



## WHAT IS HORIZONS?

Horizons is a global operations research program designed to identify components of effective HIV/AIDS programs and policies; test potential solutions to problems in prevention, care, support, and service delivery; and disseminate and utilize findings with a view toward replication and scaling-up of successful interventions.

### HORIZONS' MISSION:

Horizons aims to strengthen and refine the response to HIV/AIDS in developing countries through operations research on topics of global significance.

Horizons gives special attention to addressing the particular vulnerability of youth to HIV and other STIs, the need to involve people living with HIV/AIDS in programming decisions, and the crucial link between prevention and care activities.

Horizons also focuses on building local capacity to conduct operations research and on mechanisms to disseminate and utilize research findings.

### HORIZONS' PARTNERS:

Horizons is implemented by the Population Council under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Horizons is one component of a USAID initiative to reduce HIV transmission and mitigate its effects in developing countries.

Horizons' partners are:

- International Center for Research on Women
- International HIV/AIDS Alliance
- Program for Appropriate Technology in Health
- Tulane University
- Family Health International
- Johns Hopkins University

## HORIZONS RESEARCH STRATEGIES:

**PREVENTION:** Horizons takes into account the need to reach individuals at multiple levels simultaneously to reduce risk behavior and increase health-seeking behavior. Horizons seeks opportunities to test interventions that are participatory, to promote community mobilization, and to link health services with community outreach, features believed to greatly enhance the effectiveness of prevention programs.

**YOUTH:** Horizons concentrates on youth activities that address key factors that make youth, particularly girls, vulnerable to HIV infection: poor access to information and services, lack of support from adult gatekeepers, and lack of power in sexual relationships.

**ACCESS TO TREATMENT, CARE, AND SUPPORT:** Horizons' research in this area focuses on ensuring the safe and effective administration of drugs, including treatment for OIs, and addressing the psychosocial impacts of HIV/AIDS on PLHA, their families, and care givers.

**ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF HIV/AIDS:** The impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals, families, communities, and societies goes far beyond physical illness and death, so the response must also go far beyond access to treatment. Horizons' current research on mitigation focuses on non-clinical impacts of HIV/AIDS including socioeconomic effects; the increase in orphans and vulnerable children; burnout among caregivers; stigma, discrimination, and other human rights concerns.

**REDUCING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION:** HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination threaten the effectiveness of prevention and care programs. Horizons focuses directly on methods of reducing stigma and discrimination as well as nesting stigma and discrimination research questions into a wide range of studies to determine how HIV/AIDS programs impact individuals, the community, and institutions.

**DETERMINANTS OF THE EPIDEMIC AND POLITICAL RESPONSES:** Horizons emphasizes the importance of viewing different levels of HIV prevention initiatives as complementary and explores opportunities to test multi-level interventions that affect community norms as well as service-delivery and legislative policies.

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### **AUDIENCES AND PUBLICATIONS:**

The Horizons communications and dissemination unit works to communicate Horizons' research findings using a variety of formats targeted to different audiences including program managers, policymakers, researchers, NGOs, and community members. Horizons disseminates its research findings through various electronic, written, and face-to-face fora, including listservs, websites, newsletters, workshops, and conferences. Horizons publications include:

- *Horizons Report*, a biannual newsletter
- Research updates
- Horizons study reports and summaries
- CD-ROMs
- Training manuals and handbooks

**To access Horizons publications visit:**  
<http://www.popcouncil.org/horizons/horizons.html>