



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**HEALTH POLICY
INITIATIVE**

Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health 101

A USAID Global Health e-Learning Course

Gender inequality hinders the achievement of family planning and reproductive health goals. As articulated in the Global Health Initiative's women- and girl-centered approach to gender equality, inequities among women and men increase vulnerabilities to ill-health by promoting high-risk behaviors, limiting open communication between partners, and decreasing access to health services and information. Programs and policies to improve health outcomes often overlook the socio-cultural dimensions of gender inequities. A growing body of evidence reveals that integrating gender issues and approaches into health programs helps achieve improved health outcomes and gender equality.

Gender equity is the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness, measures must be taken to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men of all gender identities from operating on a level playing field (Caro et al., 2009).

The "Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health 101" online course is designed to introduce health policymakers, advocates, and program managers to gender issues and approaches for gender integration. The course explores gender issues as they affect individuals, families, and communities and introduces students to gender analysis. The one-hour course also leads students through the various steps of integrating gender throughout the program cycle.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completing the course, participants will be able to

- Define gender and related concepts;
- Understand the importance of gender integration and analysis in reproductive and sexual health programs;
- Understand the continuum of approaches for integrating gender in reproductive and sexual health programs;

- Describe the process for gender analysis;
- Set specific goals to start working toward gender transformative reproductive and sexual health programming; and
- Know where to look for further information or technical assistance.

USAID's Global Health e-Learning (GHeL) Center

USAID developed the GHeL Center to (1) provide effective, time-efficient continuing education for USAID staff and partners; (2) offer effective, state-of-the-art technical content on key public health topics; and (3) serve as a practical resource to increase public health knowledge and skills. Primary audiences for GHeL courses include population, health, and nutrition officers and foreign service nationals at USAID Missions around the world; USAID staff based in Washington; and public health professionals from collaborating agencies, nongovernmental and governmental organizations, and others interested in improving their basic understanding of public health topics. Courses are accessed at: <http://www.globalhealthlearning.org/login.cfm>.

COURSE CONTENT

The course offers technical content that is essential to implementing women- and girl-centered approaches. It comprises the following sessions:

- **Gender Terms and Concepts:** Provides an overview of gender as it relates to reproductive health, including a historical look at gender in health programming, and presents a case study to illustrate the outcomes of a health intervention that integrates gender.
- **Addressing Gender in Health Programming:** Presents the Interagency Gender Working Group

(IGWG) conceptual framework for the continuum of approaches to gender integration, and leads students in characterizing programs according to the level of consideration for gender integration in program design, implementation, and evaluation and according to gender outcomes.

- **Gender Analysis:** Guides students through analyzing gender issues in various categories, including access to resources; knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions; practices and participation; and legal status, rights, and power. It also presents students with a step-by-step diagram to integrate gender through the various program stages.
- **Helpful Tools:** Offers a wide range of training materials, websites, and additional resources for understanding gender.

The course also includes a glossary of terminology and definitions relevant for gender issues.

✔ GETTING STARTED

The “Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health 101” course is accessed through the USAID GHeL Center at: <http://www.globalhealthlearning.org/login.cfm>.

Participants will need to create a username and password to enter the site and access the course. The course will take about one hour to complete; however, it is self-paced and can be completed at the participant’s convenience. Each session includes a Knowledge Check to assess prior knowledge at the beginning and a Skills Recap at the end to reinforce key messages. After successfully completing all of the course components, participants receive a certificate of completion.

✔ SELECTED RESOURCES

Caro, D., J. Schueller, M. Ramsey, and W. Vogt. 2009. *A Manual for Integrating Gender into Reproductive Health and HIV Programs: From Commitment to Action* (Second Edition). Washington, DC: USAID IGWG. Available at www.igwg.org.

Gupta, G.R. 2000. “Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS: The What, the Why, and the How.” Plenary Address at the XIII International AIDS Conference, Durban, South Africa, July 12, 2000. Washington, DC: International Center for Research on Women.

Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG). 2009. *Gender and Reproductive Health 101*. Washington, DC: Futures Group for USAID IGWG. Available at www.igwg.org.

Population Reference Bureau and IGWG. 2005. *The ‘So What?’ Report: A Look at Whether Integrating a Gender Focus Into Programs Makes a Difference to Outcomes*. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau for USAID IGWG. Available at www.igwg.org.

Rottach, E., S.R. Schuler, and K. Hardee. 2010. *Gender Perspectives Improve Reproductive Health Outcomes: New Evidence*. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau for USAID IGWG. Available at www.igwg.org.

Developing the Course. In consultation with USAID’s Office of Population and Reproductive Health, the USAID | Health Policy Initiative, Task Order I, implemented by Futures Group, developed the “Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health 101” course. Lead authors Omar Robles, Elizabeth Doggett, and Aditi Krishna, of the Health Policy Initiative, adapted the course from the IGWG’s “Gender and Reproductive Health 101” training module, available at www.igwg.org. Staff from the Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs (JHU/CCP) supported the team in creating the online course, including format, procedures, and processes for uploading material. Upon completing the draft, several technical reviewers provided invaluable comments and suggestions.

The USAID | Health Policy Initiative, Task Order I, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Contract No. GPO-I-01-05-00040-00, beginning September 30, 2005. Task Order I is implemented by Futures Group, in collaboration with the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA), and Futures Institute.

Health Policy Initiative
Futures Group
One Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005 USA
Tel: (202) 775-9680 | Fax: (202) 775-9694
Email: policyinfo@futuresgroup.com
Web: <http://ghiqc.usaid.gov> and <http://www.healthpolicyinitiative.com>

June 2010