age. However, when only men older than 25 years of age were considered, far fewer of the partners were adolescent girls. Evidence suggests that the larger the age difference between partners the less likely it is that condoms are used or that HIV risk reduction is discussed. The literature suggests that for some young women, securing basic needs due to poverty is less often the motivator for intergenerational sex than is fulfilling desires for status and gifts. Qualitative studies in this review showed that as men become more aware of the risk of HIV infection, they are seeking out younger partners in the belief that they are less likely to be infected, though in some African contexts, HIV infection may actually be higher in younger women. The literature presents evidence that girls

can exert control over certain aspects of sexual relationships with older men, including partnership formation and continuation, but rarely over condom use or gender-based violence.

Negotiating Safer Sexual Practices. Cross-generational and Transactional Sexual Relations in Sub-Saharan Africa: Prevalence of Behavior and Implications for Negotiating Safer Sexual Practices

International Center for Research on Women in Collaboration with Population Services International. Washington, DC (2002).

Kurz, K., & Luke, N.

This literature review assesses the extent of intergenerational and transactional sex between adolescent girls and older male partners in sub-Saharan Africa; the extent of transactional sex; and the behavioral dynamics of girls and men involved in these sexual relations. The report outlines a conceptual framework and recognizes that sexual activity is a behavior negotiated between partners within a wider socio-cultural and economic context. Risk behaviors depend on the power asymmetries between sexual partners, as well as their individual characteristics and the cultural and economic determinants of behavior. This conceptual framework suggests that African adolescent girls are highly vulnerable to engaging in risky sexual behavior because: 1) sexual activity can be exchanged for cash or material things; 2) older men have a preference for adolescent sexual partners, who are perceived to be free from infection with HIV; and 3) with the decline in traditional societal structures, familial control over the behavior of young people has decreased, leaving a gap in young women's knowledge of sexual and reproductive matters. These factors limit the negotiating power girls have with male partners around sex and unsafe practices.

Early Age of Coital Debut and Intergenerational Sex Are Risk Factors for HIV among Zimbabwean Women

International Conference on AIDS (July 7–12, 2002). Vol. 14 Abstract No. ThOrC1489

Van Der Straten, A., Pettifor, A., Dunbar, M., Chipato, T., & Padian N.

HIV prevalence among young women in sub-Saharan Africa increases with an early age of sexual debut and when there is sex with an older partner. Additionally, age-disparate sex has implications for condom use. This study explored the relationships between early age of sexual debut and HIV prevalence and the effect of condom use with older male partners. It was found that young women whose age of sexual debut was 15 years or below were at an increased odds of HIV infection compared to young women whose age of sexual debut was 18 years or more. The study also found that young women with a sexual partner more than 10 years older were twice as likely to never use a condom, compared to a partner who was less than 5 years older.

Putting it into Practice

The section below highlights some interventions and recommendations to address intergenerational and transactional sex. Programming that targets IG and TS is an emerging area and few evaluations have been conducted on these programs. As a result, the programs highlighted below comprise a small sample and do not capture all IG and TS interventions in the field.

Program Guidelines and Standards

Integrating Multiple Gender Strategies to Improve HIV and AIDS Intervention: A Compendium of Programs in Africa

The ICRW is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the AIDSTAR-One Contract Number GHH-I-00-07-0059-00 Task Order: 1

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) (2009).

[\[http://www.aidstar-one.com/sites/default/files/aidstarone_gender_compendium.pdf\]](http://www.aidstar-one.com/sites/default/files/aidstarone_gender_compendium.pdf)

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has articulated five focus areas in its gender framework. This compendium examines four of the five PEPFAR gender strategies being implemented in 31 programs in Africa integrating two or more of these areas, including: 1) reducing violence and sexual coercion; 2) addressing male norms and behaviors; 3) increasing women's legal protection; and 4) increasing women's access to income and productive resources. The compendium provides insights on how strategies are employed together, where gaps exist, and what lessons and experiences are common across programs. Though not meant to be exhaustive, the compendium represents the depth and breadth of current HIV programming that includes multiple gender strategies.

Researching and Designing Interventions in a Slum: Using Female Out-Of-School Youth as Researchers in Nigeria

AIDS (2008). XVII International AIDS Conference: Abstract No. MoPE08_3

Ocholi, J., Ankomah, A., Akinyemi, Z., Sambo, A., Yisa, G., Yusuf, D., Ladipo, O., & Ogabo, S.

