## 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

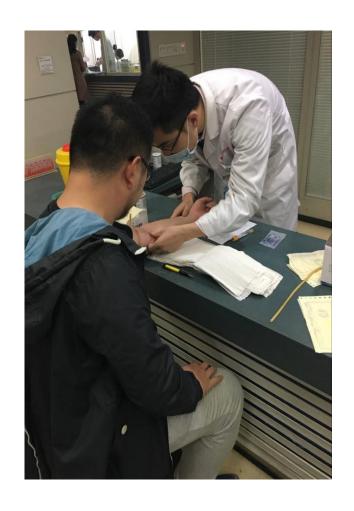
### Challenges and constraints identified in 2016:

- 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?

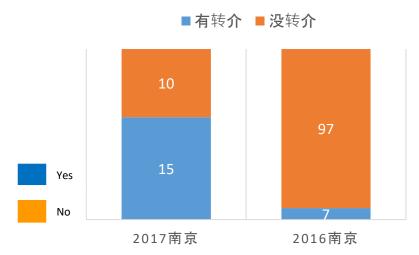
- Adolescent prevention via better use of services testing;
- Improved awareness, self efficacy and skills in seeking and demanding services;
- Adolescents and youth able to assess friendliness of services;
- HIV testing destigmatized;
- Effective advocacy on youth friendly services and narrowing the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



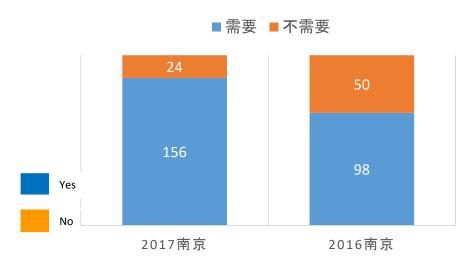
## What changed in Nanjing in a year?



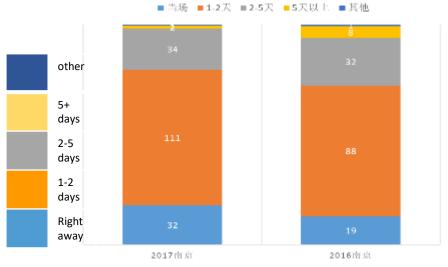
Facilities able to provide testing to adolescents



Facilities able to provide referral to adolescents



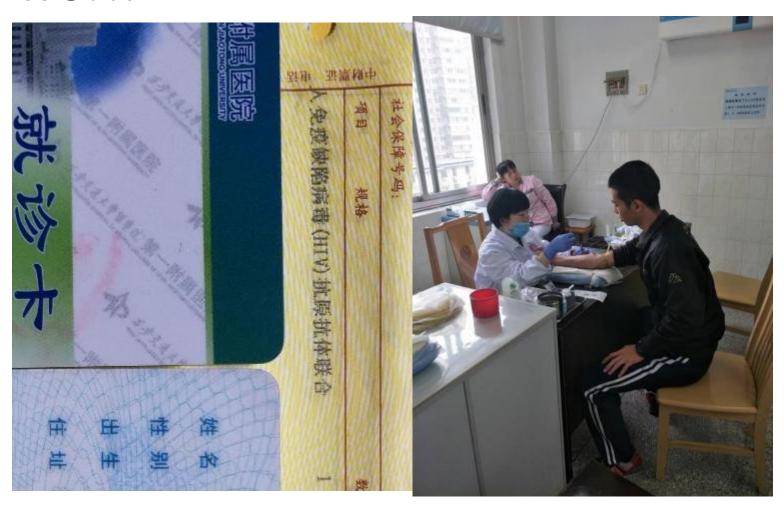
ID required to get tested?



Time taken to get results

# 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

## MAKING HEALTH SERVICES ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY



# WHAT ADOLESCENTS CAN DU

Don't hesitate to talk about sensitive topics.



- Find out how to access your local health services
- Ask your health worker for more information to help make decisions about your health
- · Be aware of your rights to privacy and confidentiality
- Speak to a trusted adult if you experience discrimination or disrespect
- · Provide feedback to your health centre on how it can improve services for you and your friends

WHO/UNAIDS set global standards to improve the quality of health services for all adolescents.

### **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:

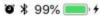
- Campus safety;
- Intimate relationships;
- Sexual harassment;
- Recreational drugs;
- Hero's Journey personal growth
- ...



### inter-collegiate peer leader network and capacity building

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