

The UNAIDS Gender Assessment Tool for National HIV Responses

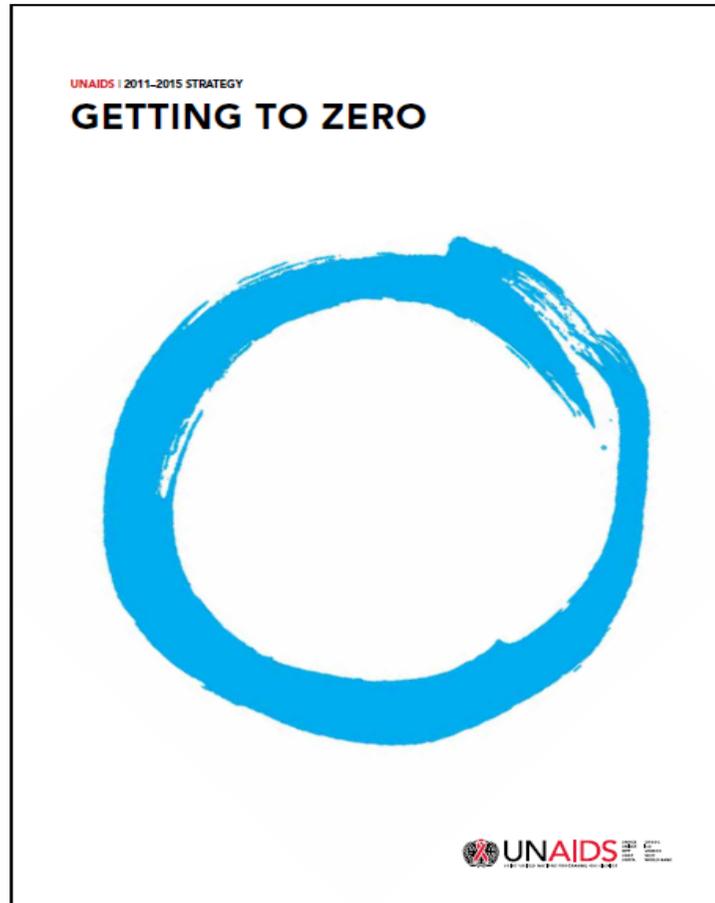
Presented at the Multipartner Retreat
at the Global Fund Secretariat:

“Strengthening Women’s Engagement with the Global
Fund to Champion Gender Equality through the New
Funding Model and Beyond”

Zero new HIV infections.
Zero discrimination.
Zero AIDS-related deaths.



UNAIDS STRATEGY: GETTING TO ZERO



UNAIDS work on gender is guided by two Goals:

- Gender transformative HIV responses that bring about equality and social change.
- Zero tolerance for violence against Women and Girls.

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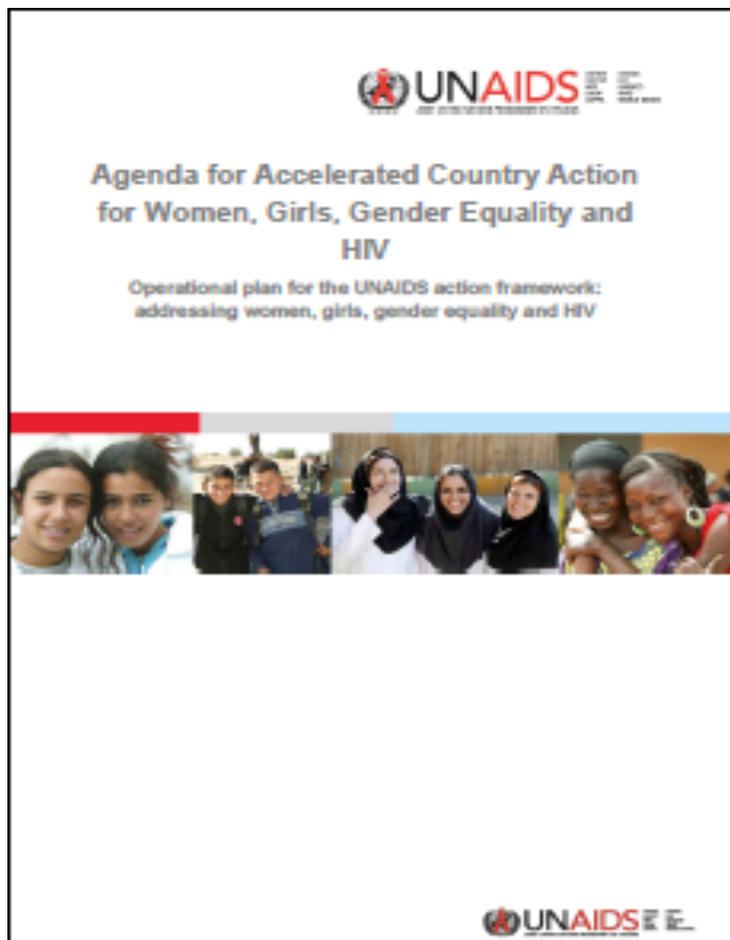
UNAIDS, HIV, AND GENDER INEQUALITIES

- UNAIDS is committed to advancing gender equality for an effective HIV response, and calling for gender-transformative HIV responses.
 - UNAIDS calls for HIV responses that foster social transformation to deal with those social norms and practices fuelling gender inequalities and gender-based violence.
- 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS set the elimination of gender inequalities and gender-based violence as one of its ten targets.
 - UNAIDS action in this area is set out in the Agenda for Women and Girls and the 'Getting to Zero' Strategy.

