Engaging Traditional Leaders in the Prevention of HIV and Gender-Based Violence Toolkit

Traditional leaders and traditional structures are an influential force among a large majority of communities in Africa. Traditional leaders wield influence and command much respect within their communities. There is a strong link between traditional leadership and culture, with traditional leaders considered the custodians of culture from one generation to the next. At the same time, considerable evidence highlights the link between HIV and gender-based violence (GBV), and the role of harmful cultural practices in fuelling the spread of HIV and the proliferation of GBV.

Increasingly, a number of traditional leaders are taking a stand in addressing GBV, harmful cultural practices, and HIV at community and national levels. Traditional leaders are in a strong position to work with their communities to address the harmful cultural practices that contribute to the spread of HIV and GBV.

This toolkit presents a carefully selected collection of resources on the role of traditional leaders and culture in preventing HIV and GBV. They are organised into the following categories:

- Country and regional experiences and lessons sharing
- Research and issue papers
- Programming guidelines and tools
- Governance, HIV prevention and culture

The resources are aimed at traditional leaders, policy makers, programme managers, researchers, NGOs, CBOs and implementing partners working in the field of HIV and AIDS, sexual reproductive health, and gender-based violence.

If you have an experience to share about traditional leadership, culture and the prevention of HIV and GBV, we invite you to tell us about it through the feedback form. We also encourage you to suggest and share new resources.
About this eToolkit provides detailed information about who selected the resources, a list of publishers, and other SAfAIDS and K4Health eToolkits.

What is the purpose of this toolkit?

This toolkit contains resources to help community-based programme implementers, service providers, traditional leaders, policy makers, and other audiences to engage and support traditional leadership to champion the prevention of HIV and gender-based violence (GBV). It also contains resources and tools that can be used by traditional leaders to build their understanding and capacity around HIV and GBV prevention.

Who developed this toolkit?

The Traditional Leaders Toolkit was developed by the Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs, K4Health Project. Individuals from other organizations also contributed their experience and expertise to review the toolkit and ensure its relevance and usefulness, including:

- Sam Kandhlela ? National House of Traditional Leaders (South Africa)
- Tapiwa Manyati ? Sonke Gender Justice Network
- Professor Claude Mararike ? National House of Traditional Leaders (South Africa)

Who are the publishers of the resources?

Resources selected for inclusion in this toolkit were published by the following organizations working throughout the world to promote evidence-based best practices and improve the delivery of health services.

- African Voices
- AMICAALL
- Care International
- Centre for Applied Sciences, Windhoek, Namibia
- Creative Exchange
- HSRC
- IDRC
What types of resources are included?

The resources were selected based on a wide search for relevant published and grey literature from around the world, with a focus on the role and needs of traditional leaders in health and gender programming. The toolkit contains:

- Training and referral guides, and other tools to support traditional leaders and those working with traditional leaders to be able to address HIV prevention and GBV within their community,
- Research articles and case studies of the role and influence of traditional leaders and how to engage and support them to become involved,
- Various publication formats including books, manuals, briefs, case studies, fact sheets, project reports, reviews, teaching and training materials, tools, and job aids.
Who are the intended audiences?

- **Traditional leaders** will find information and training guides on HIV and gender-based violence, the role of cultural practices, and the linkages between all three, on how to advocate for services for their community, and how to make referrals,

- **Community programme implementers and managers** will find information and training guidelines on how to engage traditional leaders in their programmes, and how to build the capacity of traditional leaders to address HIV and gender-based violence,

- **Trainers** can review the latest training and referrals manuals on how best to work with traditional leaders,

- **Policymakers** will find research and case studies that will help them understand the important role of traditional leaders and cultural practices in the fight against HIV and GBV.

We invite you to **suggest resources** or adapt the resources in this toolkit to suit your local circumstances and languages.

How do I get started using this toolkit?

To browse the content of this toolkit, use the navigation tabs above to view resources related to key program topics. Each tab includes a list of a number of high-quality resources selected by the Community-Based Family Planning Toolkit Working Group, further organized by sub-topic. Click on the title of the resource for more information about it, or click on the full-text link to get direct access to the full resource.

Some of the tools are readily available in an adaptable format (for example, Microsoft Word documents and PowerPoint presentations). We encourage you to alter and personalize these tools for your own use. (Please remember to credit the source). If you do use these tools or adapt them, we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail us. (To make a comment about the toolkit or suggest a resource, use the feedback form.)

How can I suggest a resource to include in this toolkit?

