

## Intensify HIV Prevention and Treatment for Adolescents

### KEY ACTIONS REQUIRED

There are 1.4 million adolescents (between the ages of 10 and 19) living with HIV in eastern and southern Africa; this is the only age group in which HIV infections have been increasing. HIV is the highest cause of death among adolescents in Africa.<sup>1</sup>

Treatment adherence presents a significant challenge for adolescents living with HIV whether they acquired it vertically or horizontally. Adolescence is a period of social, emotional and physical transition that can intensify the possibility of non-adherence. Stigma and discrimination makes matters worse.

- **Strengthen the inclusion of adolescent voices in the provision of HIV services and ensure that they are fully involved in designing, implementing and monitoring programmes intended to meet their needs.**
- **Prioritize the implementation of adolescent-friendly comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and HIV services.**
- **Address abuse, violence, and stigma and discrimination faced by adolescents.**

1. "World leaders unite towards ending the AIDS epidemic among adolescents." September 2014. <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2014/september/20140929allin>. Last accessed July 2, 2015