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UNAIDS AGENDA FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



The Agenda:

- Provides a menu of strategic actions.
- Supports countries in moving towards gender-transformative HIV responses.
- Operationalized in over 100 countries to date.
- Civil society is a key partnering constituency.

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GENDER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The Global Fund is committed to addressing inequalities in health service, and to developing individual operational plans for women and key populations.
- The New Funding Model (NFM) includes opportunities both for gender-specific programming, and for mainstreaming gender across funding requests.
 - Intended to serve as a catalyst for a more gender-transformative HIV response.
 - Future grant submissions: evidence-driven programmes for these populations, rooted in respect for their human rights.

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GENDER ASSESSMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND THE GLOBAL FUND

- First step of the NFM: a country-level review of the National Strategic Plan for HIV.
 - **But:** national strategic planning processes often lack essential information on the epidemic, context and response from a gender perspective.
 - This makes the identification of gender gaps, policy recommendations, and grant proposals far more difficult.
 - Global Fund recommendation: national gender assessment of the HIV epidemic, context and response.
- The *UNAIDS Gender Assessment Tool* fulfills this function.

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WHY A GENDER ASSESMENT TOOL?

- National planning and budgeting processes are not gender sensitive, as revealed by:
 - The *UNAIDS Scorecard on Gender Equality within HIV Responses*
 - Global Fund grants
 - Knowledge gaps on gender issues impede both ‘knowing your epidemic’ and ‘knowing your response’.
 - The UNAIDS tool allows countries to review their HIV epidemic, context and response from a gender perspective.

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THE GENDER ASSESSMENT TOOL

The tool:

- Aims to inform the national strategic planning process.
- Supports countries to position gender equality, SRHR, and GBV in the “strategic investment” discussion.
- Builds on already available information, to allow flexibility as per local context.
- Uses questions to identify remaining gaps in information.
- Was developed by UNAIDS Secretariat, with cosponsors, governments, civil society, and development partners.

FEEDING INTO THE FUNDING MECHANISM :

- Intended to connect to the following national strategic opportunities and funding processes:
 - ✓ Development or mid-term review of the national strategic plan;
 - ✓ Country Coordinating Mechanism discussions in preparation for a Global Fund request;
 - ✓ Concept Note: ensuring the including and prioritization of gender-related activities;
 - ✓ Reference material for an eventual Global Fund Technical Review Panel;
 - ✓ Securing high-level political commitment towards greater attention to gender in the national HIV response.

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THE VALUE OF THE TOOL

- Provides guidance for a more systematic and standardised gender analysis and planning of the HIV response.
 - Clear set of steps to examine and question the gender-sensitivity of the HIV response.
- Allows stakeholders to learn about the extent to which the national response recognises and acts on gender inequality as a critical enabler of the HIV response.
- Supports countries in leveraging and mobilising resources (including those of the Global Fund) for gender programming.
 - Critical as one part of a wider HIV toolkit.

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PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

- Critical element of a set of complementary tools:
 - *Gender roadmap* (UNDP) – to advocate
 - *Gender Assessment Tool* (UNAIDS) – to determine the gaps
 - *What Works for Women* – to recommend effective actions
 - WHO – to provide normative guidance
 - *Compendium of gender indicators* (UNW) – to measure results
 - Investment approach – to ensure value for money
 - *Gender sensitive costing and budgeting* (UNW/UNAIDS) –
for resource mobilization and tracking

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STANDARDIZED GENDER ASSESSMENT TOOL

Overview



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STAGE 1: PREPARING FOR THE GENDER ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL HIV RESPONSE

National-Level Preparation includes:

- ✓ Securing high level commitment
- ✓ Establishing a country assessment team
- ✓ Collecting and collating relevant documents

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STAGE 2: KNOWING THE HIV EPIDEMIC AND CONTEXT IN THE COUNTRY

Find relevant data disaggregated by sex, key populations, age if available:

- ✓ HIV and AIDS prevalence and incidence
- ✓ Social, cultural and economic factors
- ✓ Political and macro economic factors

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STAGE 3: KNOWING THE COUNTRY HIV RESPONSE

Key areas to assess include:

- ✓ Meaningful participation
- ✓ HIV Prevention
- ✓ Treatment
- ✓ Care and Support
- ✓ Women and girls, key populations, men and masculinities, gender-based violence
- ✓ Sexuality, sexual and reproductive health and rights

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STAGE 4: ANALYSING AND USING THE FINDINGS OF THE GENDER ASSESMENT FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE HIV RESPONSE

After the GAT Exercise:

- ✓ Analyze and identify the gaps and opportunities
- ✓ Define priorities
- ✓ Identify strategic interventions
- ✓ Develop an advocacy plan, communication strategy, and fundraising strategy

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Thank you

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