

2015

NEED ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR HELLO LAGOS

Adolescent/Youth Friendly Centre

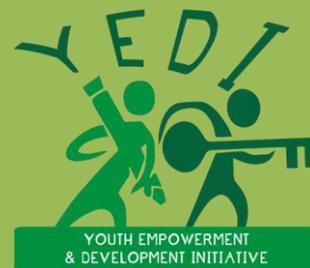
YFS

YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES

Supported By:

- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Agency for the Administration of the Lagos State

- Sango/Agege
- Oko-Awo (Victoria Island)
- Ikeja



Contents

1.0 Introduction	2
1.1 Aim	2
1.2 Objectives	2
2.0 Methodology	3
2.1 Background of Study Area	3
2.2 Study Population:	3
2.3 Study Design:	3
2.4 Sample Size Determination:.....	3
2.5 Data Collection:	3
2.6 Ethical Consideration:	4
2.7 Data entry and analysis:	4
3.0 Results	5
3.1 Quantitative analysis	5
3.2 Qualitative analysis	10
3.21 Key Informant Interview (KII)	10
3.22 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	13
4.0 Conclusion	15
5.0 Recommendations.....	15
References	16

1.0 Introduction

Adolescents (10-19 years) constitute over a fifth of Nigeria's population while Young People, 10-24 years, constitute almost a third.¹ These proportions are also applicable to Lagos State, which currently has an estimated population of over 3 million. In this regards, Adolescents and Young People, contribute significantly to the demographic dynamics of Lagos state.²

The NDHS 2013 reports that in Lagos State, the average age of first intercourse is 20 years and 4.8% of young girls (15-19) have begun childbearing with 9% of them pregnant with their first child. Also, 24% and 27% of young men (YM) and young women (YW) respectively have engaged in sexual intercourse before age 18 years. Furthermore, less than 60% of them reported condoms use at last sexual intercourse with only 16% and 13% YW and YM respectively, reported to have undertaken a HIV test in the last 12 months. These health indices are very significant given the large youth populace in the State.³

The Lagos State Government, recognizing the implication of a significant youthful population engaging in high-risk sexual behaviors, established Hello Lagos as an integrated youth friendly center in 2002.⁴ The center is designed to provide free sexual and reproductive health services for young people in a safe and confidential environment. In order to strengthen the service delivery, Lagos State engaged Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (YEDI) to provide support to the Hello Lagos management team in providing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health services to youths within the communities in three centers.

Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (YEDI) is a Nigerian NGO dedicated to introducing effective and innovative development approaches that have been tried and tested elsewhere on the African continent to the Nigerian setting. The programmes and projects adopted by the organization focus on educating, empowering and inspiring the development of children and youth. As a first line of action, YEDI undertook a need assessment survey with an aim:

1.1 Aim

To assess the need for the Youth Friendly Centres by the youths in Agege, Ikeja and Oko-Awo communities.

1.2 Objectives

1. To assess the level of awareness of the Hello Lagos centres among the youths in the communities;
2. To assess the In-school youths (ISY) and Out-of-School youths (OSY) expectation as regards to the YFC's activities and services;
3. To identify and assess the factors that hinder the youths from accessing the YFCs.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Background of Study Area

Agege is a suburb and local government area in the Ikeja Division of Lagos State. Boundary of Agege from the Northern part of Lagos stretches from Dopemu road through Anu-oluwapo street to Olukosi down Fagbola through Osobu street to Orile road down to Old Agege Motor Road opposite Nitel. From the Southern part of Lagos, it stretches from Ashade retail market to Akilo street. From the Eastern part of Lagos, it stretches from Oba Ogunji road up to the by-pass to Agege Motor road by Nitel office. From the Western part of Lagos, the boundary of Agege stretches from Abeokuta express road from boundary with Ikeja Local government to Dopemu junction. Ikeja is the State capital of Lagos State. Boundary of Ikeja from the Northern part of Lagos stretches from Obafemi Awolowo way at Alausa through Aromire to both sides of Adeniyi Jones to end of Oba Akran and both sides of the other end of Adeniyi Jones to the tail of Adeniyi Jones Street by the Ikeja industrial area. From the Southern part of Lagos, it stretches from the other side of Bank Anthony way from Airport junction through Unity and Toyin Street to Allen/Opebi junction. It stretches along Lagos/Ibadan expressway at Alausa from the Eastern part of Lagos and stretches along the Swamp behind the international airport at Onipetesi from the western part of Lagos. Communities within Ikeja include: Agidingbi, Akiode, Alausa, Government Residence Area (GRA), Ikeja, Maryland, Ogba, Ojodu, Opebi, and Oregun. Oko-Awo is located in Eti-Osa sub-locality, Lagos locality, District, Lagos State.

