

# A Human Rights-Based Approach to Systems Strengthening for HIV + Rural Women

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# What is a HRBA to HIV Response?

## *Shifting focus from clinical health approach to human rights approach*

- Understanding human rights interventions as **core**, not parallel efforts to implement HIV prevention, testing, or treatment programmes
- Focus on **non-discrimination, agency and accountability** for positive health outcomes
- UNFPA training health workers to provide non-judgmental health services to key populations; supporting networks of young key populations to advocate for their SRHR; informing and empowering through CSE

# Human Rights Standards for System Strengthening for HIV

## **A**vailability

- Available infrastructure, medical staff, commodities, essential drugs, etc.

## **A**ccessibility

- Physical, economic (affordability), non-discriminatory and accessible information

## **A**ceptability

- Culturally appropriate, sensitive to gender and the life course, and respectful of medical ethics

## **Q**uality

- Meeting adequate standards of quality

# Accountability: Engaging with International HR Mechanisms

## 1. **Treaty Bodies:** CEDAW, CESCR etc:

- *Review State Members every 4 years and produce recommendations*

## 2. **Special Procedures:** SR on the Right to Health, Gender Based Violence etc.

- *Carry out country visits, develop thematic reports and produce recommendations*

## 3. **Universal Periodic Review** of the Human Rights Council: ALL States reviewed by Peers, ALL human rights- comprehensive review of rights

- *29% of recommendations in first cycle related to SRHR and Gender Equality*
- *169 specific recommendations on HIV/AIDS*

# Accountability: Strengthening National Systems

1. Addressing **Legal Barriers** to Equality in Access to SRHR information and services: Often *barriers of age, marital status and third party permission; criminalization*
2. **National Human Rights Institutions:** Carrying out Public Inquiries and Country Assessments on SRHR; for example El-Salvador, Philippines and Malawi
3. **Civil Society Engagement**
4. **Judiciary, Law Enforcement etc.**