We invite you to contribute to evolving and enhancing this toolkit. If you have developed or use quality resources that you think should be included in this toolkit, please use the feedback form to suggest them. The toolkit collaborators will review and consider your suggestions.

How can I make a comment or give feedback?
If you have comments about the toolkit, please use the feedback form. Your feedback will help to ensure the toolkit remains up-to-date and is continually improved. For example, you can share ideas about how you have used the toolkit in your work so that others can learn from and adapt your experiences.

Country Experiences

This tab includes resources that offer experiences and lessons learned from programmes working with traditional leaders on HIV and/or gender-based violence prevention.

Resources:

- **Traditional Leadership Addressing Gender-Based Violence, Sexual & Reproductive Health and HIV in Nwa'mitwa**
  
  Story of Queen Hosi Nwa'mitwa, one of the first official female traditional leaders in South Africa and her SRH and HIV programmes.

- **The Role of Traditional Leaders in Preventing and Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: Findings from KwaZulu-Natal, Northwest and Limpopo Provinces in South Africa**
  
  The Population Council, in partnership with the Ubuntu Institute, embarked on a programme to engage traditional leaders in three South African provinces (North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo) to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in rural communities.
Cultural Approaches to Addressing the Social Drivers of HIV/AIDS

The Creative Challenge was an action-research project that aimed to improve the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS prevention and coping strategies through valuing local cultures and employing cultural approaches to education, information sharing and community dialogue and communications. This paper advocates for engaging culture to enable effective responses to HIV/AIDS in particular it addresses, how culture is being engaged in responses to HIV, why it is important to engage with culture, and points to some of the challenges to engaging with culture.

- **Controlling HIV/AIDS in Il Ngwesi, Kenya**

  Journal article on a promising practice in Kenya that successfully encouraged formally conservative traditional leaders, women and youth to address HIV and AIDS in their community.

- **Understanding the Role of Culture in Sexual and Reproductive Health in Mozambique**

  Review of the MDG-F Joint Programme for Strengthening Cultural and Creative Industries and Inclusive Policies in Mozambique. This programme implements a new approach which takes into account the lifestyles, attitudes, beliefs and traditional practices that form the basis of a community’s perception of health and illness, life and death, and sexuality. It has come to be recognized as a potentially more effective way to intervene in matters related to SRH.

- **Political will, traditional leaders and the fight against HIV/AIDS: a South African case study**

  A case study of the impact of the leadership style of a traditional chief on a community-based AIDS programme in a South African rural community, which sought to build community-level AIDS competence, using the empowerment via participation approach. Thematic content analysis revealed a number of direct and indirect ways in which his leadership style impacted on project outcomes. Despite his strong support for the programme, the Chief's traditional attitudes towards women and youth, his celebration of polygamy, and his authoritarian
governance style undermined the project's empowerment via participation agenda - especially the programme's attempts to reduce AIDS stigma, to build female and youth capacity to control their sexual health, and to encourage men to take responsibility for their role in tackling AIDS.

- **Traditional Leaders Wield the Power, and They are Almost All Men: The Importance of Involving Traditional Leaders in Gender Transformation**

  Case study review of several NGOs work with Traditional leaders to address HIV and AIDS and GBV in South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Ethiopia.

- **The Seke Culture Dialogue Series: A good practice booklet**


- **Sonke Helps Traditional Leaders Health Community Ills**

  Case study review of Sonke Gender Justice campaign to address HIV and AIDS and GBV in South Africa's North West Province.

- **The Effect of Training Traditional Leaders in HIV and AIDS on their Knowledge, Attitude and Practices Relating to the AIDS Epidemic in Lilongwe Rural**

  Thesis dissertation that assess the effect of training traditional leaders in HIV and AIDS and their knowledge, attitude and practices on the epidemic in Lilongwe rural.

- **From mandatory to voluntary testing: Balancing human rights, religious and cultural values, and HIV/AIDS**
prevention in Ghana

This paper examines efforts by some churches in Ghana to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. Cultural values and traditional practices, including traditional courtship and marriage rites (which are performed before church weddings), not only clash with considerations about pre-marital HIV testing but also complicate the contentious issue of confidentiality of information on HIV testing.

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Re-inventing African Chieftaincy in the age of AIDS, gender and development

Traditional leaders are re-inventing themselves and their offices in terms of how they promote development for their communities. The IDRC-funded research found that in Botswana, Ghana and South Africa, traditional leaders remain, for a variety of reasons, important to the design and implementation of development regardless of whether or not traditional leaders have statutory jurisdiction granted by the post-colonial state. Traditional leaders seek to be active collaborators in development interventions.

