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DREAMS
WORKING TOGETHER FOR AN AIDS-FREE FUTURE FOR GIRLS & WOMEN

REACHING ADOLESCENT GIRLS WITH SCHOOL-BASED HIV TESTING IN UGANDA

Authors: Tonny Odong[1], R. Laura[2], Hellen Achola[2], Emmanuel Omen[2], Gloria Ekpo[2], Julie DeSoto[2], Saul Waisswa[2]

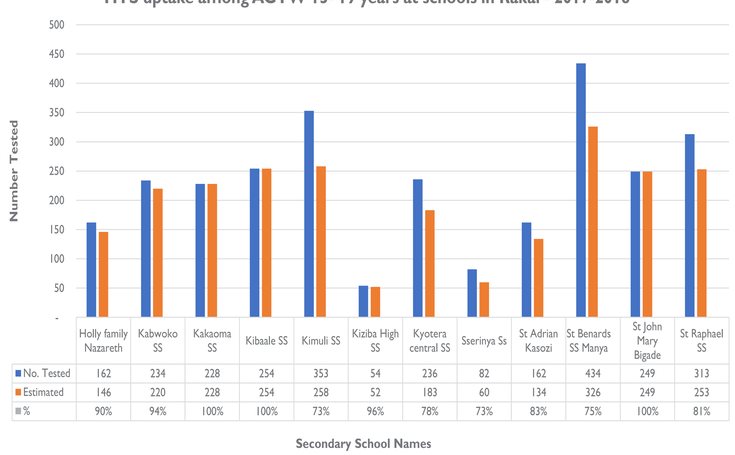
1 World Vision Uganda
2 World Vision US

BACKGROUND

Recent UNAIDS (2016) statistics indicate that in Uganda, 570 adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 15-24 get infected with HIV each week. HIV prevalence is almost four times higher among AGYW than their male counterparts (UPHIA 2016-2017). Strengthening School Community Accountability for Girls' Education (SAGE)-DREAMS is a two-year project (October 2016-March 2019) implemented by World Vision, Inc., funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) as part of the DREAMS Innovation Challenge, and managed by John Snow, Inc. (JSI)

LESSONS LEARNED

- HIV testing services (HTS) enables AGYW to be reached in large numbers with support from the school administration, teachers and peer educators.
- Working with existing professional health workers eases the process of referral in case of AGYW found to be positive.
- Schools provide youth friendly spaces away from the health facilities as service points which reduces fear and encourages students to go for HTS.
- School-based HTS outreach approach strengthens relationships between health workers, schools and parents/caregivers.



	Holly family Nazareth	Kabwoko SS	Kakaoma SS	Kibaale SS	Kimuli SS	Kiziba High SS	Kyotera central SS	Sserinya Ss	St Adrian Kasozi	St Benards SS Manya	St John Mary Bigade	St Raphael SS
No. Tested	162	234	228	254	353	54	236	82	162	434	249	313
Estimated	146	220	228	254	258	52	183	60	134	326	249	253
%	90%	94%	100%	100%	73%	96%	78%	73%	83%	75%	100%	81%

DESCRIPTION

SAGE-DREAMS addresses socio-economic risk factors for HIV infection among AGYW using adolescent girl-led school-community approaches. The project seeks to reduce school dropout and HIV infection among 38,750 AGYW in secondary school. It is implemented in 151 secondary schools across 10 districts in Uganda with some of the highest levels of dropout and HIV infection. Rakai district in Uganda has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates (7.6%) compared to the national average (6%) (UPHIA 2016-2017).

To contribute to the national and UNAIDS 90-90-90 Global Strategy, the project adopted school-based HIV testing services (HTS) outreach strategies. The project mapped all health facilities providing HTS around target schools, supported health workers to conduct HTS in schools, and trained school administrators, teachers and adolescent girl leaders to mobilize students for HTS. After twelve school-based outreaches were conducted 2,363 out of the estimated 2,761 AGYW got tested for HIV and received their results, representing an 86% testing rate.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

School-based outreach increases access to HTS for AGYW as per the findings in the twelve schools in the Rakai district in Uganda. The SAGE-DREAMS project will scale up this approach to reach more AGYW with HTS and these promising preliminary findings can be applied more broadly in Uganda and elsewhere.

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