



Peer educators increase uptake of services in Uganda

Six months into the implementation, peer educators were able to increase the uptake of services among young people in two districts in Uganda. In areas where FLEP is implementing the peer educator model there was a twofold increase in use of services among young people. These young people were especially more likely to seek HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) services.

Peer educators

The Peer Education model as implemented by FLEP involves recruitment of young people that were comprehensively trained in BCC for SRHR and service delivery and qualified as Youth Peer Educators (YPEs). The overall aim was to have YPEs engage fellow young people in dialogue about SRHR to influence behaviour change through modifying their SRHR knowledge, attitudes and beliefs. To achieve this, the project put in place a network of YPEs (10 per community; 5 females and 5 males) who conduct regular demand generation activities for SRH/HIV&AIDS services, dispense reproductive health commodities including male/female condoms and oral contraceptive pills to peers, and conduct referrals or linkages for both SRH/HIV&AIDS and wraparound services to peers.

Uptake of services

In areas where FLEP was implementing the peer educator model, young people were two times more likely to have sought SRHR services the past 12 months. However, the frequency of seeking such services was not found to be higher in the intervention areas. The study further showed that these young people were especially more likely to seek HCT services.

Behaviour change

The FLEP model was not yet found to have a consistent positive effect on knowledge, attitude, confidence outcomes and actual use of contraceptives.

Distribution of contraceptives

The FLEP peer educators were found to play an important role in distribution of contraceptives. 42.4% of young people in the intervention areas reported to have received condoms through a peer educator.

Facts about the research

Where?

Budumbili, Nankoma

By whom?

Family Life Empowerment Program (FLEP)

For whom?

Young people aged 10-24.

Scope of the research

Cross-sectional survey administered among a random sample of 176 intervention and 192 control respondents.