


Gender-Based Analysis and HIV/AIDS

The Barcelona Bill of Rights declares that because gender inequality fuels HIV/AIDS, the global response to the crisis must include the specific needs of women and girls, as well as those of men and boys.



Gender-Based Analysis (GBA) is an analytical tool. It uses sex, gender and other factors of diversity to organize principles and conceptualize information. It helps clarify the differences between and among women and men, the nature of their social relationships, roles and responsibilities, and differences in economic and political circumstances. GBA identifies how these conditions affect women's and men's health, their different vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, and how to match treatments and policies to women's and men's everyday lives.

GBA is used to analyze and develop policies, programmes and legislation, and for conducting research and data collection. GBA allows us to recognize and take into account the fact that women and men are not all the same. In fact, GBA challenges our assumptions that everyone is affected in the same way by policies, programmes and legislation, or that health causes, effects and service delivery are unaffected by gender roles in society. With GBA we ask ourselves questions about concepts, arguments and language used, and we articulate the values and opinions we may take for granted. Where our assumptions are revealed to be biased or discriminatory, GBA points the way to be more equitable, inclusive, and effective.

GBA can easily be a part of our day-to-day work. It does not need to be an additional task, but rather it works best when it is integrated throughout the consideration and development of policy, programmes, research or legislation. As it becomes standard practice to integrate a gender-based perspective into our work, from beginning to end, GBA should become an essential tool in the way we combat HIV and AIDS.

Gender Based Analysis Checklist

- To what extent have the needs and experiences of men and women of all ages been considered in the policy, programme or research? Who has been missed out?**
- How have local women and men been involved in decisions about research, policy and programming? Could their concerns or perspectives be better represented and integrated?**
- Does the research evidence you are using or the information you have collected distinguish between men and women?**
- Is the research, policy or programme based on an understanding of the differences between biological sex and the social roles of women and men?**
- Does the research, policy or programme acknowledge and address differences in social and economic power between women and men? Could these differences be better addressed?**
- Is the policy, programme or research presented in language and a format that can be understood and accessed by both local women and men?**

