G: HIV PROGRAMMING FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (AGYW) IN SOUTH AFRICA | Where are we and where do we need to go?
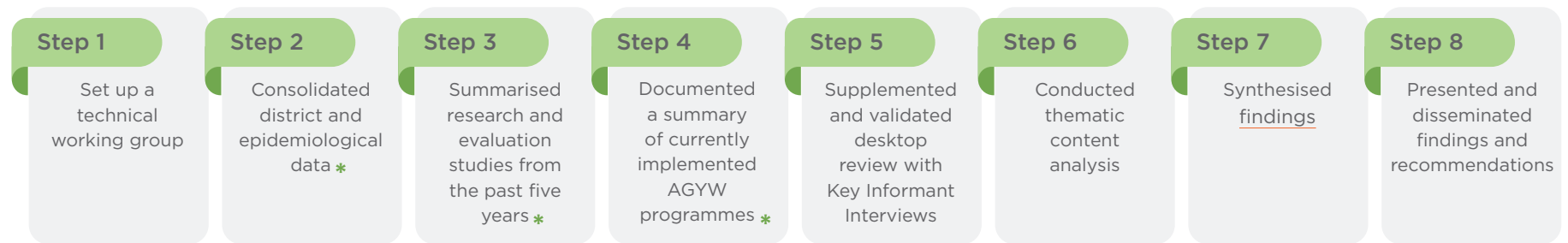
The purpose of this implementer brief is to summarise key findings and share practical recommendations emanating from the South African AGYW landscaping analysis with programme designers, managers and implementers of the AGYW HIV prevention response.

HIV prevention programmes are not on track to meet targets for the AGYW

Each year, adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) continue to be disproportionately infected and affected by HIV in South Africa. Though some AGYW programmes show promise, the country's vision for AGYW has not yet been realised and the AGYW targets articulated in the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs (NSP) have been missed. While there is a huge emphasis on the HIV epidemic in AGYW and large investments in the response, evidence and experience have not been sufficiently synthesised into guidance that can inform future programming.
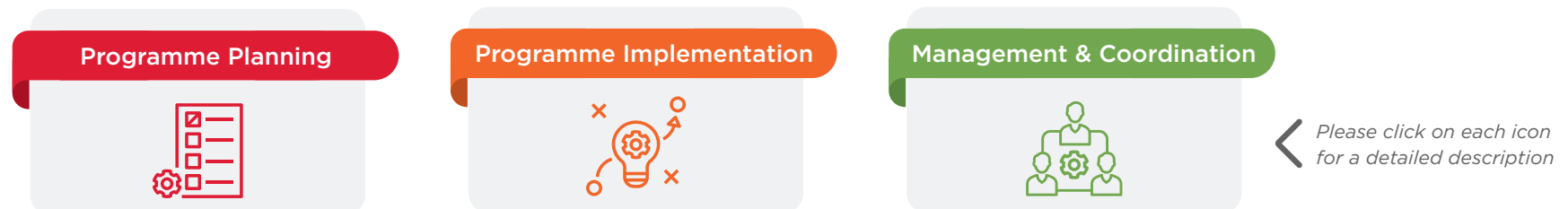
This assignment aimed to consolidate and synthesise research findings and review the implementation of best practices of AGYW HIV prevention programming in South Africa. We followed an 8 step process as shown below:

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8
Set up a technical working group	Consolidated district and epidemiological data *	Summarised research and evaluation studies from the past five years *	Documented a summary of currently implemented AGYW programmes *	Supplemented and validated desktop review with Key Informant Interviews	Conducted thematic content analysis	Synthesised findings	Presented and disseminated findings and recommendations

This information was captured in an Excel tool

Key insights on AGYW prevention programming best practices and how to make use of them

Through this process we developed a Situational Review Tool which houses information on AGYW prevention projects today as well as information and evidence from studies on existing and previous projects. Here we provide a summary of the best practices from AGYW prevention with respect to **1)** Programme Design, **2)** Implementation and **3)** Management and Coordination, and provide insights and examples to implementers on practical steps for implementing these best practices.

Programme Planning

Programme Implementation

Management & Coordination

Please click on each icon for a detailed description

Please see below for examples of good practice for Programme Planning, Programme Implementation, and Programme Management and Coordination.

Programme Planning Example

Meaningful participation of AGYW in programmes can encouraged by either reducing barriers to access, or increasing perceived and realised value experienced by the AGYW.

Reducing barriers

- Prioritise a youth friendly programme interface;
- Work with communities to creative a supportive environment for AGYW to engage in the programme;
- Offer a one-stop shop for a package of services;
- Include flexibility and continuity in timing of the provision of services (not only once a week for example),
- **Use social peers on WhatsApp** to communicate information on service provision, to keep engagement alive and to follow up.

Increasing value

- Frame programmes and service provision around an AGYW as a whole person with goals and dreams – the **service package should be clearly linked to the relationship, life goals and dreams of the AGYW.**
- Programmes to consider rewarding AGYW for their participation – this should be greater than the opportunity cost of participating.

We developed a **composite risk score** which considered unique AGYW risk factors. Using the composite risk score and existing information on current programme implementation, we were able to highlight where certain geographic programme needs of at risk AGYW were not being met.

Programme Implementation Example

Youth engagement:

Youth have been engaged in AGYW programming through the use of a youth panel, youth advisory board, provincial youth leadership teams, youth ambassadors, youth advocacy plan, youth events and dialogues. Principles of youth engagement are that needs and inclusion of youth through the programme life is prioritised.

Management & Coordination Example

Building capacity of the community:

Some programmes **employ and mandate a dedicated local employee** to **keep up the programme momentum**, **garner buy-in**, **engage stakeholders and encourage programme ownership**.

Other options **include a capacity building component in programme planning and budgeting** to transfer knowledge and skills into local structures. This in turn will aid the successful implementation and coordination of the programme and **feed into sustainability planning**.

G:ENESIS
UNLOCKING VALUE