

Programming with and for adolescents and young people in Africa

Approaches, strategies, lessons learned (and not learned yet!)

Presented to Africa Regional Forum on Youth
Reproductive Health
June 2006
Dar es Salaam

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Purpose of presentation

- Emphasis on adolescents – and particularly the most vulnerable adolescents – addressing the negative environment
- BUT keep the **positive** developmental approach
- Not much evidence base as too little has been done with/for them anyway
- Critique of existing strategies
- Pointers to the future

Addressing the negative situation Adolescents: the vulnerable majority

Demography: More than 50% of Africans are below the age of 19. At least 25% are adolescents

- 29% are involved in income generation before the age of 15
- More than 50% of young women have their first child before the age of 19 (mainly in marriage)
- In some countries 40-50% of girls are living with HIV and AIDS by the age of 24
- Adolescent orphans the largest group of orphans - 55%
- The greatest victims of sexual abuse and exploitation
- The majority of those who migrate (30% of girls in capital cities not living with their parents) Isolation → abuse
- Tanzania Labour Force Survey (2000), 80% of domestic workers below the age of 18 and in recent Population Council research in Addis, domestic workers were 12% of adolescent girls aged 10-14

Vulnerable “to” and vulnerable “from”

Misuse of culture against girls

- FGC
- Bride price 'The commercialisation of lobola has led to the commodification of girls', property grabbing, culture of silence on sexual abuse of children (and no compensation)
- Adolescent marriage - less control, more isolation and greater risk of HIV infection
 - In Amhara more than 90% of the girls had their first sexual experience inside marriage but it has one of the highest rates of HIV
 - Kisumu: Married 32.9%, unmarried 22.3%:
 - Ndola: married 27.3%, unmarried 16.5%
 - Adolescent divorce: Ethiopia: 8% of rural girls aged 15-19 are already separated, divorced or widowed
 - Youth situation analysis in Ethiopia - major cause of migration (20% of girls in Addis Ababa aged 10-14 not living with either parent)

Addressing vulnerability (and invisibility is a part of vulnerability)

(Population Council from DHS figures)

	Girls Living Without Either Parent in Urban Areas	
Rwanda		45
Mozambique		30
Namibia		31
Uganda		43
Ethiopia	30 (Addis Ababa, in poor areas 37%)	
Malawi		38

Where are adolescents in our programmes?

Most common interventions, youth centres and peer education (usually small scale) do not reach the most vulnerable children. Girls, especially younger girls benefit very little and the most invisible hardly benefit at all. For example in Ethiopia

	All ados	All boys	All girls	Boys 10-14	Boys 15-19	Girls 10-14	Girls 15-19
Youth centre	11.9	20.3	7.2	10.5	27.2	3.9	9.0
Peer education	19.6	26.5	15.1	18.3	32.3	12.7	16.5

Domestic workers: 1% youth centre, 6% peer education (Erulkar et al 2004)

Invisibility

- Adolescents in statistics - e.g. HIV statistics - age 15-49, therefore generation dynamic is often hidden. When talking about youth, gender blind but ...
 - Girls 3-4 times more infected than boys
 - Therefore 40-48% of new infections are among girls and young women aged 15-24
 - Intergenerational sex is too simplistic an answer
 - Orphan statistics ages 15-18 often omitted but they are the most likely to be heading households in the most vulnerable circumstances
- Adolescents in policies - who is a youth?
- Adolescents in households
- Adolescents in programmes - MCH, emergencies, adult education, orphans etc.
- Which adolescents - living with both parents and attending school, unmarried.

Example Children and Young People in Lesotho

61% of the Population is young people

HIV/AIDS Prevalence Rate 15-24:

Females - 51%; Males - 23%

Teenage Pregnancy:

52% of first attendants to ANC are teenagers

Sexual Abuse:

