



Increasing Parental Communication on HIV Prevention to Children in Uganda

Apollo NKWAKE

*Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist,
UPHOLD*





Outline of Presentation

- About UPHOLD
- Background
- The Interventions
- Methods
- Findings
- Conclusions and Recommendations





About UPHOLD

- Five-year integrated social services program designed by the Government of Uganda and USAID
- Currently operates in 34 districts covering 42% Uganda's population (~ 11.8m people)
- Overall project aim is to increase access and utilization of sustainable and quality social services in **Education**, **Health** and **HIV/AIDS** in support of USAID's Strategic Objective 8 (SO8) which aims to improve human capacity





About UPHOLD

UPHOLD's core technical areas of implementation include:

- **HIV/AIDS**
- **Primary School Education**
- Communicable Disease Control (Malaria and Tuberculosis)
- Child Health
- Integrated Reproductive Health
- Adolescent Health





Background

Parameter	Statistic
Children below 18 years	56% (13.7 million)
Secondary school age population (13-19 years)	16.3% and the adolescent population (10-24 years) 34.3%.
Children of primary school age (6-12 years)	more than 5.4 million and form 22% of Uganda's population.
% of children had sex before they turned age 15	14%
% of girls and boys that had sex before the age of 18.	63% of girls and 47% of boys

Source: Uganda HIV/AIDS Sero-Behavioural Survey 2006





Background (cont)

- More focus on 15-49 by programs
- Only 30% of young women and 35% of young men have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS (*ibid*)
- Parents/guardians have a major role
- Culturally, there are communication barriers between adults and children on sexuality and HIV prevention (*Lagina, 2002*)





The Interventions

- UPHOLD implements an Integrated Education Strategy with a Community Involvement in Education (CIE) component
- UPHOLD also implements the Presidents Initiative on AIDS Strategy for Communication to Youth (PIASCY) in over 17,000 primary schools in all 80 districts of the country





School-Community Partnerships

- Relationship between home environment, school environment and pupils is important to enhance behavioral change and success in life
- Action-oriented meetings (AOMs) are an important tool



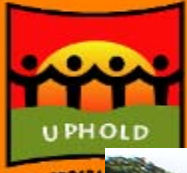


Action-oriented Meetings

Main objective:

- To increase school-community stakeholders' active participation in practical promotion of a safer school environment and quality learning for children
 - ✓ Includes encouraging and equipping parents to communicate to children about HIV prevention, as one of the PIASCY objectives





UGANDA PROGRAM
AND HOLISTIC D





Coverage

- 2,023 schools in 26 districts have conducted AOMs with over 300,000 parents participating under CIE
- 1,078 model schools have been oriented and conducted AOMs under PIASCY program countrywide





Methods

- LQAS 2004, 2005, 2006(at analysis level)
 - ✓ - n>3,325 parents/guardians, in 20 districts of Uganda
- Evaluation survey of the Integrated Education strategy, 2006:
 - ✓ - 444 children 10-12 years, 664 teachers in 118 schools, 18 districts
- Support supervision field visits





Methods (cont)

Indicators:

- % of guardians who report that they talked to their children <15yrs about HIV prevention in the preceding 12 months (LQAS)
- Proportion of children <15yrs who report that their parents/guardians talked to them about HIV prevention in the preceding 3 months





UGANDA PROGRAM FOR HUMAN
AND HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

FINDINGS





Parental Involvement

IES Evaluation survey, 2006:

- 70% teachers reported satisfactory parental involvement in AOMs
- 60% teachers reported satisfactory parental involvement in follow up





UGANDA PROGRAM FOR
AND HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



The Republic of Uganda





Parent-Child Communication - I

LQAS:

- 32.4% (2004) and 34.2% (2005) reported talking to their children about HIV/AIDS ($p < 0.05$)





Parent-Child Communication - II

IES Evaluation Survey

- 86.2% of the children reported that their parents/guardians talked to them about HIV prevention often
- There was no significant difference between communication to girls and boys





Challenges of AOMs

- Some parents expect incentives in order to attend AOMs
- Need to involve more influential members of the community in AOMs
- Low participation of male parents
- Minimal involvement of parents in action plans implementation





Conclusions & Recommendations

Conclusion

- Results of the three studies indicate that school community partnerships are an effective way of increasing parental communication to children

Recommendation

- Stakeholders should consider scaling up this intervention

