



# FACT SHEETS

FACE AIDS Educational Materials

## Women and HIV/AIDS

“All AIDS strategies should pass the test: does this work for women?”

Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS

1

In sub-Saharan Africa, nearly three out of four (74%) young people aged 15-24 years living with HIV are female.

2

Studies in South Africa and Tanzania show that women who have been subjected to violence are up to three times more likely to be HIV-infected than women who have not experienced violence.

3

At a clinic in Zambia, some 60% of women eligible for free antiretroviral treatment opted out of treatment, partly because they feared violence and abandonment if they were to disclose their HIV status to their partners.

4

Research suggests that women who have access to, ownership of and control over land and other assets are better able to avoid relationships that threaten them with HIV, and to manage the impact of AIDS.

5

Data indicated that courts of law in Zambia were driving fear of disclosure amongst women, as divorce was granted to men on the grounds that a wife went for voluntary HIV testing and was on antiretroviral therapy without approval.

6

On average, there are 13 women living with HIV for every 10 infected men, and that gap continues to widen. Studies also show that many women are being infected despite staying loyal to one partner.



“To the women living with AIDS in Africa...  
...indomitable, resilient, courageous...  
One day the world will come to its senses.”

<< Stephen Lewis, former UN Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa, from the dedication of his award-winning book, Race Against Time