

Liberia's Let's Talk about Sex Youth Listener Groups

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Project Overview

- Flagship integrated social and behavior change project
- Timeline: April 2020–April 2022
- Health areas: Malaria; maternal, newborn, and child health, family planning/reproductive health; adolescent health; nutrition; water, sanitation, and hygiene; Global Health Security Agenda
- Breakthrough ACTION partners in Liberia:



Activity Overview

- The Breakthrough ACTION Liberia adolescent health campaign started with a co-design workshop with group of young people whose ideas were needed to help design activities that would lead to reduced teenage pregnancy and increased family planning uptake.
- This led to the identification of barriers and influencers of teenage pregnancy, and the design of interventions to mitigate these barriers.



Barriers and Influences Identified by Adolescents

- Barriers

- Fears of being denied family planning commodities because they were too young to be sexually active
- Family planning misconceptions
- Limited knowledge

- Influencers

- Parental and peer pressure
- Early marriage/cultural practices
- Fear of losing a relationship

Intervention

- Establish an adolescent club to provide a space where young people can discuss topics free of reproductive stigma and discrimination
- Extend awareness to the larger population. Considering all actors, the platform was expanded through different media:
 - Social media
 - Radio
 - Community awareness



Who is involved?

- Community Health Assistants
- Community Health Volunteers
- Community Health Services Supervisors
- Midwives
- Nurses
- Trained traditional midwives
- Youth mentors
- Peer educators (in schools)

How has this expanded access to youth family planning and established trust?

- Increase in family planning awareness has led to an increase in knowledge, reduction in fears from myths and misconceptions, and an increase in young peoples' desires to access family planning commodities.
- Working through the health system and community structures has improved the relationship between providers and youth, built trust, and increased access to family planning.
- Parents' access to family planning information through community awareness has reduced parental shaming and distrust of young children.





Thank you

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