

The PEPFAR Blueprint: Creating an AIDS-free Generation What it Means for Women and HIV

WHY DOES THE PEPFAR BLUEPRINT MATTER FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS?

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Blueprint is a road map to creating an AIDS-free generation. It prioritizes gender equality and the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls in a way that reflects the reality of HIV: Worldwide, women account for more than half of all people living with HIV.ⁱ The Blueprint has integrated their needs in a way that can make a substantial difference.

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS U.S. GLOBAL HIV/AIDS POLICY?

- **Gender equality:** One of the Blueprint's five principles is a focus on women and girls to increase gender equality in HIV services (p5). As such, women and girls are included throughout the document and not isolated into one section, as they have been in previous U.S. approaches.
- **Rights-based programming:** The Blueprint states that individuals have the right to make informed decisions about their reproductive lives, and to have access to a range of contraceptives if they wish to avoid pregnancy. It also states that women living with HIV have the right to have children (p35).
- **Reproductive Health/HIV Integration:** The Blueprint includes specific guidance on integrating voluntary family planning, HIV, and maternal health programs (p35). Previous approaches have only included family planning in vertical transmission (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission) programs.
- **Female condoms:** The Blueprint emphasizes both female and male condoms (p17). Female condoms are the only method available that protect against HIV, prevent pregnancy, and are designed for women to initiate. Female condoms are effective and give women something they may have never had before –the opportunity to protect their health.
- **Adolescents:** The Blueprint advises that adolescents, including out-of-school youth and married adolescent girls, receive youth-friendly programming (p35). It also advises that programs prevent and respond to sexual abuse and coercion, and change attitudes and practices toward child marriage.

WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT FUNDING?

The Blueprint is a program strategy. It does not address funding, and does not include any funding restrictions, including for family planning commodities.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE OF U.S. GLOBAL HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS?

The PEPFAR Blueprint is a road map for future programs. In order for it to translate into programs and policy, it will need support from the incoming secretary of state. Congress also will need to appropriate funding to support the Blueprint's implementation.

CENTER FOR HEALTH AND GENDER EQUITY (CHANGE)

The Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) is a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization that promotes the sexual and reproductive health and human rights of women and girls worldwide through education and advocacy efforts that affect the development and implementation of U.S. policies.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

["To the Next US Secretary of State,"](#) *Huffington Post*, Serra Sippel, CHANGE president, and Pamela W. Barnes, Engenderhealth president and CEO
["US Global HIV Policy: Combination Prevention,"](#) CHANGE policy brief

ⁱ UNAIDS Global AIDS Report 2012