2.2 Study Population: The study populations were both In-School Youths (ISY) and Out-of-School Youths (OSY) in Agege, Ikeja and Oko-Awo areas in Lagos State. The key informants selected for this study were the health personnel attending to youths in each facility.

2.3 Study Design: The study design was a descriptive, cross-sectional study.

2.4 Sample Size Determination: For the qualitative aspect of this survey, fifteen students per location were randomly selected to participate in the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) session. For the quantitative aspect of this survey, 180 youths (60 youths per location) were administered questionnaires.

2.5 Data Collection: Quantitative questionnaires, Focus group discussions and Key informant interview sessions were used to capture the responses of the participants.

A total of one hundred and eighty questionnaires were administered to the youths in the three locations. Sixty questionnaires were administered in each location. The questionnaires were structured to capture the following data:

demographics of the youths; knowledge and attitude towards the youth friendly centres; and the factors that could prevent them accessing the services. The focus group discussion guide was designed to capture responses from fifteen randomly selected youths from the community. Each group was composed of both In-School youths and Out-of-School youths; and both male and female youths. The sessions took an average of 30 minutes.

A total of three Key informant interviews were carried out in the three different centres. The key informants were the health personnel heading the centres. The sessions took an average of 20 minutes.

The tools were designed by the YEDI team and administered by three researchers trained to carry out the survey. The data collection was carried out from October through November, 2015.

2.6 Ethical Consideration: Participation of the study population was voluntary, no names or other forms of identifiers were on the questionnaires and written informed consent was obtained from participants prior to administration of questionnaires.

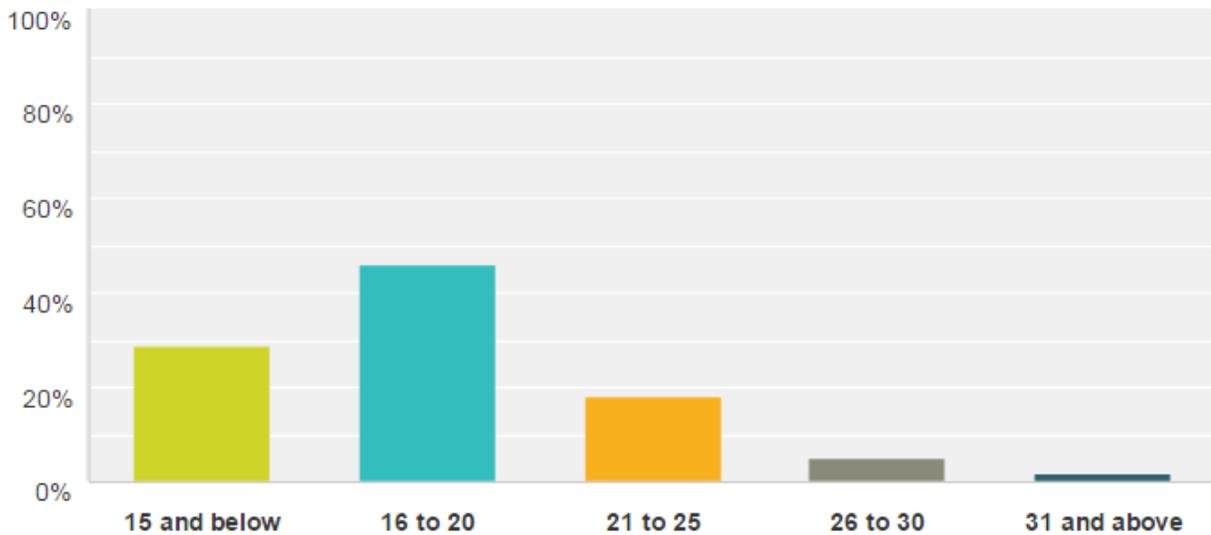
2.7 Data entry and analysis: Survey monkey was used to analyze the quantitative aspect of the questionnaire that was administered to the youths. The qualitative aspect of the questionnaire was transcribed and analyzed. The focus group discussion (FGD) and key informant interview (KII) were recorded, transcribed and analyzed.

