

Stepping Stones (Eastern Cape) — South Africa's Cluster-Randomised Trial of a 50-Hour Gender and HIV Programme for Young People

Gender Equality · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 52/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Cluster RCT in 70 Eastern Cape clusters (1,360 men, 1,416 women, aged 15–26): no effect on HIV (IRR 0.95) but HSV-2 incidence fell (RR 0.67) and men's reported IPV perpetration was lower (24-month OR 0.62, borderline $p=0.054$); no benefit for women.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	2/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	0/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	0/1
Achievement / evidence	0/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	1/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-10-28

[South African Medical Research Council with Eastern Cape Department of Health](#) — accessed 2026-10-28

[Jewkes et al., BMJ 2008 \(PMC full text\)](#) — accessed 2026-10-28

[End Violence Against Women Now \(UN Women\)](#) — [evaluation copy](#) — accessed 2026-10-28

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