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

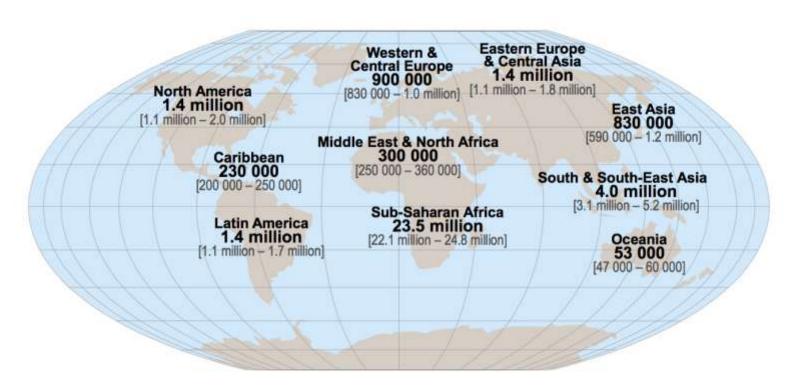
Prof. Charlotte Watts Ph.D.

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]

Source: UNAIDS 2012

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. of adolescent girls report that their first sexual experience was forced." Women living with HIV are more likely to experience HIV is the leading cause violations of their sexual and of death of women of reproductive rights, for example reproductive age.10 forced sterilisations 2 Globally, young women aged 15-24, are most vulnerable to HIV with infection rates twice Two-thirds of the world's 796 million illiterate adults as high as in young men, and are women.3 accounting for 22% of all new HIV infections 9 Only one female condom is practices on property and available for every 36 women inheritance rights further increase in Sub-Saharan Africa.8 women's vulnerability to AIDS and reduce their ability to cope with the disease and its impact. More than one third of women aged 20-24 not regularly involved in formal processes to plan and review the years in the developing 40% world marry before they national HIV response to HIV in 32 out of 94 countries.4 are 18 years old." 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.º



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Sources
1. UNAIDS World AIDS Day report 2011

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^{3.} Rural Women and the MDGs. UN Inter-agent

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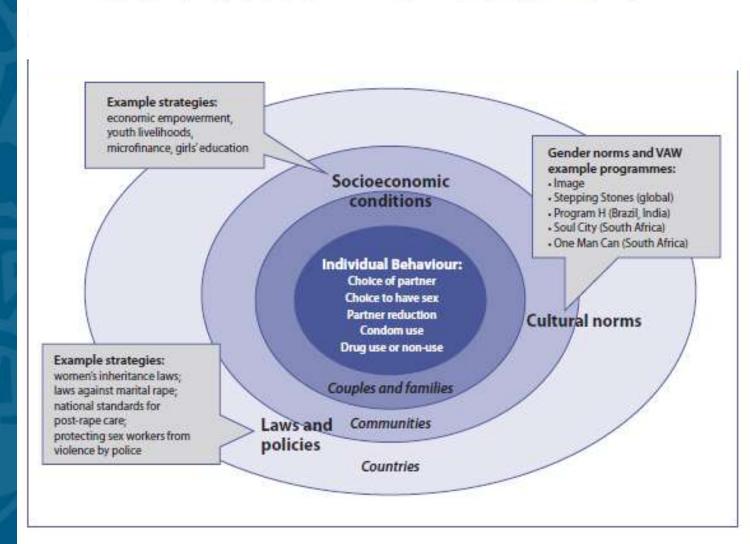
^{6.} Singh et al., Adding It Uc: The Costs and Benefits of Investing 9. UNAIDS World AIDS Day report 2011 10. Women and health: today's avidence tomorrow's agenda

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

Investment

Cash transfer scheme to keep girls in school – Zomba, Malawi

\$10/month provided to in and out-of-school girls (13-22 yrs)

(Baird et al., 2010 & 2012)

Outcomes

35% reduction school drop-out rate



40% reduction early marriages



76% reduction in HSV-2 risk



30% reduction in teen pregnancies



64% reduction in HIV risk









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





Building an effective response for women & girls

Information & social power

HIV prevention technologies that work for girls & women

Effective prevention

Money,
economic
skills &
opportunities





Many thanks

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