



Baylor Collage of Medicine Children's Foundation- Tanzania



ADOLESCENT PROGRAM.



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Outline

❖ Introduction

❖ Viremia clubs

❖ Psychosocial Clubs



Introduction

- ❖ Baylor Tanzania has two COEs in SHZ (Mbeya) and LZ (Mwanza) which care for 2829 C/ALHIV, among which those who are aged 10 – 19 years is 65%.
- ❖ Innovative activities and programs to cater to this population were crucial to ensure that the 95 95 95 goals are reached especially with DSDM/MMD rollout.
- ❖ Apart from Teen Club, there was a need to closely follow up with the children and adolescents using peer-led modalities



JITAMBUE

- ❖ Viral load (VL) suppression has been a challenge for children and adolescents in Tanzania (2017 NACP report) ~68-90%
- ❖ This is an intervention aimed at empowering the virally unsuppressed adolescents to improve their adherence and hence suppression.
- ❖ Identified adolescents aged 10-18yrs are provided 6 closed group psychosocial support sessions with three Enhanced Adherence Sessions (EAC). Each cohort meets twice a month for 3 months then VL is taken



JITAMBUE SESSION



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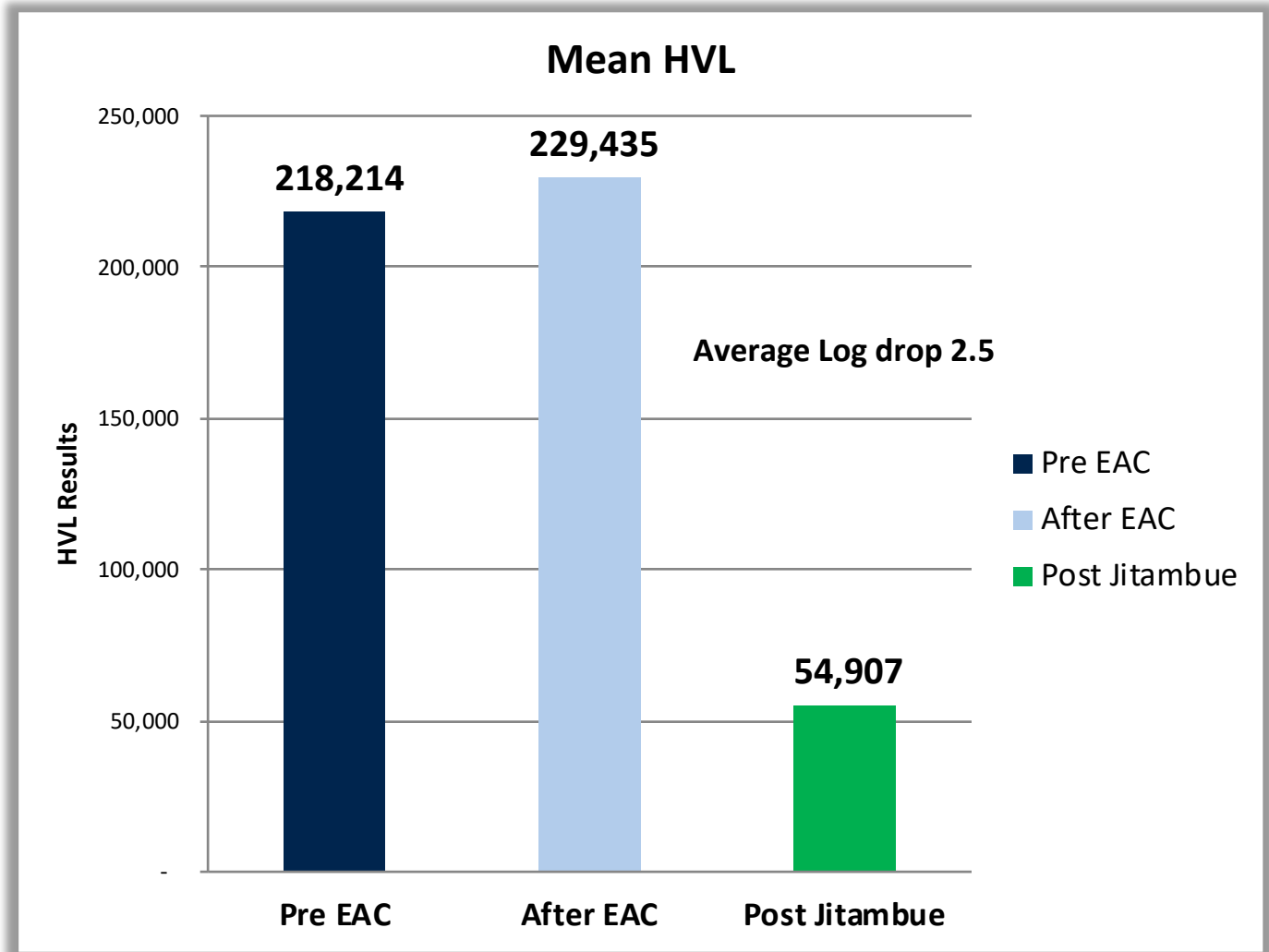


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JITAMBUE: Promising practice

There is statistical significance between Pre EAC and post-Jitambue with a p-value of 0.0002, illustrating that children who attended Jitambue are more likely to suppress comparably.



