

YouthNet Key Results and Lessons Learned

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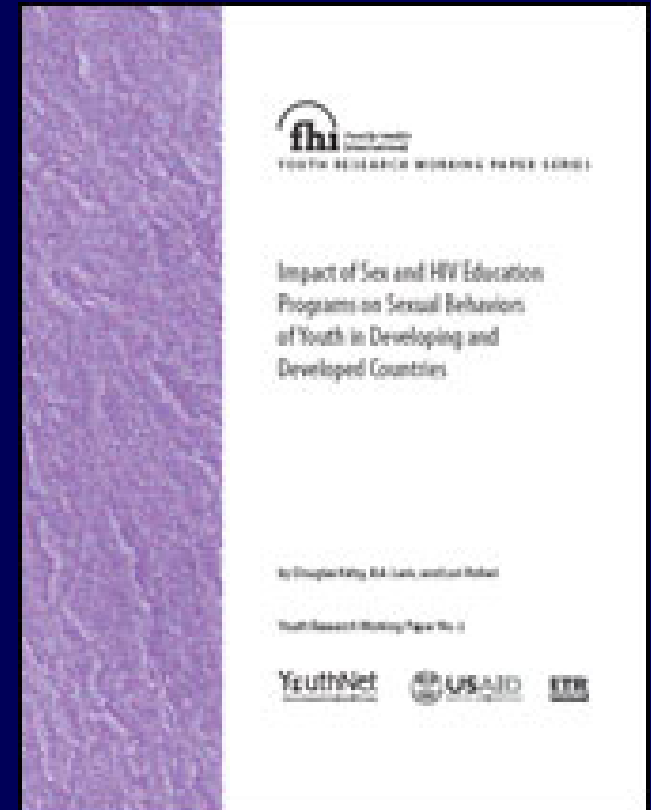
#1 – High quality curriculum-based programs change risky RH/HIV behaviors

- 2/3 of programs reviewed changed behavior in positive ways
- Characteristics of successful programs identified
- Characteristics based on implementation experiences added at consultation meeting
- Standards for curriculum development published, disseminated



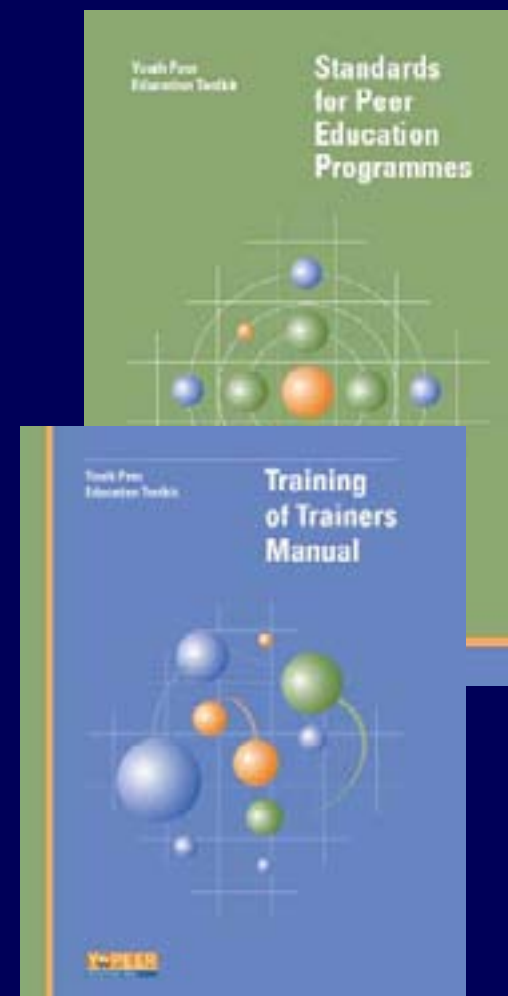
#1 - Lessons learned

- Curriculum-based sex education is effective for BCC in pregnancy and HIV prevention
- Standards are relevant to curriculum development, content, and implementation



#2 - Answers emerge on peer education effectiveness

- Research identified core components of quality peer education programs
- Research findings and program experiences integrated into *Peer Education Toolkit*
- Y-PEER strengthened and expanded
- Global consultation identified consensus and current challenges



#2 - Lessons learned



- Good peer education can change behavior
- Peer education standards are relevant cross-culturally
- Peer education programs need adult, community, and parental involvement

#3 - Youth need integrated RH/HIV services

- Research on HIV and RH services provided to young clients found more attention to **contraception** needed
- Research demonstrated the feasibility of reaching at risk youth with integrated services and education

