



Eastern & Southern Africa  
Regional Inter Agency Task Team on Children & AIDS

**RIATT-ESA** The Regional Voice for Children and Youth

# RIATT-ESA Strategic Plan Summary 2019-2022

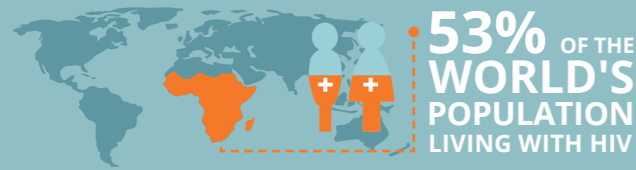
Don't let children and youth fall off the map



Review of national policies  
on SRHR and EUP

## Addressing the gaps in the children and youth HIV response:

Eastern and Southern Africa region, home to 53% of the world's population living with HIV, has been a major contributor to the global decline in deaths from AIDS-related illnesses. Despite the decline in deaths from AIDS-related illnesses, children and adolescents still account for 10% of new infections worldwide. 15.7% of people who succumb to HIV related deaths are children and adolescents and the Eastern and Southern Africa region (ESAR) accounts for 51% of new HIV infections in children globally.



Disparities in education, health, access to services, other deprivations and poverty have placed the ESAR in a position of great vulnerability to the HIV epidemic. Children, adolescents and young key populations are often the most underserved by HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services. Addressing the gaps in the HIV response for children and youth is essential, if we are to reach the target of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

### Why now?

The last decade has seen a number of significant shifts in the HIV response. Most African countries are reporting declining incidence levels. However, there are growing fears of resurgence in adolescents and youth as a result of challenges around treatment compliance, HIV-related stigma and discrimination. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for inclusivity, that is not leaving anyone behind in the provision of services of people living with disability, children in and out of care, young key populations, children of key populations, as well as children, adolescents and youth living with HIV.

RIATT-ESA'S new strategy aims to address the gaps identified by current evidence to ensure relevance to the new challenges. The strategy aims to respond to specific drivers of HIV infection, eradication of stigma and discrimination and ensuring quality services for all. Compounding these drivers are the issues of child marriages, gender based violence, failure to address adolescents sexual and reproductive health rights, early and unintended pregnancy and trafficking of children.