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Teen (Ten) Cell Leaders (TCLs)

- ❖ These are capacity-built adolescents who are assigned an area to support children and adolescents through home visits, phone calls, and messaging on issues such as adherence, continuity of treatment, and social challenges at the community level.
- ❖ TCLs are also empowered with skills to refer and or link their peers for SRH services etc to COEs.
- ❖ By last quarter, a total of 1838 (*921 males and 917 females*) C/ALHIV were reached with various services and support.



Adolescent Champions (ACs)

- Youths between 18 to 24 years who graduated from Baylor Tanzania COEs. Each group consists of 10 champions youths attached according to their Catchment Area (5 Streets in a Ward)
- Follow up and support their peers who are on MMD, those with adherence challenges, and those with high viral load through phone call reminders, peer mentorship, home visits, condom distribution and support hospitalized adolescents
- Provide SRH education, linkage, and referrals for various services including screening from their community to the COE.



Peer Educators Program

- Peer educators are selected among the adolescents (4 per year).
- They are capacitated on: Leadership skills, peer Counselling, partial disclosure, and how to work/assist other teens.
- Provide support during clinics hours (Mon & Tues for 5-12 years and 12-18 yrs: Peer-to-peer counseling, Teen talk (max 15 per group), Sexual reproductive health and counseling, and elicitation



USAID – Uhuru TB & FP Activity

Baylor Tanzania implement Adolescent program in supported regions of project coverage

This program mainly intends to

- Strengthen Adolescent & youth psychosocial friendly services at facilities through trained peer educators, these peers advocate for adolescent to adolescent interaction, support adolescent clubs, SRH talks sessions and peer networking
- Establish a strong support and linkage system for youths and adolescent to attain various services including FP, TB/HIV, GBV through sensitization campaigns conducted by peers at facility level
- Overall improve Health outcomes of adolescents and youths with various health challenges including TB/HIV, Psychosocial, GBV at facility level



- Improve access to/use of high quality youth centered services i.e. SRH and TB services
- Provide capacity building for Adolescent and Youth engagement in TB and SRH services at supported facilities

The program has trained 44 peer leaders distributed to higher priority health facilities, Districts and regional hospitals in the supported regions of Katavi, Kigoma Songwe and Rukwa

- Peers have managed to demonstrate and conduct health education, sensitization and linkage of youths at facilities on daily basis, mostly at focal entry points OPD, RCH's and attending occasional outreaches organized by facilities
- In the ending reporting period of Q2, peers reached and given health education on TB, HIV, SRH talks to 910 adolescents and youths



Achievements

- 607 adolescents were linked for TB screening, Family planning services and other SRH and psychosocial interventions needed by respective adolescents at facility level to be attended by health care providers
- 272 Adolescents were served with Family planning methods following this sensitization conducted by peers at the facilities
- 109 adolescent found to have signs and symptoms of tuberculosis and were appropriately linked for investigations at the facility
- peer leaders have managed to conduct club sessions at facility level involving >30 adolescents per session held on monthly basis attended by different youth age categories, during sessions adolescents get to learn various health topics under guidance of their supervisors and get time for entertainments and socialization



Peers linkage and reporting tools



Baylor Tanzania Fomu ya Rufaa – Vijana Rika

Tarehe: _____/_____/_____

Rufaa kutoka kwa:

Jina: _____

Kwa ajili ya Huduma za:

1. Huduma za Kifua Kikuu
2. Huduma ya Afya ya Uzazi
3. Kupima VVU
4. Huduma nyingine

Zitaje

- 1
- 2

Majibu ya Rufaa ya Mtoa huduma:

Jina: _____ Cheo _____



USAID-UHURU TB&FP

RIPOTI YA WIKI YA VIJANA WAELIMISHAJI RIKA

MKOA.....WILAYA.....KITUO.....

WIKI YA TAREHE.....HADI TAREHE.....MWAKA.....

