

Community HIV prevention and care and treatment for adolescents and youth in Nampula, Mozambique

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BACKGROUND

Adolescent and young people (AYP) aged from 15 to 24y in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic. In 2020, 1.75 million adolescents were living with HIV worldwide, with 88% (1.5 million) in SSA. In 2020, 40% (39,200) of the 98,000 individuals newly infected with HIV in Mozambique were adolescents (UNAIDS, 2020).

ICAP worked with Nampula's Provincial Health Authorities (DPS/SPS), community-based organizations (CBO) and private sector to design and implement a community service delivery model targeting AYP, in order to engage them in health services in Nampula Province.

METHODS

In June 2022, ICAP started implementing AYP-targeted mobile brigades (MB), in collaboration with provincial and facility leadership. The MB offer comprehensive HIV prevention, care and treatment (C&T) at the community level, integrated with other general health services (e.g. MCH/FP, outpatient consultation). Preferred locations were identified with AYP, focusing on AYP congregation areas, universities and technical schools. In coordination with local CBOs, recreational activities, such as music, sports and theatre competition, complemented clinical services to promote demand for services and to strengthen HIV and health literacy.

RESULTS

Between June and November 2022, 31 MB outreach events were held, reaching 1,043 AYP (615 female and 428 male). Of these, 730 tested for HIV, with 28 (4%) testing positive and all initiating ART. Of the 702 who tested negative for HIV, 259 were eligible for PrEP (141 girls and 118 boys) and 98% (138/141) of girls and 95% (112/118) of boys accepted and initiated PrEP (Table 1).

Table 1. HIV prevention and C&T cascade among adolescents and young people at MB in Nampula, Mozambique June-November, 2022

	F	M	Total
Number AYP attending MB services	615	428	1043
Number tested for HIV	415	315	730
Number tested positive for HIV	16	12	28
Yield (%)	3.80%	3.80%	3.80%
Linked to treatment (%)	16 (100%)	12 (100%)	28
Number eligible for PrEP	141	118	259
Initiated PrEP (%)	138 (98%)	112 (95%)	250



Mobile brigade in the community for AYP in Nampula



Mobile brigade in the community for AYP IN Nampula

DISCUSSION

Contextualized interventions to reach AYP are essential, as targeted demand creation and health literacy strategies using peers, coupled with decentralization of services to communities, resulted in a high uptake of health services. Compared to facility-based services, a relatively high percentage of males were reached, and demand and acceptance of PrEP was high among adolescent females and males. These initial results reinforce that service delivery models should be reviewed to ensure they respond to AYP needs and interests, in order to reach this subpopulation with much-needed HIV prevention and C&T services. ICAP will continue to work with local partners to strengthen and expand this strategy to other communities within Nampula Province.