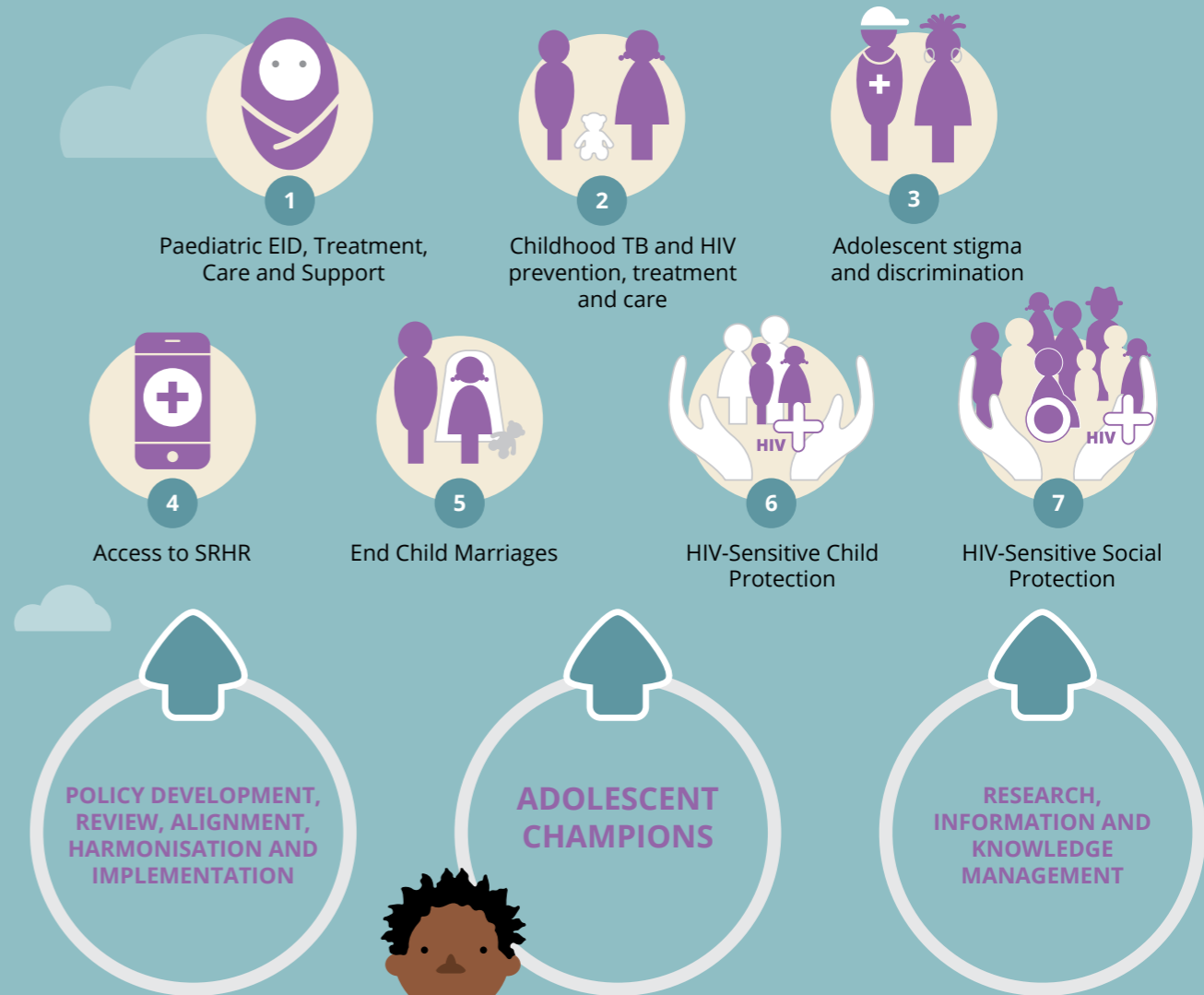
## What is RIATT-ESA Working Towards?

The key roles of the RIATT-ESA network are Advocacy and Coordination. Informed by research, information, knowledge management and adolescent champions, RIATT-ESA will focus on supporting the development, review, alignment, harmonisation and implementation of policies and programmes in the Eastern and Southern Africa region..

Diagram 1 outlines the core elements of RIATT-ESA's new strategy. RIATT-ESA's key roles in the new strategy are to conduct advocacy and to coordinate the activities of partners related to the activities agreed in the strategy.

Diagram 1: Representation of RIATT-ESA's Strategy 2019 – 2022

### RIATT-ESA'S ROLE: ADVOCACY AND COORDINATION



### YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTHCARE SERVICES



CAN REDUCE HIV-RELATED STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION

Regional situation analysis on paediatric TB

Review of national paediatric testing guidelines

Advocacy to end stigma and discrimination



## RIATT-ESA Vision and Mission



### RIATT-ESA Vision:

Universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for children affected by HIV in Eastern and Southern Africa.



### RIATT-ESA Mission:

To strategically influence global, regional and national policy formulation and implementation for children and their families affected by HIV through research; knowledge generation and dissemination; and advocacy.



### RIATT-ESA Goal:

A scaled-up, coordinated and more effective response for children affected by HIV in Eastern and Southern Africa.

## Partner Collaboration: The value-add of the network

No organisation can provide a single solution that will address the complex issues that children affected by HIV are facing. The RIATT-ESA network pulls together partners' strengths, technical expertise, advocacy and resources using each other's comparative advantages to address the challenges faced by vulnerable children and youth in the region. The strengths of working as a network include:

- Partner organisations bringing diverse ideas, experience and expertise to the table.
- The ability to influence Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to comply with policies and strategies, and to report on their implementation.
- Strategic partnerships support the achievement of international advocacy aims.
- Membership and active participation in learning and linking within the network
- Knowledge management, knowledge generation and dissemination.
- Linking researchers and policy makers by commissioning and disseminating research.



