

*Addressing Reproductive  
Health/HIV Services for Youth:  
Issues and Challenges*

The Youth RH/HIV Lens

Presented by Asekho Dastile

# Youth Responses and Recommendations

- A lot has been done in addressing service provision (quantity and quality).
- Some 'trained' staff and yet are not youth friendly. Judgmental attitudes to STI patients.

Provide rooms in each clinic where trained young people from NGOs offer services jointly with the staff.

# Youth Responses and Recommendations

- Who defines youth friendly services?

The term “Youth Friendly” should be defined by youth.

- Where do we go with Peer Counseling among youth?

Youth should be able to engage in peer counseling...not only staff.

Develop standards for Peer Counseling and build youth capacity to implement it.

# Youth Responses and Recommendations

-The media as a negative source of influence on youth.

Partnership with the media should be explored.  
Training of journalist and advocating for space.

## Conclusion

- Most young people remain unemployed; “affordable fees” is great idea.
- Recognition of the large gap between RH/HIV needs and use of services.
- Solutions proposed need to be translated to action.

# School And Peer- Based Intervention

Key Responses and Recommendations

Presented by Rosemary Zulu

# Responses and Recommendations

- Program acceptance by schools and communities

Need for formative assessment at school level through working with the teachers and students in the planning, implementation and evaluation

Working with the Parent Teacher Association  
School is key

# Responses and Recommendations

- Government Involvement

Both the National level to local level and local level to national level approaches work as evidenced by examples from Zambia, Tanzania e.t.c.

- Youth Involvement

YOUTH should be fully involved in the planning of the NATIONAL RH STRATEGIES.

Their capacity should be enhanced so that they participate effectively.

# Responses and Recommendations

- Youth access to policy documents

The strategies need to be **YOUTH FRIENDLY** and they can only be youth friendly if you involve the youth in the planning.

Dissemination of documents should be done to the village levels.

- Youth Adult Partnership

This should be based on models that have worked in the African context and expanded in terms of scope.

# Supportive Environment

Key Responses and Recommendations

Presented by Sudi Biko

# Responses and Recommendations

- Youth are not given the opportunity to define what kind of supportive environment they want

They should be involved in all levels – from determining what their needs are, designing the programs, implementation, and evaluation

- Not enough skills building; being told to change all the time, change to what? (Life skills and change management skills)

Evidence-based programming, what are the actual needs before availing interventions.

# Responses and Recommendations

- Accessibility of youth-friendly services

Should know where they are and how to get them  
Comprehensive programming should be encouraged

- Generic programming 'I am targeting youth in general'

Specialized programming that takes into account gender, age and various settings to avoid one-size fits-all programming.

# Responses and Recommendations

- Often difficult to integrate individual and group needs within a youth program – can harm the supportive environment

Improve skills on group dynamics and one-on-one interventions.

- Low involvement of positive role models

Identify positive youth role models in society and devise programs that involve them in creating a supportive environment

# Responses and Recommendations

- The place of the youth living with HIV and AIDS

Building a safety net for the youth living with HIV and AIDS in order to minimize stigma, create motivation for self disclosure and access to Care and support services

# Take Home Message

Youth-defined supportive environment.

There is a paradigm shift in programming that takes into consideration the environment as a key factor.

It is now time to move from theory to practice!

Let us work together! Not only in sharing critical advancements at such fora but also in informing and developing, and in implementing and evaluating what could ultimately be the solutions to better health outcomes for youth and the community.