3.0 Results

3.1 Quantitative analysis

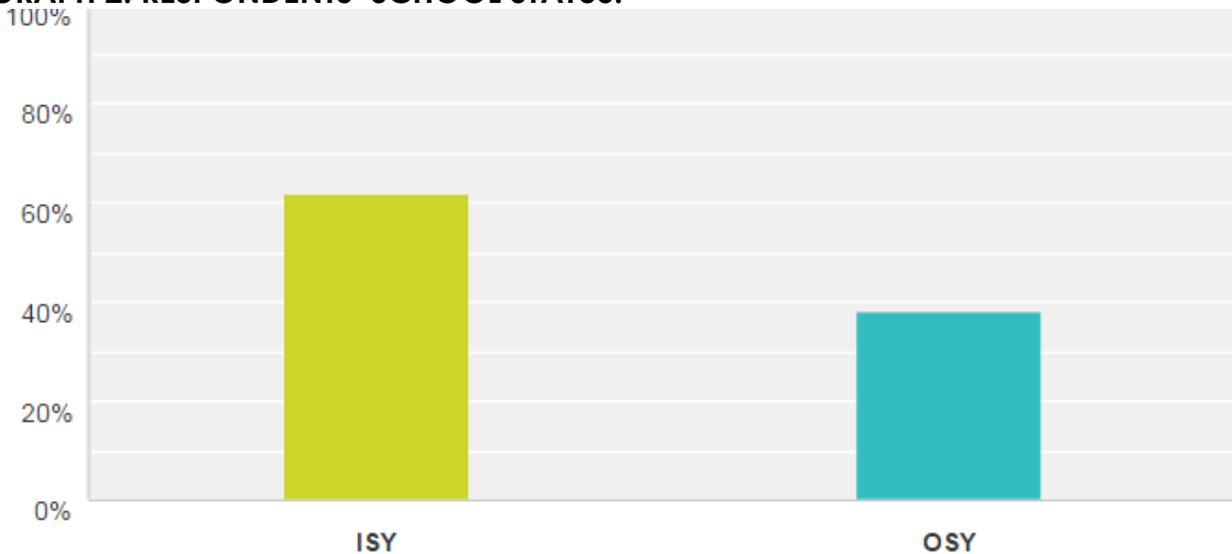
The 180 self-administered questionnaires were properly filled and analyzed, giving a response rate of 100%.

GRAPH 1: RESPONDENTS' AGE DISTRIBUTION.



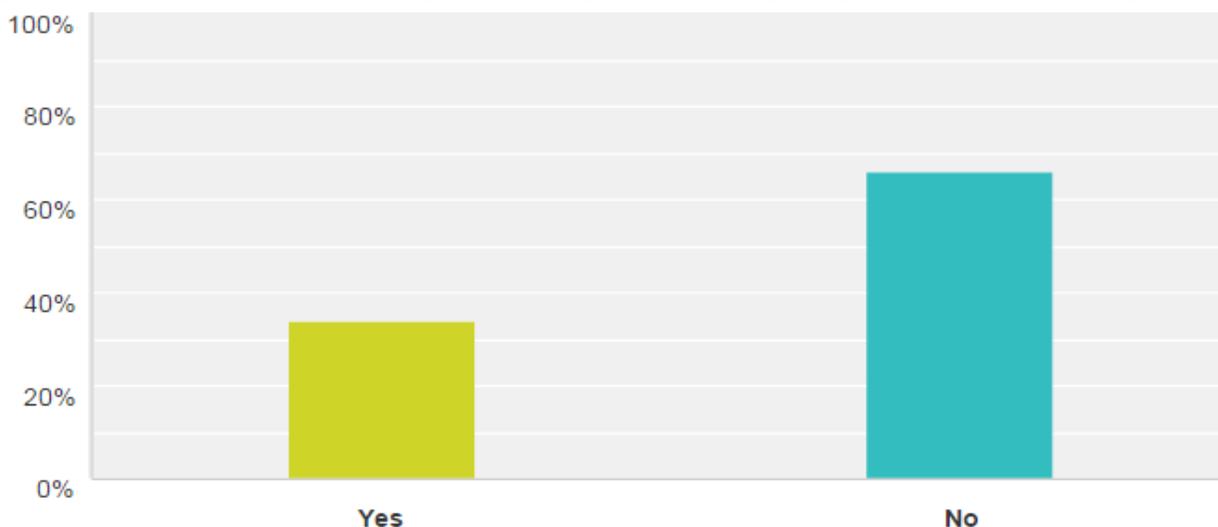
The age group of 16 – 20 years, 85 (47.22%), was preponderant among the other age groups.

