

CORPERS' WATCH

...Creating Awareness and Saving Lives

5th Edition, Issue 5

The Relevance of Establishing peer Groups on HIV/AIDS Community Awareness Prevention Campaign

Many recent community interventions particularly those that target building AIDS competent communities, introduce protective factors to prevent antisocial behaviour and promote positive sexual living. These protective factors are:

1. Peer groups established in schools and in communities which are empowered to emphasize positive social norms by participatory approach of learning;
2. Peer groups creating an environment for warm, supportive relationships and ability to have parent-child communication, and bonding of youth with adults;
3. Providing opportunities for both youth and adults to be involved in positive activities such as skill acquisition centres, building youth friendly centre and getting involvement in community messaging;

5. Cognitive social and emotional competence.

The HP4RY project has been able to build a broad base programme, where Youth Corps Members have selected youth from different quarters in the various communities; empowered them and has given them the opportunity to carry out HIV prevention activities.

It is imperative to note also that youth and adults from neighbouring communities who have shown interest in the project's goals and objectives and also wanting a healthy living among the youth and adult population in their community have also established peer led groups, who are carrying out activities to keep them safe from HIV/AIDS.

The HP4RY project has given youth the opportunity to be part of something, to live a safe and healthy life and ensure that the attentions of the youth are geared towards making a future for themselves.

In this edition, we will look at what community elders, youth and members, say about the HP4RY corpers' posted to their communities to work. Also in the edition is a journal, an account of how corpers/community mobilization officers keep their daily notes, a brief insight into unwanted pregnancies.



4. Recognition and support for participating in positive activities by giving out certificates, and prizes for best performers;

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Community Speak Out

Elders, Youth and Community Members speak out on community activities;

These children that you have brought to our communities are very good, they have respect, whenever they see an adult they greet them, they make it impossible for you not to listen to them. They have influenced our children, like my children they now greet, when I send them on errands they go without complaining, I hope the corpers don't leave the community.

Elder

The program you brought to the community is very wonderful; this is the first time that this type of HIV/AIDS awareness is done in our community. You started by first coming to the elders, and then going to every association, look I am very happy, I didn't know that there was a disease like this, but thanks to you people I am very happy.

Elder



A youth Corps Member having a talk with Okada Riders Association

You people have really tried oh, before nobody comes here to buy contraceptive pills and condoms but now, it is selling very well, I can tell you for sure that the rate of abortion has reduced but the purchase of contraceptives have increased. Thank you very much.

Youth

I didn't know what phone sex was, until corper explained it to me, my daughter use to talk on the phone and I will be hearing sounds but

when I call her and ask her what she is doing on the phone, she will ignore me, so I ask corper to explain to me and she told me everything and told me not to use force but talk to my daughter softly, when I went home I called my daughter spoke to her and till now she doesn't do it again. Corper thank you very much oh.

Elderly Woman



A youth Corps Member during a Rally at the Market Place

I use to be a player, carry different girls, and having sex with them without using condom, but when corpers started this HIV/AIDS talk in the community, and describing how people have died from it, is not that I have not heard of HIV before but I just needed to go for a test, I was so afraid until I got the courage, and I was negative. Since then I have slowed down and if I must have sex with my girlfriend it must be with a condom.

Youth

This organization did well, we have never seen anything like this before, people use to come and talk for two to three days, sometimes we don't even hear what they are saying, we only know they say HIV but that is all, this organization and their corpers have been able to tell us, carry our children to interpret it for us, visit us in our working place, and even in our houses. You people try well well. Please keep up the good work. God bless you all.

Elderly Woman

Daily Diary of a Community Mobilization Officer

Sunday

Being a Sunday after church service, we went to the bike park, and met with the chairman and executives of the bike riders' association. They called a gathering of bike riders numbering about 34. Where we addressed them on risky behaviours often indulged in among the youth in the community such as sharing of sharp objects such as razor blade, scissors, syringes, the use of unsterilized clippers and specifically on substance abuse which is freely used by youth.

Spoke also with them about the importance of condom and consistent use of condom when having sex. The food seller at the bike park also shared her view. She said she has a partner, and that she would love to protect herself by using a condom, but she said it is difficult getting your partner to agree. We told her of the dangers associated with it and encouraged her to keep trying to make her partner use the condom.

In the evening, we went to the Christian youth gathering of one of the churches, and we spoke extensively on abstinence, and avoidance of substance and body abuse.

Monday

Talked with an elderly person in the community who said he doesn't believe in condom use because it reduces excitement and there are lots of moment wasted while trying to put it (condom) on. I told him that HIV/AIDS is too deadly a virus to be taking trivially, and that he could prepare before hand to reduce this resistance or ask the woman to wear the condom.

Walked through the community talking to people, met a youth who said he has been abstaining but he is finding it difficult now because of a girl he is dating right now. We discussed STI's and other related health issues. He later confided in me that he will like to keep himself busy, I thereby used the opportunity to invite him to join the support group we have in the community and told him of our meeting days which is Saturday at the newly constructed Youth Friendly Centre, and he promised to be there.

