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Background

In the pursuit of ending HIV and AIDS by 2030, it has become evident that Communities hold the health systems accountable by empowering community members to monitor service delivery, identify gaps and implement solutions. Community-Led Monitoring (CLM), an intervention under Nigeria's Global Fund GC7 grant and led by the Network of People Living with HIV (NEPWHAN) is being implemented across 13 States in Nigeria. The strategy aims to improve the quality-of-service provision through routine community-level data collection, translate these data into actionable insights, and bring the information to the attention of decision-makers and advocate for changes in policy and practice.

Description

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted across the 13 states of Nigeria where community-led monitoring is being implemented from April to June 2024. Quantitative data was collected using the mobile application, community iMonitor, while qualitative data was from focus group discussions. Quantitative data was obtained from the backend of the app, exported and analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 23 while qualitative data was analyzed using inductive thematic analysis.

Lessons learned

A total of 8828 responses were recorded from the app and 6 focus group discussion sessions with 6 participants each were conducted across the 13 states. 71.6%, 13% and 9% of the responses were from PLHIV, Key Population; and adolescent and young persons (AYP) respectively. From the iMonitor, the top three major challenges reported were access to mental health services 47.9%, access to legal services 44.8% and stock-out of condoms and lubricants 5.3%. The qualitative data focused on 4 themes which are barriers to treatment, quality of care, availability of commodities, gender and human rights. The top three areas of challenges include lack of nutritional support, stock-out of condoms and lubricants, and lack of access to mental health and legal services.

Conclusions/Next steps

Continued monitoring, led by the community is a very important approach to enhancing person-centred care and improve service quality for both the persons living with HIV, the key and vulnerable population. Addressing the identified issues through targeted interventions and engaging with key policymakers will be crucial in achieving epidemic control and ending AIDS by 2030.