

### Background

Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) report 2018 shows that the HIV prevalence among 10-14 and 15-19 years was lower than the national average of 1.4%. This recent data does not undermine the increased HIV vulnerability among young people often attributed to lack of knowledge and appropriate sexual reproductive health services. Reports from a 2017 National Health Survey showed that only 29% of women and 27.9% of men between the ages of 15 to 24 could correctly identify ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV, and reject major myths around transmission.

**Objective;** To train 16 Adolescent and Young Persons (AYP) peer educators from different youth led organizations for 8 weeks to become HIV/SRHR champions



**Methodology;** A well-structured curriculum was used to train the peers. Topics taught ranged from update on HIV prevention research to adolescent sexual and reproductive health needs. The peer educators were provided with HIV prevention literacy field guides developed by New HIV Vaccine and Microbicide Advocacy Society, which they used to step down training to their peers within their communities and schools. A simplified Pre- Exposure Prophylaxis(PrEP) fact sheets were also given to the peers for distribution.

Qualified counsellor testers joined the peers in some of the community outreach programme to carryout HIV testing and counselling services for persons above 18 years and those lesser were done with their parents consents.

**Result:** A total of six hundred and four (604) adolescent and young persons have been reached and sensitized on new HIV prevention tools, including mode of transmission. 7.5% of people the people reached underwent HIV counselling and testing. 22% of the clients who was HIV positive were placed on treatment. 44% of people who tested negative but had substantial risk to HIV infection were enrolled on PrEP. A total of 516 PrEP fact sheets were distributed.

**Conclusion;** : Capacity building of HIV prevention and SRHR peer educators(PEs)could create a cascading effect throughout the community, which essentially allows limited resources to be efficiently managed. There is need for more investment in training PEs in order to sustained gains in HIV prevention space.