Tuesday

We went to the secondary school in the community, and we facilitated a group discussion on puberty and adolescence in the junior classes, during break time and we talked about the dangers adolescents are exposed to and how they can be infected with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infection. We took time also to meet with the senior classes of the school. We introduced ourselves and talked to them about HIV and Sexuality. We also conducted a test to determine their level of knowledge and how much they know about HIV/AIDS. It was also proposed that a health club should be formed. We later supervised the cleaning and clearing of the youth friendly center in the evening, after which we rounded up for the day.

Wednesday

Talked with a group of youth, some said they cannot abstain from sex, so we talked about correct and consistent use of condom. Captain and a visitor came to the Community. We had a tour round the community starting from our residential building to the youth friendly center to the bike park, market square and back. Lots of things were discussed such as the challenges we are facing and that which we might encounter in the nearest future.

Later in the evening, we talked with some members of the community.

Thursday

Today, was quite interesting, we met a woman in the community who looks so thin and sickly. She said she thinks that she has the virus. We concluded that she cannot be too sure until she is tested and confirmed positive. She narrated her story with all of her emotions, and told us how her husband's family has neglected and stigmatized her and her son. She said her husband is dead, and that for a very long while after that, her and her son has been falling sick with cough.

We went with our core group members to create awareness in the community.

Friday

We talked again with the woman who thought she has HIV. She had gone for the test in Uzebba; the test result showed she was negative. The doctor advised that she should go for another test, that what she probably has is tuberculosis. We encouraged her to go again for the test, and promised her that whatever moral assistance she will need she should remember that we are in the community to help. We went to some bars, hangouts in

the community. We spoke extensively on condom and demonstrated with a male and female condom. The youth laughed and cheered, we also spoke to them about being faithful to their partners, and the need to go for an HIV test. They responded well and some of them promised that they will be going for test.

Saturday

Held a meeting with core group members, had new members in the group today. Our numbers are growing, had a total of 15 youths in attendance. We talked about the various quarters we will be covering in the coming week. We inquired from the youth activities they will like to see us accomplish in the community; they said they wanted a seminar, a football competition, and they wanted to see the youth friendly centre furnished.

After our meeting, we took a walk round the community talking to anyone as we walked by, on issues of HIV/AIDS and Health issues.

Food for Thought

Our legacies are impacts which we can create in the minds of people we come in contact with to make them better than the way we first met them.

The greatness of a man is not in the number of possessions that he has, but in the number of challenges he has been able to upturn.

Captain's Corner



Unwanted Pregnancy; what do we need to tell our girls about it?

A teenage girl once said to me, aunty I didn't know that I was pregnant until my grandmother took me to a local birth attendant without telling me what we were going there for. When I arrived at Mama Gloria's house she told me to come; she laid me down on her bed and put her finger into my vagina, and nodded to my grandmother. My grandmother took me home and sat me down on the bench, she wept and she knelt down for me, saying I have brought shame to the family and I have disgraced her. I wept and wept, the only thing she wanted to know was; who was responsible for the pregnancy, I told her it was Papa James, a 65 years old man, who came occasionally to the house to give us food stuffs that his children has brought from the city, she screamed even more and collapsed. My grandmother lost her life, my family abandoned me and the man who I had the baby for denied me.

This was a cry from a girl, who the parents left in the hands of the grandmother. There is need for parent-child communication; our communities are plagued with a lot of unwanted pregnancies, babies without fathers, fathers rejecting their babies, and our adolescent girls' future destroyed.

Parents what do we need to do to correct this menace? Do we fold our hands and watch our girl child fall victims of enslavement or we work together to ensure that our girls destiny and future is secured. Call me to know how we can fight together.....08052077759; 08162397864.

Cross Word Puzzle

A	D	E	C	N	A	H	N	E	I	L	R	U	X	E
E	C	R	V	H	N	I	A	T	S	U	S	A	R	V
E	B	A	D	E	V	E	L	O	P	K	I	A	T	W
G	E	F	G	M	I	R	E	R	J	M	D	R	T	Z
A	F	R	N	P	E	H	O	B	P	I	O	S	Y	M
R	C	A	U	D	O	M	C	R	C	P	I	J	K	O
U	E	W	U	S	O	H	O	A	P	O	M	Q	O	D
O	F	C	D	T	N	V	T	U	L	N	M	P	R	E
C	E	G	E	C	E	E	S	S	X	E	A	B	Z	R
N	W	Y	B	H	S	I	L	P	M	O	C	C	A	A
E	B	C	X	E	G	V	I	K	M	T	N	Q	P	T
A	D	Y	D	W	F	J	H	U	U	L	X	O	Z	E

ERADICATE, ACHIEVE, DEVELOP, INSURE, COMBAT, IMPROVE, PROMOTE, REDUCE, WARFARE, ACCOMPLISH, SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, SUSTAIN, ENHANCE, MODERATE