Develop Youth Ambassadors

Amplify the voices of youth

review national child marriage policies

## Management and Coordination: Members Role

The RIATT-ESA Strategy has a number of structural components that need to work closely for the effective and efficient realisation of results. The following outlines the set of roles and responsibilities expected from the various players.

PARTNERS	DESCRIPTION	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE	Representation from Project Management Team, Regional Bodies (AU, SADC and EAC) and thematic working group heads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversight role of the strategy development and implementation.</li> <li>• Check progress on working groups.</li> <li>• Make decision on adaptability (changing the strategic course) based on any new issues coming up during the strategic period.</li> <li>• Assist the project management team with resource mobilisation mainly through approving work-plans and budgets and pointing RIATT-ESA to the direction of potential sources of fund.</li> <li>• Networking and identifying opportunities</li> <li>• Quality control of all policy, strategic and research products.</li> <li>• Represent RIATT-ESA on Regional and Global symposiums on children and AIDS.</li> </ul>
THEMATIC WORKING GROUP	Like minded implementing organisations working in the same focus area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing intervention based work plans that operationalize the Strategic Plan and its log-frame.</li> <li>• Address the strategic objectives, partners involved in the working groups.</li> <li>• Deliberate on area specific issues on a regular basis through physical and virtual meetings.</li> <li>• Monitoring intervention specific results at thematic level.</li> </ul>
PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM	RIATT-ESA Secretariat Project Coordinator, Finance Manager and M&E Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop key indicators and tracking progress of the strategy.</li> <li>• Overseeing implementation of the strategy and work plans.</li> <li>• Convene partner planning, monitoring meetings and best practices and lesson learnt activities.</li> <li>• Budgeting, conducting disbursements, and checking budget variances</li> <li>• Logistical and planning support on all activities</li> <li>• Networking and identifying potential new partners and donors</li> <li>• Resource Mobilisation in line with the needs and gaps in funding</li> </ul>



## Key activities to be implemented under this strategy will include:

1. Promotion of transformative regional policy reviews that take stock of policies and make governments accountable in relation to access to SRHR and reduction in unintended pregnancies;
2. Advocacy for the development of regional and national policies on childhood TB and HIV;
3. Advocacy for Improvement of early infant diagnosis and treatment to reach national paediatric targets;
4. Advocacy to address stigma and discrimination of adolescents living with HIV especially in the hard to reach groups e.g. disabled, children living in the street, migrants and IDPs;
5. Advocacy for HIV sensitive national case management in child protection systems;
6. Strengthen the capacity of adolescents and children on advocacy to amplify their voices for their own cause in relation to HIV and SRHR;
7. Promotion of regional research on social protection, children and HIV issues for evidence-informed advocacy;
8. Promotion of transformative regional policy reviews that take stock of policies and make governments accountable in relation to ending child marriage.

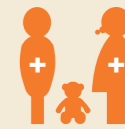
## RIATT-ESA Governance

RIATT-ESA constitutes 39 member organisations working in the children and AIDS response, including regional economic communities (RECs) e.g. EAC and SADC, civil society organizations, academic institutions, bilateral donors, UN agencies and other multilateral agencies. The RIATT-ESA partners pool their advocacy and technical expertise through three working groups: Advocacy; Care and Support; and Social Protection. A Steering Committee oversees RIATT-ESA's work while the Programme Manager works with three working groups to implement the strategy broken down into annual work plans.

## In summary:

### RIATT-ESA

### THE REGIONAL INTERAGENCY TASK TEAM ON CHILDREN AND AIDS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



is a network of organisations working together to influence global, regional and national policy formulation and implementation for children and their families.



### RIATT-ESA USES AN EVIDENCE DRIVEN APPROACH ACROSS 3 PILLARS OF ACTION



to support programme and policy makers in efforts TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE CARE & SUPPORT FOR HIV INFECTED & AFFECTED CHILDREN THEIR FAMILIES



2022

Media awards on ending child marriage

Host learning and linking forums

For more information visit [www.riatt-esa.org](http://www.riatt-esa.org) or email the Programme Manager at [riattesamangement.repssi.org](mailto:riattesamangement.repssi.org)