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**PROMOTING BEHAVIORAL MAINTENANCE STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH IN MAIDAN
COMMUNITY**

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BACKGROUND

The spread of HIV/AIDS virus among youths in hard to reach communities has become a crisis due to the inability of those concerned to put in place effective strategies to control the spread of the epidemic.

The devastating population of unemployed youths and the rate of poverty continues to increase. Poverty is a conducive environment for diseases to flourish in this community. Malnutrition, unemployment, illiteracy, inadequate infrastructures, and access to basic primary health creates a socio-economic environment which facilitates the spread of HIV and other STIs. Some out-of-school girls engage in sex work at home or in brothels.

DESCRIPTION

Promoting sexual reproductive health and HIV/AIDS reduction “aka make we talk” project was implemented in Maidan community targeted female-sex-worker, out-of-school youths, and key influencers. The project is an integrated programme focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention, behavioral change through social marketing, and capacity building support. The project facilitated the formation of community-based organization in the project site to sustain the project initiatives.

RESULTS

This project has been successful and has provided the following results in the Maidan Community of Lagos, Nigeria:

- Increased knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS and reproductive health;
- New trade and skills which are viable and self sustaining;
- The adoption of a “no-condom, no-sex method” among Female-Sex-Workers in their brothels.