

Nigeria

FACTFILE

Title Youth with Future: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Young People

IPPF Member Association Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (PPFN), www.ppfn.org

Set up in 1984, PPFN is the country's leading non-governmental organization promoting and providing sexual and reproductive health services.

Aim To improve the accessibility and use of quality sexual and reproductive health services among young people aged 10 to 24 by setting up youth centres and outreach services.

Duration Two years: 2004–2005

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ **Number of contraceptives distributed to young people: 274,116.**
- ▶ **A significant amount of condom distribution was achieved in a short timeframe. Distribution was carried out through clinics, mobile and outreach services, the project's youth centre and peer health educators.**
- ▶ **48 per cent of condoms distributed were to people in socially excluded groups.**
- ▶ **200 commercial sex workers were reached. The initial community resistance to working with this marginalized group gave way to good cooperation.**
- ▶ **240 community, religious and traditional leaders pledged support for the project.**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Poor adolescent reproductive health

With a rate of 112 births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19, Nigerian adolescents have one of the highest levels of fertility in the world. About 12 per cent of teenagers have their first baby before the age of 15 and almost half become mothers before they reach 20.

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Increasing access to information, education and services

The project was designed to address the health and development concerns of young people aged 10 to 24 in four sites (Jos North and Pankshin in Plateau State, and Calabar South and Ugep in Cross River State).

Two of the sites (Pankshin and Ugep) conducted information, education and communication activities, while the other two sites (Jos North and Calabar South) provided clinic-based activities and ran youth centres as well as carrying out information, education and communication work. In addition, an internet café was set up in Jos North.

Raising awareness via a peer education network

The project recruited and trained 270 peer educators to provide information and education to young people, distribute contraceptives, network with public and private sector agencies to improve availability of and accessibility to contraceptives, and to provide referrals and other services to young people. Peer educators ran competitions and quizzes in schools and public places for young people and gave talks in schools.

KEY PROJECT STATISTICS

The project **reached 93,207 young people with sexual and reproductive health information and education – an increase of 60 per cent from 2004 to 2005.**

The project **distributed 48,950 information, education and communication materials to young people.**

Number of **contraceptives** distributed to young people: **274,116.**

Outreach activities to promote safer sex practices **reached 10,200 young people with education and information, with 220,308 condoms distributed through outreach activities.**

270 peer health educators received training (177 in school, 43 out of school and 50 commercial sex workers).

In addition, the project worked with commercial sex workers to help them become more aware of sexual and reproductive health issues and become better informed about how they can protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections and HIV. Commercial sex workers were also recruited as peer educators by the project.

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Strengthening cooperation and partnerships

PPFN undertook a great deal of advocacy work in the community as well as carrying out extensive information and education activities with the target group. This enabled PPFN to strengthen cooperation and partnership with

local government authorities and strengthen community support for providing sexual and reproductive health services for young people.

The project also used the radio to broadcast sexual and reproductive health messages to the local community, and organized rallies in the project areas.

Half the members of the project advisory committee – set up to oversee the project and make decisions about its management and direction – were young people.

Young people's participation in governance and decision making

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LESSONS LEARNED

Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, government, communities and young people led to people donating time, materials and resources to the project.

Involving young people in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the project increased the number of young people taking up sexual and reproductive health services in the youth centre. As a result, more parents became involved in project activities.

Once a community owns a project it can be sustained with very little donor support.

The internet café was a good entry point for young people to access services.

each project site had its own youth project management committee made up only of young people who were involved in project design, implementation and day-to-day management.

The project's target group is at high risk because of the cultural, religious and parental barriers they face in accessing services. Therefore, the involvement of young people in the project design ensured that services addressed their needs and that they were youth-friendly.

Strengthening roots in the local community

PPFN worked with community leaders to address issues about young people's sexual and reproductive rights and to open up debate. This resulted in stronger links with the community and greater support by religious and community leaders for young people's sexual and reproductive rights.

Socio-economic situation posed serious challenges

The socio-economic situation during project implementation posed serious challenges. Inflation rose sharply, affecting all budget items. Fuel costs, which affect all economic indices in Nigeria, increased constantly. Transport costs went up together with the cost of accommodation and other activity costs. All these factors caused difficulties during project implementation.

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Apart from the economic challenges experienced, social problems such as industrial strikes and riots recurred constantly and, in turn, negatively affected the expected client flow in the clinics and activities in the youth centres.

Reorientation of funding

The EC funded component of the project ended in 2005 and the project then continued to run under IPPF funding. Today, the project continues to run at full capacity.



COUNTRY STATS

Population is 148 million, with 45 per cent under the age of 15. (2008, Population Reference Bureau)

34 per cent of population is aged between 10 and 24. (2006, Population Reference Bureau)

Human Development Index ranking: 158 out of 177 countries. (2005, UNDP Human Development Report 2007/2008)

Average life expectancy at birth is 47.1 years. (2008, Population Reference Bureau)

The infant mortality rate is 100 per thousand live births. (2008, Population Reference Bureau)

The total fertility rate is 5.8 (2000–2005) with only 8 per cent of married women aged 15–49 practising family planning. (2009, Population Reference Bureau)

19 per cent of all girls have been subject to female genital mutilation. (Update on FGM/C, Global Consultation on Female Genital Mutilation/Female Genital Cutting (FGM/FGC) 30 July–3 August 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Population living with HIV/AIDS (aged 15–49) is 3.9 per cent. (2005, UNDP Human Development Report 2007/2008)

Only 35 per cent of births are attended by trained personnel. (1997–2005, UNDP Human Development Report 2007/2008)