Out-of-school female youth are a difficult-to-reach target population in HIV and AIDS prevention interventions. This program involved working with 36 out-of-school female youth as researchers, then using the research results in the design and implementation of an HIV and AIDS project. It was found that young women shared more information with the peer researchers than they would outsiders. Community-wide events for parents were also implemented, such as theater performances and house visits. Some young women reported that their parents encouraged them to engage in intergenerational sex. The study also found that female-targeted activities would have more impact on this target group than joint male/female youth programs. Involving out-of-school female youth throughout the research and program design process and involving parents in activities to reduce transactional sex are the good practices demonstrated by this project.

Introduction: Addressing the Vulnerability of Young Women and Girls to Stop the HIV Epidemic in Southern Africa

AIDS (2008). Vol. 22 Suppl. 4, pp. S1–S3
Stirling, M., Rees, H., Kasedde, S., & Hankins, C.

Despite emerging evidence of declining HIV prevalence in countries such as Uganda, the levels of infection and vulnerability among young women aged 15 to 19 years in countries such as South Africa and Botswana remain unchanged, pointing to a continuing failure of HIV prevention efforts in this age group. It is crucial that proven interventions such as delayed sexual debut; reduced numbers of sexual partners, particularly concurrent partners; reduced age-disparate sex; increased condom use; increased male circumcision; and greater access to and use of HIV counseling and testing services, be implemented concurrently and scaled up to national coverage levels. Fully engaged and committed leadership at the local and national levels is needed in order to implement these activities concurrently. These activities must be guided by strategies and processes defined by local communities to address their specific contexts and the existing gaps from the state to individual levels.

HIV Prevention for Young People through the Education Sector in Zambia

AIDS (2008). XVII International AIDS Conference: Abstract No. WEPE0_1
Woods, J., Silwimba, J., Mumba, E., du Plessis, J., Zulu, J., & Malinda, M.

HIV incidence among youth in Zambia does not seem to be decreasing, and female youth are more likely to be infected than boys. Higher-risk behaviors such as intergenerational sex, transactional sex, and multiple concurrent partnerships are normalized. The education sector is attempting to address these behaviors through an in-school intervention called CHANGES2, which targets primary school students and addresses barriers to safer sexual behaviors at both the individual and community levels. School-community partnerships are formed in communities to identify and analyze local risk factors. Some risk factors that were identified included student-teacher sexual relationships, gender roles that support men in having multiple partners, and lack of economic opportunities for girls. Data showed that including these partnerships into the program has had a significant positive effect on attitudes towards more equality in gender relations and a decreased tolerance for gender-based violence.

Addressing Cross-Generational Sex: A Desk Review of Research and Programs

Population Reference Bureau (PRB) with funds provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the BRIDGE Project (No. GPO-A-00-03-00004-00) (2007).
Hope, R.

This extensive review of intergenerational (IG) sex examines the range of programmatic approaches available to prevent or reduce IG sex. The review uses the “continuum of volition” framework used by Save the Children to explore the drivers of IG and transactional sex (TS). The framework assumes that not all young people are vulnerable and/or passive in entering cross-generational sexual relationships. Some empowered youth choose to engage in relationships for “security gains” (emotional or economic). Further along the continuum, “economically rational sex” ranges from sex for “desired material benefits” to sex for survival. At the other end of the continuum are coerced sex and sexual violence, where young women and boys are forced to participate. This end represents power asymmetries and lack of regard for women’s and girls’ health and well-being. The review looks at the approaches used by existing programs to address IG

and TS, such as: 1) creating youth livelihood opportunities; 2) mobilizing and empowering youth to adopt healthy lifestyles; 3) social advocacy; 4) social marketing and “edutainment”; 5) health education and youth rights; 6) addressing power asymmetries, inequity, and poverty; and 7) addressing social and gender norms, including working with men. Despite a gap in concrete evidence on how to reduce TS and IG sexual relationships, the review includes 10 recommendations that programs can incorporate into their activities and strategies to reduce TS and IG sexual relations.