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Risking Death for Survival: Peasant Responses to Hunger and HIV/AIDS in Malawi

Paper presented at the International Conference on HIV/AIDS, Food and Nutrition Security organized by IFPRI in Durban, South Africa. It focuses on the impact of food insecurity and HIV and AIDS on rural Malawians and the community response to address these.

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Traditional leaders as key players in combating HIV/AIDS: a case by women for change (WFC) work with the traditional leaders in Zambia
Since 2000, WFC has been organizing workshops for Traditional Leaders on HIV/AIDS, Gender, Human Rights and governance issues throughout the Zambia. WfC facilitated the formation of the National Royal Foundation as well as provincial foundations as a forum for traditional leaders to share best practices in supporting family units that have been affected by HIV/AIDS as one of the objectives. The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Council of Traditional Leaders has been formed to lobby regional and international bodies on issues of significance such as the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

- **HIV/AIDS in Africa: A socio-cultural perspective**

  The joint UNESCO / UNAIDS project of ?A Cultural Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care? aimed to stimulate reflection and action for better application of "a cultural approach" in strategies, policies, projects and fieldwork in anti-AIDS campaign. This paper provides learning and recommendations from this project.

- **Traditional Leaders and Local Government in Africa: Lessons for South Africa**

  The four case studies highlighted in this book deal with the issue of traditional leaders in post-independence governance. Contributing to the local government debate in South Africa, this book investigates, compares and analyses the role of traditional leaders in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

- **Malawi: Mobilizing Religious and Traditional Leaders in the Fight against HIV/AIDS**

  Review of UNFPA activities in Malawi including the potential of working with traditional leaders.

**Regional Experiences**
This tab includes resources that offer experiences and lessons learned from programmes working with traditional leaders on HIV and / or gender-based violence prevention.

Resources:

- **Traditional Leaders on the Frontline: Addressing Harmful Cultural Practices to Reduce Gender-based Violence and HIV in southern Africa**

  This book provides a compilation of the discussions and lessons sharing from the regional traditional leaders summit hosted by the Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS). The focus of the summit was to provide a platform for traditional leaders in southern Africa to come together to discuss how they became engaged in fighting GBV and harmful cultural practices that perpetuate HIV infection.

- **The Role Of Traditional Leadership: Preventing Violence Against Women Towards Effective HIV Prevention in Southern Africa**

  This fact sheet shows that with adequate support, traditional leaders can facilitate positive change in local communities working to address HIV and violence against women. It provides information and recommendations on the linkages between HIV and gender-based violence (GBV), the role of traditional leaders in preventing GBV and HIV, and recommendations for key stakeholders.

- **Interrogating culture in addressing HIV, gender and sexuality**

  Journal article reviewing the learning conference on the 'changing the rivers flow' programme examining the linkages between cultural practices and the spread of HIV and AIDS.
Culture, HIV & AIDS: An Annotated Bibliography

This bibliography offers a literature review that examines how culture shapes the HIV and AIDS pandemic and its impacts, and provides references that focus on the response to the epidemic, and situate this response in the broader socio-cultural context.

- Cross-cultural learners share experiences

The Cross-cultural Learning Conference brought together regional, national and community groups from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America and sought to provide a platform for sharing good practices and examining the role of culture in gender violence and HIV and AIDS. This publication provides an overview from the conference and lessons shared.

- HIV and culture confluence: Cross-cultural experiences on HIV, gender and education from Johannesburg conference

This book documents key outcomes and discussions from the Cross-Cultural Learning Conference hosted by the Southern African HIV/AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS) and its partners in 2010. The conference provides a platform for sharing good practices and examining the role of culture in HIV and AIDS prevention and mitigation.

- Role of Community Leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS

Paper presented to the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders Initiative for Community Action at Local Level (AMICAALL) 5th General Assembly held in Livingstone on the 24th of July, 2008 by Royal Highness Chief Chikanta on the role of community leaders in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

- Traditional leaders key partners in the fight against HIV and AIDS
A pioneering research project undertaken by the Ubuntu Institute that examined the current and potential roles of traditional leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa has resulted in some useful findings that could assist in education and information dissemination on the disease, ultimately helping to prevent the spread of the disease, especially amongst the youth.

Research

This tab provides various research and issue papers on the role of traditional leaders and culture on HIV and gender-based violence.

