Youth Participation in ICTs for Health Development

E-Consultation with Young People on their Experiences

FINAL REPORT

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APPRECIATION

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Director of Africa Division UNFPA, Fama Hane Ba, for supporting this initiative to better the lives of young people in Africa and around the World. Our appreciation also goes to Mona Kaidbey, Deputy Director of Africa Division (UNFPA) and Dr. Akinyele Dairo, Senior Programme Adviser for Young People (UNFPA), for their continuous support and guidance about the issues young people in Africa face on a daily basis.

We also acknowledge the support and advice of UNFPA Staff: Saskia Schellekens, Sidiki Coulibaly, Charlotte Juul Hansen, Demola Olajide, Ismaila Sulaiman and Raheemat Momodu.

Finally, we appreciate and are greatly thankful to all the young leaders who actively participated in the e-consultation.

The report was prepared by Adekoyejo Adeboye and Theophilus Ekpon.
INTRODUCTION

In an increasingly globalized world, the impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the economic, social, cultural, political and individual spheres of life has dramatically transformed the human experience. Young people play a crucial role in shaping their societies future health conditions, but sufficient attention has not been given to young people in this dynamic aspect of development.

Youth participation in ICTs for Health Development is an emerging area which needs to be harnessed in order to urgently address current and future health needs, especially Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH)/HIV prevention needs of young people.

The outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), have led to a drive towards a people-centered and development-oriented information society. The summit placed particular emphasis on Youth and ICTs as agents of positive change in societies. It recognized that young people are the future workforce and leading creators of ICTs. They must therefore be empowered to learn, develop, contribute and participate in decision making in line with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In view of the above, this e-consultation availed young people the opportunity to voice their concerns and be adequately included in ICTs for development initiatives, especially ICTs for Health Development initiatives. The main challenge remains determining up to which extent will young people be actually involved in these processes.

Objectives of the E-Consultation

The e-consultation was convened to learn about experiences and participation of youth using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in health, and to know young people’s involvement in local and national ICTs for health development strategies.

It was also convened to get recommendations from young people on the way forward in making sure that their health issues, especially ASRH/HIV prevention issues, are involved in National Development Plans through the development of this comprehensive report which aims to serve as a reference point for development experts and policy makers.

These conclusions of the e-consultation will feed into the upcoming GAID/ITU/UN Global forum on Youth and ICT for development in Geneva, Switzerland from 24 – 26 September 2007, titled “Youth and ICTs as Agents of Change”.

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Methodology

The e-consultation, which was organized by UNFPA using the ICT platform of TakingITGlobal, took place over a period of four weeks from 24 July to 14 August 2007. The consultation focused on four key areas:

1. Definition and understanding of concepts
2. The current levels of youth participation
3. Thematic issues in Health that are of relevance to adolescents and Youth and identified gaps
4. Suggestions by young people on how ICTs can be used to promote health issues.

Each week had varying number of questions which participants responded to, and the moderators summarized the contributions of each week.

For more information on the e-consultation, please visit:

http://groups.takingitglobal.org/healthandICTs

Participation

About 170 young leaders from over 43 countries in both Africa and beyond joined in the e-consultation. The majority of the participants were between the ages of 17 and 25, and a few of them were between 25 and 35 years old. They are leaders of youth and Youth Serving Organizations (YSOs) in their various localities and countries. They have vast experience in health including ASRH/HIV prevention and other issues that impact the development of young people. Some of the African countries represented include:

- Algeria
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Congo
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Eritrea
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Somalia
- Tanzania
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Zambia
Moderators

The e-consultation was moderated by:

**Adekoyejo Adeboye:** He is currently a Consultant with UNFPA's Africa Division Young People Team in New York, where he works on youth related initiatives and the Campaign to End Fistula in the Africa Region. He holds a Masters degree in International Studies and has experience working with consulting firms on Wall Street.

**Theophilus Ekpon:** He holds a bachelor’s degree and presently works with the United Nations Population Fund in Nigeria. He was a consultant and Special Youth Fellow with UNFPA where he worked on Population, Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies. He is member of the UNFPA/WORLD BANK working group on Youth and Poverty.

**WELCOME MESSAGE FOR THE E-CONSULTATION**

**Message from Fama Ba, Director of Africa Division, UNFPA**

Thank you all for taking out time to join this e-consultation on Youth, ICTs and Health. It is my pleasure to open this e-consultation for young leaders from around the world, especially from Africa. What an occasion to dialogue with you again; the leaders of today’s youth movement in Africa and Africa’s future leaders.

Let’s agree on some basics: Health is not just mere absence of diseases or ailments, but the state of physical, mental and social well-being, including sexual and reproductive health fulfillment. There are millions of young people who are confronted on daily basis with health issues such unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection, mental health and substance and drug abuse. They want to be assured of being able to achieve their dreams free of drugs and substance abuse and protected from the perils of early sexual debut, unwanted pregnancy, sexual and gender-based violence, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. I have always believed that at the most basic level; all young people have the right to education, health and safety. If all are given the right information, choices and opportunities, they will live healthier and more productive lives.

The theme of this e-consultation, Youth, ICTs and Health, explores the use of information, communication and technology in promoting healthy living. The field of ICTs is an area where young people have a niche compared to adults. The use of ICTs in promoting health provides opportunity for young people to unleash their enormous potential to contribute to healthy living for all. This e-consultation will provide us with opportunities to harness our resources in this fast growing field that will make huge contribution to healthcare provision and sustainable development.
You are a creative and energetic resource that we know can make a difference in this field where you have comparative advantage. You are agents of change and we need to hear from you about how you have been involved, and about the pressing issues on youth involvement in ICTs and Health. Many thanks for taking part in this consultation.

**SUMMARY OF WEEK 1**

**Definition and understanding of concepts**

1. **Explain ICTs in your own words.**
   - Some respondents referred to ICTs as technology tools that help us communicate, inform, store and share knowledge whilst transcending many traditional barriers of geography, law, politics, and even physics.
   - Others saw ICTs as a new way of expression/communication associated with globalization.
   - A few others perceived ICTs as tools that connect people around the world. They saw ICTs as an avenue to get informed, involved and inspired to shape our world and communities.

   "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a modernized tool that has the capacity to influence all sectors of the society. Driven by technologies, ICT has been employed effectively as a capacity enhancement and service delivery tool in the areas of health, education, sciences, security, and entertainment among others"

   Emeka Nwosu  
   Project Coordinator,  
   Youth Empowerment & Child Labour  
   Elimination Project (YCEP - NIGERIA)

2. **Explain Health (especially Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS) in your own words.**
   - Most participants in the e-consultation referred to Health (especially Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS as a whole sphere of issues, findings, realities and expectations of people’s wellbeing due to their human bodies not failing naturally or failing by inducement from pathogens and other foreign matter.
   - It involves a state of being able to grow, having good prospects for continued survival and being able to cope with everyday activities. Specifically, adolescent sexual and reproductive health includes youth being well socially, mentally, emotional, physiological and physically because their reproductive health systems are in order and have not being subjected to either pathogenic or physical adulteration. This may include "having a satisfying and safe sex
life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so” but not exclusive.

- Some participants were quick to point out the fact that health is not just the absence of disease or pathogens, but the availability of safe options and choices, rights, skills and the absence of pressure for Young People.

  “Health, for me, is among basic human rights. Health signifies well being of each person, mentally and physically. Hence, among each government’s main tasks is to allow its population to have access to comprehensive health services”

  Marie Sandra Ramonjison  
  Associate Expert on Youth Programming  
  UNFPA, Madagascar

3. What do you understand by the term development?

- Participants understood development as a process that evolves in stages by which people, through their own will, either assisted or through their wherewithal, attain certain goals that make their lives better and happier in their own eyes. They felt it should be sustainable so that future generations and indeed people living at the time of the progression do not suffer from the negative consequences.

- Others saw development as a practice whereby an individual or a group attempts improvement economically, intellectually or emotionally.

- Development was seen as a tool to combat poverty, foster self reliance, improve organization and to maximize potential and profits.

  “This is a process of positive change in economies, social, cultural and environment for a better and sustainable livelihood.”

  Joof Ousainou  
  Gambia

4. What do you understand by the term ICTs for Health Development?

- Respondents understood ICTs for Health Development as technological tools that help make the health sector work better or faster and in so doing eliminates unnecessary processes. Examples given include storage of information on HIV+ patients and ART activities, public health messages, promote best practices.
• A few saw ICTs for health development as a means for young people to get informed, involved and inspired in processes that relate to their health and development.

“ICT for Health development is the exploitation of Information and Communication Technologies for the improvement/advancement of health issues through sensitization, education provision and mobilization.”

Andrew William  
Chairperson, National ISHI, Tanzania

5. In one sentence state how you think ICTs can be exploited to promote/enhance health status within overall development objectives

• Most respondents suggested that ICTs can be used to mitigate the effects of both brain–drain in the health sector of developing countries and inadequate personnel in the same sector through producing means of transferring skills, retaining skills when experts move on, and indeed producing para-professionals that can work effectively and efficiently in providing some services that are needed in the sector, freeing the doctors and nurses to do their basic jobs.

• Some stated that ICTs can be used to promote knowledge of popular opinion leaders for behavior change.

• Others stated that ICTs can be used as a source of health information to the general public by which they can learn the basic remedies to perform when ill, without necessarily seeing a doctor

“By designing and delivering useful applications, such as patient medical records systems, health management information systems (HMIS), and disease surveillance systems.”

Cyril Nii-Offei France  
Co Director Africa  
Save Children Now, Ghana.

SUMMARY OF WEEK 2

Exploring ICTs for Health Development strategies/initiatives in your country

1. Have you been engaged in any community or national ICTs for Health Development initiative, project, and or rally?

• Over 80% of the respondents stated that they had been engaged in ICTs for Health Development initiatives, projects and rallies.
• A few have never been involved in ICTs for Health Development initiatives, projects and rallies.

Yes, I have participated in several gatherings since I am youth activist and health care worker. ICTs are very important in delivering health information for both communities and with in health care professionals.

Fosia Eedle
Chairperson, SOLVOY, Somalia

2. What was your contribution to any of the above?

• Most participants were actively involved in these initiatives, projects, and rallies. Some even held leadership positions as Coordinators, Developers and Planners.

• A few contributed through participation in workshops, fund raising, curriculum development, interactive websites etc.

• About 13% of the respondents had never made any contribution to these processes.

I have been engaging myself in a number of community or national ICTs for Health Development initiatives, projects, and rallies I am the chairperson of national ISHI (Swahili word meaning LIVE) which is community based campaign aiming at preventing new HIV infections to youth, the campaign employs a number of ICTs initiatives like radio/TV programmes, posters, brochures about HIV/AIDS and ASRH. Another initiative is the National HIV/AIDS and ASRH free hotline hosted by the Tanzania Youth Alliance, where I am volunteering as a counselor and peer educator.

Andrew William
Chairperson, National ISHI, Tanzania

3. Have you been part of any consultative process on ICTs for Health Development?

• 50% of the e-consultation participants stated that they have been involved in at least one consultative process on ICTs for Health Development

• A few have never been part of consultative processes in their countries, and commented that this e-consultation was their first experience of the sort.

