ISSUES

- 9% of the 3,429 (or 304) youth aged 13-21 tested at Tuungane are HIV infected.
- There is a disproportionate prevalence among girls (14.7%) compared with boys (2.0%).
- Youth prefer to receive treatment, care & other services under one roof & in a fun environment.
- A youth center whose primary goal is prevention can also serve as a treatment and care center.

DESCRIPTION

**Tuungane**

- Tuungane means “Let’s come together” in Kiswahili, and brings together youth, parents, teachers & religious leaders to fight HIV/AIDS among young people aged 10-29 living in urban slums of Kisumu.
- Tuungane has one central youth center & 5 satellite centers in the slums.
- The Center is open 8:30-7pm, 7 days a week set in a convenient location, has short queues, friendly staff, and personalized attention.

**FACES**

- Family AIDS Care & Education Services (FACES) is a PEPFAR-funded program, a collaboration between the University of California San Francisco and the Kenya Medical Research Institute providing comprehensive care to HIV infected patients and their families.

Tuungane – FACES Partnership

- Only 677 (5.3%) of 12,792 patients enrolled at the Patient Support Centers within Kisumu City are aged 13-21.
- Yet there are 2,185 eligible clients in this age bracket tested at the various VCT centers in the city.
- FACES & Tuungane entered into partnership in Nov. 2005 to provide treatment & care for the youth in this age bracket.

SELECTED SCENES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Tuungane clinician attends to a patient

Cumulative Enrollment in HIV Care Services

- You want to know what I like about Tuungane? Ni poa yaani! Ni cool sana! Yaani mambo yote. I get information..I get treatment..I play pool..I check my e-mail..yaani everything!” 23 year-old male client.

- “Being counseled by someone my age and who is positive and on ARVs is the best thing about Tuungane” 10-year old female client.

LESSONS LEARNT

- A youth-friendly and youth-only setting reduces barriers to care among youth.
- In ~6 months and with 2 clinical staff, Tuungane has enrolled 143 youth in care.
- Uptake of VCT among the youth? increased >3-fold since introduction of care at Tuungane.
- A strategic partnership between prevention & care programs optimizes service utilization while reducing redundancy.

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