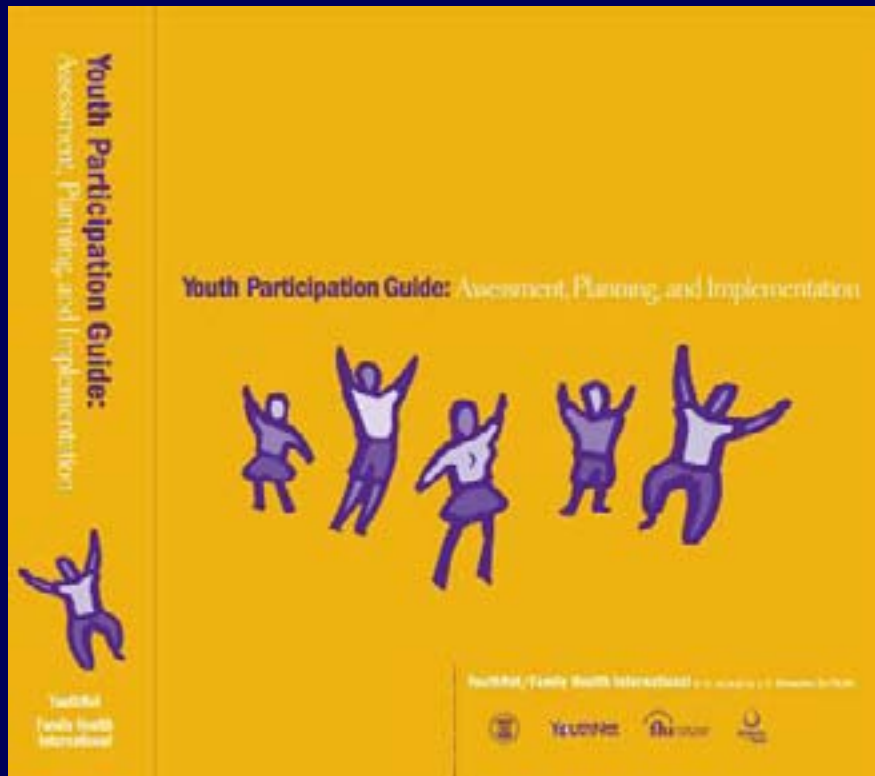


#3 - Lessons learned



- Youth using VCT, PMTCT, PAC and MCH services have high unmet contraceptive need
- Missed opportunities can be avoided with training, clinic protocols
- Provide as many services as feasible; refer for others

#4 - Youth-adult partnerships build alliances to address needs of youth



- Development of *Youth Participation Guide* met demand and filled gap
- Advocacy activities increased youth participation and leadership

#4 – Lessons learned

- Training in the *Youth Participation Guide* can help institutionalize youth participation
- “YouthForce” also key to institutionalization



#5 - Effective systems of synthesizing and utilizing information contribute to improved programs



- Program resources and research findings synthesized and disseminated
- Evidence-based program resources provided guidance and new information

#5 - Lessons learned

- Briefs provide useful information and needed resources
- Global electronic fora reach many at low cost
- Partnerships increase reach



#6 - Media shape youth norms, opinions, and discourse

- Media campaigns increased interpersonal communication and positively influenced individual beliefs
- Media campaigns at global, regional and local levels reached millions of youth and adults
- Local print publications helped youth personalize information and make positive changes



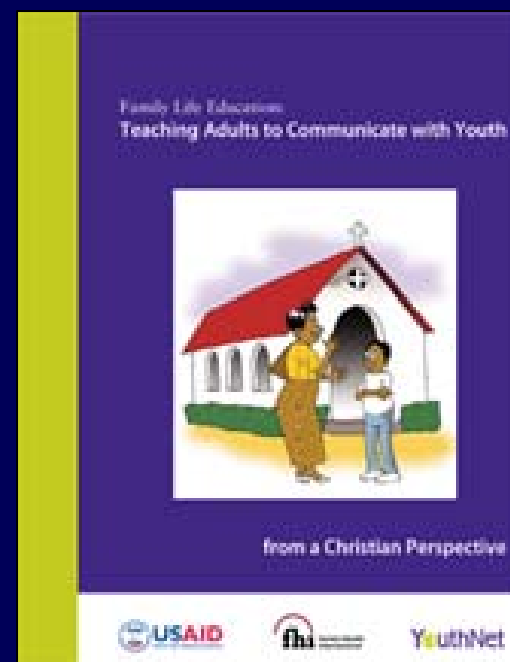
#6 - Lessons learned

- Global media increases communication, influences beliefs
- Rights-free access = wider coverage
- Impact enhanced by interpersonal communication and access to services



#7 – Community-based initiatives stimulate supportive actions

- Community assessments built capacity and improved programs
- Engaging faith leaders led to development and use of RH and HIV/AIDS materials
- Technical consultation synthesized information on impact of community involvement



#7 – Lessons learned

- Youth attend religious services – untapped potential
- Community assessments yield valuable information and generate support
- Faith leaders eager to learn/communicate about RH/HIV; providing technical materials increases receptivity



#8 – Policy development and advocacy draw attention to youth needs

- Strengthened youth reproductive health policies and strategic plans

www.youth-policy.com

Better policy...healthier youth

- Compiled policies worldwide and developed internet tool

#8 - Lessons learned:

- Policy development builds stakeholder interest, support
- Policies must continue to focus on pregnancy prevention, HIV/STIs



#9 – Addressing social and gender norms facilitates changes in risky behaviors



- Research clarifies strategies for “faithfulness” interventions
- Research addressed possible links between unintended pregnancy and sexual coercion
- Programs to change gender norms among boys/men adapted cross-culturally

#9 - Lessons learned

- Condom use problematic for “faithful” couples
- Condoms may be more widely used when promoted as a contraceptive
- Tools/programs to change gender norms can be adapted cross-culturally



#10 – Capacity building and community involvement are key to successful country programs

- Involving local partners and building their capacity laid groundwork for sustainable work with youth
- Tanzania program reached more than 4 million youth and 1 million community members
- Working in partnership with global technical assistance proved mutually beneficial



#10 - Lessons learned

- Value of multi-pronged approach
- Synergy between country programs and global technical leadership efforts