• Others were involved in consultative processes through being members of National ICTs policy dialogue groups, ICTs project board meetings,

Yes, in the project named, Youth and poverty reduction, which aims to involve youth in the development of Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers (PRSPs). The ICT and health consultation was a part of the thematics
4. How were the inputs of youth perceived (accepted/respected)?

- Some respondents stated that their inputs were accepted but not implemented
- A few stated that their inputs were not considered seriously
- A couple others never made inputs

The inputs and perspectives of the youth in the National Consultative Process for coming with the National ICT Policy were respected and were even incorporated into the final document. The youth had an integral role to play in coming up with a final policy and even in the review which became enacted into law.

Shalala Oliver Sepiso
Executive Director, Rescue Mission, Zambia

SUMMARY OF WEEK 3

Adolescent and Youth topics:

Please tell us: From your own experience or knowledge, how where the following issues addressed using ICTs?

1. HIV/AIDS

- There was a strong response to this question. Some examples of ICTs include radio programming and jingles, television programming, mobile phone text and voice messaging, websites for experience sharing and information gathering, banners, tire covers, billboards, short videos and documentaries, virtual consultation rooms by which the internet is used as a medium to connect health specialists to patients and to answer questions that Young People may have.
- One respondent focused on how ICTs could be used by hospitals and health service providers for their own benefit, known as the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system.

In April 2005, Zambia became the first country in Africa to Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system, the Continuity of Care Patient Tracking System. This is particularly important for people on antiretroviral treatment. The system allows health care workers to carefully monitor patient medications and emerging drug resistance. This close patient tracking helps to control the number of patients who must switch from first-to second-line drugs. In so doing, the EMR system also helps to control expenses associated with second-line regimens.

Shalala Oliver Sepiso,
Executive Director
Rescue Mission, Zambia
2. **Promotion of Contraceptives (utilization/acceptance)**

- Respondents pointed out the fact that ICTs can be effectively used in advocacy and sensitization campaigns. Radio and TV dramas were singled out as effective means.
- PowerPoint presentations and electronic forums were also noted to be effective for the promotion of contraceptives.

3. **Early marriage**

- The general argument made was that although the issue was mainly cultural, empowerment of young girls through education was an effective way of combating the problem. The use of banners, mass media, bills and brochures, online forums and websites were encouraged.

> Early marriage has been practiced in most parts of my country. ICT through the use of media can empower young girls to seek education and develop their self-confidence, so that they can be independent of a man.

> **David Enomah, Coordinator**  
> Community Youth’s Health Initiative  
> Nigeria

4. **Early and unwanted pregnancy**

- Free hotlines and telephone line counseling were widely suggested as effective, along with online forums and mass media.
- ICTs in conjunction with traditional arts i.e. concerts, shows, films were also said to be effective

> Due to lack of contraception (11% only for young girl sexually active aged 15-19), early pregnancy is common in Madagascar, especially in rural areas...Concerts made by young artists are among the most attractive ways to inform young people on how to avoid unwanted pregnancy. Several associations let young people be aware of the effect of unwanted pregnancy through Malagasy movies. This is one of the most effective ways to reach many young people, especially for young people in rural areas, who seldom have opportunity to enjoy entertainment on a big screen.

> **Marie-Sandra Ramonjison**  
> Associate Expert on Youth Programming  
> UNFPA, Madagascar

5. **Prostitution including girls and women trafficking**
• Some respondents felt that not enough was being done with regards to ICT to combat this issue.
• Online spaces where women and girls can access share and learn from sensitive information is encouraged.
• Audio and video recordings and photography can also be good agents of sensitization.

6. Peer Pressure

• The use of visual media including movies, learning CD-ROMs, TV programmes and documentaries were mentioned to be effective since younger audiences can be better engaged through visual means.

7. Drug and Substance Abuse

• Some respondents noted that ICTs like advertisements, posters, and movies can be used for both drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation.
• Some noted that a major cause of drug abuse is lacks of job skills and opportunities and see ICTs as a means of demanding more from their governments.

Sexual and Reproductive Health, Drug and Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS are all interconnected and directly impact the quality of life of youth and adolescents. I believe the role of media in lobbying political will on the issues of youth, including Drug and Substance Abuse. ICTs can also help develop communication strategies on the above issues.

Mubarak M. Omar, Executive Director
Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization, Somalia

8. Mental Health

• Response to this question was minimal, highlighting the fact that no much had been done with regards to this issue.
• One respondent highlighted the effectiveness of Video Conferencing as a tool for training and professional development and peer reviews or second opinions for medical practitioners in remote or rural areas.

9. Sexual Violence

• The use of toll free numbers for reporting and the use of other ICTs including: video shows, publications, films and movies for sensitization and said to be important.

10. Harmful Traditional Practices, including Female Genital Cutting.
• Radio and television sensitization programming were the main suggestions by the respondents.

ICTs provide unique opportunities for Girls' empowerment by improving access to information on health, nutrition, education and other human development issues. ICT devices can promote and support the fight against Harmful Traditional Practices including FGC and Fistula, especially radio and television programming that gives young girls opportunities for social interaction, including peer and bottom-up communication... Particularly girls living in poverty, girls living in rural and remote areas and in disadvantaged situations.

Mubarak M. Omar, Executive Director
Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization, Somalia

11. Other health/ASRH issues, including Poverty Reduction (please specify).

• ICTs were suggested as a means of promoting livelihoods, education, peace and human rights, good governance (giving the marginalized a voice), and increasing the overall efficiency of development initiatives.

The other health issue which ICTs have been used to address in Cameroon, concerns “Breast Ironing”. It’s a practice which consists of pressing girl’s breasts with hot tools to force them out or in.

Pascal Bekono
Solidarité Cameroun Association
Cameroon

12. Which of the above areas was most difficult to address?

• Interestingly enough, each respondent picked a different issue as the most difficult to address. The lack of consensus highlights the fact that each situation in terms of geography, infrastructure and capacity faces different obstacles and challenges.

13. What were the challenges you faced yourself or heard about from other young people with regards to ICTs?

• Problems included: lack of mainstream support, lack of communication and coordination, lack of continuity, lack of capacity-building, lack of awareness, lack of infrastructure, no budgeting for technology, lack of capacity, lack of quality reporting, reactive rather than proactive approach to technology, and government media monopolies and restrictions.

• Some respondents pointed out the ICTs can be viewed as the cause of promiscuity by some, and more of the problem than the solution.

Some ICTs are considered as “entertainment” for adults. Using internet for chatting, exchanging SMS, listening to Radio or Music is viewed as time lost by old people. And if young people listen to sexual topics via the
ICTs tools, it means that those tools could be a danger for their education and behavior. As they see it, the temptation of youth regarding sexual issues is created by some ICTs.

Nazim Benchikh
Youth Fellow, UNFPA, Algeria

SUMMARY OF WEEK 4

The way forward:

Please tell us how you think ICTs can be used to promote Health issues, especially Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV prevention in community and National Development strategies;

1. How do we make sure that youth and adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS issues are included in Development plans?

- Some respondents suggested that a section on Adolescent Reproductive Health should be included in all development plans
- 90% of the participants insisted that young people should be included in the planning and initial stages of national development plans and strategies
- A few stated that youth should be involved in governance
- A few suggested that youth should be included in the implementation process and subsequent lobbying as may be required
- Others suggested that ASRH issues should be included in school curricula and should have a special section in development strategies
- Some respondents suggested the review of strategic plans of action for the national response

The only way I see is for the total inclusion of young people in planning because in Africa, the government will want to plan for young people and they will ask the head of that committee to be a 55 year old man, and then tell me who they are planning for?

David Enomah
Coordinator,
Community Youth Health Initiative, Nigeria
2. Which youth and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS issues should be included in local and national development processes?

- Some respondents suggested sexuality education as an issue to be included in local and national development processes.

- Many participants suggested that issues of early pregnancy, contraceptives to prevent unwanted pregnancies and abortion, sexual violence etc should be included in local and national development plans.

- Improving access to anti retroviral drugs and treatment was also suggested as an important component to be included in both local and national development processes.

- A few suggested that free access to drugs and treatment on other killer diseases apart from HIV/AIDS associated with Youth should be included.

- Some respondents suggested that there should be focus on Young people living with HIV/AIDS.

- Others suggested to include the health issues of sexual minorities (LGBTI), drug users and the disabled.

- A few respondents suggested that adolescent sexual rights including the rights of minorities should be included in development plans.

> It is important that a country give to the young girls the opportunity to enjoy their adolescence and not be victims of early pregnancy.

  *Marie Sandra Ramonjison*
  *Associate Expert on Youth Programming*
  *UNFPA, Madagascar*

3. What role can young people play to facilitate the use of ICTs in influencing the mainstreaming of ASRH/HIV/AIDS issues and concerns into National Development processes?

- Some participants suggested that young people can create awareness around their ASRH/HIV/AIDS projects through the use of knowledge sharing tools (i.e. radio, contest, poster, sketch) to inform policy makers and government on the need to input ASRH concerns into local and national development processes.

- Others suggested that ICT based conferences and workshops on ASRH should be organized to target policy makers and government.
A participant suggested that Young People should brainstorm ideas on friendly ICT tools for youth, which can help sensitize and mobilize their fellow youth in the fight against STIs and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Young People should come out and speak out on their issues and concerns. If we keep quiet, we give an “all is well” impression.

Stephen Kasoma
Regional Focal Point for East Africa
Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), Uganda

4. Which ICTs do you see as on the “cutting edge” or have great potential in Africa with regards to health particularly ASRH/HIV/AIDS issues?

- Most respondents saw cellular phone technology including free hotlines, as the most cutting edge and relevant in the African context.

- A couple of respondents suggested web tools, radio, and television as ICT tools that have great potential in Africa with regards to health particularly ASRH/HIV/AIDS issues.

- Some respondents preferred posters, projected presentations, CD-ROMS and video tapes as cutting edge ICT tools, as majority of young people in the developing world do not have access to the reliable electricity or the internet, and small generators could be used to supply electricity.

... this is a success story from our ISHI (To be alive) campaign in Tanzania. We managed to reach more than 70% of the people in the country through TV/Radio programs, bills, printing technology and of course community events, but also a hotline (free) which is so effective in reaching lots of young people.

Andrew William
Chairperson of national ISHI, Tanzania
The e-consultation indicated that only about 50 percent of participants had been involved in at least one consultative process on ICTs for Health Development in the past. This means that this forum was effective in reaching new youth and ICT activists, which in turn, expands the knowledge base and also creates opportunities to get new ideas from young people to be used as inputs into the upcoming Global Forum on ICTs for Development, and future events of its kind.

Additionally, only few participants had deep knowledge on ICTs for Health Development prior to joining the e-consultation. The dialogue created awareness of these processes and initiatives and highlighted the important role young people can play. The e-consultation also provided the opportunity to learn about the experiences of those who have been involved in ICTs for Health Development initiatives.

As the summaries above show, participants proposed several ideas on “the way forward”. One idea that must be emphasized in this conclusion is the idea of including young people in the planning, implementation and lobbying processes of health development initiatives, especially those involving ICTs, as the youth themselves are often the end-users and they should have a say in pointing out what interventions would be most effective.

