

## Standard Sector Indicator Reference Sheet

### INDICATOR: Number of linkages made for individuals needing services

**STANDARD SECTOR**

**HEALTH SECTOR** 

**PROJECT AREA:** All Health project areas

**INDICATOR CODE:**

HE\_YOUTH\_200

**Type:** Outcome

**Unit of Measure:** Linkage

**Disaggregation:**

**Male by Age:**

<1, 1–4, 5–9, 10–14, 15–19, 20–24, 25–29, 30–34, 35–39, 40–44, 45–49, 50+

**Female by Age:** <1, 1–4, 5–9, 10–14, 15–19, 20–24, 25–29, 30–34, 35–39, 40–44, 45–49, 50+

**Type of service:** HIV and/or STI Testing & Treatment, ART Adherence & Retention Counseling, VMMC, PrEP, ANC, Reproductive Health Services, Substance Abuse Counseling, Psychosocial Support, Nutritional Services, Other: Specify

**Youth-friendly:** Yes/No

#### Related Objectives:

- Increase the knowledge and skills of youth to improve their health and well-being through health and life skills education and linkages to youth-friendly services. (Youth Objective 1)
- Increase the knowledge and skills of vulnerable youth to remain HIV-free (HIV/AIDS Objective 1.1)
- Increase the knowledge and skills of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, including OVC and their families, to improve their well-being and resilience (HIV/AIDS Objective 2.1)

#### Precise definitions

**Linkage:** the process of connecting an individual with a professional, institution, community group, health facility, etc. for health-related services based on an identified need. A linkage needs to be geographically accessible and affordable: Essential drugs, supplies, and equipment should be available and staff should be trained to provide quality services, including those that are youth- and gender-friendly.<sup>1</sup> A PCV is not responsible for all of these things being present but should work with counterparts, organizations, and facilities to identify partners that provide quality services. The PCV should also ensure that the individual actually receives the service if counted under this indicator and should not count a referral alone.

#### Services for which a linkage can be made as part of activities:

- **HIV and/or STI testing and treatment:** an organization or facility that provides confidential counseling, HIV testing, STI testing, and that delivers results and offers treatment if necessary. In the case of HIV, treatment may not be offered, but the site should be able to link the individual to appropriate care if positive.

<sup>1</sup> Cervantes, Kim, Rene Salgado, Misun Choi, et al. November 2003. [Rapid Assessment of Referral Care Systems: A Guide for Program Managers](#).

- **Adherence and retention counseling for people on ART:** ongoing education, counseling, support groups or other activities to assist an individual with taking their HIV, TB, or other medications as prescribed.
- **Voluntary male medical circumcision:** surgical or device-based male circumcision services.
- **PrEP:** Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV acquisition among numerous populations. WHO guidelines recommend offering oral PrEP to those at substantial risk of HIV infection. PEPFAR supports WHO guidelines on the use of PrEP as part of a package of comprehensive prevention services that includes risk reduction education and counseling, condom promotion, VMMC, and structural interventions to reduce vulnerability to HIV infection.<sup>2</sup> The Peace Corps should defer to national guidelines and PEPFAR interagency guidance.
- **Antenatal care (ANC):** the care provided by skilled health-care professionals to pregnant women and adolescent girls in order to ensure the best health conditions for both mother and baby during pregnancy. The components of ANC include risk identification; prevention and management of pregnancy-related or concurrent diseases; health education; and health promotion.
- **Reproductive health services:** assessment of reproductive health needs and provision of basic services, such as routine Pap smears, pelvic exams, and testicular exams. The site should also offer counseling on family planning and provision of modern family-planning commodities in line with national guidelines, including long-term methods, hormonal contraception, intrauterine devices (IUDs), injectables, and condoms.
- **Substance abuse counseling:** a mental health counselor specializing in treating youth who have a suspected or confirmed dependence on drugs or alcohol.
- **Psychosocial support:** strengthening the ability, agency, and coping that individuals and communities naturally possess to support psychosocial well-being. This can be done through more informal support groups, basic mental health care by primary health-care workers, or basic counseling by community workers. It can also include more specialized mental health care by mental health staff (psychiatric nurse, psychologist, etc.).
- **Nutritional services:** include nutritional assessments, breastfeeding support, infant- and young child-feeding practices, nutritional supplements, etc.
- **Youth-friendly services:**<sup>3</sup> are able to effectively attract adolescents, responsively meet their needs, and succeed in retaining these young clients for continuing care. Youth-friendly services should offer a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services relevant to adolescents' needs. While it is not always possible, attempts should be made to identify and provide the most needed sexual and reproductive health services, including sexually transmitted infection/HIV services, at the same clinic. These services should include sexual and reproductive health counseling, contraceptive counseling and provision (including emergency contraception), sexually transmitted infection/HIV prevention, counseling and testing, treatment and care, prenatal and postpartum care, sexual abuse counseling, relationship counseling, and safe abortion and abortion-related services.
- **Other services:** specify.

**Note:** Please discuss the type of linkage made as part of the activity description.

## Data collection

**Tool:** Referral and Linkage Tracking Tool

Data should be collected by a PCV and their counterpart at the time they refer an individual to a specific service. This is both for data-quality (so data is not forgotten) and programmatic purposes. An individual should be tracked separately for each service they are referred to—one line in the tracking tool for a referral to HIV testing and a

<sup>2</sup> PEPFAR. 2018. *PEPFAR Fiscal Year 2018 Country Operational Plan Guidance*.

<sup>3</sup> International Planned Parenthood Federation. 2008. "Provide: Strengthening youth friendly services."

separate line for a referral to substance abuse. This is to ensure follow-up is done for both services. A number of attributes, such as age and sex, will be collected as well.

The Referral and Linkage Tracking Tool should be used to help follow up with youth to ensure they received the services. The column titled “was this individual linked to care” should be totaled for this indicator, HE\_YOUTH\_200. A general template has been designed, but the post/PCV can modify as needed.

**Frequency of data collection and tracking:** Data should be aggregated and reported based on the post-determined reporting frequency.

## Reporting

This indicator tracks the number of linkages to services. The total number of “yes” answers from the ***Was individual linked to care*** column should be totaled and reported for this indicator. An individual can be counted more than once if linked to more than one service.