GRAPH 2: RESPONDENTS' SCHOOL STATUS.



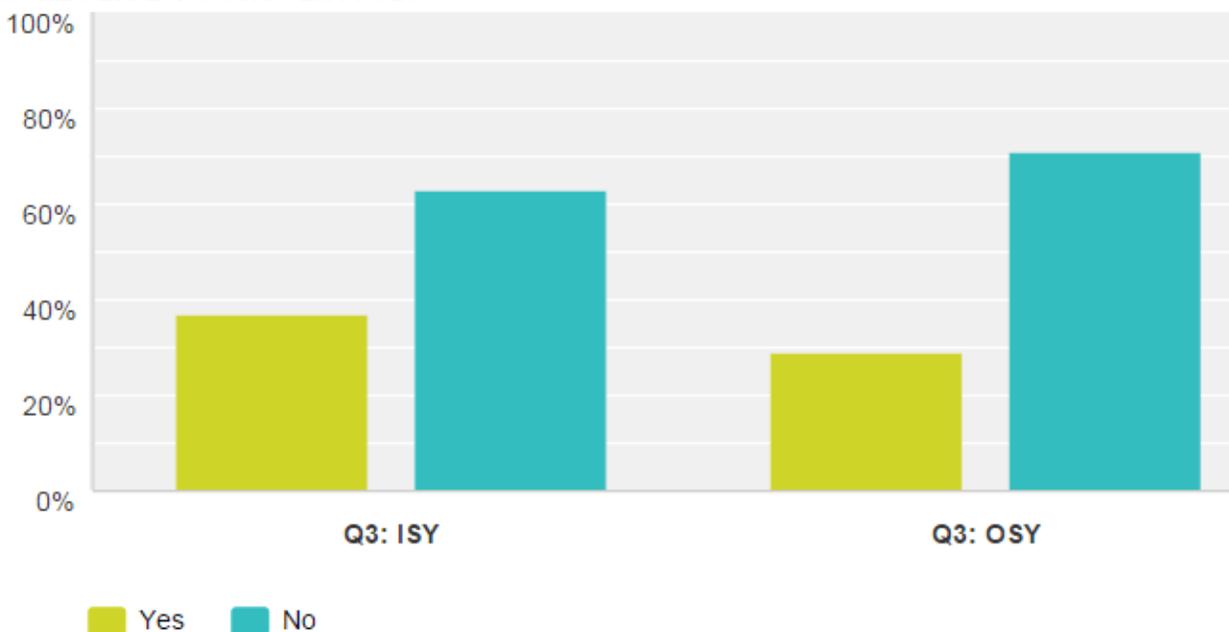
Majority, 112 (62.22%), of the youths who showed interest in the study were In-School-Youths.

GRAPH 3: RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE ON WHERE TO RECEIVE YOUTH SERVICES.



