

Linking sexual and reproductive health SRH & HIV: Update on the situation in Switzerland

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Linking SRH & HIV Outline

- Short introduction: Why to link SRH & HIV?
- Examples of linkage in Switzerland:
 - Program: National program on HIV and STI
 - Guidelines: Swiss family planning centers
 - Services: HIV testing
 - Structure: Merge of SRH & HIV services

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Linking SRH & HIV Rationale for Linking

Majority of HIV infections

- sexually transmitted, or
- associated with pregnancy, childbirth & breastfeeding

Source: Resources on Linking SRH&HIV developed and edited by IPPF, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS

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Linking SRH & HIV Common root causes

- Poverty
- Gender inequality
- Gender-based violence
- Human rights violations
- Marginalization of vulnerable populations
- Stigma and discrimination

Source: Resources on Linking SRH&HIV developed and edited by IPPF, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS

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Linking SRH & HIV Benefits of Linking 1/2

- Improved access to and uptake of key HIV and SRH services
- better access of PLHIV to SRH services tailored to their needs
- reduction in HIV-related stigma and discrimination
- improved coverage of underserved / vulnerable / key populations
- greater support for dual protection against unintended pregnancy and STI including HIV
- improved quality of care

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Linking SRH & HIV Benefits of Linking 2/2

- decreased duplication of efforts and competition for scarce resources
- better understanding and protection of individuals' rights
- mutually reinforcing complementarities in legal and policy frameworks
- enhanced programme effectiveness and efficiency
- better utilization of scarce human resources for health

Source: Resources on Linking SRH&HIV developed and edited by IPPF, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS

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PLANes: Swiss Foundation for Sexual and Reproductive Health

- **National focus....**
 - National umbrella organisation of the Swiss family planning centers
 - Sexual education
 - Formation of professionals
 - Parliamentary group CAIRE+
- **...and international partnerships:**
 - Member of IPPF
 - Collaborating partner of Countdown 2015 Europe
 - UNFPA
 - European Parliamentary Forum

Linking SRH & HIV: National program on HIV and other STI

- Innovation:
- Program 2011-2017 with new vision: referring to sexual rights and promoting sexual health in CH
 - Broader framework: Program for prevention of HIV and of other STI
 - PLANes as umbrella organisation of the family planning centres with expertise in sexual health and large target group is official partner for the implementation of a HIV/STI program with focus on general population
 - Collaboration in several projects with the Swiss Aids organisation
- Short version available in English: www.bag.admin.ch

Linking SRH & HIV: Services of Swiss Family Planning centers

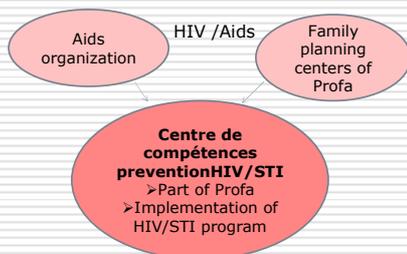
- Legal basis: Federal law of 1981: information and counselling in the context of pregnancy, prevention of unintended pregnancies
- Code of practice with guidelines for counselling: Consistent linkage of SRH/HIV: Dual protection Prevention and promotion of sexual health
- New federal law on prevention and health promotion? New legal basis to anchor both SRH and HIV

Linking SRH & HIV: HIV testing: Case study Valais

Family planning centers offering rapid HIV testing and counselling:

- Easy access
- Several centers already established in the canton
- Larger target group: „general public“
- HIV embedded in broader SRH context

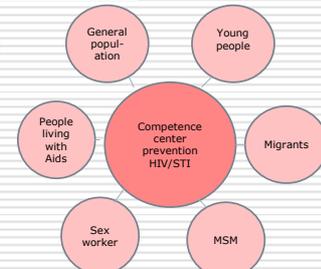
Linking SRH & HIV: Merge of services: Canton Vaud 1/2



Linking SRH & HIV: Merge of services: Canton Vaud 2/2

→ Services developed for different target groups

→ Collaboration with other organizations and institutions



Linking SRH & HIV

Conclusions

- SRH and HIV can and have to be linked at different levels
- How far the linkage can go depends on the context
- Overall positive effects of linkage
- Services embedded in broader context of sexual and reproductive health & rights

Linking SRH & HIV

Further information

- www.plan-s.ch
- www.srhivlinkages.org



Thank you for your attention!