

# Engaging with PEPFAR – Abstinence, fidelity and young people

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# Engaging with PEPFAR

## Implementing ABY funded programmes

- Can we use ABY funds well?
- How can we limit harm?

## Implementing comprehensive programmes with non-US funds

- Strongly promote and implement comprehensive prevention programming at all levels
- Collect and package data on the activities and impacts of ABY for effective advocacy.

# PEPFAR Prevention Guidelines

- Abstinence only until monogamous marriage for life
- Mutual fidelity in marriage
- Correct and consistent condom use for those most at risk of transmitting or becoming infected with HIV
- Talk about condom failure rates

# PEPFAR guidelines continued

- Do not promote condoms in a way that implies that abstinence and condom use are equally viable choices or that it is acceptable to engage in risky (i.e. condomised) sex.
- Condoms must be targeted to specific high risk individuals or groups, not the general population.
- ..adoption of norms that denounce cross-generational sex , transactional sex...

# Condom double whammy

Condoms don't work,  
they are not worth using

Condoms are only for high risk people  
(promiscuous, have HIV or AIDS)

# Good HIV prevention programming for young people

- Mobilise communities and engage young people in all stages of HIV prevention and SRH programming.
- Reach the most vulnerable
- Comprehensive prevention programmes
- Public health and evidence-based, not ideology
- Risk reduction for many, not risk elimination for few
- Rights to access comprehensive services and information
- Does not stigmatise and discriminate

# Doing PEPFAR well

- Community mobilisation - engage all groups in understanding causes of vulnerability and strategies to address them.
- Map all resources and activities to reduce vulnerability in site, do stakeholder analysis.
- Make a site plan to maximise co-ordination and local advocacy.
- Include causes of vulnerability related to delaying sexual debut/abstinence and reducing numbers of partners.
- Be transparent about ABY constraints to all community groups and young people, talk about the importance of condoms and ways to access them.

# Delay sex, only wanted sex

Comprehensive sexuality education and life-skills

- Caring relationships, gender norms
- Right to decide not to have sex
- Self esteem
- Communication, assertiveness skills
- Sexuality, feelings, non-penetrative sex
- Seeking help

**Group support and solidarity**

**Strategies to stop sexual abuse and violence**

**Changing harmful norms**

# Fewer partners, mutual fidelity

- SRH and HIV awareness
- Sexuality, relationship and communication skills
- Condom use, contraception
- VCT
- Prevention with people and couples with HIV

# Condom information and access for all

- Correct information
- Skills for correct and consistent use
- Constant supply on the doorstep

# Stepping Stones – A training package for HIV/AIDS, communication and relationship skills by Alice Welbourn

- Communities explore their own SRH problems, causes and solutions in peer groups, young and older, male and female and then come together to share.
- Uses experiential learning activities
- Community requests and decisions

# Points of Influence in Uganda

- Ministry of Gender implementation plan for youth prevention
- 'ABY policy' guidelines
- Request For Applications development
- Grantee selection process
- Grantee orientation and finalisation of proposals
- MOG and CSO capacity-building
- Guidelines, tools and learning materials
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Advocacy and lobbying.

# Barriers to 'OK' PEPFAR work

- Abstinence earmark so US not following own guidelines on ABC. 'ABY' entity in its own right.
- More faith-based organisations with low HIV capacity
- Tight control by USAID at all stages from RFA, project selection, materials, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Anxiety about losing funding leads to extreme conservative response.

# Barriers to OK PEPFAR cont.

- Not just no condoms, sex-negative messages.
- ABY being 'mainstreamed' and reinforced by national/local conservative stakeholders.
- Demand for speed and coverage leads to lack of local contextualising, participation, monitoring, adequate capacity building, sharing lessons learned.
- Short fixed grants – no time for behaviour change.

# What to do - Policy

- Contribute to the discourse on the different models of prevention
- Monitor and disseminate evidence on the impact of PEPFAR messages.
- Promote comprehensive prevention strategies and messages.
- Put all efforts into lobbying non-US government donors to strengthen their promotion and funding of comprehensive prevention programmes O

# What to do - programming

- Build capacity of partners to develop comprehensive prevention strategies.
- Support beneficiaries and communities in their efforts to maintain positive attitudes and access to condoms.
- Provide correct information about condom effectiveness and ways to maximise this.
- Promote condoms for family planning and infection prevention for everyone.

# What to do - funding

- Inside PEPFAR-funded programmes, see if it is possible to develop strategies to reduce the negative impacts
- Focus all efforts on getting non-US government funding

# Thank you!

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