

# Corpers' Watch

...creating awareness and saving lives

8TH  
EDITION  
ISSUE 8



Dr. (Mrs) Francisca Isi Omorodion

## Mobilizing Communities for HIV/AIDS Prevention among Rural Youth

process through which community individuals, groups, or organizations plan, carry out and evaluate activities on a participatory and sustained basis to improve their health and reduce HIV risks and other needs, either on their own initiative or stimulated by others. It helps people improve their health and living conditions, but by its very nature strengthens and enhances the ability of communities to work together for any goal relevant for its members.

There are no clear cut rules on the strategies one has to adopt while on the field mobilizing communities, the purpose of a mobilization plan is to define the overall program goals and objectives and identify a process that will help the communities achieve them, not to determine specific community actions or activities. As one creates this plan, you should always keep the two overriding goals of community mobilization uppermost in your mind:

1. To improve the health of the community, particularly those people most affected by the issue
2. To improve the community's capacity to address HIV/AIDS issues and other needs

At a minimum a typical community mobilization plan should contain the following:

1. Background information
2. Program goal: the overall goal of the mobilization effort
3. Program objectives: the overall objectives of the effort

The tasks involved in successful community mobilizations include;

1. Developing an ongoing dialogue between community members
2. Creating and strengthening community groups aimed at improving the messaging of HIV/AIDS prevention
3. Promoting community member's participation in ways that recognize diversity and equity, particularly of those who can help spread the messages on HIV to create a healthy environment
4. Working at all times with community members on all activities carried out in the communities

In doing this we built 10 AIDS competent communities; adapting the Cornish & Campbell 2006 six elements of mobilizing communities towards

**C**ommunity mobilization has been used to describe a range of community-based activities. It is a capacity building

com munities achieve them, not to determine specific community actions or activities. As one creates this plan, you should always keep the two overriding goals of community mobilization uppermost in your mind:

### ▼ INSIDE THIS EDITION ▼

**STORIES FROM  
THE FIELD**

**SHORT PLAY ...**

**CAPTAINS' CORNER**

**BRAIN TEASERS**



AIDS competence;

1. Knowledge
2. Critical thinking
3. Identity and solidarity
4. Empowerment, motivation, and confidence
5. Supportive social network
6. And access to services and resources

### **1. Knowledge and Awareness**

**Creation:** Youth Corps Members carried out activities to build the knowledge of community members and create awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention. This they did by organizing rallies; house to house messaging; street messaging; seminars; lectures; town hall meetings; talk shows and so forth. This helped in arming community members with the right and correct information on HIV/AIDS.

**2. Critical Thinking:** Youth Corps Members got community youth to think for themselves and relate what they have learnt from the knowledge they have given them on

HIV/AIDS by organizing debates, quiz, and healthy knowledge competitions. This they did to challenge harmful traditional practices and it helped to empower them with the power of creativity.

**3. Identity and Solidarity:** They also were able to build youth groups in both schools and communities, which they gave different names as Abstinence Club, Zip-up, Be Faithful Club, etc.

**4. Empowerment, Motivation, and Confidence:** Community members were empowered to take up responsibility for themselves; they were trained and armed with various vocational skills; such as making of pastries, soap making, all these was to give them a means of livelihood and delay sexual initiation among the youth.

**5. Supportive Social Network:** To bring about social changes, corpsers were able to build networks among people in the community, this

helped the people to be more careful in their day to day activities, the messaging was spread beyond communities where corpsers worked; the sale of condoms and contraceptives increased in these communities, thereby reducing the rate of unwanted pregnancies; hair saloons now sterilise their equipments {clippers, needles, scissors, razor blades}; improved understanding on how to delay sexual initiation among the female folks and preventive ways of living have been promoted and accepted by community populations.

### **6. Access to Services and Resources**

**Resources:** Our corpsers have been able to link up with other organizations such as GHAIN, Local Health Centres, Grassroots NGOs, and the local government councils. This has aided in bringing free HCT services to these communities and also used resource personnel to come facilitate seminars and workshops in the communities.