Na	VIASHIRIA	JUMLA		JUMLA		JUMLA	
		Me	Ke	Me	Ke	Me	Ke
1	Idadi ya vijana balehe waliopewa elimu ya Afya juu ya Ugonjwa wa Kifua Kikuu (TB) kituoni wiki hii			Waliopewa rufaa kufanya uchunguzi wa Kifua kikuu		Waliokutwa na Dalili za Ugonjwa wa kifua kikuu	
2	Idadi ya vijana balehe waliopewa elimu ya Afya ya Uzazi na kujikinga na mimba za utotoni – KITUONI (ndani ya wiki hii)			Waliopewa rufaa kupata huduma ya uzazi wa mpango		Waliopata Huduma ya Uzazi wa Mpango	
3	Idadi ya vijana balehe waliopewa elimu ya Afya ya Uzazi na kujikinga na mimba za utotoni – KWENYE JAMII			Waliopewa rufaa Kuja kupata huduma ya uzazi wa mpango		Waliopata Huduma ya Uzazi wa Mpango	
4	Idadi ya vijana balehe waliohudhuria Klabu za vijana teen club (Klabu ya vijana balehe na kupata mafuzo mbalimbali wiki hii)			Waliopewa rufaa kupata huduma ya uzazi wa mpango		Waliopata Huduma ya Uzazi wa Mpango	
5	Idadi ya vijana balehe waliopewa ushauri rika kuhusiana na matumizi sahihi ya dawa za kifua Kikuu ndani ya wiki hii						
6	Idadi ya vikao vya club za vijana vilizofanyika kituoni, mada gani zimezungumziwa kwenye klabu, zitaje						



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Project: Humanitarian Response to Mitigate Impacts of COVID 19 on Children, Adolescents and Lactating mothers/Pregnant women Living with HIV in Mbeya and Njombe regions of Tanzania.

Donor: UNICEF

Awardee: Baylor Tanzania

A one year project operating under facility led community ART platforms for ALHIV lead by adolescent peer leaders within established Teen Cell Leadership networks (July 2021 to July 2022)

Overall goal: Improved, scaled up and equitable use of proven HIV prevention, treatment, care and support interventions for children, adolescents and pregnant/lactating women LHIV

Specific Objectives:

- Promote regular HIV care and treatment services during COVID-19 outbreak
- Increased capacity of LGAs in supervising safe COVID-19 protocols for each HIV service delivery to children, ALHIV and lactating/pregnant women living with HIV (L/PWLHIV)
- Retain target groups in the care plan for improved HIV care and treatment outcomes
- Provide minimum package of essential care to facility and community health workers

Beneficiaries: To reach 3,262 ALHIV, 492 P/LWLHIBV, 819 CLHIV, and 1,812 YLHIV in Mbeya and Njombe regions

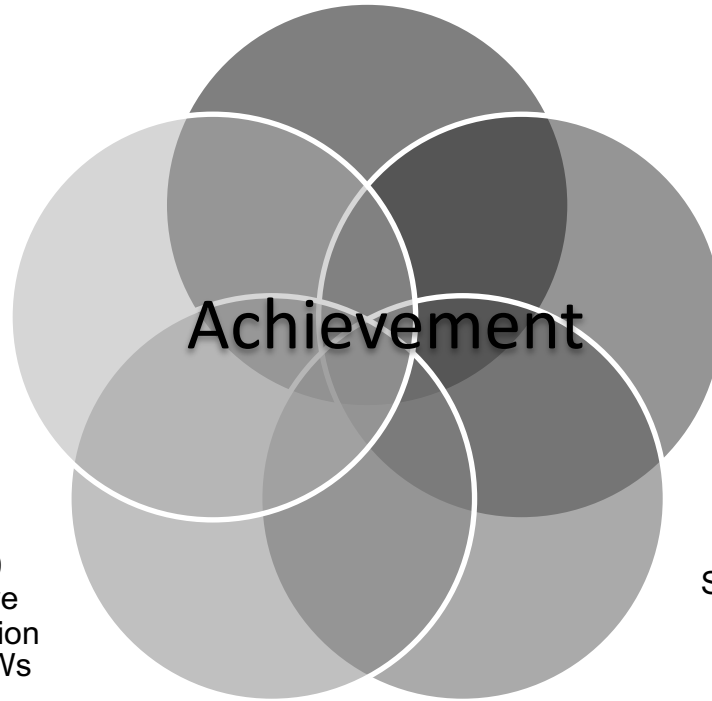
Implementers: Regional and District Social workers (R/DSWOs), CHAC, health care providers (HCPs) and Teen Cell Leaders (TCLs) at chimbo level



This project managed to sustain accessibility to ART and other HIV related services during the COVID 19 pandemic through community ART platforms for ALHIV - More than 9,787 ALHIV, 3277 Children and 1967 pregnant mothers living with HIV were retained in HIV treatment and care and are knowledgeable and have skills to prevent COVID-19 and other infectious diseases

RCH units were provided with IPC supplies through peer mothers to ensure maximum prevention during extending services to pregnant and lactating women living with HIV in particular units - 2,128 P/LWLHIV reached

Integration of COVID 19 awareness and preventive measures through orientation sessions to R/CHMT, HCWs and Adolescent Peer Community Leaders in the 10 project councils of Njombe and Mbeya regions.