Resources:

- **Political will, traditional leaders and the fight against HIV/AIDS: a South African case study**

  A case study of the impact of the leadership style of a traditional chief on a community-based AIDS programme in a South African rural community, which sought to build community-level AIDS competence, using the empowerment via participation approach. Thematic content analysis revealed a number of direct and indirect ways in which his leadership style impacted on project outcomes. Despite his strong support for the programme, the Chief's traditional attitudes towards women and youth, his celebration of polygamy, and his authoritarian governance style undermined the project's empowerment via participation agenda - especially the programme's attempts to reduce AIDS stigma, to build female and youth capacity to control their sexual health, and to encourage men to take responsibility for their role in tackling AIDS.

- **Gender roles in the African culture: implications for the spread of HIV**

  This paper discusses the male role in African culture in the HIV and AIDS context. The AIDS
epidemic presently engulfing South Africa is mostly based on heterosexual transmission. Issues facing African women, domestic violence in particular, remain a pervasive problem, and women’s subordination can be directly linked to the increasing number of women becoming infected with HIV/AIDS. This can be linked to the African cultural context, with culture playing a vital role in determining the level of health of the individual, the family and the community.

- **Cultural Approaches to Addressing the Social Drivers of HIV/AIDS**

The Creative Challenge was an action-research project that aimed to improve the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS prevention and coping strategies through valuing local cultures and employing cultural approaches approach to education, information sharing and community dialogue and communications. This paper advocates for engaging culture to enable effective responses to HIV/AIDS in particular it addresses, how culture is being engaged in responses to HIV, why it is important to engage with culture, and points to some of the challenges to engaging with culture.

- **Role of traditional leadership in supporting and designing HIV prevention interventions in Southern Africa**

Traditional Political Authorities (TPAs) have often been circumvented in health and development programmes, especially when foreign donor funds are involved. Yet TPAs are often eager to collaborate in efforts that can potentially benefit their areas of authority. This study aims to develop effective behaviour change interventions by involving TPAs and tapping into their wisdom, experience and indigenous cultural knowledge. Specifically, it aims to find culturally sensitive ways to influence sexual behaviour and improve gender relations in ways that reduce violence against women and girls, and reduces risk of HIV infection.

- **HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa: understanding the implications of culture & context**

This book brings together the research contributions of several South African and Norwegian researchers to document the impact of HIV and AIDS on communities in South Africa and the relationship between HIV and education.
The Cultural Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention

This research paper aims to highlight the cultural approach to prevention as an important tool in the fight against the pandemic. Commissioned by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, it seeks to establish culture as a determinant of health relevant behaviour and focuses on the use of culture in various forms (theatre, music, dance, traditional medicine, etc.) as a means to communicate and encourage behaviour change for HIV/AIDS prevention.

• Cultural scripts for multiple and concurrent partnerships in southern Africa: why HIV prevention needs anthropology

Multiple and concurrent sexual partnerships have been identified as southern Africa’s key behavioural driver of HIV, resulting in calls to make partner reduction programming central to an intensified HIV prevention focus. Various efforts are currently being made in the region in response to this call. Such efforts will likely have as limited success as past prevention efforts if the cultural milieu in which sexual partnering practices are located and reproduced remains poorly understood, unaccounted for, and unaddressed in prevention programming.

• Traditional leaders key partners in the fight against HIV and AIDS

A pioneering research project undertaken by the Ubuntu Institute that examined the current and potential roles of traditional leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa has resulted in some useful findings that could assist in education and information dissemination on the disease, ultimately helping to prevent the spread of the disease, especially amongst the youth.

• Relevance of African Traditional Institutions of Governance

Concept paper from the Economic Commission for Africa that outlines the theoretical framework for the dynamics that enable traditional governance institutions to play a more developmentalist role in modern governance systems.
The Effect of Training Traditional Leaders in HIV and AIDS on their Knowledge, Attitude and Practices Relating to the AIDS Epidemic in Lilongwe Rural

Thesis dissertation that assess the effect of training traditional leaders in HIV and AIDS and their knowledge, attitude and practices on the epidemic in Lilongwe rural.

- Gender, Culture and HIV Positive Women in Swaziland: Women Have No Voice or Choice on How They Can Live Their Own Lives

The purpose of this research was to conduct an in-depth analysis of the sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHRs) and needs of HIV-positive women in Swaziland. While the objectives of the main study were extensive, this paper will present only the results relating to the experiences and perceptions of HIV positive women regarding SRH services and the key barriers to accessing these services. Specifically, it highlights how stigma and discrimination, gender, unemployment and poverty fuel the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Swailand, a country in sub-Saharan Africa with the highest rate of infection in the world.

