

REACHING MEN, ENDING AIDS

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Dear friends and colleagues,

Developments over the past several months have caused some to wonder whether differentiated, person-centred approaches to HIV have become infeasible. The goal of adapting care to the needs and circumstances of different populations—in our case, men—may seem unattainable when many countries are struggling simply to sustain the fundamentals of their HIV programmes.

In settings that were already resource-constrained, recent abrupt funding reductions have exacerbated the shortage of healthcare providers, further limiting the amount of time they have with each client and their ability to provide quality care. Data collection and analysis have also been affected, making it harder to know how well we are doing in reaching and retaining people in care.

Yet differentiated, person-centred approaches remain essential if we are to sustain the gains we've made to date and close the remaining gaps towards the 2030 global HIV targets of achieving epidemic control and ending HIV as a public health threat. In the absence of such approaches, we are likely to see increased HIV transmission, poorer health outcomes, and increased healthcare costs in the long run.



So where do we go from here?

Limited domestic funding for health and reductions in development assistance are forcing countries to adapt and prioritise. In some places, this is accelerating integration of health services into primary healthcare. In others, this is resulting in less emphasis on population-specific services and more on person-centred care approaches that better serve all clients. Overall, countries are prioritizing 'the fundamentals' of keeping people on HIV treatment.

With reductions in funding, we are less likely to see programs focused specifically on HIV or exclusively on men. At the same time, we know that many interventions and approaches developed to be male-sensitive are not necessarily male-exclusive. The organising principles of the [WHO Men & HIV Framework](#)—access, quality, and support—are as applicable to the general population as they are to men.

We can continue to advocate for solutions that are responsive to men's needs while also being more broadly relevant and feasible in the evolving context. We can also continue to highlight and advocate for the multiple benefits of male engagement strategies—namely, better outcomes for men but also better outcomes for the women and children in their families and communities. We could continue to harp on the principles of a whole of society approach with interventions that are primary care focussed, integrated, sustainable and inclusive of all populations including men.

How can MENHT support?

We are actively working to:

- Adapt our workplan in response to the rapidly changing context.
- Strengthen our advocacy for strategic solutions that respond to men's HIV and health-related barriers and needs while also being more broadly relevant and feasible in the evolving context.
- Support the development and roll-out of integrated models and approaches that have benefits for men as well as the general population.

If you have additional perspectives or ideas on this topic, we would love to hear from you!

Regards,

The MENHT co-chairs

Wole Ameyan, Anna Grimsrud, Shawn Malone, Afsar Syed Mohammad, Busi Msimanga, Lycias Zembe

New Resources

[Improving HIV testing for men and linkage to services through faith platforms](#)

A new technical resource highlighting out-of-facility, out-of-the-box, community-linked models developed by faith-based organizations (FBOs) for reaching men with integrated health services.

[Practical approaches and case-based models for reaching men and boys with integrated HIV services](#)

A newly released implementation brief highlighting optimal strategies for reaching men with integrated, person-centred health services, including practical lessons from real-world implementation and examples of health policies that have incorporated men's health.

[A toolkit for HIV workplace peer educators on HIV voluntary counselling and testing at work](#)

While not exclusively focused on men, stakeholders may find this toolkit helpful in designing programs for male engagement in the workplace. The toolkit provides overall guidance as well as various practical tools – training methodology, exercises, case studies, presentations and resource materials.

[Self-testing implementation toolkit for HIV, Hepatitis and syphilis](#)

Self-testing is a self-care intervention and approach that recognizes the central and active role that people play in managing their own health care and is important as an additional strategy in expanding access to and utilization of health services, across various disease areas and conditions. This approach may be useful in expanding reach to men.

Recent Events

[WHO TeleECHO webinar, 15 May 2025](#)

Charting a New Path – Exploring Access to Health Services through Faith Platforms

A global webinar to engage faith-based organizations (FBOs), focused on the following objectives:

- To present an overview of the WHO technical brief on improving access to integrated services including HIV through faith platforms
- To discuss models of implementation and operational considerations of selected faith-based platforms
- To dialogue with faith leaders and partners on the way forward and share ideas on sustainable engagement with faith-based platforms

The recording and materials are available at the link above.

[AIDS Impact Conference, 26-28 May 2025, Casablanca, Morocco](#)

Abstracts from the conference are available online, including several focusing on men:

- The Defining Features of Men's HIV Disclosure Experiences: Results from a Cohort Study in Cape Town, South Africa
- Barriers and Facilitators to Oral PrEP Access and Use Among Adolescent Boys and Young Men in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- Co-Designing HIV health Interventions: Enhancing Healthcare Access for Mobile Men in South Africa
- Exploring intimate partner violence from the perspectives of young men living with and without HIV in Soweto, South Africa
- Using a Trained Expert Client Approach: A Case of a Young Man's Struggle with living with HIV in Rural Zambia

Upcoming Events

[MENHT webinar - Integrating Mental Health into HIV Programs for Men](#)

25 June 2025, 14:00-15:30 GMT+2

Men living with HIV often face complex challenges that go beyond biomedical treatment, including mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, substance use, and trauma, yet integration of mental health services into HIV programs targeting men remains limited. This webinar will explore how integrating mental health services into HIV programs for men can help bridge the gender gap in care and empower men to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.

[Register](#)

[IAS 2025, the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science, 13-17 July 2025, Kigali, Rwanda, and virtual](#)

MENHT members may be particularly interested in an oral presentation on "Upscaling HIV testing and clinical service uptake among male sexual partners of adolescent girls and young women in rural Eswatini communities through invitation cards for adolescent boys and young men" under the session "From PrEP to harm reduction: Scaling up comprehensive HIV prevention strategies". The conference programme is now [available online](#).

For any comments or questions on the above, please contact us at:

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