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## **FRAMEWORK FOR NURHI 2 ENGAGEMENT WITH NYSC**

The Nigerian Urban and Reproductive Health Initiative (NURHI 2) implements an adolescents and youth program for ages 15 -24 years, known as Life Planning for Adolescents and Youth (LPAY). LPAY integrates a deliberate and innovative focus on adolescents and youth into NURHI 2 strategic approaches in order to address current barriers to young people's access to reproductive health information and services, respond to their unique life planning needs and thereby, increase demand for reproductive health knowledge and services in Kaduna, Lagos and Oyo states.

NURHI 2 Strategic Partnership with National Youth Service Corps (NYSC): The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) is a scheme set up by the Nigerian government to involve Nigerian graduates in a one-year mandatory service to promote nation building, development, foster unity among Nigerians and service to the nation.



*NURHI 2 engagement with NYSC in Oyo State*

### **STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR NURHI 2 -NYSC ENGAGEMENT**

Properly nurtured and guided young people have the capacity to achieve their potentials and grow into productive adults. Likewise, wrong decisions regarding their knowledge on reproductive health may lead to increased morbidity and mortality and compromise their



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future. More than other groups in the society, adolescents occupy an exciting but potentially dangerous position. While awareness of HIV/AIDS is high among adolescents – 87.1% for females and 91.4% for males, “real” knowledge is low. Only half (52.0%) of adolescent females, for example, knew that condom could reduce the risk of HIV transmission compared to 80.2% of males. The proportion of adolescents with comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS based on the UNAIDS indicator is quite low: 19.7% for females and 28.2% for males. Although the country has adopted the teaching of Family Life and HIV Education (FLHE) at all levels, and the FLHE curriculum was approved for national implementation in 2003, the implementation has been poor.

It is crucial for adolescents and youth to make responsible and healthy choices in matters related to their reproductive health. In order to do this, they need adequate and accurate information about reproductive health as well as the resources available within their community. This is essential because sexual activity among young people in Nigeria is on the increase. Young people everywhere can learn to make good choices and decisions if they have complete and correct information, healthy attitudes, good decision making, communication and life planning skills.

It is in the light of this that NURHI 2 Life Planning for Adolescent and Youth (LPAY) team is collaborating with NYSC to integrate LPAY into existing HIV/AIDS Core Peer Educators Trainers (C-PET) structure in the three (3) intervention States.



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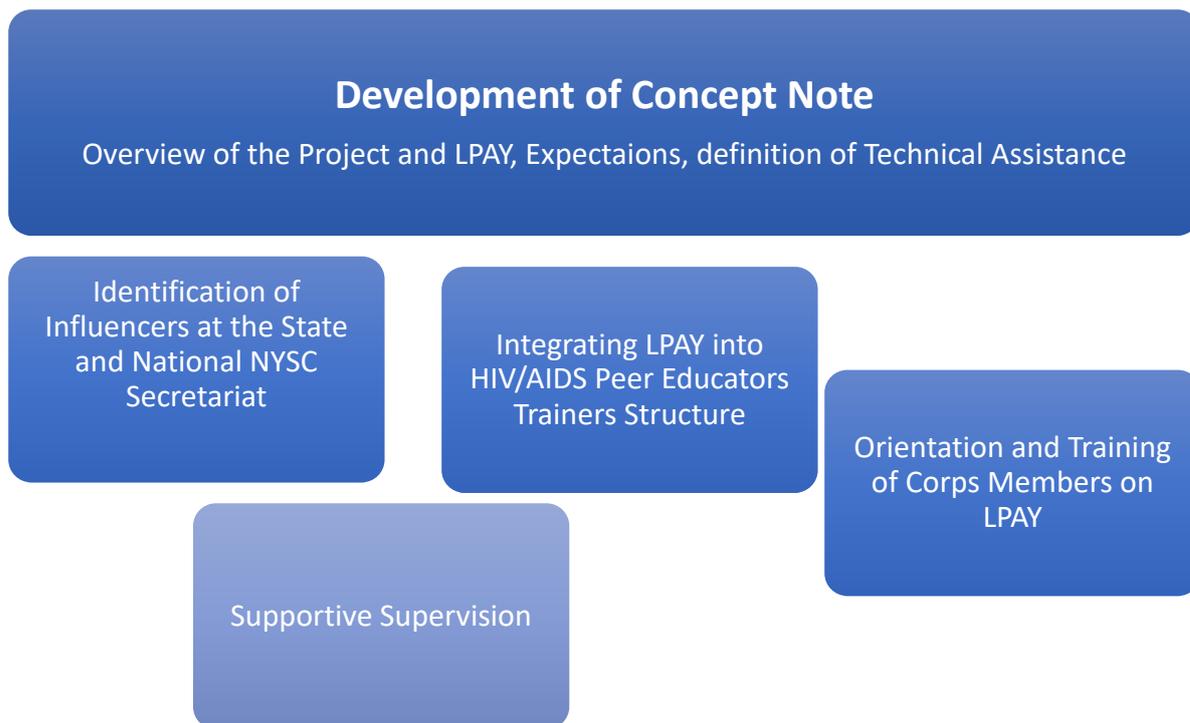