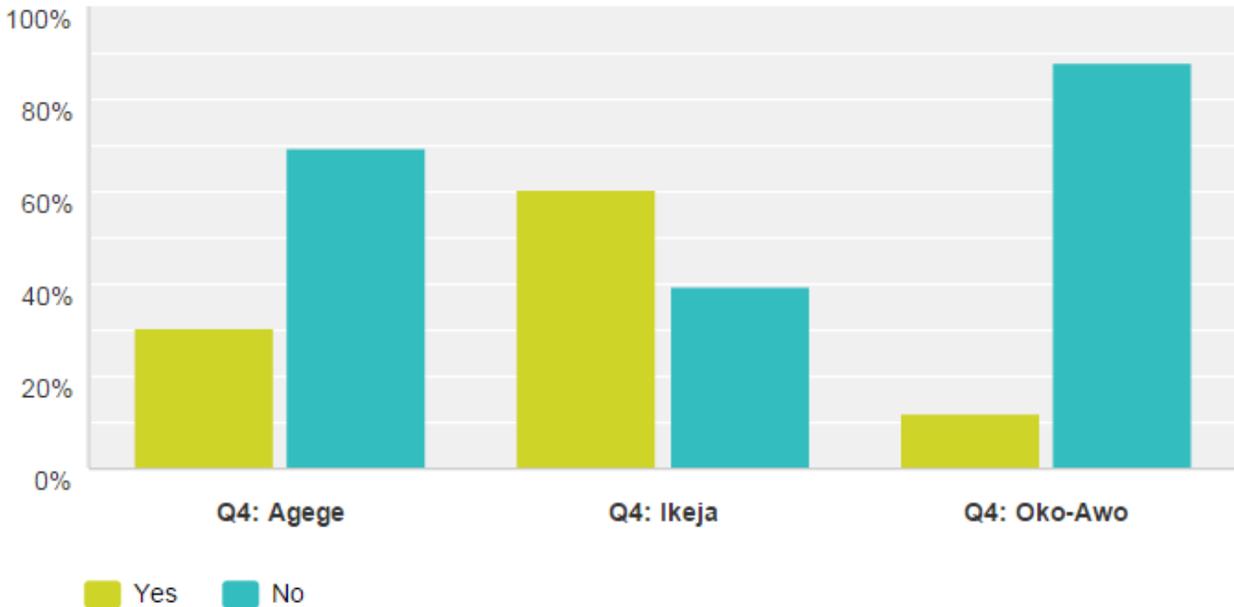
Accumulatively across the three sites, 119 (66.11%) youths never knew where to access youth friendly services. About 50% of the 61 (33.89%) youths that indicated that they knew where to access youth friendly services were aware of Hello Lagos. Others mentioned places such as their homes, churches and only one of them mentioned Zapass Lagos Island.

GRAPH 4: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOL STATUS AND KNOWLEDGE ON WHERE TO RECEIVE YOUTH SERVICES.



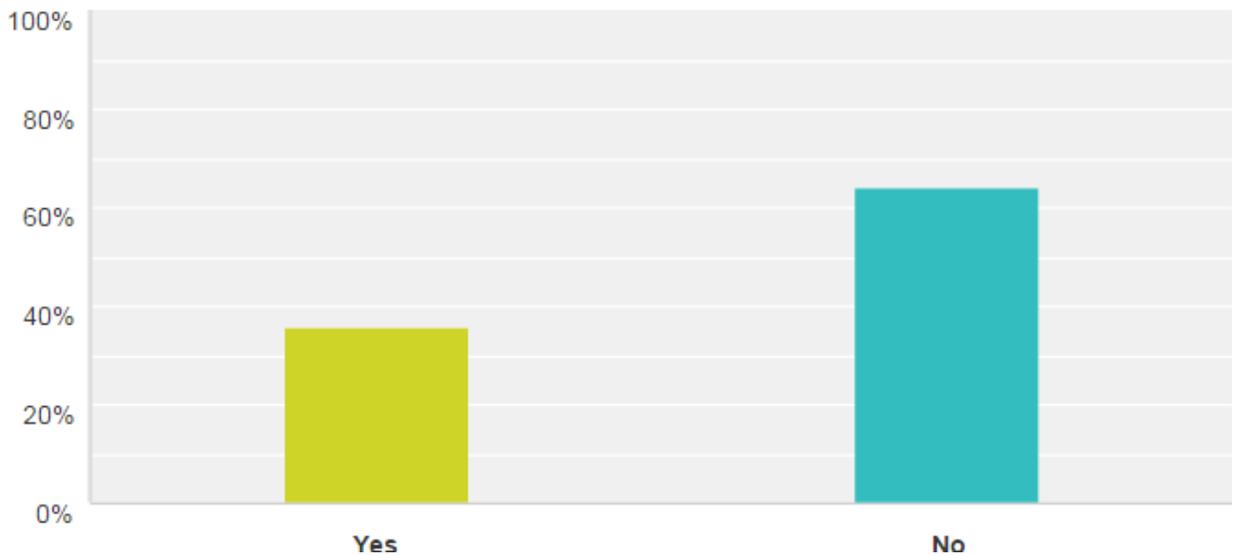
Further investigation revealed that Out-of-School youths 128 (71.11%) across the three sites that never knew where to access youth friendly services were slightly higher than the In-School youths, 113 (62.78%).

