

TRANSFORMING KIAMBU THROUGH A WEEK LONG CAMPAIGN AGAINST TEEN PREGNANCY



The National Syndemic Diseases Control Council (NSDCC) conducted a week-long campaign last week in Kiambu County, Kenya, aiming to combat the prevalent issue of teen pregnancies. The campaign unfolded with a strategic approach that engaged youth through the collaborative efforts of the local administration, Kiambu County government, Youth Advisory Council for Health (YACH) and Maisha Youth, utilising the innovative approach by incorporating multisectoral approach in Kiambu sub-counties namely Kabete, Kikuyu, Gatundu North, Thika and Juja. The cornerstone of this campaign was the innovative End Triple Threat - sexual gender-based violence, pregnancies and HIV among adolescents and young people, strategically designed to address vulnerabilities that face the young girls in Kiambu county.

The campaign incorporated community engagement, data-driven insights, and human-centered design, creating a powerful synergy for impactful change through an

approach known as Local Innovations Scaled through Enterprise Networks (LISTEN) program that is supported by Georgetown University and is being spearheaded by NSDCC. The program utilises the community voices in reaching the vulnerable populations such as young girls in the communities and underscores the community as the catalysts for change, driving the implementation of essential practices and initiatives in health and non-health related goals such as HIV prevention by using data demand and usage, equipping communities with sustainable skills for lasting impact.

The anti-teen pregnancies campaign focused on rural communities in the sub counties and reached over 1,346 adolescents and young people with services ranging from HPV vaccination, Covid 19 vaccination, mental health services, nutrition, reproductive health services.

Data in Kiambu County reveal a stark disparity in the prevalence of teenage pregnancies across targeted sub counties

as over 300,000 teenage pregnancies were reported in 2022 underscoring the urgency of the situation. Prevention commodities like condoms, HIV self-test kits, mental health services, sanitary pads, COVID vaccination, SGBV screening, HPV vaccination, and impactful messaging through edutainment against teenage pregnancies were all part of the comprehensive offering in the campaign. The health experts talks and living testimonials, played pivotal roles at each campaign stop in the sub counties.

Through a multisectoral approach, the campaign brought together a diverse ensemble of stakeholders who actively participated in the campaign showcasing a united front and strength of community engagement and collaborative efforts towards ending HIV as a public health threat. The weeklong campaign stands as a testament to the NSDCC's commitment to addressing critical public health challenges and paving the way for a brighter and healthier future for the youth of Kiambu County.

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Adolescents and young people used edutainment to pass health messages to raise awareness and educated their peers on issues around HIV prevention, teenage pregnancies and sexual genderbased violence



The campaign utilized a multisectoral approach, uniting diverse stakeholders who actively engaged, showcasing a strong community collaboration to end HIV as a public health threat.



The campaign offered a comprehensive package, including prevention commodities, mental health services, vaccinations, and impactful edutainment messaging against teenage pregnancies.