## **Short play a real life experience, Discrimination and Love**

**Community Member:** If I approach any lady with HIV, she will not agree to my offer

**Corper:** Why do you say so?

**Community Member:** She will think I am joking with her

**Corper:** Do you mean that all the girls that you have been known to are all HIV positive?

**Community Member:** It doesn't matter to me, if they are positive or not, what matters is the love we can share with each other.

**Another Speaker:** Our family does not discriminate against people living with HIV.

**Corper:** This is good, so you can marry a woman who is positive?

**Community Member:** Yes, of course

**Youth Leader:** Corpsers don't listen to what they are saying. They have not seen a woman they love.

**Community Leader:** I have seen the woman I love, she is positive and she is reluctant to marry me.

**Another Speaker:** Love is real and it exists. Can you see now? Let me believe that you have not seen a woman you really love, by the time you set your eyes on her; you will know that love exists.

**Youth Leader:** Love is dead and dead for ever.

**Corper:** Does it mean you didn't marry your wife out of love?

**All:** laugh, laugh, laugh

**Community Member:** Corper I will take you there so that you can talk to her to marry me.

**Corper:** I will go with you, when you are ready come to me and I will follow.



# Stories from the field

Something happened recently in the community. A 33 year old man had sexual intercourse (raped) with a girl of nine years. The man confessed after four hours under interrogation by the youth of the community that he used a packet of biscuit as bait to lure the little innocent girl to bed. The man was punished by the community after he was found guilty.

He was flogged by the youth severely, they naked and took him round the quarters of the community including the market square; and then they fined him.

## Brain Teasers

1. What is the best method used to prevent pregnancy, STIs and HIV?

- a. Abstinence
- b. Condom use
- c. Being faithful to one sexual partner
- d. None of the above

2. Individuals between the ages of 10 and 19 years are called

- a. Children
- b. Adults
- c. Youths
- d. Adolescents

3. Which of the following is an effect of teenage pregnancy in girls?

- a. Drop out of school
- b. Depression and sadness
- c. Difficulty in delivery (giving birth)
- d. All of the above.

4. HIV is only found in

- a. Animals
- b. Insects
- c. Water
- d. Human beings

5. Testing for HIV will help to prevent and control the spread of the AIDS virus.

- a. True
- b. False
- c. I don't know

6. Which of the following is a physical change that occurs in boys during adolescents but does not occur in girls?

- a. Armpit hair
- b. Pubic hair
- c. Grow taller
- d. Wet dreams

7. Anti retroviral Drugs are drugs given to people who are infected with

- a. Pneumonia
- b. Gonorrhoea
- c. Tuberculosis
- d. HIV/AIDS







### Right to Freedom of Thought

All persons, male and female are free to think and make decisions on reproductive health issues without being influenced by religious or cultural beliefs.

### Right to Freedom from Torture and Ill Treatment

Men, women, and children should not be subjected to torture, cruel, degrading, or ill treatment.

### Right to Liberty and Security of the Person

Every person, male and female has a right to control their sexual and

reproductive health. No person should be subjected to forced pregnancy, sterilisation or abortion.

### Right to Freedom of Assembly and Political Participation

All persons, male and female have a right to belong to any group that can seek and influence government to place priority on sexual reproductive health and rights.

### Common Violations of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

People often ask me these questions about the violations of SRH, I came up with these and they include;

Forced Marriage; Child and women trafficking; Sexual exploitation e.g. female house helps into mistresses; Rape; Defilement; Domestic violence e.g. wife beating; forced abortion; and sexual abuse.

### What Community members must do.

As a community member, this is what we want you to do with regards to HIV/AIDS and SRH

1. Seek information and understand HIV/AIDS and SRH rights
2. Provide information and educate your people on HIV/AIDS and SRH rights
3. Refer Cases of SRH violation to relevant authorities e.g. police
4. Support and Monitor provisions of SRH services.

The captain uses this medium to say thank you for all the attention, phone calls, text messages, and the praises you showered on CPED with regards to the HP4RY Project. On behalf of all Team Members, Staff, Research Assistants, Youth Corps Members, I say a big THANK YOU.

## HP4RY Sudoku Games Answers for last Edition

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 6 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 |