



HIV PROGRAMMING FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (AGYW) IN SOUTH AFRICA

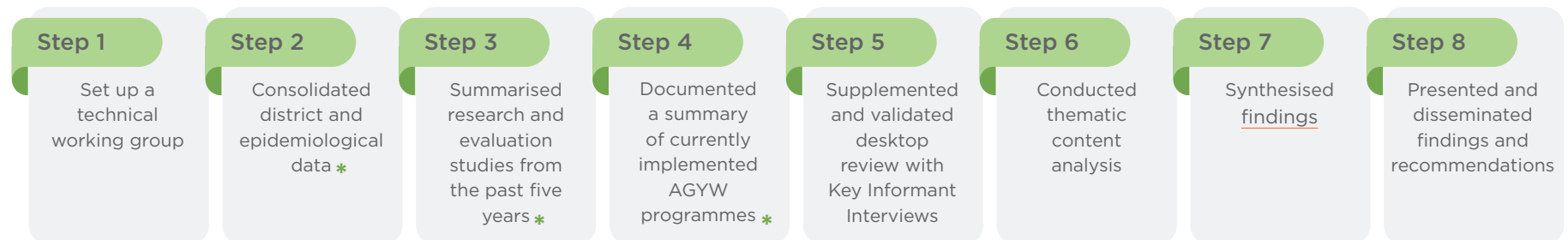
Where are we and where do we need to go?

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:



*This information was captured in an Excel tool

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

Management & Coordination



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.

In this policy brief we summarise the best practices from AGYW prevention programming **Management and Coordination** and provide insights and examples to implementers on practical steps for implementing these best practices.

What are the current gaps in the management and coordination of AGYW prevention programming in South Africa?



Management of programmes at the community level is under resourced

Management of programmes cascaded to the community level requires more resources, increased accountability and flexibility to adequately monitor and adjust programmes as the need arises.



Most programmes considered as evidence have not yet been evaluated

All programmes are considered evidence-informed, but less than half have been formally evaluated. While intra-programme knowledge is high, there is opportunity to strengthen learnings across programmes. There is a need to understand issues around the complexity and costs associated with structural interventions in terms of implementation, policy conditions, feasibility, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness of incentive programmes.



Access to timely and contextually relevant research and studies which are easy to interpret is limited and hard to find



All programmes report that design is scalable, but this has not been successfully tested/achieved for the majority of programmes considered



There is currently no consensus of what is meant by sustainability in AGYW programmes and how to achieve it

Programme implementers are unaware of what it costs to 'reach' an AGYW through their programme.



What are the best practices in management and coordination of AGYW prevention programming in South Africa?



Provision for building capacity of community including all donor-funded youth HIV programmes of the community as well as youth-based organisations, so that these organisations can be sustainable.



Management staff should not be over capacitated and should have the flexibility to adapt the programme over time. These staff should be held accountable at meetings to report back on progress and changes made to the programme.



Programmes should cost their implementation and track goals over time as a means of informal evaluation: Programmes should cost their implementation and track goals over time and know explicitly the cost per AGYW reached through their programme. Additionally, programme reach should be mapped onto the composite risk score of AGYW to assess whether the programme has been successful in reaching most at risk AGYW.



Implementers should write up promising practices in the form of case studies These case studies should be on components of the AGYW programmes - especially those which are less documented such as empowerment programmes, dignity packs, community outreach to engage between the ages of 20-24 years who are not in employment, education or training. Donors should fund time spent writing up and sharing best practices.



Programmes should consider how to sustain behaviour change of AGYW rather than focus on how to sustain funding for programme activities.



A cost-effectiveness study is required for AGYW HIV prevention programmes.

There is a **need to understand issues around the complexity and costs associated with structural interventions** in terms of implementation, policy conditions, feasibility, **sustainability, and cost-effectiveness** of incentive programmes.

Examples of **building capacity of the community:**

Some programmes **employ and mandates 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.**

The landscaping exercises is based on research funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The findings and conclusions contained within are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions or policies of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This work was done in collaboration with a technical working group that comprised a wide range of technical experts representing key constituencies within the AGYW HIV prevention landscape in South Africa.

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