GRAPH 5: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE ON WHERE TO RECEIVE YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES.



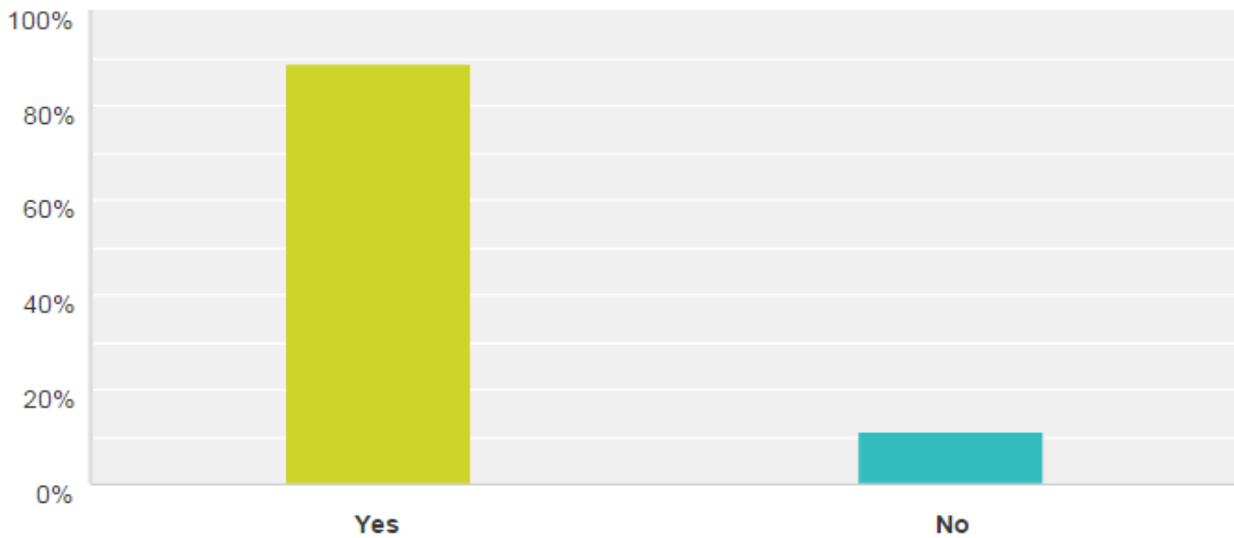
Analysis by location revealed that a significantly high number of youths in Oko-Awo, 158 (87.78%), as compared to those in Agege, 126 (70%), and Ikeja, 72 (40%), never knew where to sought youth friendly services.

GRAPH 6: RESPONDENTS' AWARENESS TO HELLO LAGOS.



As regards to the formal name of the centre, 65 (36.11%) youths across the three locations were aware of Hello Lagos.

GRAPH 7: RESPONDENTS' ATTENDANTS RATE.