It also sustained MOH strategies to transition provision of multi-month medication to ART stable clients- 1,043 ALHIV transformed into stable Multi-month Scripting (MMS)

Sustain provision of Peer-to-Peer psychosocial support through mobile technology (SMS)- 3,516 individuals (2243 ALHIV, 1273 caregivers) reached through phone calls and mobile SMS



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COVID 19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

“Ujanja ni Kuchanja, Kijana Chanja Okoa Maisha”



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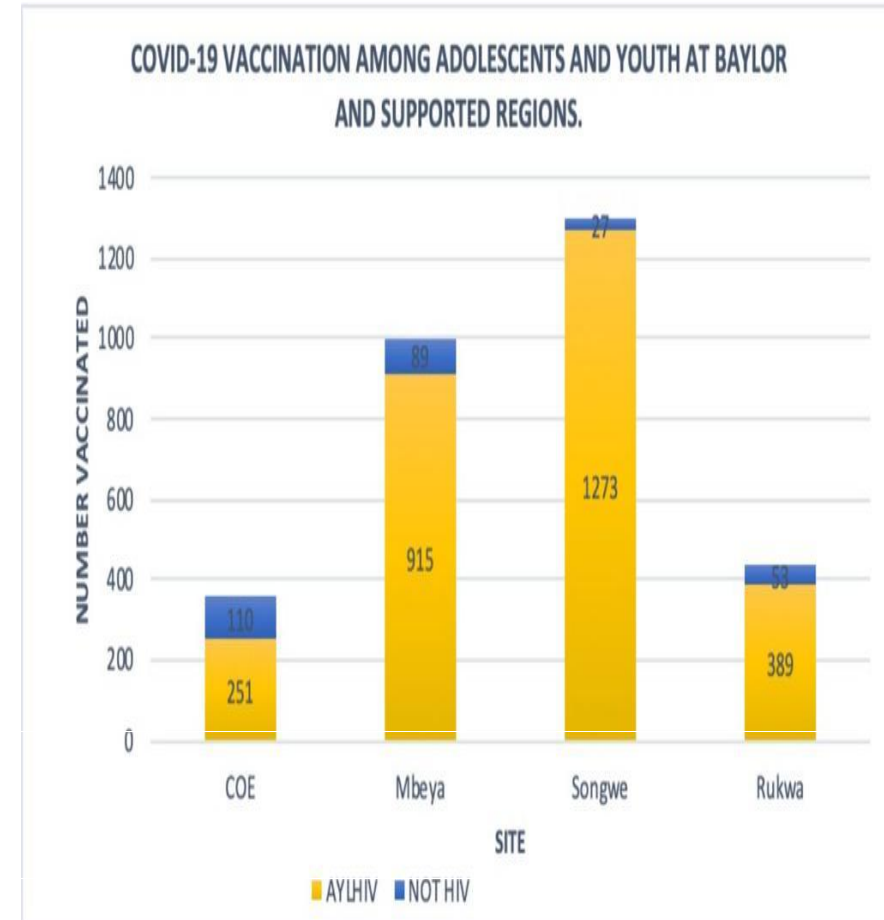
SCALE UP OF COVID 19 VACCINATION AMONG AYLHIV

IMPACT OF PEER-TO-PEER TALKS ON INCREASING COVID-19 VACCINE UPTAKE AMONG ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN TANZANIA.

BACKGROUND: The Tanzanian Ministry of Health undertook a campaign for the provision of COVID-19 vaccines in August 2021 to all adults above 18 years of age due to low vaccine uptake in the population. Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation - Tanzania Centre of Excellence (COE) in Mbeya started a vaccination activity targeting adolescents and youth living with HIV (AYLHIV), aged 18-24 years, at the COE as well as in the supported regions in the Southern Highlands zone of Tanzania.