One irrefutable outcome of this e-consultation is that young people are a creative and energetic resource that everyone must cultivate and learn from. They are the leaders of today and tomorrow and need to be given greater attention in order for them to lead healthy lives, eliminate poverty and make our world a better place to live in.
ANNEX

WEEK ONE RESPONSES

Introduction

Explain ICTs in your own words.

1. **Enomah David, Nigeria**: I see it as the act of using technology in communication. It can be either by the internet, media, etc.

2. **Balogun Kasim, Nigeria**: Is an acronym for Information communication technologies.

3. **Ibiang Obongha, Nigeria**: ICT is any form of science application that helps in enhancing our communication and information dissemination and sharing.

4. **Esther Agbarakwe, Nigeria**: Information Communication and Technology (ICT) to me means a tool that helps me to connect to with other people around the world. I see ICT as an avenue to get inform, involved and inspire to create room for new realities and a greater future in my community as a young person and as the future and to help others get inform and inspired in shaping their world.

5. **Joof Ousainou, Gambia**: ICT stands for Information Communication Technologies; this is a medium by which messages are exchanged to create a general understanding among parties.

6. **Raymond Enoch, Nigeria**: refers to the use communication items ranging from Telephones, Telegraph, Fax, Internet etc as media to exchange knowledge and communication. Again ICTs must be defined in terms of its access as a whole.

7. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: This is an abbreviation for the word Information Communication Technology. This involves using machines, devices, equipment and technology to disseminate information. Information technologies include the use of radio, TV, computers, cellular phones, print and mass media etc, to enhance access to share-based information. In recent years ICT is identified as the most useful tool to promote access to accurate and reliable sources of information. ICT is a very effective and diverse tool for human development. It is used in all disciplines and it remains the most accurate and timely device that delivers results.

8. **Emeka Nwosu, Nigeria**: Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are a modernized tool that has the capacity to influence all sectors of the society. Driven by technologies, ICT has been employed effectively as a capacity enhancement and service delivery tool in the areas of health, education, sciences, security, entertainment among others.
9. **Erik Erioch, Kenya:** ICT stands for Information Communication and Technology. With information, a lot can be achieved; with communication, a lot can be understood; and with technology, a lot can be resolved. The increasing use of technology in the current world offers the best opportunity for the youth to apply in their lives what technology can offer. Computers, therefore, are a major tool that we can use as youths to understand major issues and for that matter, the internet would therefore be the best tool for us to use.

10. **Alphonso K. Weah, Liberia:** ICTs has to do with issues such as Radio, Television, Camera, Internet, newspapers and in a general term it means Information Communication Technology that connects the global community.

11. **Cyril Nii-Offei, Ghana:** To the best of my understanding ICTs in Education can be understood as the application of digital equipment to all aspects of teaching and learning. Furthermore ICTs are a broad subject concerned with technology and other aspects of managing and manipulating information. ICTs are that which embraces everything that delivers information to a user of that information.

12. **Nabil Chemli, Tunisia:** ICTs stand for Information and Communication Technology. It is the use of technologies such as computers, internet, multimedia and telecommunication to communicate and share information.

13. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** Information and Communication Technologies are tools which enable us to ameliorate and facilitate our daily life, productivity, etc (mobile phone, PC, etc.). It concerns all sectors activities. And, with the internet, we actually talk about e-activities (activities used through internet). That’s why we can have activities such as e-commerce, e-heath, e-learning, etc.

14. **Fred Barlue, Liberia:** ICT is an acronym that stands for Information Communications Technology. For me one good way to think about ICT is to consider all the uses of digital technology that already exist to help individuals, businesses and organizations use information. This is concerned with the storage, retrieval, manipulation, transmission or receipt of digital data. Importantly, it is also concerned with the way these different uses can work with each other.

15. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** The way I understand ICT it is the science of employing the technology we have in propagating the information flow and communication among individuals or groups.

16. **Ramonjison Marie Sandra:** In my own words, I would explain ICTs – Information and Communication Technologies – as the whole of all tools used to emit and to publish information, to undertake and to set up communication. In any country, ICTs are necessary to establish communication between population and authorities. In people’s daily lives ICTs are used in the learning process.
ICTs allow each person to have access to all kinds of information. ICTs includes many activities and the use of Internet, TV and radio broadcast, telephone, newspaper, leaflets, posters, etc. Therefore, ICTs play an important role in influencing economics, politics, societies, cultures. However, access to ICTs is limited for persons living in rural areas since the use of ICTs often requires electricity (apart from posters, newspapers).

17. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** ICTs to me are Technology tools associated with the storage, retrieval, manipulation, transmission or receipt of digital data which when well utilized can help reach most people in a very short period of time.

18. **Tshepiso Serehete, Botswana:** To me Information Communication and Technology is a new holistic approach of connecting people with information using new technology that gets faster and easier to use.

19. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** ICTs are the new way of expression of young people in this age of globalization, if you want to talk, to share, to ask the maximum of your peers, you know what to do. You have to use the ICTs. Information, Communication and Technology: could be the modern seed for youth to make their own blooming... In our world where communication is the propriety of big industries, media...etc. Youth had founded their own life, had created their own network, own vision of life by using those tools.

**Explain Health (especially Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS) in your own words.**

1. **Enomah David, Nigeria:** Health can be seen as the act of be healthy, to be free from pressing diseases that can easily kill. While an Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS) in my own worlds is the act is seeing the adolescent be healthy, free from pressing diseases that can easy kill. The reason why I fill adolescent health should be really taking care of is because youth are the future and their health needs to be taken good care of.

2. **Balogun Kasim, Nigeria:** Health is a state of being physically, emotionally and mental. This is apply to when I person is physically okay.

3. **Ibiang Obongha, Nigeria:** I consider health, especially ASRH to be the overall physical, mental emotional and psychological state of an adolescent mostly as it relates to the adolescent's ability and knowledge to make right sex related choices. This state and knowledge of health also influences the adolescent's perception of the HIV/AIDS problem and even their level of risk and exposure to HIV.
4. **Esther Agbarakwe, Nigeria**: Health in my understanding is feeling strong, happy and loved. It more than an absence of diseases(s) or physical and mental wellbeing. Health is having the ability to do something meaningful in your community. HIV/AIDS is an epidemic where we, young people are at the center. Our generation has not known a world without HIV/AIDS. It is a disease that is widely transmitted by unprotected sex. It has no barrier, race or culture, its here, its there, its everyway!

5. **Joof Ousainou, Gambia**: Health is a state of being physically, emotionally and mentally balance and not the mere absence of diseases. ASRH therefore is the absence of all forms of sexual and reproductive health and rights for the adolescent; this includes lack or denial of vital information on SRH for the young people.

6. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: Health is the normal function of he body and the ability to respond to natural phenomena which would not result to abnormalities ether emotional, physical and psychological stress or disturbance of the body and mind. Reproductive health is the physical and psychological well being and the ability to determine how to live a healthy live style, before, during, and after your reproductive live span. It involves sex education, population and family live education, maternal and reproduction health and right, which include STI and HIV/aids

7. **Emeka Nwosu, Nigeria**: Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health is a state of social, physical, mental and psychological well being of a young person. The wellbeing of a young person living positively with HIV/AIDS depends on how he/she is free of stigma and discrimination.

8. **Erik Dombou, Kenya**: Adolescent health is the state of feeling secure body wise, mentally, and physically. It is whereby one feels no pain or anxiety due to a stage in life. Health also means being in a position to undergo a change from one state to another without any harm for example being in a position to have safe reproduction processes, and with minimal infection of diseases. Health also means having minimal infections.

9. **Alphonso K. Weah, Liberia**: Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health have to do with maturity of people that is male /female particularly their own bodies in relation to when, how, where and who to have sex with or about. On the other hand Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health is a Period where children from the ages of 14-18 years experience changes in their private parts. Beside, HIV/AIDS is a deadly disease that does not a cure and as such needs to be prevented for all human kind.

10. **Cyril Nii-Offei, Ghana**: Health limitedly/basically is a condition of optimal well-being, relating this to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS. It is imperative to talk about health and education because; education
enables adolescents to obtain information that they can use to exercise and protect a range of interests and rights, including their reproductive health. The reproductive health of adolescents and adolescent sexuality is a sensitive, if not controversial, issue. Nevertheless, the subject of adolescent reproductive health needs much more efficient and effective measures in addressing the concerns. Furthermore in attaining what I defined as health all and sundry must have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, which includes also the right to reproductive health

11. **Nabil Chemli, Tunisia:** It’s all the issues dealing with the sexuality and reproductive health of youth, especially the right to choose and negotiate them, also having a safety sexual live, avoiding psychological (fear, shame and wrong beliefs ) and physical troubles ( STIs, HIV, drug abuse )

12. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** Health for adolescent is seeing as sensitization and education to reproductive health including HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancy. It is also seeing as education.

13. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** Health is a state of wellbeing in every aspect of life, when we mention adolescent sexual and reproductive health we focus our mind on the wellbeing of sexual and reproductive system of young people. Then HIV/AIDS as one of the disorder mainly resulting from infection of the mention system

14. **Ramonjison Marie Sandra, Madagascar:** Health, for me, is among basic human rights. Health signifies well being of each person, mentally and physically. Hence, among each government’s main tasks is to allow its population to have access to comprehensive health services. Adolescent sexual and reproductive health is part of health. Adolescent sexual and health reproductive health is not limited to well being. It also includes being able: to have safe sex, to avoid unwanted pregnancy, to protect from Sexual Transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, to have access to contraceptive, to have access information about sexuality and reproductive health, to get counseling and to be supported mentally and physically in case of rape, trouble from pregnancy, difficulty to negotiate safe sex, etc. The non respect of Adolescent sexual and reproductive health can have bad effects in adolescents’ daily life, especially in their education

15. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** Health is a state of physical, mental and social wellbeing of a human being and specifically, ASRH is the wellbeing of reproductive systems of young people. This is state is threatened many times by infections and HIV/AIDS is currently one of the biggest threats to Young people.

16. **Tshepiso Serehete, Botswana:** Health is not just the absence of sickness but the well being of the human physically, mentally and psychologically.
17. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** is being free of illness, adolescent sexual and reproductive health is the well being of young people, when they are well informed, have skills to decide about their life, free from external pressure, free from diseases and are able to take the right decision by having a safe behavior. That's why reproductive health is a Physical, mental and social well being.

**What do you understand by the term development?**

1. **Enomah David, Nigeria:** Development is another way that goes with health, for some one to be healthy he has to be developed, i.e., developed to know so many thing such as what are the causes of these sickness and how to prevent it, so when people has know these things they are developed so development can be seen as the act of enlighten people to know their right from left.

2. **Balogun Kasim, Nigeria:** development is change of old thing to new thing for the betterment of humanity

3. **Ibiang Obongha, Nigeria:** Development is what we as humans do to improve on our conditions be it physical or otherwise

4. **Esther Agbarakwe, Nigeria:** Development is any case or practice whereby an individual or a group attempts improvement economically, intellectually or emotionally. It means growth or improvement in areas that prior to that development were an issue(s) (i.e. It affects the generality of the citizens)

5. **Joof Ousainou, Gambia:** This is a process of positive change in economies, social, cultural and environment for a better and sustainable livelihood.