Figure 1: Strategic Approach to engagement with the NYSC

### STEP BY STEP ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

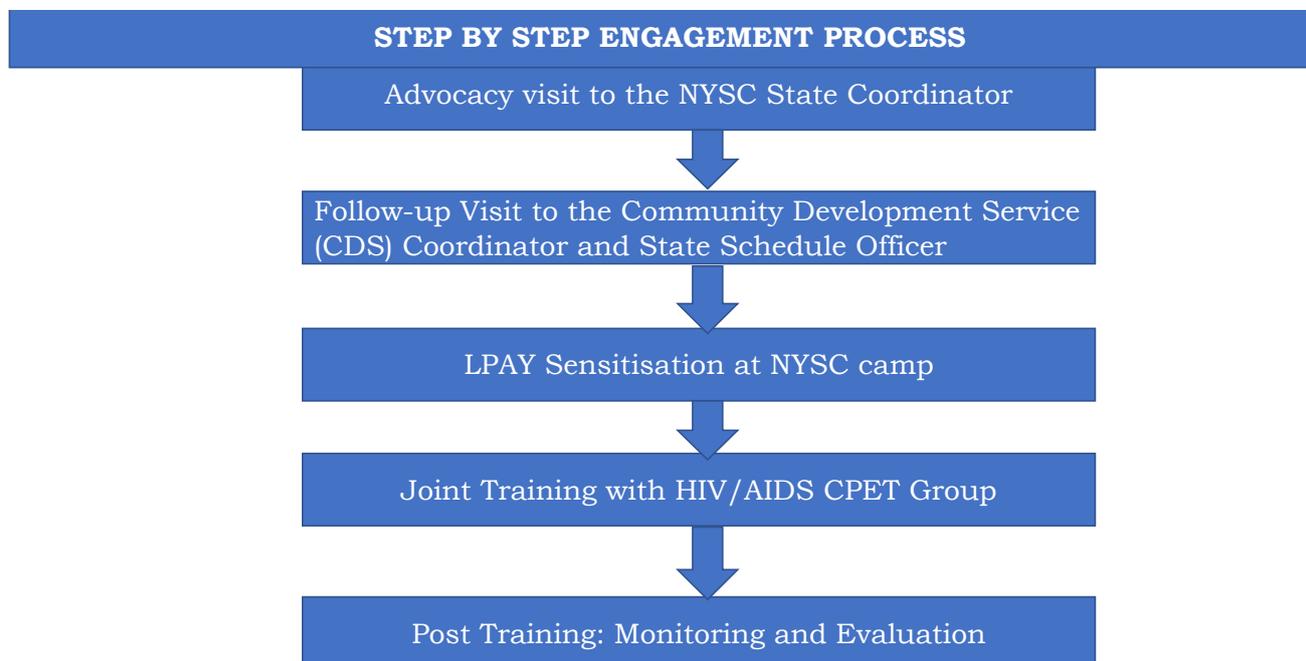


Figure 2: Step by step engagement process

1. Advocacy visit to the State Coordinator:
  - a. Schedule a visit to the state coordinator
  - b. Information Materials for the visit