Young People's Sexual Health in South Africa: HIV Prevalence and Sexual Behaviors from a Nationally Representative Household Survey

AIDS (2006). Vol. 4 No. 20, pp. 955–6

Pettifor, A. E., Rees, H. V., Kleinschmidt, I., Steffenson, A. E., MacPhail, C., Hlongwa-Madikizela, L., Vermaak, K., & Padian, N. S.

The objectives of this study, conducted in 2003, were to determine factors of HIV and AIDS prevalence among South African youth 15 to 24 years old by exploring HIV risk factors and exposure to a national HIV prevention campaign called LoveLife. The study confirmed young women’s increased risk for HIV infection. Some key findings from the survey were that young women were significantly more likely to be infected with HIV in comparison to their male peers (15.5 percent versus 4.8 percent), and that young women with older partners were at an increased risk of HIV infection. Youth were also less likely to be infected with HIV if they reported participation in at least one LoveLife program. In addition, a number of programmatic recommendations were given, including a continual reinforcement of messages on partner reduction as well as addressing contextual factors that were barriers for behavioral change.

Cross-Generational Relationships: Using a ‘Continuum of Volition’ in HIV Prevention Work among Young People

Gender & Development (2006). Vo. 14 No. 1, pp. 81–94

Weissman, A., Cocker, J., Sherburne, L., Powers, M. B., Lovich, R., & Mukaka, M

The drivers of intergenerational (IG) and transactional sex (TS) relationships occur along a “continuum of volition.” This continuum suggests that not all young people are vulnerable and/or passive when involved in sexual relationships with persons who are older or more powerful. Rather, there are empowered youth who choose to engage in sexual relationships with older people for emotional reasons; young people who engage in “economically rational sex” for material things such as clothes or passing grades; and youth involuntarily coerced into sex. This paper reviews the use of a program planning tool to locate individual adolescent girls along the continuum and develop appropriate strategies to resist unwelcomed propositions from men in Malawi. The authors suggest that more reflection is needed on why TS and IG are defined as problematic and what aspects are of concern given that IG relationships occur all over the world. When defining TS and IG relationships as problematic, it is important to understand the choices, or lack thereof, that young women have and to address concerns of inequality within the socio-economic context in which they occur.

The Factors Influencing Transactional Sex among Young Men and Women in 12 Sub-Saharan African Countries

Social Biology (2005). Vol. 52 No. 1–2, pp. 56–72

Chatterji, M., Murray, N., London, D., & Anglewicz, P.

Twelve Demographic and Health Surveys from sub-Saharan Africa were used in secondary data analysis to

explore how transactional sex affects the risk of HIV/AIDS infection for young men and women. It was found that these young people are more likely to engage in transactional sex compared to older people. Married youth were also less likely to engage in transactional sex compared to unmarried youth. Therefore, programs to reduce transactional relationships and/or to reduce the risk in these relationships should focus on young, unmarried men and women.

Stepping Stones: A Training Package on HIV/AIDS, Communication and Relationship Skills

Strategies For Hope Training series No. 1, Actionaid London. First Edition (1995).
Welbourn, A.

Stepping Stones is an HIV prevention program that aims to improve sexual health through building stronger, more gender-equitable relationships with better communication between partners. The program started in Uganda and has been used in more than 100 countries. It uses participatory learning techniques to develop self-awareness and knowledge about sexual health, the consequences of risk-taking, and communication skills between partners. In addition, Stepping Stones has developed a manual to train and educate men and women for up to 18 weeks, during which time participants critically assess the societal norms and values influencing their attitudes and behaviors and identify changes they should make in order to protect themselves and others from HIV. Additionally, this training helps to bring about more general life changes and improvements, such as improved communication with their partners and children, more understanding and caring for others, and increased self-respect. In 2007, the program in rural Eastern Cape Province, South Africa, was evaluated by the South African Medical Research Council. It was found that men in the program were as likely as men in control communities to have had a casual partner in the last 12 months, but a significantly lower proportion of men in the program reported having had transactional sex.

Evaluation of Stepping Stones: A Gender Transformative HIV Prevention Intervention

South African Medical Research Council. Pretoria (2007).

Jewkes, R., Nduna, M., Levin, J., Jama, N., Dunkle, K., Wood, K., Koss, M., Puren, A. and Duvvury, N.

