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**RECTAL MICROBICIDES IS NOT KNOWN IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN
NIGERIA....RIGHT GROUPS PROFFER SOLUTION!**

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BACKGROUND

Despite the fact that vaginal microbicides awareness and campaign is very high in the urban cities of Nigeria, it is very sad to note that rectal microbicides information is relatively very low in cities and NOT known in rural communities in the South East of Nigeria where the prevalence of STI and HIV/AIDS continues to grow at an alarming rate. Against this background, the researchers packaged a holistic grassroots information, education, and communication materials on rectal microbicides to these communities including but not limited to gay men, MSM, drop out of school youths, sex workers and other populations that engage in anal Intercourse including heterosexual men and women, lesbians and bisexuals.

METHODS

The researchers who are committed members of Nigeria HIV Vaccine and Microbicides Advocacy Services and International Rectal Microbicides Advocates created periodic awareness and sensitization programmes on rectal microbicides through their Right-based NGOs--Global Alert For Defence of Youth and the Less Privileged and Centre for the Right to Health while implementing a recently concluded one year project on HIV/AIDS in the remotest of the remote communities in Abia State, South East of Nigeria. (World Bank Assisted)

RESULTS

The interventions raised the awareness and good understanding of rectal microbicides in the rural communities of Ugwunagbo, Lokpa, etc and environs. Volunteers are now ready to participate in the various stages of the trials.

CONCLUSION

Government, Development partners, International Rectal Microbicides Advocates, etc. should sponsor periodic educational programs in many rural communities in the six geo-political zones in Nigeria.