50% of raped cases are teenagers

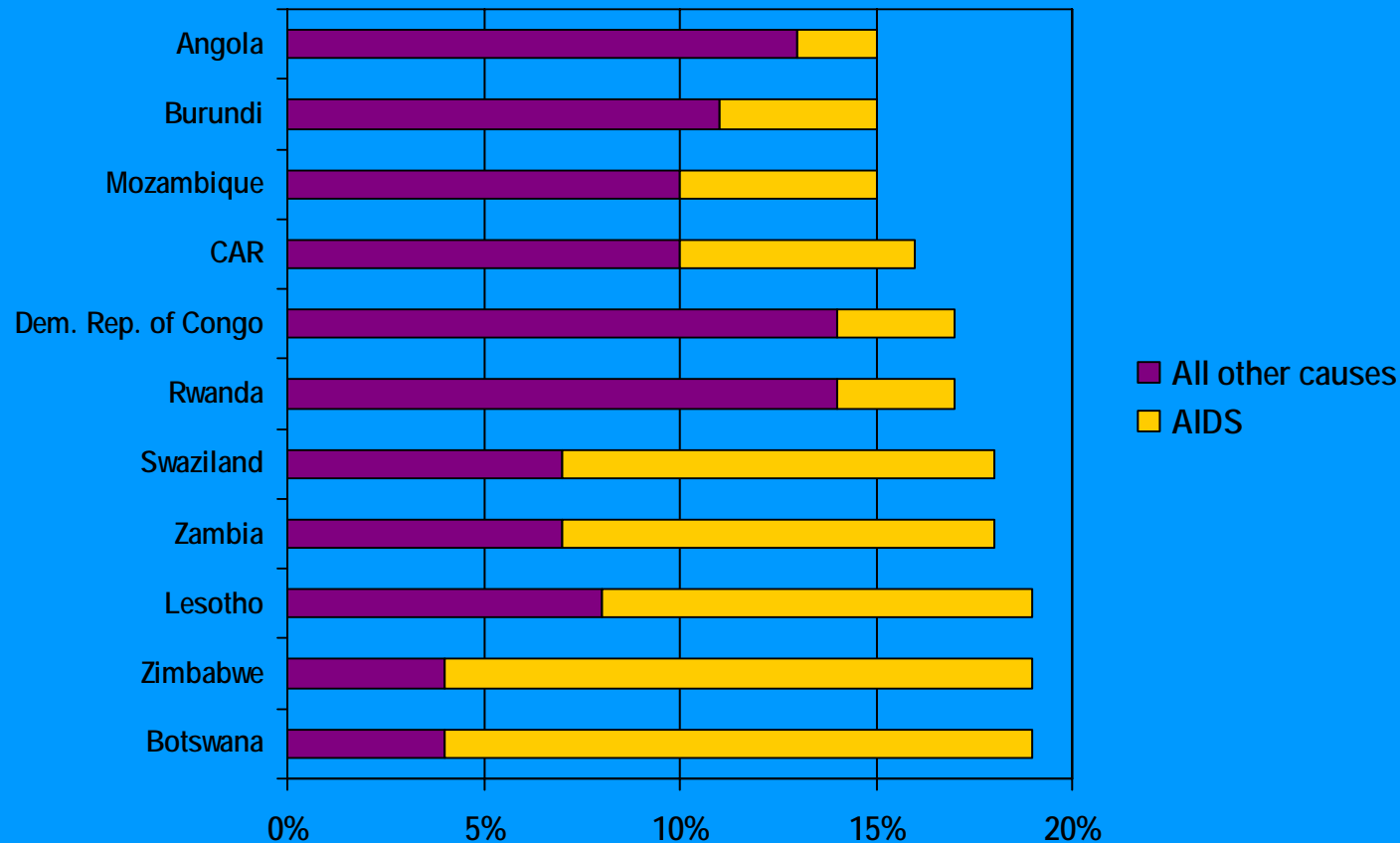
Employment rate:

48% of 20-24 yrs are unemployed

Child labour:

29% of children 5-17 yrs involved in work activity

In 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, more than 15% of all children were orphans in 2003



Source: UNICEF/UNAIDS/USAID Children on the Brink 2004

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N.B. many not orphaned
by HIV/AIDS

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Consequences of neglect – or misdirect ... ‘genderation’

- At the age of 12, except for those infected through PTCT, almost no adolescents are HIV+. 6 years later, 10-20% are infected
- Girls are 3-4 times more infected although boys of the same age are equally sexually active
- Urban rates are much higher than rural rates

For example, in young pregnant women in capital city (aged 15-24)
Botswana: 32% (2003), Lesotho 27.8% (2003), Swaziland 39% (2002), South Africa 24% (2002), Zambia 22% (2002), Malawi 18% (2003)etc

- Yet urban adolescents are:
 - The most targetted by HIV interventions
 - The most knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS

HIV is a result, not as cause

How can such a large group be affected so quickly? And why is it not addressed just as quickly?

Principles of programming

- Wearing adolescent glasses
 - Disaggregate (segmentation) to identify and reach the most vulnerable
 - Looking for adolescent focus in all areas (health, emergencies etc)
 - Development triangle (capacity, participation and protection → empowerment)
- Gradual progression to more holistic approaches
 - From risk to vulnerability (need to address underlying and basic causes)
 - Communication for social change
 - Livelihoods are key
 - From messages to education/skills

