Addressing gender inequality & violence as a critical enabler in the HIV response

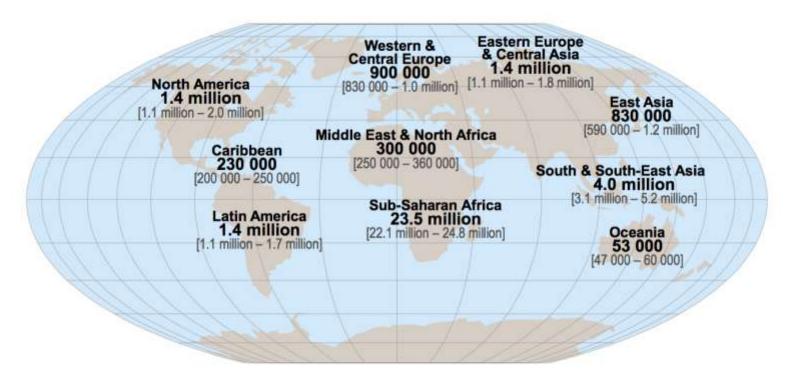
Prof. Charlotte Watts Ph.D.

Research Director, STRIVE Research Programme Consortium Head, Social and Mathematical Epidemiology Group Department of Global Health and Development London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



Globally 34 million living with HIV

Adults and children estimated to be living with HIV 2011



Total: 34.0 million [31.4 million – 35.9 million]





Every minute, a young woman is newly infected with HIV.

As a result of their lower economic, socio-cultural status in many countries, women and girls are disadvantaged when it comes to negotiating safe sex, accessing HIV prevention information 11-45% and services. Between 11% and 45% of adolescent girls report that their first sexual experience was forced." HIV is the leading cause of death of women of reproductive age.¹⁰ forced sterilisations¹ Globally, young women aged 15-24, are most vulnerable to HIV with infection rates twice as high as in young men, and accounting for 22% of all new HIV infections? Only one female condom is available for every 36 women in Sub-Saharan Africa.⁸ More than one third of women aged 20-24 years in the developing 40% world marry before they 32 out of 94 countries.4 are 18 years old.² Approximately 40 percent of Globally, less than 30% pregnancies worldwide are of young women have unintended, increasing risk comprehensive and correct of women's ill-health and knowledge on HIV.5 maternal death.* Sources 1. UNAIDS World AIDS Day report 2011

2. Gender scorecard, UNAIDS, 2011

4. Gender scorecard, UNAIDS, 2011

Task Force on Rural Women, 2012

3. Rural Women and the MDGs. UN Inter-agen

5. UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2010

6. Singh et al., Adding It Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing 9. UNAIDS World AIDS Day report 2011 In Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2009 7. UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 2011: Adolescence: An age of opportunity, New York, 2011 8: UNFPA Media Fact Sheet: Comprehensive Condom Programming - July 2010

10. Women and health: today's avidence tomorrow's agenda WHO, 2009

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Source: UNAIDS 2012

Women living with HIV are more likely to experience violations of their sexual and reproductive rights, for example

> Two-thirds of the world's 796 million illiterate adults are women.3

In many countries customary practices on property and inheritance rights further increase women's vulnerability to AIDS and reduce their ability to cope with the disease and its impact.

32/94

Women living with HIV are not regularly involved in formal processes to plan and review the national HIV response to HIV in



How do these factors increase women's & girl's HIV vulnerability?

Poverty & transactional sex:

 young girls have sex with older men to access resources. This seeds HIV into younger age groups

Gender inequality & violence:

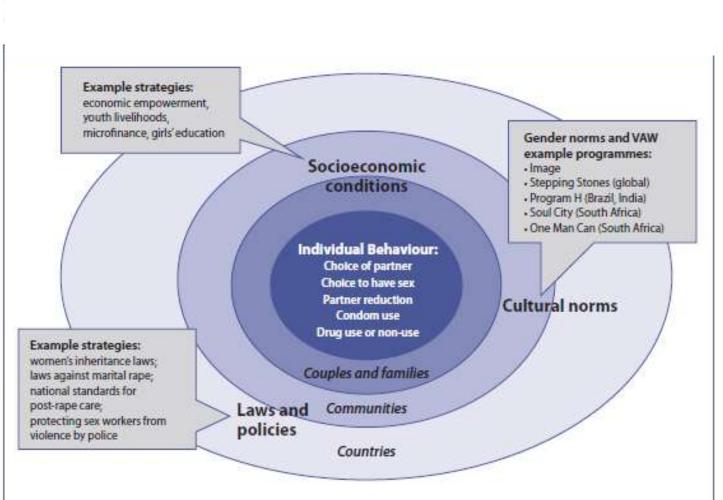
 women have difficulty negotiating sex or condom use when economically dependent on partner & fear violence

• Limited livelihood opportunities:

- Women's economic dependence on partner
- Labour migration, separation of families
- Stigma & discrimination:
 - prevents those most vulnerable to HIV from accessing or supporting HIV programmes



Multiple levels of intervention



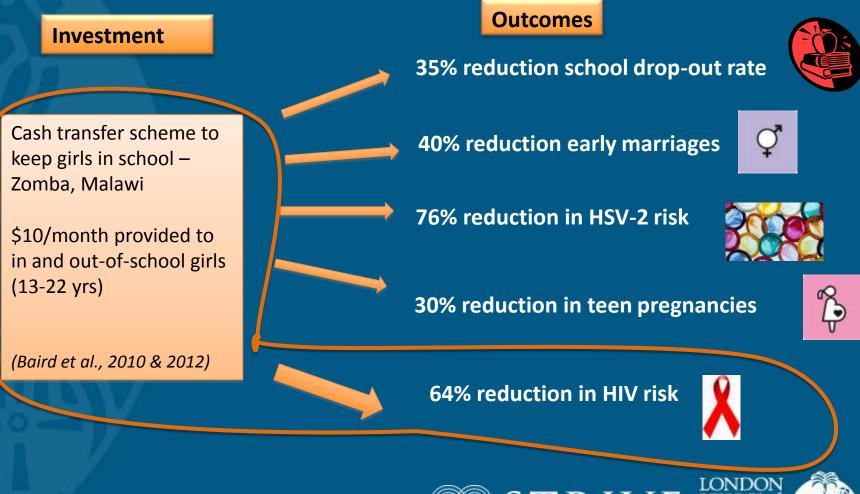


Source: UNAIDS/WHO 2010

Example 1 Zomba cash transfer program, Malawi: Paying girls to stay in school



Impacts both on HIV & other outcomes





Tackling the structural drivers of HIV

Ex 2: The Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS & Gender Equity (IMAGE Study)

Paul Pronyk, Julia Kim, Tanya Abramsky, Godfrey Phetla, James Hargreaves, Linda Morison, Charlotte Watts, Joanna Busza, John Porter

SEF Small Enterprise Foundation



Intervention combined Microfinance with participatory training on gender, violence & HIV



Significant impacts on violence & HIV risk behaviours over 2 years

Among participants:

- Past year experience of IPV reduced by 55%
- Households less poor
- Improved HIV communication

Among younger women:

- 64% higher uptake HIV testing
- 25% less unprotected sex



No wider community impacts

Pronyk et al. The Lancet Dec. 2006, Pronyk et al AIDS 2008





Building an effective response for women & girls

Information & social power

HIV prevention technologies that work for girls & women

Effective prevention

Money, economic skills & opportunities





Adapted from: Brady, Martha. Population Council, 2005

Many thanks

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