This brief describes the background and objectives of the Stepping Stones project as well as its key features. An evaluation was conducted in South Africa that had both qualitative and quantitative components. The brief goes into detail about the results of the study and demonstrates the positive impact the project had on young people's attitudes and behaviors; it shows there was some evidence of it lowering HIV and HSV 2 infection rates.

Program Reports and Briefs

Technical Meeting on Young Women in HIV Hyper-Endemic Countries of Southern Africa

Intergenerational/ age-disparate sex, Policy and Programme Action Brief, UNAIDS, RHRU (2008).
Leclerc-Madlala.

[\[http://www.unaidsrstesa.org/userfiles/file/womenGirls_AgeDisparate.pdf\]](http://www.unaidsrstesa.org/userfiles/file/womenGirls_AgeDisparate.pdf)

The brief outlines what was discussed at the Technical Meeting on Young Women in HIV Hyper-endemic Countries in Southern Africa. It provides policy and action recommendations, including rapidly and greatly increasing programs that work directly with men to challenge the socio-cultural norms that allow for and sanction engagement in age-disparate sex; rapidly and greatly increasing programs aimed at empowering young women and raising risk-perception regarding involvement in age-disparate relationships; and working with cultural idioms and socio-moral frames that distinguish between normative relationships and prostitution.

Addressing the Vulnerability of Young Women & Girls to Stop the HIV Epidemic in Southern Africa

(2008).
UNAIDS

[\[http://www.unaidsrstesa.org/files/Young-women-and-girls_08.pdf\]](http://www.unaidsrstesa.org/files/Young-women-and-girls_08.pdf)

This report outlines the research and discussions of a technical meeting held in June 2008, supported by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit of the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. Several technical papers were presented and included the current status of the epidemic in Southern Africa, age-disparate and intergenerational sex, biological vulnerability, economic empowerment, education, and gender-based violence.

Cross-Generational Sex: Risks and Opportunities

Technical Brief: Interagency Youth Working Group, Interagency Gender Working Group and Population Reference Bureau (2008).
USAID

[\[http://www.igwg.org/pdf/cross-gen-sex.pdf\]](http://www.igwg.org/pdf/cross-gen-sex.pdf)

This brief outlines what is known about cross-generational sexual relationships and their effect on young women's HIV vulnerability in terms of epidemiology, increased behavioral risk factors, programmatic practices, and lessons learned from promising interventions.

Engaging Men and Boys in Changing Gender-Based Inequity in Health: Evidence from Programme Interventions

Geneva. World Health Organization. (2007).

[\[http://www.who.int/gender/documents/Engaging_men_boys.pdf\]](http://www.who.int/gender/documents/Engaging_men_boys.pdf)

Research with men and boys has shown how inequitable gender norms influence how men interact with their partners, families, and children on a wide range of issues, including preventing the transmission of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive use, physical violence against women and between men,

domestic chores, parenting, and their health-seeking behavior. This review assessed the effectiveness of programs seeking to engage men and boys in achieving gender equality and equity in health, and highlights successful program characteristics. Programs were rated on their gender approach using the following categories: gender neutral, gender sensitive, and gender transformative. Key findings were: 1) well-designed programs do lead to changes in attitudes and behavior; 2) programs rated as being “gender transformative” had a higher rate of change; 3) integrated programs and programs within community outreach, mobilization, and mass media campaigns show more effectiveness in producing behavior change; 4) behavior change occurred in all program areas (e.g., sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention) and in all types of programs (e.g., group education, service based); and 5) relatively few programs with men and boys went beyond the pilot stage or a short-term time frame.

The Young Empowered and Healthy (Y.E.A.H.) Initiative

Health Communication Partnership. Uganda. (2004–2007).

[\[http://www.jhuccp.org/legacy/countries/uganda_yeah\]](http://www.jhuccp.org/legacy/countries/uganda_yeah)

This program was implemented from 2004 to 2007 in Uganda as a coalition of community organizations and Young People's Advisory Groups, under the auspices of the Uganda AIDS Commission HIV and AIDS Partnership. Its purpose was to improve health and social practices among young people through improved and coordinated behavior change communication efforts. The initiative developed by and for young people ages 15 to 24, combined mass media, person-to-person dialogue, and community media. The mission of the Young Empowered and Healthy (Y.E.A.H.) initiative was to stimulate discussion and action among communities, families, schools, and health institutions, and through the use of local and national media encourage positive practices. The program developed a series of materials called “Something for Something,” that raised the issue of the long-term consequences of short-term material gain through intergenerational or transactional sex for both men and girls. The program attempted to change male sexual norms through campaigns such as, “Be a Man,” wherein men discouraged their friends from engaging in “something for something” relationships.

