HIV testing, Linkage to Treatment and Retention for Adolescents and Young Adults: Regional Perspective

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Super Fast Track Targets

- Reduce new infection among AGYW by 95%
- Ensure 95% of all adolescent living with HIV are on ART

BY 2020!!
Progress!

- Understanding of Adolescence
- Global Health and HIV plans
- Country-level Political Commitment and Leaders
- Regional Initiatives and Catalytic Funding
- Improved Data and Use
- More evidence of what works!
- Strong Youth-led Advocacy
New Infections

New HIV Infections amongst Adolescent Boys and Girls (10-19 years old): 2010-2018, ESA

Data Source: UNAIDS Estimates, July 2019
HIV Testing Gap

Percentage of men and women who ever tested for HIV and received results by age: 2011 - 2016, SSA

Young people (15 - 24 years) still have low or incorrect knowledge about HIV prevention.

Only in 3 ESA countries do 50% of young people have adequate HIV prevention knowledge.

In Kenya, fewer than 1 in 4 samples students (15-17 years) had learnt about contraception.

Only 15% knew where to get access to contraception.

Data Source: UNAIDS Estimates, July 2019
APHRC & Guttmacher Institute, 2017
Linkage to Health Services

- Limited understanding linkage for adolescents including HIV Self Testing
- Higher rates of loss to follow up for 15-19 and 20-24 year old’s
- Complex barriers to accessing services
Adolescent Living with HIV

Estimated number of Adolescents living with HIV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and Pacific</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>62,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
<td>1,090,000</td>
<td>1,120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and Caribbean</td>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>3,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>320,000</td>
<td>340,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>1,580,000</td>
<td>1,650,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: UNAIDS Estimates, July 2019
Number of AIDS-related Deaths among 0-24 years in Five-Year Age Bands: ESA (2010 – 2018)

Data Source: UNAIDS Estimates, July 2019
Adolescents Initiated on ART

- **10 - 14 year olds**: 64% initiated ART
- **15 - 19 year olds**: 44% initiated ART

Maskew et al. Lancet 2019 Oct 1
Virologically Suppressed

Eswatini PHIA – 2016-2017

Uganda PHIA – 2016-2017

Tanzania PHIA – 2016-2017

Malawi PHIA – 2015-2016

PHIA Survey, ICAP https://phia.icap.columbia.edu/
Mental Health Of ALHIV

- Clinic study in Nairobi
  - 50% had depressive symptoms
  - Complex associations – clinical, environmental, social

- Clinic study in Johannesburg
  - ~30% had 1 or more symptoms of depression, anxiety, PTSD or suicidality

- Contributes to negative outcomes at each stage across the HIV cascade

Parcesepe et al, 2018; Gaitho et al, 2018; Wollet et al, 2017; Remien et al, 2019
SRHR of ALHIV

**Sexual Debut**
Nearly ½ adolescents had had sex
Between 1/2 and 2/3 reported older sexual partner during first sex

**High risk sexual practices**
1/3 – ½ of participants reported unprotected sex at last sex
1 in 5 reported engaging in transactional sex or having sex for money or goods

**Contraception use**
1/3 are on a form of contraception
Only 5% on combined contraception – (1 study in Uganda)

**Sexually Transmitted Infections**
HSV-2 was found in 50% of ALHIV and HPV at 88%

Toska et al. PloS One 2017 Jun 5
Pregnant and breast feeding ALHIV

Over 130 births for every 1,000 adolescent girls in 5 ESA countries

Lower PMTCT service uptake

Higher rates of mother-to-child HIV transmission

Callahan, Tet al. JIAS 2017 Aug 4; 20 (1):21858
WHO global data observatory accessed 29/09/2019
Scaling Up Services

Strengthen use of data to inform programmes
- Age, sex and sub-national disaggregated data!
- Ensure interventions scaled, work
- Expand understanding of key clinical AND psychosocial outcomes
- Use the data advocacy and resource mobilisation

Galvanise the role of national programmes
- Facilitate coordination and partnership mechanisms i.e TWG’s also at **district level**
- Ensure interventions for ALHIV are incorporated in national HIV plans and policies with **implementation plans**
- Harness the expertise of NGO’s to support national programme scale up of ALHIV interventions
Reaching ALL Adolescents

Build the capacity of implementers

• Standardise national packages including operational tools and training curriculum
• Clearly define peer provider roles and responsibilities, with accountability and compensation.
• Implement supervision, mentorship and support mechanisms

Prioritise sustainability

• Champion the broader adolescent health agenda
• Advocate for inclusion of scale up funding within broader funding mechanisms
• Understand cost considerations, prioritizing the elements of greatest impact

Explore new interventions and approaches!

• New interventions that take into consideration the diversity of ALHIV including understanding the role of digital technology
Takeaways!

Begin with the end in mind!

Think about scale

Love you data!

Use it, learn from it

unicef for every child
Thank you!

Acknowledgements
Alice Armstrong