

POSTER PRESENTATION

Title: Effects of Partnership on Safer-Sex Practices Among Youth

Presenter: Charles Katende, Ph.D.

Theme: Health-related Development for Youth

Topic: Access to Health Information and Services

Learning objective: Participants will learn to:

- Use monitoring data to analyze the effectiveness of partners in reaching desired coverage and quality performance;
- Analyze how BCC strategies can be successfully implemented by maximizing the diversity of partnerships to implement project that promote safe-sex practices.

Background: The African Youth Alliance (AYA) program is designed to increase young people's knowledge of reproductive health and sexuality issues and to build developmental skills that enable adaptation of safe sexual practices to reduce HIV and STD infections and prevent unwanted pregnancies. . This four-country – Botswana, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda – program is designed and implemented through a partnership between UNFPA, Pathfinder and PATH. UNFPA promotes policy and advocacy; Pathfinder, Youth Friendly Services models and capacity building for implementing partners, and PATH addresses demand creation and behavior change strategies. The AYA partners acknowledge the need to design and implement quality complementary interventions that have maximum reach to the youth and also recognize the need to sustain a monitoring and evaluation system that measures project achievements in reaching the desired objectives. This presentation considers the diversity of partnerships and their capacity to increase coverage and quality of performance. The analysis provides partnership definitions according to their institution characteristics: strong institutional capacity, with strong background in adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) activities and networks (e.g., mass media groups); strong youth participation, with or without ARSH background (e.g., youth-founded groups); and strong institutional capacity, with weak youth participation (e.g., Ministry of Education).

Partners: Local NGOs – Straight Talk, MaPlay, Uganda Red Cross, Uganda Family Planning Association, Ministry of Education.

Conclusions: Program monitoring data is analyzed to measure the success of partnership implementation of BCC strategies with respect to coverage and

quality of performance. The process of analysis indicates that the coverage and quality of performance varies by institutional characteristics and partner capacity.

Programs aimed at coverage should target partnering with organizations that have strong institutional capacity combined with strong experience in implementing ASRH projects or organizations with strong youth participation, with or without ASRH background. Partnerships aimed at quality and sustainability should focus on partnering with organizations that have strong institutional systems with a mandate to address the youth.