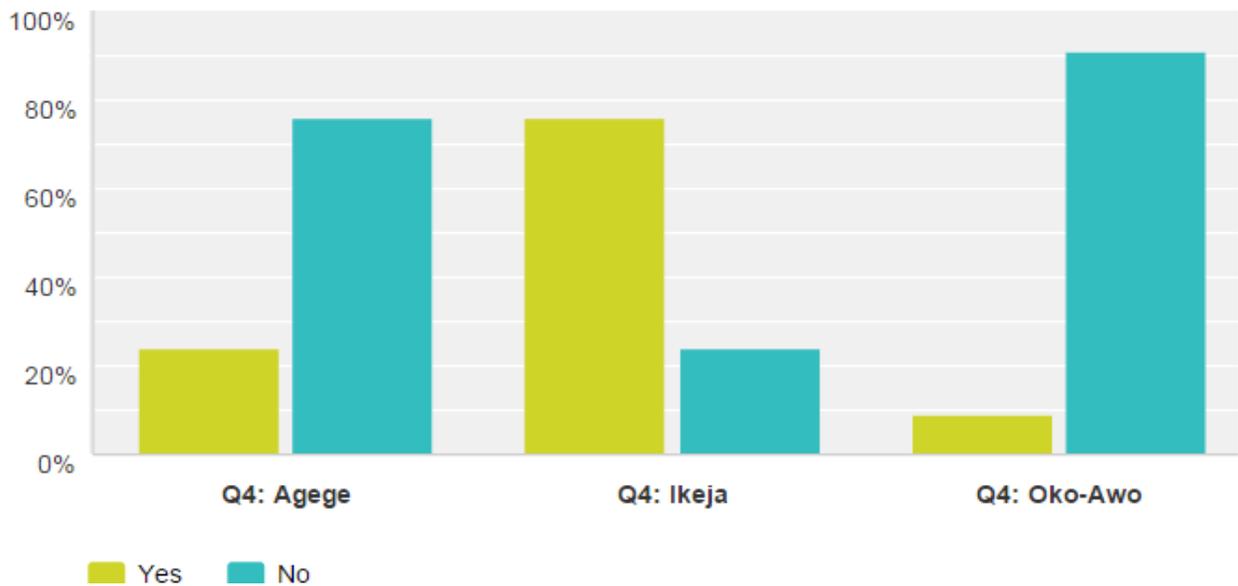
88.89% of the youths who knew Hello Lagos had had access to the facility. 65 (36.11%) of the youths indicated that they had accessed the centre for a maximum of five times. The rest had lost counts of how many times they had accessed the centre. They further enumerated the activities and services they received there which are: games and sports such as scrabble, ludo, table tennis and football; learning sessions; and counseling.

GRAPH 8: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOL STATUS AND AWARENESS TO HELLO LAGOS.



Subsequent analysis unveiled that Out-of-School youths, 142 (78.89%), that were not aware of Hello Lagos were predominant.

GRAPH 9: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCATION AND AWARENESS TO HELLO LAGOS



Analysis by location disclosed that a high number of youths in Oko-Awo, 164 (91.11%), were not aware of Hello Lagos as compared to the youths in Agege, 137 (76.11%) who are also high and Ikeja, 43 (23.89%) who are relatively low.

TABLE 1: RESPONDENTS' ATTITUDE TO THE YFC'S ACTIVITIES.

	Very important	Important	Not important	I don't know
Watch a match/movie	40.00% 40	35.00% 35	19.00% 19	6.00% 6
Computer lessons	60.00% 60	35.00% 35	2.00% 2	3.00% 3
Interactive session for boys only	45.00% 45	36.00% 36	8.00% 8	11.00% 11
Interactive session for girls only	45.00% 45	26.00% 26	12.00% 12	17.00% 17
Act drama	43.00% 43	25.00% 25	24.00% 24	8.00% 8
Learn a skill	60.00% 60	33.00% 33	4.00% 4	3.00% 3
Show your talent	49.00% 49	31.00% 31	12.00% 12	8.00% 8

Table 1 revealed that computer lessons and vocational training were the two most important activities to the youths across the three locations. The youths

listed other activities that they would love to access such as: vocational trainings on bead making, baking and teaching skills; recreational activities; gym; cultural activities and gospel teaching.

TABLE 2: RESPONDENTS' ATTITUDE TO THE YFC'S SERVICES.

	Very important	Important	Not important	I don't know
HIV counselling and testing	65.00% 65	29.00% 29	5.00% 5	1.00% 1
Sex education	58.00% 58	32.00% 32	5.00% 5	5.00% 5
Antenatal care	51.00% 51	36.00% 36	6.00% 6	7.00% 7
Sexual abuse care	49.00% 49	39.00% 39	8.00% 8	4.00% 4
Drug abuse prevention session	48.00% 48	41.00% 41	5.00% 5	6.00% 6
Drug abuse recovery session	44.00% 44	41.00% 41	9.00% 9	6.00% 6
Sickness and injury treatment	63.00% 63	35.00% 35	1.00% 1	1.00% 1
Collect contraceptives (eg. condoms)	33.00% 33	24.00% 24	25.00% 25	18.00% 18

Table 2 disclosed the degree of importance at which the youths perceived HIV counseling and testing to be. Other services listed by the youths are; free drugs, dental care, free health services and STI/STD counseling and testing.

