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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

» This publication aims to provide policy-makers, planners and programme implementers with information and ideas on how to incorporate a gender-based response to HIV/AIDS and STDS into their policies and programmes.

After outlining the global epidemiology of HIV infection, AIDS and STDS, it explores the concepts of gender and a gender-based response. The focus of the next section is the impact of the epidemic, elaborating on how gender-related factors affect HIV-infection risks and obstacles to prevention and care. Then gender-based responses and strategies are suggested and described.

Personal testimonies and brief descriptions of programmes and interventions personalize the text, show the impact of gender inequality on female and male risk and coping, and provide examples of effective responses.

To conclude, a checklist is provided for assessing the gender-based focus of existing or planned programmes and interventions.

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