

# YOUTH CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY BASED PREVENTION SERVICES TOWARDS AN HIV FREE GENERATION

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# Background

- DSD has institutionalised and mainstreamed youth development nationally.
- All provinces have Directorates/ focal points focusing on youth development.
- These units offer a myriad of developmental services to help empower youth to be active change agents.
  - Key principle: hand up, not hand out.

# Youth Directorate Programmes

- Youth Centres and youth clubs and youth forums
- DSD Tertiary Institutions Programme
- Youth mobilisation programmes (dialogues, camps)
- Inter-generational Programmes.
- Skills development programmes (Life, entrepreneurial, mentorship and vocational)
- National Youth Service programme
- All encapsulated within DSD sector policy and strategy

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# Reflections on Youth Month

- Commemorate 41 years since brave young men and women refused to accept an unjust situation detrimental to their futures, and the country's future.
- Youth refused to succumb to a social system that had left many families without parents and many parents without children.
- The youth stood up and collectively mobilised
- There are many lessons we can learn from the youth of 1976 that we as young people can apply to the fight

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# Youth and HIV

- SA has highest number of new infections worldwide.
- How does anyone rejoice when there over 2000 new HIV infections weekly in South Africa, most of which are young people?
- Young women 18 to 24 are leading new HIV infections?
- Adolescent girls and young women in South Africa are up to 8x more likely to be infected with HIV than their male peers

# Youth camp process plan



Ward and District dialogues



Provincial and National Camps



Post camp programmes (Youth Clubs)



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# Impact and Return on Investment

- 2016 we launched the national camp alumni programme. Amazing stories on youth programmes that focus on HIV/Aids etc.
- The students have now become the teachers. 😊

# Linking Youth Clubs and Ideathons

- Young people are organising themselves nationally through youth clubs.
- **Our vision:** Youth clubs turning to a national movement that coordinates youth activism for HIV prevention and other social ills. Street by street, village by village, from ward, district to provinces these youth clubs will ensure that youth are engaged in issues that affect their own lives.
- Local level solutions (thru ideathons) can be formulated at these youth clubs to avoid one size fits all solutions.

# Role of youth in the NSP 2017-2022

- **Critical enablers**

- Social and behaviour change communication. Youth must own the content and delivery of SBCC. Own slangs, own platforms, own campaigns. #
- Building strong social systems. Support systems needed to complement SANAC Secretariat, civil society and private sector. Youth clubs are a platform for social support, mentoring and intergenerational cooperation.
- Sufficient, appropriately trained human resources. Nothing for us without us. The next HIV vaccine must come from an African university by African youth. We need youth prepared and trained for careers of the future. Innovation is key

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# In Conclusion...

- Young people from all walks of life need to combine their knowledge, determination, energy, industriousness and resilience to fight this scourge.
- There is a need to find linkages between children's programmes (14-18) and youth (18-35) to ensure no one is left behind.
- We are the greatest resource in the road to prevention.
- Because like the famous saying goes: if not us, who? If not now, when??



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