Tools and Curricula

Men as Partners (MAP), A Program for Supplementing the Training of Life Skills Educators

Second Edition. EngenderHealth and Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa (2001).

[\[http://www.engenderhealth.org/files/pubs/gender/ppasamanual.pdf\]](http://www.engenderhealth.org/files/pubs/gender/ppasamanual.pdf)

EngenderHealth's Men as Partners (MAP) program designed this manual to primarily target men to discuss reproductive health issues within a gender framework. The manual is designed for MAP educators to lead workshops with men and sometimes mixed groups of men and women. The workshops are intended to train others to be life-skills educators in their communities. The manual includes sections and topics on resources; training activities and exercises; gender and sexuality; male and female sexual health; HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections; relationships; examining violence; awareness of sexual violence; and domestic violence.

Also see PEPFAR Gender Norms Initiative [\[http://www.pepfar.gov/press/76365.htm\]](http://www.pepfar.gov/press/76365.htm) which draws on MAP program.

Ideas and Action: Addressing the Social Factors that Influence Sexual and Reproductive Health

CARE (2007).

[\[http://www.care.org/careswork/whatwedo/health/downloads/social_analysis_manual.pdf\]](http://www.care.org/careswork/whatwedo/health/downloads/social_analysis_manual.pdf)

In 2004, CARE began to experiment with new approaches to addressing the social factors that influenced health outcomes. As part of CARE's broader poverty-reduction efforts, it developed approaches for helping communities to identify and address the social contributors to poor sexual and reproductive health in ways that went beyond providing quality services and health information. In order to sustain long-term changes in health status, social norms that negatively affect health status needed to be changed. Funded by the Reproductive Health Trust Fund, the Innovations Projects has been implemented in Georgia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, and Uganda, with the expressed mandate to explore and document new ways of addressing health by challenging the social factors that influence health: gender, age, sexuality, masculinity, race, caste, and religion. This manual provides non-governmental organization staff with material, exercises, and skills to use a social analysis and action approach and to develop a program cycle to work with communities to identify and address social factors underlying poor health outcomes. The manual has four sections: an introduction to social analysis and action, social analysis and action program cycle, social analysis and action case studies, and tools for implementing social analysis and action.

Young Empowered and Healthy (Y.E.A.H)

Health Communication Partnership, Uganda. (2004–2007)

[\[http://www.jhuccp.org/legacy/countries/uganda_yeah\]](http://www.jhuccp.org/legacy/countries/uganda_yeah)

The website provides links to "Something for Something" love materials such as posters, pamphlets, comic books, and CD ROMs. The campaign and materials address intergenerational sex, transactional sex, respect, male norms, fidelity, and more.

Learn More:

Other Resources

USAID. Interagency Youth Working Group.

<http://www.igwg.org/pdf/cross-gen-sex.pdf>

<http://www.igwg.org/articles/combatacrossgenssex.htm>

UNAIDS. 2008. Policy Brief: “HIV, Food Security and Nutrition.”

http://data.unaids.org/pub/Manual/2008/jc1515a_policybrief_nutrition_en.pdf Expanded version.

Strategies and Tools for Working with Men and Boys to End Violence Against Girls, Women and Other Men

Workshop Report. (Kathmandu, Nepal, and New Delhi, India: Save the Children Sweden and UNIFEM) (2005).

Bandhari, N.

http://www.siyanda.org/docs/SCS_Regional_Workshop_Report_March_2004_Long2.pdf

Economic Commission for Africa, Gender and HIV/AIDS

(November 2004).

http://www.uneca.org/chga/gender_hiv_aids.pdf

Gender, Poverty and Intergenerational Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS

Oxfam, Gender and Development (2002). Vol. 10 No 3.

Smith, M. K.

<http://www.oxfam.org.nz/imgs/whatwedo/hivaids/gendervuln.pdf>