IMPROVING ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING FOR RURAL ADOLESCENTS

HIV AND AIDS IN MATEBELELAND SOUTH:

Young girls and mothers (16–24 years) in hard to reach areas such as Bulilima, Mangwe, Chimanimani and Hwedza currently have limited access to family planning due to unfair practices and policies that promote abstinence. Zimbabwe has committed to reduce the national unmet need for family planning among adolescents from 17% to 8.5%; to increase contraceptive usage form 59% to 68%; and reduce the national unmet need for family planning from 13% – 6.5% by 2020. These targets can only be achieved through the provision of confidential family planning advice and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) targeted at young women.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME?

This programme is meeting the unmet need for contraceptives by young girls and mothers through the provision of family planning services and CSE to reduce unplanned pregnancies. The reduction of unplanned pregnancies will lead to reduced maternal, infant and child mortality rates.

HOW ARE WE DELIVERING CSE?

Volunteer peer educators are providing CSE to their peers through in-school and out-of-school sessions and awareness campaigns in the communities in which they have been placed.

Community health personnel are being trained in the provision of youth friendly planning services with a special focus on the product mix.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 393 traditional leaders in four districts sensitized on family planning services and promotion of youth friendly service provision
- 73 volunteers trained on delivering youth friendly family planning services
- 197 health workers trained in youth friendly family planning provision
- 2 awareness campaigns on family planning reached out to 2210 young women and girls
- 2565 young people reached outreach activities
- 730 female condoms distributed
- 792 packs of secure distributed
- 4080 contraceptive pills distributed