



## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

EHPSA is working towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the UNAIDS Fast-track strategy to end AIDS by 2030.

EHPSA supports research and policy engagement to:

- Ensure healthy lives by strengthening HIV prevention for adolescents and key populations (SDG3);
- Meet the needs of groups that are often 'left behind' in the regional HIV response (SDG 10); and
- Strengthen strategies to empower young women and help realise their rights to sexual and reproductive health (SDG 5).

Through its support for policy initiatives to reform discriminatory laws and its efforts to improve evidence-informed HIV and SRH policies, EHPSA is also aligned with other SDGs.



## EVIDENCE FOR HIV PREVENTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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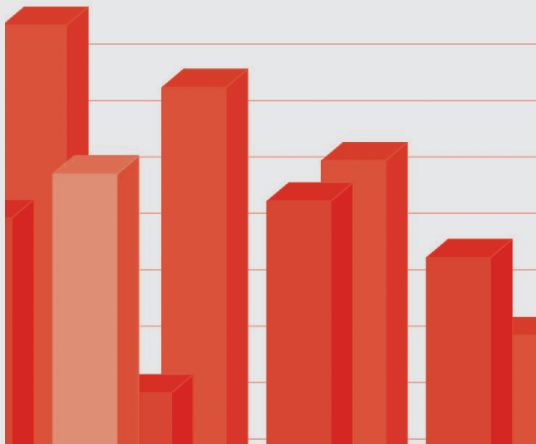
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EHPSA supports more effective and efficient HIV prevention efforts for adolescents, prisoners and LGBTI in eastern and southern Africa. These groups are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection and yet are often unable to access adequate services.

EHPSA supports research that generates evidence of what works and why, as well as strategies to translate that evidence into action.

EHPSA aims to catalyse new thinking around the implementation of combination HIV prevention, treatment as prevention, and appropriate sexual and reproductive health packages for these populations across the region.

EHPSA is a four-year programme (2014–2018), funded by UK aid from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) with additional funding from Sweden and Norway. The programme is managed by Mott MacDonald.

## AIMS

EHPSA aims to:

- Generate new evidence for HIV prevention by funding innovative operational and formative research, as well as critical reviews, through a Regional Research and Innovation Fund;
- Support large-scale evaluations of the implementation of proven interventions across the region by co-funding a World Bank programme;
- Strengthen linkages between researchers, policy makers and implementers in the region, in order to create policy dialogue and build the capacity of policy makers to use research data; and
- Address the legal, political and social barriers to HIV prevention in vulnerable groups through well informed policy discussions, advocacy and direct engagement with civil society.

The impact of the programme is expected to reach beyond the target populations and the life of the programme by establishing good practice for evidence-based HIV prevention, building networks, and embedding skills for translating evidence into action.

## WHY EHPSA?

Eastern and southern Africa remain the global epicentre of the HIV epidemic, with nine countries having an adult HIV prevalence of greater than 10%. In the absence of a cure or vaccine, prevention of HIV is the best way to reduce new infections and to limit the human and economic burden of the disease. This regional programme targets populations that are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection and for whom research and programming efforts have been insufficient.

## REGIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND (RRIF)

EHPSA funds cutting edge research on HIV prevention for adolescents, prisoners and LGBTI. Research includes the following topics:

- Combination prevention programmes for adolescents, including PrEP and programmes for HIV-positive adolescents;
- Qualitative research to understand the HIV prevention needs of men who have sex with men, and appropriate sexual and reproductive health programmes for LGBTI; and
- Treatment as prevention in correctional facilities.

EHPSA also funds a series of critical reviews that will collect, analyse and review the evidence and data on various aspects of HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health programmes for adolescents, prisoners and LGBTI in the region. These reviews provide up-to-date information for use by policy makers and programme implementers and are disseminated through a series of EHPSA-funded regional symposia and technical fora.

## EVIDENCE INTO ACTION

EHPSA facilitates the uptake of research by policy makers with the aim of ensuring that evidence and data are used to inform national and regional HIV prevention policy and programming for vulnerable groups. Key modalities include:

- **Technical fora and symposia:** researchers and policy makers are brought together to exchange ideas and build relationships.
- **Stakeholder engagement strategies:** researchers funded by the RRIF are supported to disseminate their work and influence research uptake.
- **Fellowship schemes:** national policy makers are directly supported by academics to utilise routine and research data.
- Strategically linked communication platforms and products.

This critical area of EHPSA's work is supported by an ongoing monitoring and learning programme.

## CIVIL SOCIETY INTERVENTIONS

EHPSA aims to address social and structural barriers to HIV prevention in vulnerable groups through well-informed policy discussions, advocacy and direct engagement with civil society. The key programme here addresses sexual violence in prisons in the region.