DESCRIPTION: Baylor Tanzania Mbeya Centre of excellence launched a COVID-19 vaccination campaign aiming to increase the COVID-19 vaccines uptake among adolescents and youth living with HIV (AYLHIV) at Mbeya COE and Regions supported by Baylor Tanzania, Infection, Prevention and control (IPC) team conducted one day Orientation training to Peer educators with the objective of capacitating them with the general kn. In May 2022, at the COE and at health facilities in the supported regions on COVID-19 disease and vaccines with the aim of dispelling the misconceptions and myths regarding the vaccines. This training allowed them to conduct 10-day peer-to-peer COVID-19 vaccine sensitization campaigns culminating in a final day where all sensitized and eligible adolescents and youth were vaccinated.

LESSONS LEARNT: From June 2022 to December 2022, a total of 361 adolescents and youth were vaccinated at the COE; among them, 251(70%) were AYLHIV (see chart below) and 206(57 %) were female. A total of 2,746 adolescents and youth were vaccinated at the supported sites in Mbeya, Songwe and Rukwa Region. Among those vaccinated, 2,577(94%) were AYLHIV (see chart) and 1773(65%) were female.



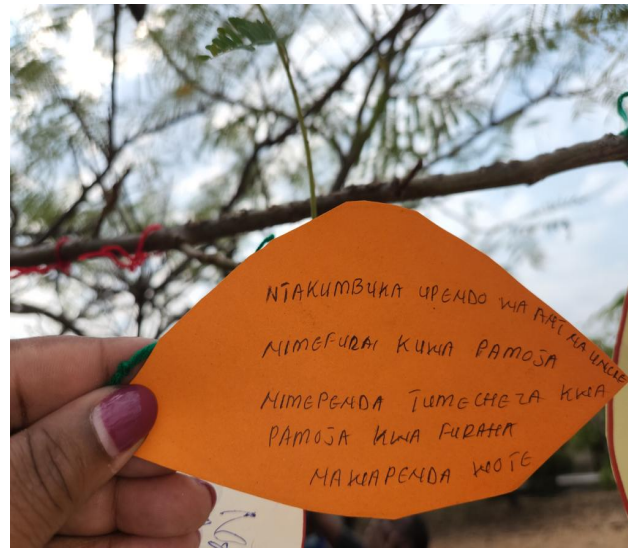
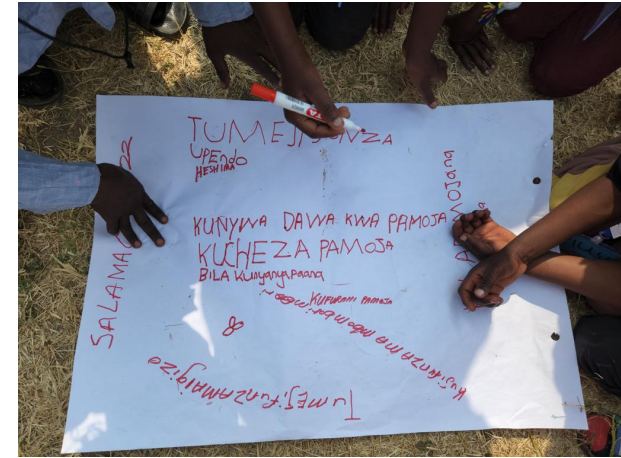
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Camping – Salama Camp "Serious Fun"



Camping – Salama Camp

Since 2012, Baylor-Tanzania COE has hosted weeklong camps for HIV infected clients called Salama Camp in partnership with Serious Fun Children’s Network, striving to empower the most vulnerable members of the pediatric HIV population to build positive relationships, improve self-esteem and acquire life skills through recreational and educational camp interventions.

The collaborative relationship between Baylor-Tanzania COE and Serious Fun focuses on a range of activities including residential & non-residential camp, outreach activities, training, and remote-based programs in Tanzania.

Specific objectives for family camps (Residential Camps) are:

- 1.To improve psychosocial support for adolescent attending Mbeya COE with focus on vulnerable adolescents, adherence challenges, retention in care and sexual & reproductive health.
- 2.To improve psychosocial local support systems for adolescent living with HIV at house hold level through outreach intervention focusing on retention in care and adherence to treatment.
3. To Improve caregivers, support to the children living with HIV/AIDS. The program allowed only one family member to attend with camper.

Therefore, the program recruited a total of 680 campers (average of 80 campers per season) aged 10 -17, and 50 caregivers of the campers, 150 volunteers to participate weekend camp session since 2012.



CONCLUSION

- ❖ Key strategies (personal evaluation & goal setting) can be incorporated in EAC to attain HVL suppression earlier
- ❖ Adherence challenges can be addressed thoroughly and successful suppression achieved before switching regimen
- ❖ Peer-to-peer support and intervention is key in overcoming unique challenges faced by adolescents living with HIV

