



Community based organisations (CBOs) contribution towards delivering a high quality comprehensive package of HIV prevention, care and treatment for young people in Rwanda

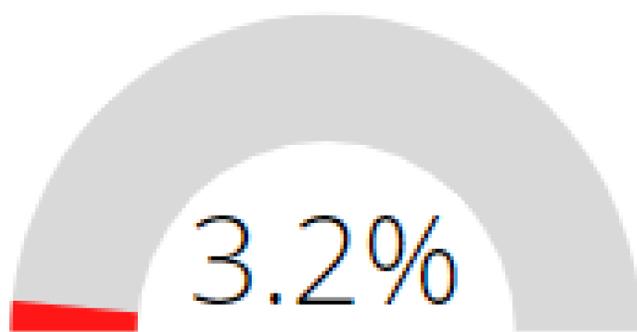


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Issues

- Despite great efforts put in place to reduce the prevalence of HIV among adolescent and youth in Rwanda, it is estimated that the HIV prevalence among youth aged 15-24 years was at 3.2% in 2010.



- As a response, Imbuto Foundation (IF) initiated Mountain Movers project in 2011 as a project aimed at reducing HIV infections among youth.
- This paper empirically explores the contribution that these CBOs in partnership with IF, made towards HIV reduction among adolescents and young people in Rwanda.

Description

- The project aims at increasing youth awareness and knowledge about HIV and STIs, by leveraging the technical level of HIV prevention clubs in secondary schools and youth centers in districts of intervention, in partnership with CBOs.
- **The project worked with 13 CBOs in 12 districts nationwide to:**

Created peer educators (PEs) network,

Conducted trainings, Outreach campaigns, Parent and Adolescent communication (PAC) forums, and

Provided youth with HIV voluntary counselling and testing (VCT).

Data collection:

- The qualitative approaches was used in data collection through 15 Key Informant Interviews and 20 Focus Group Discussions.
- Quantitative data from project implementation were also used for data triangulation.

Data Analysis:

- Data was coded and analysed using NVivo and STATA software v14.

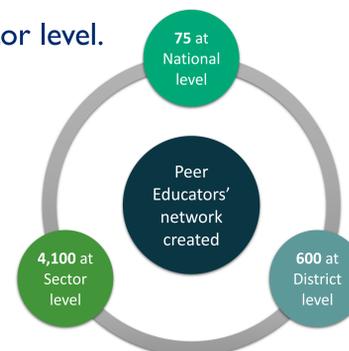
Lessons Learned

- CBOs indicated a clear capability to disseminate comprehensive correct knowledge about HIV/AIDS.



- Youth were shown oral HIV testing kit called ORAQUICK during their trainings.

- The project successfully created 75 PEs at national level, 600 at district and 4100 at sector level.



- The awareness campaigns reached over 45,000 youth, 360 local leaders were trained on HIV prevention.
- PAC reached over 700 parents and 1500 youth and 13,730 youth took part in HIVVCT.
- Not only were the campaigns effective at attracting a higher proportion of hard to reach youth, in and out school clubs demonstrated a high awareness of HIV transmission routes and prevention.
- The PAC forums effectively improved family communication around ASRH issues and facilitated family re-integration for the HIV+ youth and the outreach sessions championed at promoting self-acceptance.
- Despite this, it was also evident that some youth still had limited knowledge and difficulty accessing HIV related services.

Next Steps

- These findings affirm that CBOs have successfully facilitated efforts to curb the spread of HIV through delivering a high quality comprehensive package of HIV prevention, care and treatment.
- However, more effort is still required in linking HIV related services to the youth in the community.

- **Key words:** Young people , HIV /AIDS, CBOs, Peer educator.

- **For more information:** www.imbutofoundation.org