No decision about us, without us

Full Adolescent Engagement in the HIV Response - UNICEF supported Demonstration Programme in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province

Background of Nanjing:
- coastal city in eastern China, has seen a significant increase in new HIV infections among adolescents young people, especially among students (700 new infections in the province among students). Over 90% of new infections occur among YMSM.
- Under the China Comprehensive AIDS Response Programme “one location, one strategy” scheme, space for innovation;
- Large government and CSO supported peer educator network, focusing primarily on information/education;
- Under the All In platform, UNICEF supports exploring a “scalable + sustainable” model of full adolescent engagement to promote greater access to quality HIV-SRH services.

Partners:
China Association for STD/AIDS Prevention and Control
Jiangsu Provincial CDC
Nanjing CDC
Jiangsu You & Me Youth Health Service Centre (local CBO)
adolescent and youth empowerment – key strategies

• **Enabling youth led innovation**
  - The “secret client”;
  - Creative programme design and debate
  - Youth driven research to action

• **Intercollegiate network – Nanjing You & Me Youth Club**
  - 40+ schools in Nanjing
  - Radiating to other schools in the province and beyond.

• **Build a supportive environment amongst community and school – government, schools, CSO, foundations**
  - **Government:** CDC, Youth League, Women’s Federation, Red Cross, Family Planning Association, Preventive Medicine Association etc.
  - **School:** Youth league, student affairs department, school clinic, campus security, student groups
  - **CSOs:** social workers, youth organizations
  - **Foundations:** Amity Foundation, etc.
The “secret client” 2016 and 2017

Objectives:
• Destigmatizing HIV testing;
• Promote greater service uptake among youth;
• Addressing barriers for youth in using existing HIV services

How:
• For 2 years in November, seek HIV testing via normal procedure and assess service
• Where: school clinic, community health clinic, hospitals, VCT at CDC
• Youth developed mobile app recording friendliness of testing experience (responses: 2016 - 252; 2017- 205);
• Feedback by youth at annual review meeting of CDC

Challenges and constraints identified in 2016:
• School clinics: most have neither testing nor referral
• VCT centers: most have difficult hours (most close on weekends, close early in the day) and require filling long questionnaire to get free test, or test at all
• Hospitals: some require over 18 for testing, non-confidential, crowded, long wait;
• Young people: low capacity for seeking healthcare, discomfort and fear of judgement, long school hours
What has been achieved in one year?

• Adolescent prevention via better use of services testing;
• Improved awareness, self efficacy and skills in seeking and demanding services;
• Adolescents and youth able to assess friendliness of services;
• HIV testing destigmatized;
• Effective advocacy on youth friendly services and narrowing the gap between adolescents and services via technology (WeChat based survey tool) and mobilization of adolescents.
What changed in Nanjing in a year?

**Facilities able to provide testing to adolescents**

- 2017: 180 Yes, 148 No
- 2016: 25 Yes, 104 No

**Facilities able to provide referral to adolescents**

- 2017: 15 Yes, 97 No
- 2016: 10 Yes, 98 No

**ID required to get tested?**

- 2017: 24 Yes, 50 No
- 2016: 156 Yes, 98 No

**Time taken to get results**

- 2017: 2 days, 3 days, 5 days
- 2016: 2 days, 3 days, 5 days, Right away
Secret clients at work
If you want good service, you need to ask for it

“The store outside my school had no corn juice. At one time I really wanted corn juice, so every now and then I went and asked if they had corn juice. Eventually I saw a sign saying – New in Store – Corn Juice. “

– from a youth volunteer
Creative youth activities

• “Bye-bye dirty hands”;
• “Make testing a habit”;
• “peer quality rapid testing”
• “Creative programme design fair on World AIDS Day”;
• “summer camps”
• “Night chats”
• “campus safety mapping contest”
Monthly salons

Inviting experts and work together to address:
• Campus safety;
• Intimate relationships;
• Sexual harassment;
• Recreational drugs;
• Hero’s Journey – personal growth
• ...
inter-collegiate peer leader network and capacity building