

**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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STI Prevention and Management

By preventing, detecting and treating other sexually transmitted infections, primary health care providers play an extremely important role in helping reduce HIV transmission. The PRIME Project incorporates STI prevention and management into a wide range of programs, emphasizing the importance of risk assessment among high transmitters as well as throughout the general population. To curb STI transmission, PRIME focuses on counseling for condom use, partner notification, and clinical management.

Key Messages

PRIME prepares primary providers to manage STIs by:

- Upgrading providers' skills in diagnosing and treating STIs
- Optimizing client-provider interaction with an emphasis on nonjudgmental and supportive counseling, education and provision of accurate information
- Promoting condom use as a dual protection method and overcoming provider biases with regard to the contraceptive efficacy of condoms
- Giving special attention to STI prevention and education among adolescents
- Training personnel on clinical evaluation (for instance, screening with microscopes)

- Providing guidance on where and when syndromic management can be useful
- Improving outreach and follow-up with affected partners
- Establishing appropriate referral networks and protocols, including vital connections with other HIV services (testing, antiretroviral therapy, home-based care)
- Working with women's groups and other NGOs to raise awareness about the implications of HIV on reproductive health
- Empowering women with knowledge and skills to enable them to negotiate condom use with their partners
- Ensuring safe infection prevention practices in clinics
- Promoting efforts to provide cost-effective diagnostic tools for the detection of STIs.

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