6. **Raymond Enoch, Nigeria:** Development is a concept used to mean a leap forward in a manner a society, organizations etc pursue it needs. This could further mean that development is a step forward in manner in which we both translate non-real activities to real activities.

7. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** Development is a stage of human civilization, and the ability to a decent and self reliance live style, and in harmony with the rights and well being of other and the future generations. It involves not just economic growth, but equitable distribution. It gives top priority to poverty elimination, integration of women into the development process.

8. **Erik Ericoh, Kenya:** Improvement of ones living standard for the better than it was. Improving ones status for what it was to another. Development can, however, be negative, but people always should go for the positive development which is sustainable for tomorrow, and the next generation.
9. **Alphonso K. Weah, Liberia:** understand the term development to mean changing of an individual / society from one stage to another. It also makes us to be more organized, become larger, mature or profitable in existence.

10. **Cyril Nii-Offei, Ghana:** Development is a progression from a simpler or minor to a more advanced, mature, or multifaceted form or stage

11. **Nabil Chemli, Tunisia:** Its the satisfaction of the human needs, his well-being and the access to the human right, that’s for the human development but it also has meaning in several contexts: social, economic

12. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** Development is the amelioration of a present state in relation to the past. In heath sector, we can see it as an amelioration of medical care, through medical staff or equipments

13. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** Development is advancement from one stage to the other, particularly from low to high stages

14. **Ramonjison Marie Sandra, Madagascar:** Development can be explained by going forward and being successful in fight against poverty. The term of poverty can be explained in different ways, depending on the area which needs to be addressed. Those areas can include education, health, employment, environment, governance. The lack of access to education or health services can be considered as poverty. It is the same for the deterioration of environment or the non access to employment. Also, development consists to address issues in those areas. Then, development should allow people to fully use their potentiality and to live safely in their environment. ICTs are closely linked to development since the use of ICTs is part of development. Information and communication about education, health, employment, environment, and governance can be effective and have impact on population daily life through ICTs

15. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** Development is the growth in both the economic and social aspects of people or countries

16. **Tshepiso Serehete, Botswana:** Development is change and I believe it should only be positive change that improves/enhances what was in the past into something more purposeful in the present and near future.

17. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** is the process that something passes degrees to a different stage, to achieve something, we should follow steps to arrive there, being able to pass those steps is the development

**What do you understand by the term “ICTs for Health Development”?**

1. **Enomah David, Nigeria:** ICTs for Health Development” can easily be seen as the way of using modern communication technologies in health development.
These can be done through the help of the media, internet, etc. Of the major branch of ICTs in health development is the use of the media; it can be either RADIO or TELEVISION. These things have really help in developing health in developing country like NIGERIA.

2. **Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima, Nigeria:** As a tool for development, ICT can support governance efforts and ensure that systems are transparent. It can be used to provide virtual educational services like virtual libraries, e-classrooms and long distance education. India has classical examples of e-education models and has been sharing with African countries through different frameworks.

3. **Balogun Kasim, Nigeria:** Using information technology for the development of health as regard to the passing of information in the health sector

4. **Ibiang Obongha, Nigeria:** ICT for Health Development is the use of information and communication technology in improving our health conditions and its application in fighting against the various health problems of the society.

5. **Esther Agbarakwe, Nigeria:** I do understand it as using Information, Communication and Technology to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of young people where young people get inform, inspire and involved in processes that is related to their health and development.

6. **Joof Ousainou, Gambia:** This were basic health care delivery (information and skills transfer ) is enhance through the use of ICTs e.g. Radio and TV, internet as we are doing now, mobile phones etc...with the sole focus on making a positive change of behaviors targeting a mass audiences

7. **Raymond Enoch, Nigeria:** This means the usage of same to carry out health activities both along dissemination of information and publicity among others. ICTs as a potent weapon in reaching people far and wide it is therefore imperative to say that ICTs is relevant in the process of advocating behavioral change on HIV/AIDS.

8. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** In the field of health advocacy, ICTs provide clear and reliable learning aid to disseminate health related information, especially in Africa where some cultures find it difficult to talk about specific.

9. **Emeka Nwosu, Nigeria:** Development is a changing process. ICTs for health development therefore are the use of ICTs to explore avenues for the changing trends in the health sector.

10. **Erik Enioch, Kenya:** ICTs for health development means using the Information, Communication, and Technology for the improvement of health status of al the population, and to ensure that the future generations are also secured.
11. **Alphonso K. Weah, Liberia:** ICTs for Health development is a process by which health related issues are taking to other parts of the global world in a few second/minutes. More beside, through ICTs we are able to understand facts on health matters such as HIV/SIDS, Malaria, environment/sanitation, H 5 virus etc. For a better and secure future.

12. **Cyril Nii-Offei, Ghana:** The application of digital equipments to all aspects of health in the managing and manipulating of information, for a optimal well-being to progress from a simpler or minor to a more advanced, mature, or multifaceted form or stage.

13. **Nabil Chemli, Tunisia:** It is the use of ICT to promote health, raising awareness, share information, to now his rights discus and find solutions for health issues.

14. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** We can therefore, define ICT for Health development as the usage of information and communication technologies for the amelioration of medical care. It can be through medical and efficient equipment or through the medical staff for a better sensitization; to promote/enhance health status within overall development objectives.

15. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** ICT for Heath development is the exploitation of information and communication technologies in improvement/advancement of health issues through sensitization, education provision and mobilization that’s when ICT can exploited to enhance health status for development.

16. **Ramonjison Marie Sandra, Madagascar:** “ICTs for health development” can be considered as the use of ICTs for the improvement of health. As I have mentioned above, health is among basic human rights, hence, development of each person includes their access to health services, their capacity to maintain themselves good health, their access to information on health matters. All of these can be achieved through ICTs activities. Talking especially about Adolescent sexual and reproductive health, ICTs are important tools to broadcast more information about reproductive health, ICTs can be used in vindicating reproductive health rights and getting out of silence on reproductive health issues.

17. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** ICTs for Health Development” means technology tools used in transmitting and retrieving information to better the wellbeing of people’s health, economic and social development.

18. **Tshepiso Serehete, Botswana:** Well this is very broad and general but it could translate to positively promoting the well-being of humans using innovative technology measures that will improve this process making it easier for more people to maintain their state of good health...
19. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria**: is the way that we can use ICT to promote the public health messages. ICTs could also promote good "models" those models should promote the behavior change to help them to develop their skills and knowledge.

**In one sentence state how you think ICTs can be exploited to promote/enhance health status within overall development objectives**

1. **Enomah David, Nigeria**: can be used to promote health development in many ways but the one I see as the one of the best is that even if u are a professor. Or an illiterate, everybody understands the general language of the media. When I say this I mean that the jingles on the media can be understood by everybody as far as the pretty farmer in the village. So the use of ICTs has really helped many people by know what to do in some symptoms and not going to disturb the doctor or nurses and there allowing them to do their professional jobs.

2. **Dabesaki Mac-Ikemenjima, Nigeria**: I believe that ICT is an important tool that can support education, health, commerce, entertainment and virtually every field of human endeavor. ICT has been useful over the years in supporting health service delivery in developed countries through e-medicine and tele-medicine tools. These tools can be further explored to address issues like treating abuse and providing VCCT services to prevent HIV.

3. **Balogun Kasim, Nigeria**: ICTs can be use in the health sector to pass information and also to discover I new ways of carry out health issues in the society.

4. **Ibiang Obongha, Nigeria**: By making ICT available and accessible to most if not all people, knowledge and remedies of health problems would increase and that will go a long way in combating health problems.

5. **Esther Agbarakwe, Nigeria**: ICTs can be exploited to promote/enhance health status within overall development objectives through commitment in all sectors without which hesitancy set in.

6. **Joof Ousainou, Gambia**: with public/private partnership the ICTs can be fully exploited to promote healthy society, for instance the use of text messages by cell phone companies, the use of WebPages etc.... In disseminating information on health particularly SRH would have boast vital information sharing among societies.

7. **Emeka Nwosu, Nigeria**: ICTs can further be explored as a strong tool in enhancing development in resource poor communities in developing countries to address health related issues. Employed innovatively, it can serve as a veritable tool in breaking the silence associated with most African cultures in which issues
of sexual and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS are regarded as taboo to be openly discussed.

8. **Erik Enioch, Kenya**: By sharing the knowledge on how best to live, how best to conduct ourselves, how best to access the needed help on health, and how best to overcome problems related to health, ICTs can come into play for the overall development objectives.

9. **Alphonso K. Weah, Liberia**: I think ICTs can be exploited to promote/enhance health status with overall development objectives by means of massive awareness/sensitization by which people can better understand and know its importance as well as using every aspect of information communication technology for progress.

10. **Cyril Nii-Offei, Ghana**: By designing and delivering useful applications, such as patient medical records systems, health management information systems (HMIS), and disease surveillance systems.

11. **Nabil Chemli, Tunisia**: By providing: information, solutions and advices, for each one and everywhere.

12. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon**: ICT can be exploited in all his various form such, e-health, e-learning for medical staff, ICT tools (Internet, video, etc.) For sensitization, equipment for the amelioration of medical care.

13. **Ramonjison Marie Sandra, Madagascar**: ICTs can be exploited to promote/enhance health status within overall development objectives. In fact, ICTs are essential and necessary because ICTs can influence population’s daily life (economically, politically, socially and culturally), information and communication on health and development can have more impacts through ICTs activities, and finally, the evolution in health matters is more credible for population, especially young people when it is communicated through ICTs.

14. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda**: ICTs can be exploited to promote/enhance health status within overall development objectives by using the simple, most accessed methods/tools putting in mind the mobility and flexibility.(For example using mobile devices to pass on information)

15. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria**: Working with the popular opinion leaders for the behavior change and using ICTs could be a perfect way to aim the youth.
WEEK TWO RESPONSES

Have you been engaged in any community or national ICTs for Health Development initiative, project, and rally?

1. Enomah David, Nigeria: Yes

2. Balogun Kasim, Nigeria: Yes, this was organized by an international body in Nigeria

3. Kassim Abdillahi Waiss, Djibouti: Yes of course, we are engaged in the community using ICTs for the development of the initiatives of health in particular the AIDS/HIV. We are members of a Pan-African association called Réseau AIDS Africa (RSA). The RSA is based on ICT in particular the Internet to reinforce collaboration and the exchanges between the various actors in the fight against the AIDS (organization of the civil society, private sector, individuals and governmental structures) “Reseausidaafriqueeforum@dgroups.org.” The mission of E-Network Africa AIDS is to reinforce the work of the various actors in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa in order to stop the propagation of the virus. the E-Network Africa AIDS aims to 1 - disseminate information, to share knowledge and the best practices on the fight against the AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis by using communication and information technologies; 2 - To reinforce the capacities actors of fight against the HIV/AIDS; 3 - To contribute to the development, the implementation and the evaluation of the strategies of fight against AIDS at the national, regional and international level.

4. Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia: Yes. I have been involved in three ICTs for Health Development projects. The first one, a big National ICTs for Health Development project, was called The Youth IT, Entrepreneurship and HIV/AIDS Project (YouthITZambia) ran for one year from January to December 2006. The second one ran from June 2001 to August 2002 and it was the AIDSWEBProject. The third one is new and it started in 2005 and it is called YouthFADS - *Youth Fighting HIV/AIDS Digitally and Sustainably.

