



# YouthNet

## From Participation to Action: Faith-Based Work in Tanzania

Maryanne Pribila, Technical Officer  
FHI/YouthNet





# Iringa, Tanzania

- Southern Highlands
- 350,000 young people aged 15-24
- High HIV prevalence – 13%
- Highly religious (Christian & Muslim)
- Multiple youth audiences





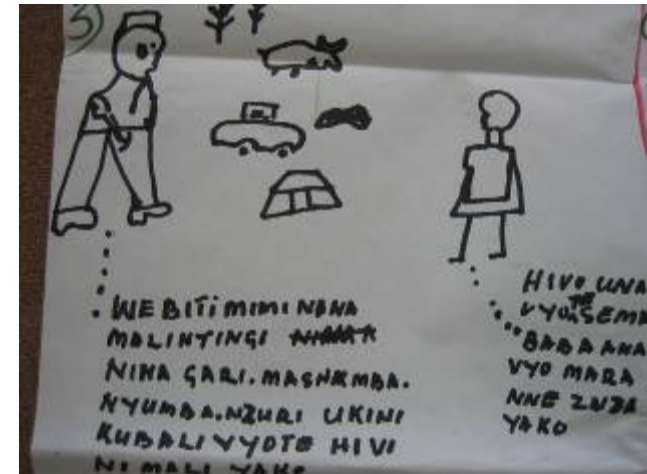
# Overall Program

- Participatory Learning & Action
- Grants
- Capacity Building Workshops
- Inter-Religious Network Creation
- Monitoring



# Participatory Learning

- Training in participatory techniques
  - Mapping
  - Story Telling
  - Questioning
  - Ranking
- Rapid assessment of 1,000 youth and adults
- Report & make recommendations to community





# Action



- Capacity Building Workshops
  - ✓ Proposal development
  - ✓ Behavior Change Communication
  - ✓ Family Life Education
  - ✓ Monitoring & Evaluation
  - ✓ Documenting Field Experiences



# Support

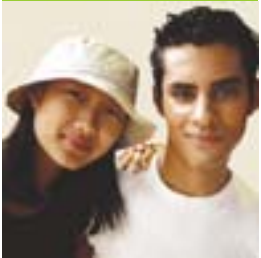
- Grants provided to 11 faith-based institutions and organizations
- Inter-Religious Network started in Iringa
- FHI/YouthNet collaborates with more than 40 FBIs in three regions



# Faith-Based Activities

- Training of religious leaders
- Training of religious teachers to integrate RH and HIV prevention
- Training of choir leaders
- Peer education
- Young couples workshops
- Community campaigns
- Theatre





# Comments from the Field

- **ELCT/Lutheran**

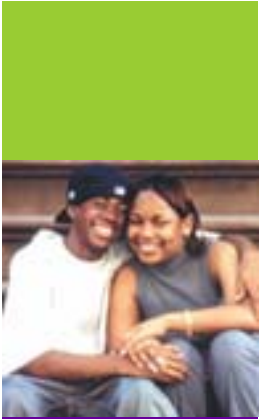
*“The church has been keeping quiet too long on HIV/AIDS.” -- Rev. Nathanael Mnyalape*

- **BAKWATA/Muslim**

*“I was ashamed to talk about sexuality in front of parents before.” – Sheikh Juma Marijebi*

- **Don Bosco/Roman Catholic**

*“It has changed my way of thinking. Before I had fear, felt it was a scandal to talk about sexual matters with youth, but now I can be straight forward, tell youth the truth, and help them see the proper purpose of sex, that it is not for luxury or entertainment.” - Fr. Marko Lepakit*



# Impact on Project Staff

“This project has helped me to realize lots of things. I have been a pastor for many years and have continued to officiate marriages without knowing or caring about serious challenges that my congregation has faced after marriage.”

- *Rev. Bimbiga, Young Married Couples Project*



“I learned how to prepare a proposal, how to develop BCC materials and messages, and how to evaluate our activities.”

- *Severine Njelekela, FABEHACA/Stepping Stones*



# Lessons Learned

- Religious institutions are non secular at the community level
- FBIs can apply belief and commitment to RH, HIV and AIDS
- Conservatism is not necessarily an opponent in HIV prevention
- FBIs are innovative, creative, and learning from each other

# Next Steps

- UJANA project (5 year bilateral)
- Continue work with FBIs
- Expand and provide additional technical assistance in the field
- Translate YouthNet materials – CFLEs and MFLE