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- i. Information leaflet about the organization
  - ii. Concept note state what the engagement will be about, how and when you want to engage the NYSC. Expectations from both parts should be clear.
  - iii. Social Behaviour Change Materials (SBC) materials
2. Follow-up visit to the Community Development Service (CDS) Coordinator and or state schedule officer
  - a. At this visit, ensure the concept note is understood by the officers.
  - b. Contract development and Exchange of contacts
  - c. Ask as many questions as necessary for clarity of the NYSC programs.
3. LPAY Sensitisation at NYSC camp.
  - a. Confirm the date and time on the invitation. Experience has shown that the time written on the letter is when you will mount the podium so arrive well in advance.
  - b. Set up your exhibition stand with display of various youth friendly SBC materials
  - c. Share the jingles or songs (if available) with the DJ and the NYSC Camp media/radio team
  - d. Ensure your session is interactive and fun, you might have to demonstrate when speaking on methods.
  - e. If training will take place, ensure to inform corps members that training will be conducted in collaboration with HIV/AIDS CDS group at the end of the sensitization.
  - f. Call for volunteer.
  - g. You may have to register the volunteers on the sensitisation day.
4. Joint training with HIV/AIDS CPET Group.
  - a. Study the National Reproductive Health, HIV & AIDS Prevention and Care Project Manual for Training Peer Educators
  - b. Develop LPAY curriculum to compliment the Manual above
  - c. Conduct a training of master trainers for the HIV/CPET Facilitators to ensure quality integration of LPAY into their training
  - d. You might have to provide materials for the training, often, NYSC does not have major training materials.



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- e. Have a pre-training meeting with the facilitators to develop the agenda. Ensure LPAY content is captured in the training program
  - f. Monitor the training proceedings
5. Post training:
- a. Monitor activities of the trained Corp members through the schedule officers to the limit of your agreement

### **EXPECTATIONS**

- Integrated HIV/AIDS and RH Core Peer Educators Training Curriculum
- Pool of LPAY trainers/resources for in supported states
- Increased access to LPAY information and services including life skills to adolescents and young persons
- Increased healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy among adolescents and youth
- Reduced incidences of abortion amongst adolescents and youth

### **IMMEDIATE RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

- 19,317 corps members sensitized, and 754 volunteers trained as peer educators on LPAY.
- Trained corps members (participants in the National Youth Service Scheme) conduct community sensitization as well as adopt secondary schools where they train at least 40 secondary school students.
- Master Trainers trained on LPAY integration into NYSC CPET curriculum

### **CHALLENGES**

- i. LPAY may not be included in the orientation activities from the national level and state coordinator may be unwilling to create room for such.
- ii. Unwillingness of NYSC official due to lack of avenues for personal gains.
- iii. The state may not have a regular pool of trainers for the master training, counting on volunteer trainers for CPET programs.



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- iv. Post training monitoring may not be easy as schedule officers are not allowed to share NYSC information and report with any other organisation.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i. Ensure Integration of LPAY into NYSC Orientation program and CPET training at national level
- ii. If funding is involved, ensure proper documentation. You may not necessarily get a receipt of item by item, do get a signed official document stating each items the funding is for and amount from NYSC.
- iii. From start-up, design your monitoring tools or agree on the M&E with the schedule officer. This should also be stated in your concept note.
- iv. If training will be held, it's advisable you do your logistics to make up for NYSC inadequacies
- v. Identify regular trainers and for sustainability involve qualified state/LGA health educators in the training of master trainers.