5. Cyril Nii-Offei, Ghana: No

6. Stephen Kasoma, Uganda: No

7. Ismail Osman, Djibouti: Yes. As I am member of African Youth Network on Population and Development (AFRIYAN) and African Regional Youth Initiatives ARYI; we do a large sharing of information on HIV/AIDS, FGM, promotion of ICT, the promotion of sports to prevent the idle of youth etc. in our respective countries and the experts from organization for the development like UNDP, UNFPA and the others. there is an interesting network group; then the information I get are shared with the partners and organism in my country - Djibouti-I send them by email.
8. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: Yes. My organization, the national federation of the Gambia UNESCO club and centers has been working with many health development initiatives such as malaria and HIV/AIDS campaign with NAS, CRS and Action Aids. Presently are working in partnership with one donor organization ----action aid international the Gambia---on health development project using it devices to advocate on the impact of carcinogenic agents i.e.- afflotoxin on the local communities in the Gambia.

9. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria**: Yes

10. **Erik Dombou, Kenya**: Yes. We have been involved in the field of health issues since 3 years and we still working on this way using ICT to achieve goals

11. **Fosia Abdullahi Eidle, Somalia**: Yes, I have participated several gatherings since I am youth activist and health care worker, ICTs are very important in delivering health information’s for both communities and with in health care professionals

12. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon**: Yes, I have been involved in a community ICTs for Health Development initiative in Cameroon. Due to the debt cancelled through HIPC initiative, the government has engaged reforms in the health sector with ICT. And, experts and civil society was involved in that initiative. I have participated to the training and capacity building on ICT of the medical staff in the Regional Hospital of Mouila (Gabon).

13. **Robert Kasenene, Tanzania**: No, but I am involved in development and management of a youth oriented Mobile Internet and Computer Training Project that we expect to start late this year

14. **Chemli Nabil, Tunisia**: Yes

15. **Andrew William, Tanzania**: Yes

16. **Jean Claude Dusingize, Rwanda**: Yes, ICT is our basic tool for fundraising. Rwanda Village Concept Project is a project run by students, and what we is to apply for grant from international organizations, foundations, and we works in close partnership with students from other countries who come to help as volunteers. In general ICT is the basic tool used to sustain our project

What was your contribution to any of the above?

1. **Enomah David, Nigeria**: I was like a reporter, my team making up of five persons where doing the reporting work.
2. **Balogun Kasim, Nigeria:** I attended the workshop as participant.

3. **Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia:** I was the *National Coordinator of The AIDSWEB Project in Zambia* by virtue of the fact that I am the National Coordinator of iEARN (www.iearn.org) in Zambia. I ran the project for the whole year as the only member of staff.

4. **Cyril Nii-Offei, Ghana:** None.

5. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** None.

6. **Ismail Osman, Djibouti:** I participate with those different partners for preparing the consultation of youth in the health issues like SRRH and HIV/AIDS. No long for a month, the ministry of health and UNFPA was held this initiatives then a national comity from different ministry is created to focus on SRRH and HIV/AIDS of youth in Djibouti.

7. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** as part of the advocacy team and as a biology major, I play a very important role in most of the health advocacy programs, ranging from research, presentation and documentation.

8. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** in my organization LE SOUK (www.lesouk.org) and also the UNFPA’s programme on Peer Education in Arab States, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Y-PEER (www.youthpeer.net) we use the ICT to reach young people, to transmit to them information, announcements. The best tool is the Electronic Networking, through web sites, mailing list and forums; we arrive to exchange many tools and information that help us to make projects and to improve our skills. Regarding the HIV AIDS sensitization work, we also use the Media intervention when we can. Also, today youth are using a new generation of Internet tool, Youtube and myspace are new ways of expressions and health development intervention should use it too. We also use cell phone (free charge) to offer phone counseling.

9. **Erik Dombou, Kenya:** I contribute to the achievement of many program and campaign in local areas particularly in the HIV/AIDS prevention.

10. **Fosia Abdullahi Eidle, Somalia:** Some of my recommendations include: Use Of E-groups (Google group) Development of HIV manuals with illustrated pictures for how to care PLWHA, Development of Bill boards and posters with supporting statement of PLWHA, Development of billboards with encouragement words, Development of T-shirts with empowerment words of community development.

11. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** As member of Cameroonian youth civil society and professional in ICT Sector, we have made recommendations and concerning. Sensitization through ICT Tools (Internet, Media, Phone, etc.) Amelioration of
academic programs for future medical staff. Acquisition of ICT materials
Elaboration of a hospital network and digitization of hospital data etc.

12. **Robert Kasenene, Tanzania**: Planning and development

13. **Chemli Nabil, Tunisia**: We launched a WEB Site in my association (www.sidasoussse.org), for raising awareness, sharing information, dialogue in the forum, and giving news about our activities and about HIV/AIDS. We use media Radio and TV to promote our work and provide information. We often use SMS to communication and send information messages. Y-PEER provides a lot of ICTs tools: an interactive campaign with MTV; contribution in the staying-alive web-site; computer-based interactive CD-ROM; Y-PEER interactive web-site: (www.youthpeer.net) completely designed by youth focal points; videos, documentaries, jingles, and many printed materials.

14. **Andrew William, Tanzania**: I have been engaging myself in a number of community or national ICTs for Health Development initiatives, projects, and rallies I am the chairperson of national ISHI (Swahili word meaning LIVE) which is community based campaign aiming at preventing new HIV infections to youth, the campaign employ a number of ICTs initiatives like radio/TV programmes, posters, brochures about HIV/AIDS and ASRH. Another initiative is the National HIV/AIDS and ASRH free hotline hosted by Tanzania Youth Alliance, where I am volunteering as a counselor and peer educator. I am also in the organizing team for rallies on HIV/AIDS hosted by Tanzania Medical Student Association, we managed to conduct the first one in Dar es Salaam December 2006, we are thinking of holding the events in all east African capital cities and later on in all capital cities in the world.

15. **Jean Claude Dusingize, Rwanda**: Last year when I was in charge of HIV/AIDS awareness micro-project, I was involved in raising funds in collaboration with students from Bristol University. We raised funds that have been used in HIV/AIDS education and reproductive health.

**Have you been part of any consultative process on ICTs for Health Development?**

1. **Enomah David, Nigeria**: yes, tagged, ICT, Youths and the Millennium Challenge which I was a full participant

2. **Balogun Kasim, Nigeria**: no, I have not had the opportunity to attend

3. **Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia**: Yes I was when we were debating the National ICT Policy in Zambia. I was the Youth Representative for the whole of Zambia on the National ICT Policy dialogue group and did make two preparations on youth concerns and issues
4. Cyril Nii-Offei, Ghana: No

5. Stephen Kasoma, Uganda: No

6. Ismail Osman, Djibouti: This is my first time

7. Bokar Bah, Gambia: radio and TV weekly show on the national radio and television services on talk on malaria and HIV/AIDS.

8. Nazim Benchikh, Algeria: Yes

9. Erik Dombou, Kenya: No

10. Fosia Abdullahi Eidle, Somalia: I am the moderator of GYCA National Team for Somalia and expecting to attract more Somali youths and encouraging them make use of the ICT that they can have access though the Somali youth have constrains in most part of ICTs this is problems that we share with the rest of the developing world but we lack most of the opportunities that they can have access for ICTs.

11. Pascal Bekono, Cameroon: Yes, in the project named, Youth and poverty reduction, which aim to involve youth in the development strategies Through Poverty Reduction Strategies Paper (PRSP). The ICT and health consultation was a part of thematics

12. Robert Kasenene, Tanzania: no, this is my first time.


14. Andrew William, Tanzania: Yes, I have been involved in different consultative process on ICTs for Health Development, this include a number of forums organized by National Youth Information Centre-PEER, ISHI campaign and other initiatives in Tanzania.

15. Jean Claude Dusingize, Rwanda: No

How were the inputs of youth perceived (accepted/respected)?

1. Enomah David, Nigeria: Accepted but in my country Nigeria, the youths will always suggest and I applaud their effort at the program but after the programme till date, we are still waiting for their reply.

2. Balogun Kasim, Nigeria: I feel young people are not taken seriously in Nigeria in most cases.
3. **Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia:** The inputs and perspectives of the youth in the National Consultative Process for coming with the National ICT Policy were respected and were even incorporated into the final document. The youth had an integral role to play in coming up with a final policy and even in the review of the same before it became enacted into law. As for the YouthIT Zambia project, the youth made all decisions in the project save for a few because I was employed as the administrator and I am a youth plus there was a role for all youth to play in the project without them being just participants. Currently in Zambia, inputs from the youth are taken seriously and these end up in the final decisions made and are not just taken as a cover up or a taken of involvement.

4. **Cyril Nii-Offei, Ghana:** None

5. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** None

6. **Ismail Osman, Djibouti:** Generally, the youth are well received because the impact of ICT can change the behavior on health development- the information they get on the issues of health can be very successful and useful.

7. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** youths are the driving force of all community outreach programmes in the Gambia and their inputs are very much accepted by the mass communities in the Gambia.

8. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** It depends of the consultative institution and its policy. UNFPA had programmes on young people, their participation and involvement so youth became real partners. In another place it could be different; I already had a meeting with Governmental partners which aren't yet aware about role of young people in health policy particularly in Reproductive health and HIV AIDS, so the youth inputs weren't accepted.

9. **Erik Dombou, Kenya:** Our work is generally accepted by youth

10. **Fosia Abdullahi Eidle, Somalia:** The input was really accepted and some of them where changed in to actions but the proper use of ICTs are still not a concept that is well understood by the youths.

11. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** Concerning ICT, youth inputs are accepted. Because, ICT is a recent field of study. Youth are graduated and more experienced. Concerning technical analysis and concrete proposition, youth were large represented;

12. **Robert Kasenene, Tanzania:** It is common for Youth Inputs into different processes to be disregarded or lost in the heat of the moment; we must ensure that decision/ policy makers, government and pertinent institutions have identified and accepted the role you can play in particular process before we embark on a
process such as this; our ideas/inputs stand a to be more productive in this manner.

13. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** Initially most youth consultative processes were not involving youth at all, nowadays the situation is getting better as most of stakeholders perceive youth's ideas positively, and they have started accepting and respecting contributions from youth.

**WEEK THREE RESPONSES:**

**Adolescent and Youth topics:**

Please tell us how the following issues where addressed with ICTs:

**HIV/AIDS**

1. **Rotimi Olawale, Nigeria:** on HIV/AIDS. The internet has been a very good tool to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS; however it can also pass misleading information. There was a time when there was a lot of confusing information about whether HIV/AIDS existed or not, you only need to search the internet and you will discover a lot of articles and information that supports such claims. Furthermore, the telephone and GSM has also been a very useful tool for counseling especially for young people, because it offers them the opportunity to speak to someone and ask questions at the same time protecting their identity. However, this has not been explored to the letter, because in a place like Nigeria, there are no toll free lines, therefore for young people to call and use such services they have to pay which also raises the question of affordability. The Radio and Television has been the best mode of raising awareness on HIV/AIDS and other health issues, but the interactiveness of these platforms are limited.

