

**Effective Linkages through the PRIME Project:
HIV Prevention and Management Integrated with
Reproductive Health Services at the Primary Level**



**What can
PRIME do?**

Components of the PRIME
Approach to HIV/AIDS:

- Dual Protection
- STI Prevention and Management
- Reaching Adolescents
- **Reproductive Health Needs
of Women with HIV**

PRIME II

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**Reproductive Health Needs
of Women with HIV**

Along with the basic human right of access to health care services, women living with HIV infection have specific reproductive health needs. The PRIME Project works with providers and health care systems, preparing them to address these needs effectively through our expertise in family planning and dual protection, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and referral to community support groups. PRIME works with available resources in a host country setting to determine the most appropriate responses to each situation. Anti-retroviral therapy is not yet an option in most of the areas where PRIME works; in addition, providers around the globe must be prepared to confront difficult issues such as the decision to become pregnant, vertical transmission, possible postabortion complications, and questions about breastfeeding.

PRIME assists providers and service delivery networks in their efforts to address the challenges faced by women who live with HIV. The Prime Project:

- Focuses on the prevention of HIV transmission through providing appropriate and sensitive counseling, and by promoting the dual protection method
- Promotes voluntary HIV testing and counseling, including referrals to testing sites
- Reviews national guidelines in reproductive health, integrating HIV prevention and management at the primary level

- Involves the community to offer the best response to the health needs of people affected by HIV
- Improves providers' ability to manage the pregnancy of an HIV-positive woman
- Addresses provider biases against clients with HIV
- Establishes referral networks with other HIV services – testing, anti-retroviral therapy, and home-based care, for example
- Works with women's groups and other NGOs to raise awareness of the implications of HIV on reproductive health.

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