



# YouthNet

## Education at the Grassroots: Lessons from Tanzania

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# YouthNet/Tanzania's Education Components

- Peer education
- School-based education
- Sports interventions
- Community-based interventions



# Peer Education: COCODA

- Created network of trained peer educators and community mobilizers
- Implemented activities in hard-to-reach, rural areas (e.g., Lake Nyasa)
- Conducted community advocacy activities to promote support among adults for youth programs and services



# School-based Education: SUMASESU

Multi-pronged approach:

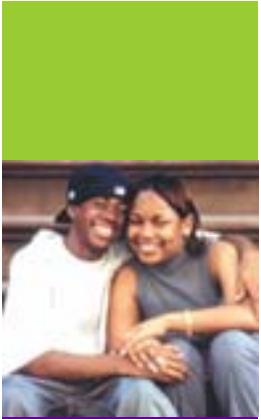
- Youth peer education program in 20 villages
- Teacher training on HIV/AIDS, life skills, and interactive facilitation techniques
- Outreach to religious and village government leaders
- In-school debates and dramas
- Theater arts performances for community



# Thoughts from the Field

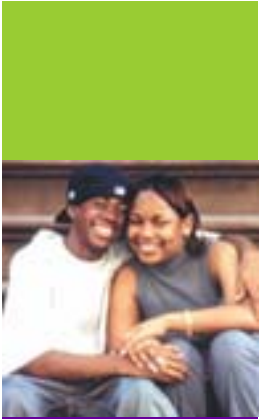
*“Before [SUMASESU’s peer education program] there was a lot of stigma against people with HIV. People would not even eat or sit with them. With education, we realize that a person can die through stigma. If you love and take care of them you can give them relief.”*

**SUMASESU Peer Educator**



# Sports Interventions: IDYDC Edusports Program

- Organized soccer teams and leagues – 700 teams, 21,000 youth
- Trained coaches/health educators on HIV/AIDS, RH, and life skills
- Coaches/health educators teach daily lessons to players
  - Two curricula for older and younger youth
- Players conduct health education outreach to youth in their communities



# Thoughts from the Field

*“The books [IDYDC’s booklets] are useful. They explain how to change my behavior, give me information about my health, about drugs and sexual partners.”*

Female IDYDC soccer player



# Community-based Interventions: AFNET

- Built youth capacity and skills in RH, HIV/AIDS, life skills, and gender equity/equality
- Increased and improved parent-to-child communication
- Increased involvement of youth religious leaders



# YouthNet/Tanzania Education Results

- 5.7 million out-of-school and 275,000 in-school youth reached with messages on HIV/AIDS, RH, life skills, and gender
- 2,200 peer educators, 435 teachers, and 2,200 religious leaders trained
- Improved dialogue among peers; between teachers/students, parents/children, and religious leaders/youth; and within communities



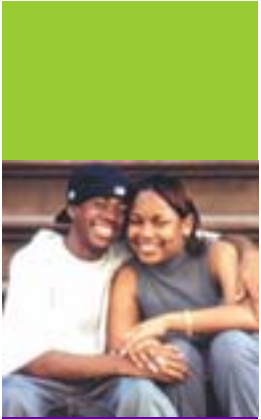
## Lessons Learned (1)

- Peer education can fill a gap where school-based activities are not strong
- Teachers need (and want) HIV/AIDS and RH knowledge and skills
- Teachers want to learn participatory techniques for the classroom
- Community sensitization and advocacy is needed to lay the ground work for youth programming



## Lessons Learned (2)

- Peer education increases and improves HIV/AIDS and RH dialogue at the community level
- Theatre and video can effectively supplement peer education and community-based activities
- Peer and school-based education can be stimulus to decrease stigma and discrimination



Asante Sana!