2. **David Enomah, Nigeria:** ICT has been used in addressing HIV/AIDS in different ways such as using the media. The media is a great tool in addressing HIV/AIDS in the developing countries such as Nigeria. Especially the mass media which is electronic media (radio and television).

3. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** The usage of ICT tools concerning campaigns and sensitization will be more effective. Proposition during the meeting was also to design website, national youth e-group for sensitization. And actually, there is a free open line for all information concerning HIV/AIDS with psychologists and doctors on the line. With mobile phone operators, an engagement have been taken, so during HIV/AIDS campaigns, citizen usually receives sensitization messages on theirs mobile phones.
4. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** A positive response to the issue of HIV/AIDS has to be holistic, and involves a positive attitudinal and behavioral change, in people believes and way of life. ICTs play a leading role in shaping peoples live, usually through advocacy and mass media campaigns.

5. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** using web sites (publishing pictures of outreach work), creating short videos and theater.

6. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** Through ISHI campaign we have been able to use different ICTs tools to carry out the message on HIV/AIDS to our targeted group which for this case are the youth, the ICTs commonly used air bills, banners, tire covers, radio/TV programmes, printed T-shirts and caps etc. Again at the hotline where I volunteer as a counselor, clients have access to free calls to a helpline where they provided with all kind of information they need to know on HIV/AIDS, ASRH and other relevant areas. Also in our Medical Student Association of Tanzania, we have been able to produce journals, brochures and banners with different messages on HIV/AIDS.

7. **Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia:** In April 2005, Zambia became the first country in Africa to Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system, the Continuity of Care Patient Tracking System. This is particularly important for people on antiretroviral treatment. The system allows health care workers to carefully monitor patient medications and emerging drug resistance. This close patient tracking helps to control the number of patients who must switch from first-to second-line drugs. In so doing, the EMR system also helps to control expenses associated with second-line regimens. This system uses a Smart Card as part of the system. This EMR system, which is supported by the PEPFAR, is the product of collaboration between the Zambian Ministry of Health and the U.S. Government with the Smart Card-EMR service; health care workers can access up-to-date medical information on their patients and compile end-of-month reports much more quickly than they could with paper records. The health workers participated in trainings on the use of the EMR system and are proud of her ability to use the new technology to care for her patients.

8. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia:** Our local HIV/AIDS prevention Programme and its centers are offering free HIV/AIDS counseling and treatment support services through the HIV/AIDS. Using information and communication technology (ICT), this programme aims to create an interactive support process for those with questions or needs related to HIV/AIDS. Those who enter a virtual "Consultation Room" may pose questions related to all aspects of HIV/AIDS; specialists from MOHL and doctors -based hospital-pharmaceutical corporate called Burao central Hospital respond within 24 hours. However using information communication technologies such as film, theatre (puppets) traditional dances, Sing boards and video as well as radio programmes can potentially be used to create awareness about HIV/AIDS to young people and adolescents. And it is most appropriate and effective.
9. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar**: Three years ago, according to a Behavior survey held in Madagascar, half of Malagasy Young people did not know too much about HIV/AIDS, the way they can attract it. Two years after this time, it was noticed that knowledge on HIV/AIDS has considerably increased among young people (15-24). In rural areas, the use of radio broadcast, poster, witnesses and the presence of peer educators have brought many changes in Malagasy young people comportment on HIV/AIDS. Further, those who have made the conception of radio broadcast or poster, or any knowledge sharing tools on HIV/AIDS have always shown how every person is concerned by HIV/AIDS, and how HIV/AIDS can affect the daily life of each person.

**Promotion of Contraceptives (utilization/acceptance)**

1. **David Enomah, Nigeria**: Some people till date still don’t believe in condom use for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and to prevent pregnancy. With the help of the electronic media, people in the rural areas now have some confidence that HIV/AIDS can be prevented. Some still don’t believe in using contraceptives but with the daily jingles over the electronic media, they may eventually change their behavior.

2. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon**: Recommendations concerning this issue were sensitization through mass media and ICT Tools.

3. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: Promoting preventives methods is part of the advocacy and sensitization campaign. My organization is a partner with national and international organization working to create awareness on HIV/AIDS and its prevention methods. The leading organizations we partner with are NASS, NACP, the Gambia Family Planning Association, Action Aids, UNDP, UNFPA etc.

4. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria**: Electronic Forum discussions

5. **Andrew William, Tanzania**: In this we have been employing bills radio and TV programmes for promotion of condom use. And Power Point presentation on promotion of contraceptives.

6. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia**: I think the important point that can be sustain Promotion of Contraceptives (utilization/acceptance) is to use TV Drama programme, for encouraging to young people to visit VCT also online debate from the radio and TV is very essential.

7. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar**: In Madagascar, the promotion of contraceptives through the ICTs is especially made for married young people since most of the organizations who work on contraceptive are religious organization. Although, peer educators, by giving information about STI, always
use the opportunity to allow young people know more about contraceptives and give them advice on how to use contraceptives efficiently. Peer educators, thanks to some financial assistance, conceive tools to promote contraceptives in their work.

Early marriage

1. **David Enomah, Nigeria**: Early marriage has been practiced in most parts of my country. ICT through the use of media can empower young girls to seek education and develop their self-confidence, so that they can be independent of a man.

2. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon**: Recommendations concerning this issue were sensitization through mass media and ICT Tools

3. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: Early marriage is a major problem for people in the Gambia. This is due to cultural beliefs in the Gambia. Advocacy has created a lot of awareness, and the system is changing slowly now a days.

4. **Andrew William, Tanzania**: I haven't done it yet, but I believe that Radio & TV programmes, Bills and Brochures can save the purpose in our setting

5. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia**: Early marriage is one of the common obstacle faced young girls in Somalia and it has been practiced more than five decade and it caused more problem faced young girls especially it affect their knowledge, although it is very strong in our country but It was done more awareness and community mobilization through ICT by using, TV, news paper, Signboards, online forums and articles posting online websites I hope that it will help to end early marriage in our community.

6. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar**: This year, law about early marriage has been abrogated by the Malagasy President. However, until now, ICTs has not been really exploited to disseminate this important information.

Early and unwanted pregnancy

1. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon**: Recommendations concerning this issue were sensitization through mass media and ICT Tools, and Training of young women

2. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: This issue is usually associated with poverty and ignorance, in the Gambia and there is a positive responds to such emergencies by civil society organization, such as UNESCO and national federation of UNESCO, Red Cross, Youth Ambassadors, and National Children Organization etc.
3. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** electronic forum, phone line counseling

4. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** This has been addressed through the free hotline which gives access of reproductive health education and information to youth and the community at large.

5. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia:** Counseling and ongoing discussions through the television, radio and internet news websites also is achievable to use as tool to transfer reproductive health education, and shared information's these systems are the most important that can support young women to protect.

6. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** Due to lack of contraception (11% only for young girl sexually active aged 15-19), early pregnancy is common in Madagascar, especially in rural areas. Those problems tend to be resolved in some area where NGOs working on reproductive health is active. Concerts made by young artists were among the most attractive ways to inform young people on how to avoid unwanted pregnancy. Several associations let young people be aware of the effect of unwanted pregnancy through Malagasy movies. This is one of the most effective manners to reach many young people, especially for young people in rural area, who have very seldom opportunity to enjoy entertainment on a big screen.

**Prostitution including girls and women trafficking**

1. **David Enomah, Nigeria:** Girls and women trafficking is another broad area that ICT is handling. In Benin State, Nigeria, an ICT related initiative was started to combat the trafficking of young girls for prostitution in Germany and abroad. The initiative has been very successful in curbing the number of girls that are lured into that endeavor.

2. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** Recommendations concerning this issue were sensitization through mass media and ICT Tools and training of women.

3. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** This is also a major problem for developing countries, and there is few organizations working on these issues, and little progress is been achieved.

4. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** Videos from Trainings & Electronic forums

5. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** I haven’t done it yet, but again I believe that Radio & TV programmes, Bills and Brochures can save the purpose in our setting.

6. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia:** Prostitution including girls and women trafficking are major challenges exist developing countries "Women and girls have a right to
access online spaces where they can share sensitive information, exchange experiences, build solidarity, facilitate networking, develop campaigns and lobby more effectively. Also girls they have a right to a secure online environment where they are safe from harassment, enjoy freedom of expression and privacy of communication, and are protected from electronic surveillance and monitoring. ICTs can only be relevant to the targeted communities if the approach used takes into consideration the needs and problems of the communities. The documentation of women's realities in situations of armed conflict analyses the root causes of conflict in Somalia, highlights the effects of the conflict on women and the coping mechanisms of women in post-conflict situations. The use of different tools i.e. audio recording, video recording, photography and print takes into consideration the needs of the targeted communities and how they can access information despite differences in literacy levels. Given that the documentation process is intended for raising awareness and for lobbying and advocacy, it ensures the women war survivors can speak out about their experiences and make recommendations. Face-to-face interaction through meetings, focus group discussions and validation workshops is also essential to reduce or end Prostitution including girls and women trafficking.

7. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** In Madagascar, ICTs has talked more about the reasons which lead women and girls to prostitution than showing to prostitutes how they can have another financial resource apart from prostitution. Newspapers often let people know about the young girls that are victims of human trafficking by their parents. This kind of information has incited the responsible to investigate more on this matter. Then, I think, journalism is the best way to incite responsible to act against prostitution.

**Peer Pressure**

1. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** As the civil society increases it's strength in the local communities, more awareness is been made and youths are becoming more assertive, showing practical life skills to make decisions, but the younger generation need more awareness campaign.

2. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** Learning CD-Rom, Phone Counseling, electronic forum and short movies

3. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** It has been addressed in our peer education programs through different publications but also through video show. Also through online youth forums like this one.

4. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia:** we have programme funded by Oxfam Novib and it related peer education and life skills, this programs by using through such as to develop Sing boards, TV Programme also video Document show.
5. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** Movies (according to their conception) can be the most effective way to allow young people to be aware of the fact that they should not be victim of Peer pressure. In fact, certain movie really show how Peer pressure can affect badly young people’s life, and how they can avoid it and also maintain their relationship with their friends.

### Drug and Substance Abuse

1. **Pascal Bekono**, Cameroon: Recommendations concerning this issue were sensitization through mass media and ICT Tools.

2. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: This is also a major problem and due to lack of skills and job opportunities, youths are indulges in drugs abuse substances. My organization is among an alliance (youths and conflict) that respond to drugs abuse too.

3. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria**: Learning CD-Rom, Phone Counseling, electronic forum and short movies

4. **Andrew William, Tanzania**: This has been addressed through video shows, brochures and T-shirts printed the message on drug and substance abuse.

5. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia**: Sexual and reproductive health, Drug and Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS were all interconnected and directly impacted on the quality of life of youth and adolescents I believe the role of media in lobbying political will on the issues of youth, with Drug and Substance Abuse it helps and develop a communication strategy on the above issues

6. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar**: Advertisement, posters are the most used manner to decrease drug and substance abuse in Madagascar. Although, there is still problems which should be resolved. Often, those ICTs tools can not prevent young people from trying drug even just one time in their life. Once they are use to drug and substance abuse, most of the time, they can get out of it difficultly. The use of ICTs should then more be deepened to become efficient in preventing young people from trying to take drug or another substance which might affect their health.

