

# Fast facts



## Youth Response to HIV Prevention

### Building Capacity to Benefit Youth in Uganda

Uganda has made great strides in raising awareness about HIV. However, knowledge among adolescents is not comprehensive and too frequently it does not translate into positive behaviour change. Among parents and teachers, adolescent sexuality remains a taboo topic. Young people's primary source of information on HIV and sexuality is therefore their peers, and inaccuracies, myths and misconceptions persist. As a result, many young people do not routinely seek appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and care at health facilities.

DSW has worked in six districts of Uganda since 2008 to address this situation, with support from the Civil Society Fund (a basket fund for HIV prevention attached to the Uganda AIDS Commission, which also allocates the Global Fund resources). The project's overall goal is to contribute to a 25 per cent reduction in the rate of new HIV infections among youth. In order to accelerate prevention of sexual transmission of HIV among youth (aged 10 – 24 years), DSW's objectives include:

- Increasing knowledge on ABC components for HIV prevention among youth
- Increasing youth to access HIV counselling and testing and youth-friendly health services and information
- Mobilising parents, teachers and community leaders to support youth HIV/AIDS prevention activities

The cornerstone of youth response to HIV prevention is empowerment through capacity building. Young people are supported using a peer learning approach, enabling them to develop critical life skills that promote abstinence, fidelity among young married couples, and correct and consistent use of condoms. At the same

### Youth Response to HIV Prevention: at a Glance

**Project Duration:** 2008 – 2012

**Donor:** Uganda Civil Society Fund

**Budget:** EUR 245,600

**Location:**

Uganda (Busia, Jinja, Kampala, Masindi, Tororo, and Wakiso districts)



## DSW

DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung) · Office Uganda · PO Box 33900 · Kampala · Uganda

Phone +256 414 20 08 01 · Fax + 256 414 20 08 15 · E-mail [info@dswuganda.org.ug](mailto:info@dswuganda.org.ug) · Internet: [www.dsw-uganda.org](http://www.dsw-uganda.org)



# Youth Response to HIV Prevention

time, service providers and volunteer peer counsellors are trained to meet the needs of young people.

Through an organised network of over 50 youth clubs, young people are trained in peer education and then consolidate knowledge and share information on HIV prevention. DSW facilitates formal and informal sharing between clubs, using strategies such as inter-club exchange visits. HIV prevention messages are also disseminated through printed materials as well as through sports, music, dance and drama. In addition, the project includes couples counselling and activities for most-at-risk groups, like sex workers and fishermen.

DSW works closely with schools, organising dialogue meetings with secondary school students, health education film shows, as well as workshops for teachers and parents to sensitise them on HIV and sexuality issues among young people. The involvement of parents is critical; therefore DSW also conducts parent/child dialogue meetings on responsible sexuality for HIV prevention.

Because an unwelcoming environment often leads to poor uptake among adolescents, DSW provides health centres with equipment such as games and videos to attract young people and trains service providers in youth-friendly services. Health workers are also supported to carry out integrated outreach, which includes service provision and health education, and peer counsellors are trained as aides for HIV counselling and testing.

*April 2011*



**DSW**

DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung) · Office Uganda · PO Box 33900 · Kampala · Uganda

Phone +256 414 20 08 01 · Fax + 256 414 20 08 15 · E-mail [info@dswuganda.org.ug](mailto:info@dswuganda.org.ug) · Internet: [www.dsw-uganda.org](http://www.dsw-uganda.org)

