Evidence for HIV Prevention in southern Africa (EHPSA) is a five-year programme (2014-2018) funded by UKAID and Sweden in partnership with the World Bank and managed by Mott MacDonald. EHPSA is a catalytic intervention, contributing to national, regional and global processes on HIV prevention for vulnerable groups including adolescents, prisoners and MSM, through generating evidence of what works and why, and developing strategies to inform policy making processes.

For more information: www.ehpsa.org

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Research**
- 8 costed stakeholder engagement plans
- 6 strategic seats on national technical working groups
- 20 strategic collaborations to facilitate evidence uptake

**Technical fora and symposia to share expertise on EiA and HIV prevention strategies for vulnerable groups:**
- 6 regional meetings with 272 participants including 95 HIV policy makers across 12 countries
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**Knowledge Management to make sure the right evidence reaches the right person at the right time in the right format to make the right decision:**
- 51 Journal articles and abstracts published
- Over 8,000 people reached with newsletters and website
- Over 47,663 website articles downloaded since May 2016

**LESSONS LEARNT**

**STAKEHOLDERS**
1. Invest time in stakeholder analysis
2. Target key senior stakeholders individually
3. Policy implementation costs money - make realistic recommendations!
4. Complement research findings with cost-benefit analysis
5. Meta-analysis or critical review of evidence is preferable to single studies

**FUNDERS**
1. 1. HIV policymaking is complex – evidence is just one piece of the puzzle
2. Policymaking is a political process, therefore EiA is a political process
3. Uptake of research cannot be planned through a linear process
4. It is difficult to measure research impact during the limited lifespan of a project

**POLICY CONTEXT**

**RESEARCH**
1. Engage promptly, continuously and responsibly
2. Strengthen the engagement capacity of researchers
3. Identify and act on policy windows
4. Monitor engagement results and learn lessons
5. Disseminate findings in user-friendly formats

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There is growing recognition in international development that research is never purely an academic exercise. Evidence for HIV Prevention in eastern and southern Africa (EHPSA) is based on the principle that the purpose of research is to provide evidence that can be used to strengthen policy and programming for vulnerable populations. Demands for HIV prevention policies to be ‘informed by evidence’ are driven by the need for robust decision making to design and implement policies that will improve the lives of citizens.

EHPSA deals with Evidence into Action (EiA), it works on evidence supply and demand simultaneously by:
- Generating new evidence and filling knowledge gaps through eight research programmes on HIV prevention for adolescents, MSM and prisoners
- Stimulating engagement between stakeholders to increase demand for evidence and to encourage research uptake