### Mental Health

1. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: There is little progress, there is one major rehab center or psychiatric clinic, though there are advocacy programs, but little achievement is made.
2. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** It was an area addressed through a rally where brochures on mental health information were distributed along the way.

3. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia:** in my experience Video-conferencing is very important for using as transferred and recording tool in mental health services as a tool to provide access to clinical training and professional development, clinical supervision and access to peer review or second opinions for clinicians from rural or remote areas, and a means of supervising mental health services consumers when they return to a rural or remote area.

4. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** In my knowledge and experience, often, the misuse of ICTs might have non-desirable effect on mental health. Hence, for instance, the fact that ICTs is used to promote information about war, crime, violence might decrease young people mental health, especially, those who already live in deplorable situation. Therefore, I think, ICTs should be also more used to promote the best part of life. However, the use of a free call number through certain mobile company has helped many persons (especially women and young girls) to be more confident and to be comforted in case of sexual violence.

**Sexual Violence**

1. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** Recommendations concerning this issue were sensitization through mass media and ICT Tools.

2. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** Under our reproduction health and sex education there is a program on sex violence and abuse that the organization is out to fight.

3. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** Videos from Trainings & Electronic forums

4. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** Has been addressed through video shows and publications on sexual violence produced by a gender club of our university where i am a founder member.

5. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia:** The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as an instrument for development is another important tool concern for Somali community to mobilize and protect sexual violence.

6. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** In Madagascar, as I have already mentioned, the use of free call number have helped in allowing young girls to have mental health. It has also helped to decrease sexual violence

**Harmful Traditional Practices, including Female Genital Cutting.**
1. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon**: Recommendations concerning this issue were sensitization through mass media and ICT Tools.

2. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: Genital mutilation is a major health hazard, and the family planning and other organization in collaboration with the civil society organization are responding this emergency.

3. **Andrew William, Tanzania**: I haven’t done it yet, but I believe that Radio & TV programmes and brochures can save the purpose in our setting.

4. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia**: FGC is very high in Somalia I can say 99% of the Young girls are subjected to FGC. however Information and communication technologies provide unique opportunities for Girls’ empowerment by improving access to information on health, nutrition, Education and other human development opportunities. ICT Devices always Promote and support the force against Harmful traditional practices including FGC and Fistulas especially programme going the radio and televisions also programmes that gives young girls Opportunities for social interaction, including peer and bottom-up communication. Strategies and action plans addressed Girls education through ICT. Particularly girls living in poverty, girls living in rural and remote areas and in disadvantaged situations.

Other health/ASRH issues, including Poverty Reduction (please specify).

1. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon**: The other health issue which was addressed concern Breast "Ironing". It's a practice which consists of pressing girl's breasts with hot tools to force them out or in.

2. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: Like many others my organization and its partners are working on poverty reduction programs, fight poverty and injustice, health hazards, and promoting education, peace and human rights.

3. **Andrew William, Tanzania**: Most of the techniques used are the ones we use in ISHI campaign and Hotline as stated above.

4. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia**: When we are talking how ICT support issues related health/ASRH including Poverty Reduction, I think it can improve health/ASRH and increase the effort concern poverty reduction for the following examples:

   ICT can promote opportunities for livelihood and can increase in agriculture productivity a broadening of the food crop basket, improved market access for cash crops, and the creation of employment opportunities and higher chances of finding jobs have been observed.
ICT can be powerful tools for strengthening Good governance, they are important in terms of increasing knowledge of human and constitutional rights, in the making the powerful more accountable and giving the poor voice, the decentralization process can be enhanced by ICT, they have also enhanced government efficiency in service provision that is directly Relevant for the poor.

ICT can be relevant for health interventions and in the fight against HIV/AIDS radio broadcasts deliver timely information on immunization times: a combination of ICTs influences young people in their reproductive health behavior, and information exchange.

Which of the above areas were difficult to address?

1. **David Enomah, Nigeria**: Poverty is the toughest area to address. Jingles over radio and television or letters on front pages of newspapers or letters inside pages can be effective in combating poverty. I Encourage UNFPA to work with other partners in this area.

2. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon**: The most difficult area to address was mental health.

3. **Bokar Bah, Gambia**: Perhaps the most difficult respond is to fight against poverty, and injustice. ;perhaps many development programs fail due to this reason, the high disparity in economic strength, low level of skills and initiatives and lack of job opportunities are major constrains.

4. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria**: all those areas are challenging, the most challenging one is Adolescent and non-married youth Sexual and reproductive health and issues.

5. **Andrew William, Tanzania**: To my side the most difficult issue to address was sexual violence, as many are not ready talking about it and they regard it to be a secret issue even though its a serious problem

6. **Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia**: The organization I am working for and indeed I am more specialized in ICTs and HIV/AIDS and so I was not able to compare with the other areas of the application of ICTs in health.

7. **Mubarak M Omar, Somalia**: The most difficult area to address was Early and unwanted pregnancy

8. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar**: Drug and substance abuse, early and unwanted pregnancy, early marriage are the most difficult to address in my country according to my experience. Concerning drug and substance abuse,
ICTs is not used enough to allow young persons to know where they can get advice from their peers, where they can receive detoxification. Concerning pregnancy, young girls do not have information on how they can avoid it, and most of them do not have enough knowledge to negotiate to have sex, especially in places where men still dominated women. Even if a the law on the early marriage was abrogated, its application still remains an issue since in some Malagasy culture, young girls are allowed to get married once they have their period.

**What were the challenges you faced yourself or heard about from other young people?**

1. **Pascal Bekono, Cameroon:** The challenges was to convince others participants (who doesn't have experience on ICT) in the meeting to the usage of some ICT tools in Health, and also, the changing habits in urban or rural area due to the introduction of these new approaches.

2. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** Other young people with regards to ICTs? Specifically my major challenges are low level of ICT equipment, materials and technical knowledge to operate and utilize the tools, such as the radio, computers etc.

3. **Nazim Benchikh, Algeria:** Some ICTs are considered as "entertainment" for adults. Using internet for chatting, exchanging SMS, listening to Radio or Music is time lost for old people. And if young people listen to sexual topics via the ICTs tools, it means that those tools could be a danger for their education and behavior. Because officially, the temptation of youth regarding sexual issues is created by some ICTs.

4. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** On my side I haven't faced a challenge so far as I am always trying to know more about it.


6. **Mubaarak M Omar, Somalia:** The most challenge I have met is limit media because of our country northern Somalia called Somaliland media are monopoly especially Radio only government has one radio and they manage therefore most of their time they cover political and issues supporting their mandate they are not allow the citizens to open independent radio, only they give permission those want to create a TV, how ever the challenge is people in Rural or remote area not have access to pursue TV program.
7. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** Due the lack of access to ICTs, many young people from Madagascar are not able to take benefit from many opportunities. Learning languages, studying in depth, participating in conferences, getting information on new things... All of this requires access to different kind of ICTs.

**WEEK FOUR QUESTIONS:**

**The way forward:**

Please tell us how you think ICTs can be used to promote Health issues, especially Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV prevention in community and national development strategies:

How do we make sure that youth and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS issues are included in development plans?

1. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** To make sure that youth and Adolescent Sexual and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS issues are included in development plans, the first important thing will be that the development plans include sexual and reproductive health area. However, it does not mean mainly that Adolescent is considered unless the Government considers itself the importance of taking into account their sexual and reproductive health. Hence, it is important to that aside the adults, the government think separately of the Adolescents as a group of person who also need a special care in sexual and reproductive health matters. Further, the government has to take into account how adolescent and sexual reproductive health is related to development. We all know that the increase of HIV infection decrease the development capacity of one country. But, this is not obvious if in their side, adolescents are not able to show themselves how they can reach development when their sexual and reproductive health is not left on the side.

2. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** I think young people have to be put on the front line in the planning period. However a good selection has to be done to ensure that the right people are brought on board-those who can effectively represent other young people.

3. **David Enomah, Nigeria:** The only way I see is for the total inclusion of young people in planning. What I am saying is that in Africa, the government will want to plan for young people and they will ask the head of that committee to be a 55 year old man! Tell me, who are they really planning for?

4. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** The best way to involve youths in decision and policies that affect their lives is in the initial stage, so that they will feel ownership of particular programs geared towards youth’s development.
5. **Pascal G. Bekono, Cameroon:** To be sure that these issues are included in development plans, youth have to be involved in the implementation process. In case of absence of youth recommendations or issues mentioned above, youth can be active in lobbying.

6. **Emeka Nwosu, Nigeria:** To ensure that youth and adolescent sexual and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS issues are included in development plans, young persons should be given the opportunity to participate in governance. Like in Nigeria for example, the National Youth Council and the Ministry of Youth should be lead by a youth. This will provide the platform for young people to be fully engaged in generating youth-friendly policies that will be tailored among others in addressing their sexual and reproductive health needs including HIV/AIDS.

7. **Fosia Eidle, Somalia:** Target point for including SRH/HIV/AIDS in to development plans are all Ministries of youth and Sport, Ministries of Family affairs, Youth, NGOs and Clubs, forums organized by the youth forums to make SRH and HIV/AIDS part of their plans every countries policy of HIV should contain SRH policies for adolescence including: HIV/AIDS education in to the school curriculum, distributing posters of sexual reproductive health in the public and private secondary schools, publication of adolescent sexual reproductive health and HIV/AIDS hand books, secondary schools students, foot ball teams, street children, village adolescence teams, participation of community centered activities of ASRH/HIV/AIDS such as Adolescence discussion of ASRH and HIV/AIDS, football tournaments named ASRH promotion, radio/TV programs that run and organized by Adolescence themselves education journals which can be given chance to secondary school students to participate and write their opinions. Example: In my country it is very taboo and people see it as shameful for and adolescent to talk about sexual reproductive changes it will be much more contributive if this is considered in public school.

8. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** It is by mainstreaming ASRH and HIV/AIDS in every development agency and ensuring it becomes a permanent agent in every development programme and is institutionalized.

9. **Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia:** This can only be ensured if youth are represented at all levels of the National Response to HIV/AIDS. In Zambia this means that Youth should be represented at the Community level, District Level, Provincial Level, National Level and special structures such as the Board of the National AIDS Council and Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund. Further there is need for declarations and results from meetings that youth convene to be incorporated into the mainstream meetings. This is in line with government promises such as those made in Agenda 21, CRC, WPAY, African Youth Charter etc. Lastly, the review of Strategic Plans of Action for the national
Response should be done with all stakeholders so that youth issues and other related issues for the minorities are included in the main plans.

10. **Mubarak M. Omar, Somalia:** Youth and adolescents are the key to accomplishing sustaining national reproductive health including HIV/AIDS development plan, government should move to give them full participation in national development strategies. Finally involving youth and adolescents in the process of developing national development strategies is essential to ensure that the needs of youth and adolescents are met and potential of youth is realized.

**Which youth and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS issues should be included in local and national development processes?**

1. **Rotimi Olawale, Nigeria:** Sexuality Education should be one of the main components of development planning. Education is the most important because it is a tool that will help millions of children and young people to break out of poverty. When young people are educated, they are able to find employment, or perhaps have more opportunity for employment. Also, they learn about simple hygiene in schools especially on nutrition and environmental cleanliness which helps to reduce drastically diseases such as malaria.

