

Integration of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Services (SRHR) and HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Care Services across Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence to Inform Program Implementation.

Special issue on Integration of SRHR/HIV to be published in [BioMed Central \(BMC\)](#) journals.

Context

The last decade has witnessed an increased understanding of effective approaches to address both sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV prevention, treatment, and care needs across Sub-Saharan Africa. And while the content of these programs may be similar, the implementation challenges are distinct given the diversity of countries from West and Central Africa to the Southern and Eastern African nations. For example, the West and Central Africa (WCA) sub-region is the most populous region of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), with an estimated population ranging from 350 - 500 million living in 24 countries. And across these large populations, there is a great diversity in social constructs and SRHR needs. Moreover, the HIV epidemic in WCA appears to have distinct dynamics compared to the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, being more concentrated among key populations such as female sex workers (FSW), men who have sex with men (MSM), people who inject drugs (PWID) and clients of FSW. Conversely, the HIV epidemic in East and Southern Africa is a generalized epidemic, where integrating SRHR and HIV provide distinct opportunities not only to support the 90-90-90 targets, but also to increase the uptake of contraceptives, while meeting the distinct needs of key populations such as adolescent girls and young women, men who have sex with men and sex workers.

The distinct SRHR needs and unique HIV epidemic contexts continue to be underexplored in the literature though there is so much to be learned from the government and donor-led responses with broad applicability and utility to other parts of Africa and more broadly the world.

The goal of this special issue is to provide a forum for the discussion of the history, present state, and trajectory of the integration of SRHR and HIV responses in Sub Saharan Africa. In addition, we seek papers highlighting best practices and newly collected quantitative and qualitative data providing a comprehensive assessment of the actual or potential impact of ongoing SRHR and HIV prevention and treatment programs. Studies may also include determinants of engagement in SRHR services including individual, network, and structural determinants. Finally, we seek studies that include methodologically sound assessments of related public policy or programs. Studies may represent epidemiologic studies, interventional

outcomes leveraging implementation research methods, mathematical modeling studies, costing and cost effectiveness studies and qualitative study of the contexts in which related programs are being implemented.

Details

The supplement issue will be published in *BMC Public Health*, *BMC Infectious Diseases* and *Reproductive Health*. It will be open access and include translation of the full articles into French and abstracts into French and Portuguese though all papers will be submitted in English.

The deadline of submission of the manuscripts is **December 31, 2017**.

Brief letters of intent should be submitted by September 30, 2017 using the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/yhQn6G5l38F0C8Jf1>

