



**MARIE STOPES
INTERNATIONAL**

Our approach to integrating sexual and reproductive health and HIV services for better health outcomes

Marie Stopes International delivers quality family planning and reproductive healthcare to millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable women, in 40 countries around the world.

Among the most pressing challenges faced by our clients are their unmet need for family planning and their need for comprehensive HIV services, especially in high HIV prevalence settings.

Poor sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV infection share many root causes in poverty, gender inequality, stigma and cultural norms. Family planning and HIV programmes also share many desired outcomes in dual protection, the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and human rights for all, and a reduction in maternal, newborn and child mortality.

Integrated sexual and reproductive health and HIV services make sense, and are recognised by the international community as an essential health strategy critical to accelerating progress towards universal access to HIV and reproductive health services, and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals on child health, maternal health and HIV/AIDS by 2015.¹

As a leading global sexual and reproductive healthcare provider, we believe that offering HIV prevention, diagnosis and – where possible – providing or referring for treatment and support services will mean more holistic care for our clients and greater efficiencies for donors and health systems.

1. World Health Organization, United Nations Populations Fund, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and University of California, San Francisco. *Sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Linkages: evidence review and recommendations*, 2009.

379,748

**STI / HIV services provided by
Marie Stopes International in 2011**

189,339

**STI / HIV services provided
by Marie Stopes International in
sub-Saharan Africa in 2011**



Where we offer HIV services



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Several of our country programmes, including those in Bangladesh, Burkino Faso, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Timor Leste, Zambia and Zimbabwe have begun to integrate comprehensive HIV services into their sexual and reproductive health programming, with the service mix being determined by the level of epidemic in each country.

Working in partnership

In 2011 Marie Stopes International announced a new partnership with the International HIV/AIDS Alliance which will combine our collective strengths within the sexual and reproductive health arena: community action on HIV / AIDS and voluntary family planning. This important and exciting new partnership underlines the commitment of both organisations to integration.

First steps

In Cambodia, we have assessed the current level of sexual and reproductive health and rights integration in Alliance-linking organisation KHANA's HIV programmes, and how to increase this in the future. The Alliance also assessed the level of HIV integration in our Cambodia country programme.

Thanks to the USAID-funded Support for International Family Planning Organizations (SIFPO) project, the Alliance successfully tested a self assessment tool in Zambia and Tanzania which will shortly measure the quality and level of HIV integration in all our country programmes, and help develop appropriate actions based on the assessment results. The tool will be made available so it can be adapted by other organisations interested in taking concrete steps to improve their integrated HIV / SRH response.

Next steps

- roll out of the self assessment tool across all our country programmes
- joint policy, fundraising and communications work
- likely next steps for our country programmes include training of providers in HIV counselling, non stigmatising behaviour and clinical skills, and a focus on procurement, to ensure ready availability of HIV testing kits and condoms.

Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT)

Six of our country programmes operate emergency obstetric services and have integrated PMTCT and safe delivery services.

Our package of integrated services includes antenatal care, nutritional advice, PMTCT and a safe delivery for HIV positive and negative women, as well as feeding advice, family planning and where appropriate further referral for antiretroviral therapy for HIV positive women post delivery.

The Jiokoe project: integrating services in Kenya

In 2007 Marie Stopes International Kenya began a five-year project to support the Kenyan Government's HIV and AIDS strategy by delivering high quality integrated HIV and SRH services as part of a specialist referral network, incorporating other private health providers.

- clinical centres in ten focus locations delivered integrated services, including HIV counselling and testing, PMTCT, couples counselling and opportunistic STI diagnosis and treatment
- referral network and mobile clinical outreach services established
- Youth Peer Educator and Community Health Worker networks set up
- clinical HIV training given to 160 private providers, 265 public providers and 175 Marie Stopes International Kenya team members
- awareness raising activities undertaken promoting integrated services and providing information on HIV and SRH.

Results

- between 2007 and 2010, 92,227 HIV testing and counselling services, 20,537 prevention of mother to child transmission services, 26,755 STI services and 47,611 antenatal and postnatal services were delivered
- access to family planning and HIV services improved for underserved communities, with 88% of HIV tests provided by mobile clinical outreach teams
- knowledge, attitudes and practices of clients improved – between 2007 and 2009 knowledge of Marie Stopes International Kenya's integrated services increased from 48% to 87%.



The Marie Stopes International HIV package

Existing Marie Stopes International services which offer an entry point for integrated HIV programming

- voluntary family planning
- sexual and reproductive health counselling
- safe abortion
- cervical screening and treatment
- voluntary medical male circumcision
- antenatal and postnatal care
- safe delivery
- STI screening and treatment
- gynaecology and urology services.

The minimum HIV package which we believe should be available to Marie Stopes International clients at each entry point

- safer sex counselling
- dual protection advice including male and female condom demonstration and supply
- prevention of mother to child transmission
- HIV counselling, testing and referral
- where possible, treatment and support for HIV positive clients
- STI screening and treatment.



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Voluntary male medical circumcision for HIV prevention

Where HIV prevalence is high and male circumcision rates low, Marie Stopes International partners with other clinical providers to increase reach through targeted voluntary medical male circumcision activities.

Zambia

Marie Stopes International Zambia has been working together with Population Services International, Population Council and Jhpiego on the Male Circumcision Partnership, which will provide around 490,000 voluntary circumcisions over five years.

MSI Zambia aims to provide 115,704 of these procedures, following voluntary testing and counselling for HIV and STIs as appropriate.

MSI Zambia also aims to link men to broader SRH services and family planning, and educate women about male circumcision and how this affects their sexual and reproductive health.

Malawi

Our Malawi programme, Banja La Mtsogola, is implementing a four year project to provide integrated male circumcision, HIV counselling and testing, and family planning services to rural communities in Malawi through a tented outreach service delivery model, thanks to a \$4.3 million grant from USAID PEPFAR.

The programme, which will employ a 'couples' approach, will reach almost 60,000 men with voluntary male circumcision services, provide over 50,000 HIV counselling and testing services, and 75,600 contraceptive services among rural communities in two districts in the southern region of Malawi, contributing to Malawi's Health Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) and HIV Prevention Strategy.

More information

For more information about Marie Stopes International's work on integrating family planning and HIV services please contact:

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Ensuring better health outcomes

Given that many Marie Stopes International clients live in countries with high or medium level HIV prevalence, we are bound to ensure that they – no matter what their HIV risk or status – get the care and treatment they deserve. By ensuring an integrated approach, we are helping people around the globe to access their full reproductive rights.