   **Youth participation:** mostly in African countries, youth participation has increased significantly especially with the sustained advocacy over the ages. For example, Nigeria recently opened a Ministry of Youth Development with a full fledged Minister. However, it is difficult for young people in Nigeria to engage the structures of such ministries by creating permanent mechanisms for young people from different backgrounds to interact on specific issues. It will be interesting to learn how other young people in countries where they have ministries of youth development have been able to engage with such ministries and made good progress. We need to ensure that young people participate at the conceptual stages in planning, so that we are not brought in to rubber stamp projects.

2. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** I won’t say that there is a specific youth and adolescent sexual and reproductive health (including HIV/AIDS) issues which should be included in local and national development processes since it should be only according to the situation in each country. However, there are few issues which should be considered in each country so that sexual and reproductive health matters are not among development freezing. It is important that a country give to the young girls the opportunity to enjoy their adolescence and not be victim of early pregnancy, young people who are sexually active should have access to contraceptive to avoid unwanted pregnancy and abortion, young people should get enough information on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS to protect themselves against STI and HIV infection. It is also important
that each young people and each person have a respect for their peers in reproductive health matters to avoid sexual violence.

3. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** HIV prevention in young people and improving access to drugs are two issues that I think should be stressed. There is still need to educate young people by giving them correct, age appropriate information about HIV/AIDS and how to prevent it.

4. **David Enomah, Nigeria:** To me, what I see is HIV prevention and contraceptives so as to make the future of our adolescents a better one. Something else I want them to look into is the possibility of including young people in governance and also involving young people in the campaigns against HIV/AIDS. They should also think of people in the rural areas, whom have no access to drugs and medication to prevent other killer diseases that kill more than HIV/AIDS in the communities.

5. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** All categories of youth are important, but HIV, sex education, early marriages, STI, and female genital mutilation should be given priorities in my local communities.

6. **Pascal G. Bekono, Cameroon:** Active Youth who are members of associations, HIV/AIDS infected youth who are member of association, Minorities (the disabled, etc.)

7. **Emeka Nwosu, Nigeria:** Youth and adolescent sexual and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS issues that should be included in local and national development process are; sexual minority (LGBTI) rights, right to sexual reproductive health information including STIs/HIV/AIDS, right to access HIV/AIDS treatment/drugs and Right to positive living (reducing AIDS-related stigma and discrimination).

8. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** Review of policy guiding ASRH and HIV in our countries time to time in order to go along global changes. Provision of youth friendly policies, Impact mitigation, Health seeking behavior.

9. **Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia:** There is need for local solutions to be found for local problems and so generalizations for youth problems or issues that should be considered worldwide would not be valid here. However, youth participation in the planning, implementation, M&E and re-strategizing of the Plans are cardinal to ensure of the success we so much crave in this sub-sector of Health. To however try and answer the questions, issues of Prevention from Infection from HIV, Access to ART, Social Transfers as a mitigation and Solution to Social Effects of AIDS and as an Economic Solution to the Prevention of HIV Infection is also key.
10. **Mubarak M. Omar, Somalia:** I believe plans aims to empower youth and adolescents to take active role in sustainable use of ICT through promotion sexual reproductive health including HIV/AIDS development plans would great important for national development.

What role can young people play to facilitate the use of ICTs in influencing the mainstreaming of ASRH/HIV/AIDS issues and concerns into national development processes?

1. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** Young people can play have many roles to facilitate the use of ICTs in influencing the mainstreaming of ASRH/HIV/AIDS issues and concerns into national development processes. In fact, young people can use their creativity and dynamism by creating knowledge sharing tools which can let the authority know more and in depth the real situation of young people's life. I think, each young people, youth associations should take each opportunity to give more information on the work they are doing in reproductive health matters. In areas where HIV/AIDS is not yet really known by the population, young people should find for as much opportunity as possible to communicate information related to HIV/AIDS, and in different ways (I mean, through the radio, contest, poster, sketch).

2. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** Young people should come out and speak out their issues and concerns. If we keep quiet, we give an "all is well" impression.

3. **David Enomah, Nigeria:** They should come out and tell people this is what is happening to us and we need to put our heads together to fight this disease because if it doesn't affect me, it may affect my brother. The adolescents should be the ones to do this not the old people who say they are youths at heart.

4. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** Community sensitization and mass media campaign, and the promoting of peer education and cultural practices.

5. **Pascal G. Bekono, Cameroon:** Through projects and activities (conferences, debate, networks, etc), sensitization and campaigns with their NGO/associations. Young People have to be involved of the development process. They also have to integrate the national commission concerning monitoring.

6. **Emeka Nwosu, Nigeria:** The role young people can play to facilitate the use of ICTs in influencing the mainstreaming of ASRH/HIV/AIDS issues and concerns into national development process include initiating programmes, discourses, debates among others on key ASRH/HIV/AIDS issues affecting young people’s development through the use popular ICTs tools in their country.

7. **Fosia Eidle, Somalia:** Young people are effective and can do more when they are involved to implement community centered activities of ASRH/AHIV/AIDS.
Young people can listen to each other so making peer pressure will be more contributing factor for a young people to learn ASRH/HIV/AIDS. Consideration of specific people traditions and culture of delivering messages so that this will improve participation and will show interest to every community in the society to tackle ASRH/HIV/AIDS.

8. Andrew William, Tanzania: Young people can brainstorm of the friendly ICT tools for youth, they can sensitize and mobilize their fellow youth in the move to improve ASRH and prevent HIV/AIDS.

9. Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia: Firstly, youth can play the role of advocates for the use of ICTs. Secondly, they should be social-entrepreneurs who come up with innovate ICT solutions for the Health sector and indeed the HIV/AIDS sub-sector. This is because youth have less responsibilities and they can take risks in coming up with these solutions which in term help the whole community. Thirdly, youth can study about current trends in the ICT sector and see how these can help solve the problems faced in the Health Sector and indeed the HIV/AIDS sector. This will involve researching, training, Strategic Technology Planning, Benchmarking, software development, deployment of infrastructure etc. Youth are already doing great things out there. It is just a matter of asking for them to showcase this.

10. Mubarak M. Omar, Somalia: Youth Participation is a partnership process between youth and adults; each side of the partnership has rights and responsibilities. Adults need to hear your voice. The youth are the frontlines to combat HIV/AIDS also they link issues concern sexual reproductive health in their community. Their role is to lead Internet and other IT resources might allow them to take active role and play important role to link their future leader-ship and promoting new youth activist. Any way betters way to address issues directly affecting youth than to have them directly involved and offering potential solutions through ICT. Youth Advocacy plans through using ICT and creating centers it is a wonderful program that creates positive outcomes to play a role in their community.

Which ICTs do you see as “on the cutting edge” or have great potential in AFRICA with regards to health particularly ASRH/HIV/AIDS issues?

1. Rotimi Olawale, Nigeria: My personal definition of new media is a collection of web tools that are designed to be interactive and allows users to contribute to content. This is sometimes called web2.0. Such web tools include blogs, podcasts, "you-tubing", and social sites like facebook and takingitglobal. In fact, this e-discussion is taking place by using the technology of the takingitglobal platform. Although these tools are elitist in nature (because only a tiny fraction of young people in Africa have access to the internet), I feel they will play a big role in shaping the opinion, culture and social behaviors in the coming years. In
Africa, for me, as I have said in an earlier post, radio and mobile phones are the best ICT tools to reach young people.

2. **Marie Sandra Ramonjison, Madagascar:** I think, ICTs which can have great potential in Africa with regards to health particularly ASRH/HIV/AIDS will be the broadcast, trough radio, TV, Internet (or any kind of ICTs) typical African music which content information and sensitization on this matter. Music is the best language in Africa

3. **Stephen Kasoma, Uganda:** Mobile phones, WIKIs, internet and TVs are the right tools to use today.

4. **David Enomah, Nigeria:** To me the best ICT tool to see "on the cutting edge" or have great potential in Africa is the television, radio, mobile phone (in form of hot lines where there are trained youth counselors that pick up their calls and give them the appropriate advice they need.) Then we can also talk of the internet (but for my country Nigeria, I don't see the internet as one of the cutting edge because many adolescent don't have asses to it like in the developed world). So, I prefer radio and the television.

5. **Bokar Bah, Gambia:** Community multimedia centers as OGF my organization, the use videos internet, mass media etc

6. **Pascal G. Bekono, Cameroon:** ICTs, which I see as on the cutting edge, are Mobil phone, and Internet

7. **Emeka Nwosu, Nigeria:** Radio, Mobile/cellular phones, TV and internet to my mind are the common ICTs I see as on the cutting edge in Africa with regards to health particularly ASRH/HIV/AIDS issues.

8. **Fosia Eidle, Somalia:** Most of the African people can not afford to have standardized ICT material Radio programs for communities who have access. Posters of ASRH/HIV/AIDS for secondary schools, debates and community centered activities that are organized by the adolescents themselves using projectors and video tapes. Facilitating this is not very expensive. Youth NGOs can organize community centered activities with specific communities and can provide access to small generators for communities who lack electricity and TV.

9. **Andrew William, Tanzania:** As I have noted above, this is a success story from our ISHI (To be alive) campaign in Tanzania. We managed to more than 70% of people in the country through TV/Radio programs, Bills, Printing technology and of course community events, but also a hotline (free) have so effective to reach lots of young people.

10. **Shalala Oliver Sepiso, Zambia:** From my experience, the cutting edge technologies which have a potential of influence on the Health sector are CD
ROM, Mobile Phone Technologies and Web 2.0 technologies. I disagree that Radio and TV have the potential because I think their potentials have already been met and I doubt that there is going to be much new stuff or services or usage that can change attitudes or dynamics of meeting people. Mobile phones are all over the place and so if fully utilized, their sheer affordability, easiness for deployment almost anywhere in Africa means that they are a force to reckon with. With SMS and voice recording, these can be used to record content in the field which can be sent by 3G to web-blogs on health. Vice versa, we can use the tags for searching content online and use voice programs to read the web content to the mobile phone user who then can get responses from the web easily despite not having GPRS etc. CD ROMs are very handy where there is not connectivity but content is need for publishing. Issues of innovation and creativity being stifled by patent laws can be sold by such attribution licenses like Creative Commons and this can gives as a tool which can be deployed all over Africa. We Zambian youth are already trying something here. +Web 2.) Tools have a way of bringing us together and maximizing the impact of web tools in the sector. Usage of such tools like Chisimba and Joomla, the former being the product of African developers at University of Western Cape, allows us to collate, repackage and disseminate content to the people out there on Health and HIV/AIDS. I am currently attending a Regional Portal Workshop in Johannesburg where this is being demonstrated and I already have ideas on how we shall deploy this in Zambia in out HIV/AIDS work as youth.

11. **Mubarak M. Omar, Somalia**: over a period of many years Broadcasters have invested to improve the quality and availability of FM and AM radio services to the large number and growing number of listeners using car radios and portables, however in African people searching where they can get real information with simply devices that they can manage I thing it is Radio because most of the people are illiterate people low income people only they can use this system.
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