- Social constructions of gender roles, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS in two communities of the Western Cape, South Africa

Qualitative study examining the links between gender roles, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS risk and culture in two communities in the Western Cape in South Africa. The paper proposes that developing effective HIV/AIDS interventions in these communities will require tackling the overlapping as well as divergent constructions of gender, gender violence and HIV.

- Interrogating Culture, Women's Rights and HIV/AIDS in Namibia and Mozambique

Two studies, conducted in Namibia and Mozambique focused on examining the inter-linkages
between cultural practices and beliefs, vulnerability to HIV, and the impact of AIDS on women and girls.

- **Gender Issues in HIV/AIDS Epidemiology in Sub-Saharan Africa**

  The patriarchal nature of African societies continues to shape women’s sexual behaviour in the region. This in turn accounts for the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women in sub-Saharan Africa. This paper explores the need for culturally relevant (gender biased) public health.

- **Re-inventing African Chieftaincy in the age of AIDS, gender and development**

  Traditional leaders are re-inventing themselves and their offices in terms of how they promote development for their communities. The IDRC-funded research found that in Botswana, Ghana and South Africa, traditional leaders remain, for a variety of reasons, important to the design and implementation of development regardless of whether or not traditional leaders have statutory jurisdiction granted by the post-colonial state. Traditional leaders seek to be active collaborators in development interventions.

- **Risking Death for Survival: Peasant Responses to Hunger and HIV/AIDS in Malawi**

  Paper presented at the International Conference on HIV/AIDS, Food and Nutrition Security organized by IFPRI in Durban, South Africa. It focuses on the impact of food insecurity and HIV and AIDS on rural Malawians and the community response to address these.

- **Culture and African contexts of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support**
As the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa remains unabated, a culture-centered approach to prevention, care and support is increasingly recognised as a critical strategy. In this article, a model developed to centralise culture in health promotion interventions, is presented as a framework to be used in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support in Africa.

- **Are the powers of traditional leaders compatible with women's equal rights? Three conceptual arguments (yes, no and maybe)**

  The paper considers the newly enacted legislation in South Africa on traditional leaders, and reflects upon the potential conflict between the powers that it entrenches and the equal rights of rural women. The South African Constitution recognizes potentially incompatible rights of both gender equality and cultural recognition, and so the question of which if these should take precedence in the event of a conflict between them is one that challenges the egalitarian foundations of democracy. However this problem is not unique to South Africa, but rather is a facet of the global debate on multiculturalism and the "right" treatment of individual members of in egalitarian groups within democracies. The paper therefore offers three theoretical approaches to the problem, and considers whether a deliberative approach may offer a "middle road" solution to the problem that reduces the costs in terms of the rights of those concerned.

- **Male Circumcision in South Africa: How does it relate to Public Health**

  A discussion paper around (traditional) male circumcision in South Africa and how an understanding of the cultural issues involved can help us think usefully about the role of public health in relation to traditional practices.

**Programming Guidelines**
This tab includes programming guidelines and tools for traditional leaders and stakeholders working with traditional leaders to support the prevention of HIV and gender-based violence.

Resources:

- **Traditional Leadership Championing HIV and Gender-Based Violence Prevention! Referral Tool for Traditional Leaders working to Prevent HIV and Gender-Based Violence in their Communities**

  This Referral Tool has been developed for traditional leaders and those working with traditional leaders, to assist them in making decisions on good referrals that provide community members with the HIV and GBV support and services they need.

- **Traditional Leaders Taking the Lead! Booklet for Traditional Leaders Working to Prevent HIV and Gender-Based Violence in their Communities**

  Reference manual for Traditional Leaders to build their skills to become champions of HIV prevention, to help end GBV, to promote the rights of women and girls and to take the lead on GBV and HIV issues in their communities.

- **Traditional Leadership Championing HIV and Gender-based Violence Prevention! Unleashing the Power of Traditional Leadership to Commit to the UNAIDS 3 Zeros? Zero New Infections - Zero Discrimination - Zero AIDS related deaths**
This flipchart has been developed for traditional Leaders, and those working with traditional leaders, to support them to discuss HIV prevention and gender based violence (GBV) issues with members of their community and with other leaders in their community. It serves as a discussion guide to assist traditional leaders to become Champions in HIV and GBV Prevention.

