



African Population and Health Research Center

Community perceptions on the benefits and shortcomings of an HIV prevention program targeting adolescent girls and young women in urban informal settlements

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BACKGROUND

RESULTS

Perceived Benefits

Individual Behavior Change

Enhanced community sensitization on HIV and gender based violence; and mentorship on protective skills were perceived to have reduced:

- a) Risky sexual behavior
- b) Age-disparate sexual relations

Improved Social Protection

Education subsidies and vocational training offered as part of the intervention were perceived to have:

- a) Enabled girls to stay in school
- b) Reduced transactional sex among AGYW

“The girls have learnt to negotiate with their husbands and/or boyfriends about safe sex and tell them that they need to use condoms during sex and the younger ones can negotiate about child abuse.” *FGD- *Mentors*

“...for the girls they (community) can see that they are going back to school, they are getting cash transfers they are getting vocational training...” *KII- Implementing Partner*

***Mentors:** A trusted person in the community, mostly peers or slightly older for the older girls and slightly older for the younger girls, who relates to and journeys with the girls through their experiences and supports them by building their capacities to make better decisions

Perceived Shortcomings

Primary target is AGYW: Perception that this excludes adolescent boys and young men, who were also seen to be vulnerable

Community engagement: Community dissatisfied with magnitude of engagement before implementation

“...from the community perspective there is need to include the boys as they are needy and vulnerable.” *KII- Implementing Partner*

“There is very little involvement of the stakeholders including the beneficiaries themselves, part of it is identifying the beneficiaries so that others may be aware of whom they are.” *KII- Community*

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Emerging findings suggest that the community had a positive view of the program and high expectations of its benefits for the health and well-being of AGYW. However, programs may need to consider the impact of perceived exclusivity, and how both females and males can be involved in interventions.

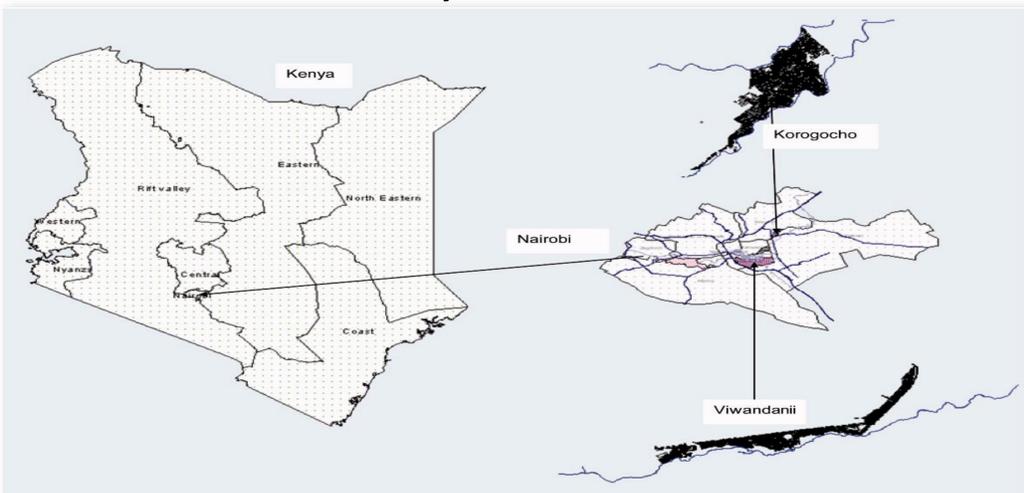
Our findings underscore the importance of community engagement during the design, delivery and evaluation of interventions.

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METHODS

Study Sites in Nairobi



DREAMS INTERVENTIONS

Entry Point	Primary Interventions	Range of services
AGYW 10-14	HIV testing services, Social assets building, Financial capability, Evidence based interventions	Minimum package of 4
AGW 15-17	Same as above + Entrepreneurial training, Contraceptive method mix education and promotion, Condom education, promotion and demonstration	Minimum package of 7
AGYW 18-19	Same as above + PrEP education	Minimum package of 8
AGYW 20-24	Same as above + PrEP education, information and communication	Minimum package of 8

DATA COLLECTION APPROACHES

Key Informant Interviews

- Implementers
- Community Leaders
- Youth Leaders
- Service Providers

Focus Group Discussions

- Parents of AGYW
- *Mentors of AGYW

FIELD WORK AND ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

- Qualitative interviews were conducted from March - June 2017.
- We adopted a qualitative inductive approach involving thematic assessment of the narratives to analyze the data