


IAMANEH Schweiz - Suisse
Gesundheit für Frauen und Kinder
Santé pour femmes et enfants

Empowering unwed young mothers and girls to protect their sexual and reproductive health

in Ouahigouya/ Burkina Faso


Presentation: Beate Kiefer



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Burkina Faso – some facts

- 14.8 Mio. inhabitants
- Maternal mortality ratio (per 100'000 live births): 700
- Life expectancy at birth: 47 years
- Total fertility rate: 6.1
- Infant mortality rate (per 1'000 births): 122
- Human Development Index (ranking): 176, among the bottom ten countries




Source: UNAIDS 2008 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, Country Progress Indicators

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Burkina Faso – some facts

- Estimated number of adults and children living with HIV, 2007: 130'000 ,
- slowly decreasing these last years (140'000 in 2001)
- Estimated number of deaths due to AIDS, 2007: 9'200 (10'000 in 2001)
- High level of political commitment
- Antiretroviral treatment paid by government since 2010, free treatments of opportunistic infections but not costs for exams/ analysis


Source: UNAIDS/ WHO, 2008



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Project presentation

- Partner organisation „AMMIE“ and project area
- Background
- Target group
- Project objectives
- Strategy and project activities
- Project development
- Results and impacts
- Challenges



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Partner organisation and project area



- A.M.M.I.E: association Appui Moral, Matériel et Intellectuel à l'enfant
- Long-term partnership (since 2000)
- Well known NGO in Ouahigouya, focal point for HIV affected people
- Collaboration with health centre, social aid, local authorities, etc.

Project area: Ouahigouya and three nearby villages

- 200 km from Ouagadougou
- Sahelian climate

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Background

- Young people are becoming increasingly active sexually at early age, often out of need for food, shelter or clothing
- Lack of knowledge, lack of access to contraception, lack of skills and self efficacy to negotiate contraception, inadequate self efficacy to resist pressure
- Unprotected sex is placing these young women at risk of **HIV infection** and **pregnancy**

Background



- Being removed from school
- Forced into early marriage
- Practice of condemning and rejecting „bad“ girls who have become pregnant outside marriage
- Stigmatisation

Target group

Target group:

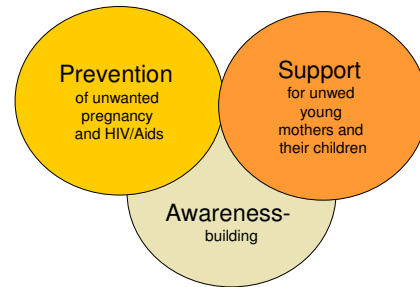
- 80 unwed young mothers
- 300 young girls
- Male partners/boyfriends and broad public



Project objectives

- Support unwed young mothers
 - Learn to build self-confidence
 - Take care of their own sexual and reproductive health
- Provide training to young girls
- Promote education and reduce poverty
 - Unwed mothers return to school, take advantage of opportunities for vocational training, small scale business development
- Raise awareness throughout the population of the perils of unwanted pregnancy and HIV/Aids; and counter stigmatisation and discrimination

Strategy and project activities

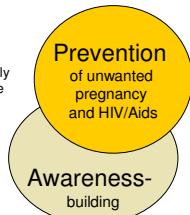


Strategy and project activities

Information and sensitization meetings on topics such as sexual education, contraception, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, female genital mutilation, rights, etc.

Personal testimonies by unwed young mothers

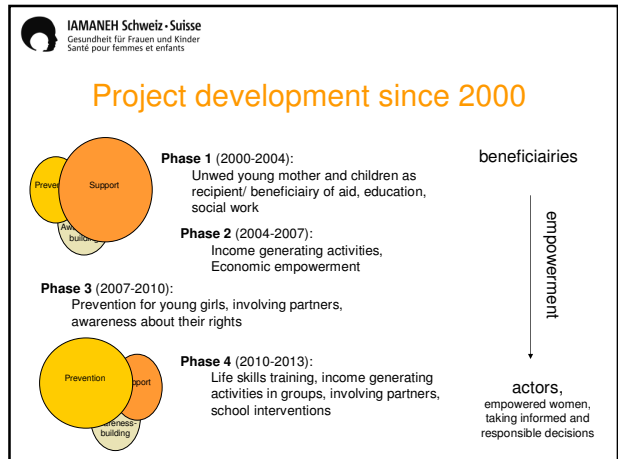
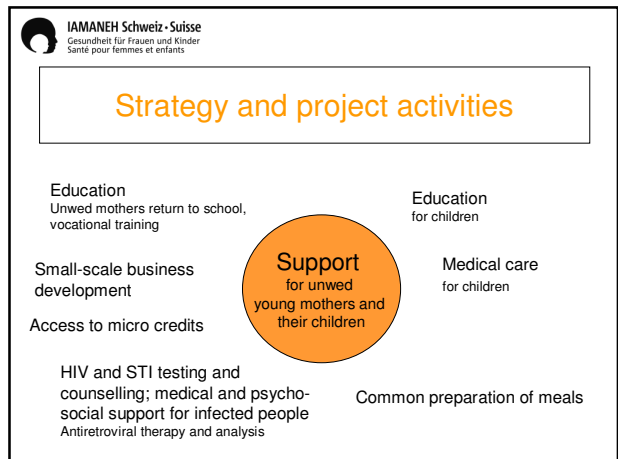
Audio- visual methods such as radio, video projections and drama



Access to contraceptive services, promotion of dual protection (any method of birth control combined with a condom)

Life skills training Empowers young people to take positive action to protect themselves and promote health and positive social relationships





Results and impacts

- **Unwed young mothers:** status in family and society, empowerment: from beneficiaries to actors, behaviour and sexual and reproductive health, education and socio-economic impacts
- **Young girls:** avoid unwanted sex and take appropriate precautions to avoid unwanted pregnancy and STIs including HIV
- Breaking taboo topics, talking about sexual education and unwanted pregnancy is leading to more tolerance and empathy

Challenges

- Getting unwed young mothers empowered and independent within 3 years
- Reaching out to boys and men
- Improving impact measurement
- Scaling up

Thank you!

