

Module 3: Evidence based approaches to health service provision to adolescents - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

Lamaran Makama Dattijo

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Jos University Teaching Hospital, Jos, Nigeria

The presentation has aptly captured the reality of the situation in Nigeria. Health services are not available, acceptable and equitable to the population in general and adolescents in particular. The public health system is riddled with many problems that make it incapable of responding to peculiar problems of adolescents.

The major problems of adolescents in Nigeria include high rate of teenage pregnancy, unsafe abortions, high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and issues of drug and substance abuse. The public health system is under-staffed, not youth-friendly, fragmented services and staff with no training in adolescent reproductive health. There is no special provision for adolescents in our public health facilities in Nigeria at the moment.

The WHO's approach

The WHO approach main theme is the vision to make adolescent health available, accessible, acceptable and equitable and the framework for actualizing such a vision.

The approach can be utilized in Nigeria taking in to cognizance the existing documents and structures of the health care system. It is feasible when a synergy is created between all levels of government, the communities and non-governmental organizations.

From inception to large scale: the Geração Biz Programme in Mozambique

The document is the Mozambican approach to the issues and challenges of adolescent reproductive health. Mozambique, like most other countries in sub-Saharan Africa has a large youth population. Mozambique is characterized by a youthful population with 33% of the total population between the ages of 10 and 24. While young people have the potential to bring positive change to the country and contribute to a vital workforce, they are also among the hardest hit by the economic, educational and health conditions in Mozambique. Some important comments on the document include:

1. It is a unique document in that it is a multi-sectoral involving health, educational and economic institutions of governments and youth associations. Therefore instead of the programme addressing only health issues, it has a comprehensive approach to issues concerning adolescence
2. The programme keys into existing government mandate. This has the potential of ensuring sustainability in terms of interest and finance.

3. All the provinces are involved in the implementation of the programme. The challenges and lesson learned across the provinces in implementation and scale-up provide issues for operations research in addressing the problems across the country.

Assignment documents

1. [WHO. Adolescent friendly health services - An agenda for change. Geneva: WHO; 2002.](#)
2. [WHO. Methods and tools to scale up quality health service provision to adolescents. Geneva: WHO; 2010.](#)
3. [WHO, Pathfinder International. From inception to large scale: the Geração Biz Programme in Mozambique. Geneva: WHO; 2009.](#)