

Impact of HIV and AIDS comprehensive prevention and Support programme on HIV transmission among marps Central and eastern provinces

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Introduction:

The University of Nairobi Centre for HIV prevention (UoN -CHIVPR) has been working with sex workers in Kenya since 1983, and since 2010 it has been enhancing access to quality comprehensive preventive services for Most-At-Risk Populations (MARPs) in Eastern and Central Provinces of Kenya under PEPFAR grant.

Purpose:

To establish whether there is a reduction of new cases of HIV infection among MARPs in Central and Eastern Provinces.

Methods:

Holistic approach in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support across continuum, mapping, zoning and mobilization of MARPs, evidence based interventions, partnering with strategic partners and other stake holders, training MARPs on Negotiation skills, male and female condom education and distribution, quarterly HIV testing, provider initiated counseling and testing (PITC), risk reduction strategies, STI screening and treatment, Post exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), sex work gender human rights and HIV/AIDS and income generating activities and or referral as necessary. In addition sensitizing and educating law enforcement officers Central and Eastern Provinces on the issues of MARPs and how to work with them. Furthermore establishing and maintaining peer-led system of different MARPs for mobilization and community-based education and follow-up.

Result:

The ongoing activities of the project have empowered the MARPs in the two provinces thus improving their health seeking behavior especially reporting for post rape care or after condom burst (PEP), improved condom uptake and negotiation skills and are able to make informed choices during their day to day activities including reduced number of sexual partners and alternative sources of income.

There has been a reduction in new cases of HIV infection as evidenced in second to fourth quarter, 5.1 %, 4.4% and 3.0% respectively among female sex workers.

Conclusion: Empowered MARPs are able to contribute towards “zero HIV transmission in Kenya by 2015” as they are able to better protect themselves, others and share information on the importance of condom use prompt STI treatment and quarterly retesting with their peers.