Adolescent Focus

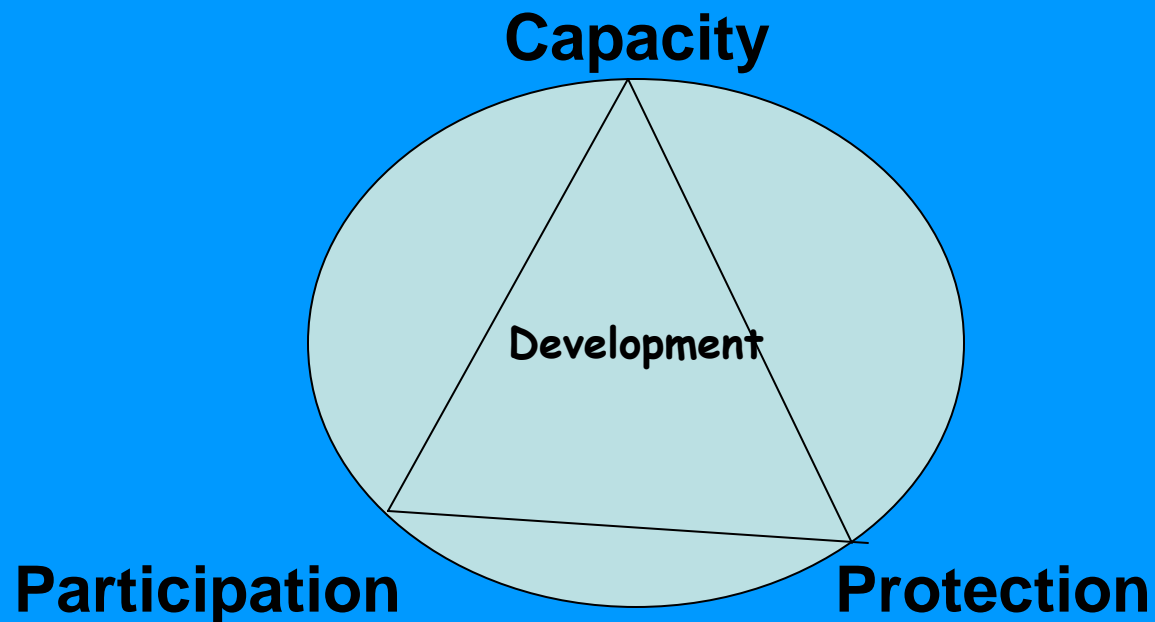
- Disaggregated statistics → age and gender specific activities
 - Girl/Adolescent only clubs/days/activities/leaders
 - Protection in Uganda
 - Child Councils in Barra Mensa
 - 12 year old watershed
 - Training of 'older youth' as mentors, counsellors, protectors of the adolescents (Tanzania, Swaziland, Ethiopia, Kenya)

Girl focus (gender)

From analysis to action – overcome gender blind activities:
protection and empowerment

- Girls' education – and protection in schools (Girls forum in Ethiopia)
- Gender disaggregation in youth activities: girls' only clubs or days/activities in clubs
- Attack the stereotype: girls' football in Kenya
- Girls only clubs, or days in clubs
- Protection activities in favour of girls – HIV protection
- Life skills for girls and boys – assertiveness v coping with emotions – rethink socialisation of girls and boys

Development Triangle



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Capacity

What is capacity: Authority, motivation, resources

- Education
 - Secondary school: nature of curriculum, alternative forms of language (importance of language)
 - What kind of information do we provide?
 - Peer education and manipulation
 - Life skills
 - Innovative materials: string game (Swaziland and Lesotho), Sara (especially Kenya), life skills manuals, interactive soap operas, In depth information and life skills – visibility in and out of school (Malawi, Namibia, Lesotho, Tanzania, South Africa)
- Capacity ↔ Participation

Livelihoods

Conventional

- Micro credit and small scale economic activities - based on women's model
- Might work with the better off but not with the most vulnerable and marginalised

Empowerment model

- TRY and SHAZ
- Technology

Ladder of participation

Youth initiated, shared decisions with adults

- Youth initiated and directed
 - Adult initiated, shared decisions with youth
 - Consulted and informed
 - »Assigned but informed

- X Tokenism
- X Decoration
- X Manipulation

- Event participation rather than institutional participation
- Lack of capacity development for participation
- Who participates - representation and inclusion
- Holding the participators to account

Participation

- From targets to partners
 - Institutionalisation of participation
 - Peer education/facilitation (what is the package?)
 - Research: community theatre, PAR
 - Implementers/decision makers: consulted/participated
 - Youth dialogues,
 - Interactive youth media (who holds the mike?) Trendsetters (Zambia), Straight Talk, Lambadina, etc.
 - Young people in governance - Youth Municipal Councils, children's committees, OVC committees, village government etc.
 - Formation of networks
 - Participation ↔ protection. Save in Uganda, shoe shiners in Adwa, Bahir Dar (Anti-AIDS Club), youth centres in bus terminals

Protection

Protection after the event (children in conflict with the law, 'victims' of marriage, rape, abduction, etc.)

Youth dialogue

Institutionalisation of protection

Protection in emergencies

Protection ↔ Capacity

Holistic programming

- True participation leads automatically to addressing the underlying and basic causes
- Communication for social change – changing the paradigm to address the factors of vulnerability and answer to the voice of adolescents
- Service provision – youth friendly health services
- Advocacy for allocation of serious resources to adolescents and young people – if you want it, budge-it

Conclusions

Young people are the most:

- Affected → infected
- Disaffected – epidemic of loss of hope
- Effective

Youth-less
is useless