Engaging Traditional Leaders in the Prevention of HIV and Gender-Based Violence Toolkit

Traditional leaders and traditional structures are an influential force among a large majority of communities in Africa. Traditional leaders wield influence and command much respect within their communities. There is a strong link between traditional leadership and culture, with traditional leaders considered the custodians of culture from one generation to the next. At the same time, considerable evidence highlights the link between HIV and gender-based violence (GBV), and the role of harmful cultural practices in fuelling the spread of HIV and the proliferation of GBV.

Increasingly, a number of traditional leaders are taking a stand in addressing GBV, harmful cultural practices, and HIV at community and national levels. Traditional leaders are in a strong position to work with their communities to address the harmful cultural practices that contribute to the spread of HIV and GBV.

This toolkit presents a carefully selected collection of resources on the role of traditional leaders and culture in preventing HIV and GBV. They are organised into the following categories:

- **Country** [1] and **regional** [2] experiences and lessons sharing
- **Research and issue papers** [3]
- **Programming guidelines and tools** [4]
- **Governance** [5], HIV prevention and culture

The resources are aimed at traditional leaders, policy makers, programme managers, researchers, NGOs, CBOs and implementing partners working in the field of HIV and AIDS, sexual reproductive health, and gender-based violence.

If you have an experience to share about traditional leadership, culture and the prevention of HIV and GBV, we invite you to tell us about it through the [feedback form](http://www.k4health.org). We also encourage you to suggest and share new resources.

[About this eToolkit](http://www.k4health.org) provides detailed information about who selected the resources, a list of publishers, and other SAfAIDS and K4Health eToolkits.

**What is the purpose of this toolkit?**

This toolkit contains resources to help community-based programme implementers, service providers, traditional leaders, policy makers, and other audiences to engage and support traditional leadership to champion the prevention of HIV and gender-based violence (GBV). It also contains resources and tools that can be used by traditional leaders to build their understanding and capacity around HIV and GBV prevention.

**Who developed this toolkit?**

The Traditional Leaders Toolkit was developed by the [Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service](http://www.sahais.org) [8] in collaboration with the [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs](http://www.jhsph.edu) [9], K4Health Project. Individuals from other organizations also contributed their experience and expertise to review the toolkit and ensure its relevance and usefulness, including:

- Sam Kandhlela – National House of Traditional Leaders (South Africa)
- Tapiwa Manyati – Sonke Gender Justice Network
Who are the publishers of the resources?

Resources selected for inclusion in this toolkit were published by the following organizations working throughout the world to promote evidence-based best practices and improve the delivery of health services.

- African Voices
- AMICAALL
- Care International
- Centre for Applied Sciences, Windhoek, Namibia
- Creative Exchange
- HSRC
- IDRC
- Interfund
- Kenyatta University, Kenya
- Population Council
- Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)
- SAAIDS
- Sonke Gender Justice Network
- Sonke Gender Justice Network
- State University of New York
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Ubuntu Institute
- UNECA
- UNESCO
- UNFPA
- University of Malawi
- University of Stellenbosch
- Women for Change

What types of resources are included?

The resources were selected based on a wide search for relevant published and grey literature from around the world, with a focus on the role and needs of traditional leaders in health and gender programming. The toolkit contains:

- Training and referral guides, and other tools to support traditional leaders and those working with traditional leaders to be able to address HIV prevention and GBV within their community,
- Research articles and case studies of the role and influence of traditional leaders and how to engage and support them to become involved,
- Various publication formats including books, manuals, briefs, case studies, fact sheets, project reports, reviews, teaching and training materials, tools, and job aids.

Who are the intended audiences?

- **Traditional leaders** will find information and training guides on HIV and gender-based violence, the role of cultural practices, and the linkages between all three, on how to advocate for services for their community, and how to make referrals,
- **Community programme implementers and managers** will find information and training guidelines on how to engage traditional leaders in their programmes, and how to build the capacity of traditional leaders to address HIV and gender-based violence,
- **Trainers** can review the latest training and referrals manuals on how best to work with traditional leaders,
- **Policymakers** will find research and case studies that will help them understand the important role of traditional leaders and cultural practices in the fight against HIV and GBV.
We invite you to suggest resources or adapt the resources in this toolkit to suit your local circumstances and languages.

How do I get started using this toolkit?

To browse the content of this toolkit, use the navigation tabs above to view resources related to key program topics. Each tab includes a list of a number of high-quality resources selected by the Community-Based Family Planning Toolkit Working Group, further organized by sub-topic. Click on the title of the resource for more information about it, or click on the full-text link to get direct access to the full resource.

Some of the tools are readily available in an adaptable format (for example, Microsoft Word documents and PowerPoint presentations). We encourage you to alter and personalize these tools for your own use. (Please remember to credit the source). If you do use these tools or adapt them, we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail us. (To make a comment about the toolkit or suggest a resource, use the feedback form.)

How can I suggest a resource to include in this toolkit?

We invite you to contribute to evolving and enhancing this toolkit. If you have developed or use quality resources that you think should be included in this toolkit, please use the feedback form to suggest them. The toolkit collaborators will review and consider your suggestions.

How can I make a comment or give feedback?

If you have comments about the toolkit, please use the feedback form. Your feedback will help to ensure the toolkit remains up-to-date and is continually improved. For example, you can share ideas about how you have used the toolkit in your work so that others can learn from and adapt your experiences.

Country Experiences

- PDF version

This tab includes resources that offer experiences and lessons learned from programmes working with traditional leaders on HIV and gender-based violence prevention.

Regional Experiences
This tab includes resources that offer experiences and lessons learned from programmes working with traditional leaders on HIV and / or gender-based violence prevention.

Research

This tab provides various research and issue papers on the role of traditional leaders and culture on HIV and gender-based violence.

Programming Guidelines

This tab includes resources that offer experiences and lessons learned from programmes working with traditional leaders on HIV and / or gender-based violence prevention.

Research

This tab provides various research and issue papers on the role of traditional leaders and culture on HIV and gender-based violence.

Programming Guidelines
This tab includes programming guidelines and tools for traditional leaders and stakeholders working with traditional leaders to support the prevention of HIV and gender-based violence.

**Governance & Culture**

- [PDF version][15]

This tab provides resources that focus on the role of governance, including traditional authorities, and culture, in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

**Source URL:** [http://www.k4health.org/toolkits/hiv-and-traditional-leadership](http://www.k4health.org/toolkits/hiv-and-traditional-leadership)

**Links:**