- **Role of traditional leadership in supporting and designing HIV prevention interventions in Southern Africa**

  Traditional Political Authorities (TPAs) have often been circumvented in health and development programmes, especially when foreign donor funds are involved. Yet TPAs are often eager to collaborate in efforts that can potentially benefit their areas of authority. This study aims to develop effective behaviour change interventions by involving TPAs and tapping into their wisdom, experience and indigenous cultural knowledge. Specifically, it aims to find culturally sensitive ways to influence sexual behaviour and improve gender relations in ways that reduce violence against women and girls, and reduces risk of HIV infection.

- **Mainstreaming HIV, AIDS and Gender into Culture**

  A community education resource to promote understanding and address the influence of cultural practices on the spread of HIV.

- **Handbook for Working with Children and Youth: Pathways to Resilience Across Cultures and Contexts. Overcoming adversity with children affected by HIV/AIDS in the indigenous South African cultural context**

  Collection of writings by various experts on how children have overcome cultural barriers to address challenges.

- **Traditional leaders as key players in combating HIV/AIDS: a case by women for change (WFC) work with the traditional leaders in Zambia**
Since 2000, WFC has been organizing workshops for Traditional Leaders on HIV/AIDS, Gender, Human Rights and governance issues throughout the Zambia. WFC facilitated the formation of the National Royal Foundation as well as provincial foundations as a forum for traditional leaders to share best practices in supporting family units that have been affected by HIV/AIDS as one of the objectives. The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Council of Traditional Leaders has been formed to lobby regional and international bodies on issues of significance such as the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

- **HIV/AIDS in Africa: A socio-cultural perspective**

The joint UNESCO / UNAIDS project of ?A Cultural Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care? aimed to stimulate reflection and action for better application of "a cultural approach" in strategies, policies, projects and fieldwork in anti-AIDS campaign. This paper provides learning and recommendations from this project.

**Governance & Culture**

This tab provides resources that focus on the role of governance, including traditional authorities, and culture, in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

**Resources:**

- **Relevance of African Traditional Institutions of Governance**

Concept paper from the Economic Commission for Africa that outlines the theoretical framework for the dynamics that enable traditional governance institutions to play a more ?developmentalist? role in modern governance systems.
Chiefs in South Africa: Law, Power & Culture in the Post-Apartheid Era

This book examines the ongoing resurgence of traditional power structures in South Africa. It assesses the relationship between the changing legal and socio-political position of traditional authority and customary law and what these changes can teach us about the interrelation between law, politics, and culture in the post-modern world.

Are the powers of traditional leaders compatible with women's equal rights? Three conceptual arguments (yes, no and maybe)

The paper considers the newly enacted legislation in South Africa on traditional leaders, and reflects upon the potential conflict between the powers that it entrenches and the equal rights of rural women. The South African Constitution recognizes potentially incompatible rights of both gender equality and cultural recognition, and so the question of which if these should take precedence in the event of a conflict between them is one that challenges the egalitarian foundations of democracy. However this problem is not unique to South Africa, but rather is a facet of the global debate on multiculturalism and the "right" treatment of individual members of in egalitarian groups within democracies. The paper therefore offers three theoretical approaches to the problem, and considers whether a deliberative approach may offer a "middle road" solution to the problem that reduces the costs in terms of the rights of those concerned.

Democratization and Traditional Authorities in the New South Africa

A tension of inconsistency exists in post-1994 South Africa?s Constitution as well as legislation flowing from it. On the one hand, it enshrines a bill of rights including democratic principles based on elected representative government. On the other, it acclaims the role of unelected traditional authorities without any clarity regarding their functions and powers.

Traditional Authority and Democracy in southern Africa: Proceedings from the workshop of Traditional Authority
in the nineties-Democratic Aspect of traditional government in southern Africa. Windhoek, 15-16 November 1995

The Centre for Applied Social Sciences in Namibia held a major regional workshop to examine the role of traditional authorities in today's rapidly transforming societies of southern Africa. History has taught that customary laws and values that continue to be widely accepted do not disappear with the promulgation of new laws. Modern states of southern Africa adhere to democratic, constitutional and human rights principles which are seen as offering greater protection for the individual; but some people might feel that this is an imposition of alien concepts and values that threaten their survival and identity. Traditional leaders are still active, but how do their powers and duties relate to modern democratic constitutional processes? These are the issues examined in fifteen papers, as relating to Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Traditional Leaders and Local Government in Africa: Lessons for South Africa

The four case studies highlighted in this book deal with the issue of traditional leaders in post-independence governance. Contributing to the local government debate in South Africa, this book investigates, compares and analyses the role of traditional leaders in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

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