96 (53.33%) of the participants signified that weekends would be their most convenient time to access the centre. 19 (10.56%) youths signified working days (Mondays to Fridays) and the rest, 65 (36.11%), pointed out that they would not be able to come basically due to their work and classes. Other factors that would prevent them from coming are: their family member; church; rude and aggressive staff; incompetent staff; inadequate and inactive facility.

3.2 Qualitative analysis

3.21 Key Informant Interview (KII)

In **Agege** YFC, following up with the initial publicity made prior to and during the inauguration day of the facility had been their major means of publicity.

According to the informant, "Invitation letters were sent to schools prior to the day the centre was officially opened in May 2015 and we have been following up with the students ever since that day." When asked about the Out-of-School youths, He said that he liaised with his contact in the Ministry of Youths in Illekpako to refer youths to the YFC. On his opinion, these means had been quite effective; however, the publicity had been tilted more to the In-School youths and during holidays there were no youths to reach to. When probed, he said that after publicity the youths get curious through their most frequent question; "will I really access all of this activities and services that you have mentioned?" He went further to say that the female youths find it more interesting in that they could have a session with a counselor. According to him, they offer activities and services such as counseling, health talk, abuse management, referrals to In-House (within the health facility but not in the YFC) doctors or nurses for clinical cases, table tennis, basketball, monopoly, ludo, scrabble, volley ball, though most had not been installed for use because of lack of space. On the attendance rate, youths barely came in on a daily bases; however, their attendance do peak usually on Fridays because schools dismiss earlier. There is an average of three youths on a working day when compared to an average of thirteen youths on Fridays. Reproductive health sessions had been the most frequent services accessed by the youths followed by health talk on STI's. The informant stated that lack of electricity had been his challenge in the YFC; nevertheless, he believes that the issue is noted by the authority and will soon be taking care of. On a way forward note, the informant said that this centre needs more publicity.

In the YFC **Ikeja**, the staffs were able to reach more of ISY because there were many schools around and reaching the youths via assembly talks had been their major means of publicity. She went ahead to say that they also went on community outreach to mobilise the OSY. There were many OSY to be reached however; they were always reluctant to come because they were engaged in one trade or the other. On one last note on publicity, the ISY were curious to know more about sexual relationships. According to her, they offered activities and services such as peer education trainings, health talks, psychological clinic, referrals to In-House doctors or nurses for abuse and clinical cases, table tennis, basketball, monopoly, ludo, scrabble, volley ball, soccer, music and dance, though most of the equipment have not been installed for use because of lack of space. On the attendance rate, youths, usually ISY, attended on a daily bases and their attendance do peak usually on Fridays because schools dismisses earlier. On an average, fifty youths attended daily; three hundred and fifty youths attended weekly; and eight hundred and fifty youths attended monthly. According to the informant, the youths accessed more of clinical services among other services and Malaria treatment being the most frequent service accessed. She went further and said that the youths do get excited to know more about some topic such as peer pressure, self-esteem and personal

hygiene (mainly menstrual hygiene). The informant stated that lack of man power and other resources such as administrative materials (forms), publicity materials (posters). She went further to disclose that there was a concurrent lack of drinking water for the youths and some of them do ask for transportation fair to attend events organized by Hello Lagos or its affiliates and for going back home because they live far. She said she had made recommendations to the authorities and there had been some recent changes. When asked on how the YFC could improve on its service delivery, the informant suggested that the centre needed a better strategy for creating awareness and service delivery to the youths. She also suggested that partnering with other organisations would ensure the sustainability of the centre.

YFC **Oko-Awo** basically employed an informal referral system to mobilise youths that accessed the YFC. Following an interview session with the key informant in the centre, she communicated to people that she knew, advocating that they should invite youths in their various communities to come and access the centre. According to her, this means had been effective in reaching mainly the OSY. Reaching the ISY had been the major challenge as regards to publicity. She explained that it was due to the strong bureaucracy involved in obtaining an official permission to gain entrance into schools and mobilise students. According to the informant, counseling had been the major deliverable service for the youths. Those who need further services or who are deemed necessary for further services are referred to the Primary Health Care centre close by. Attendance rate is at its lowest compared to the other YFCs (Ikeja and Agege). Youths barely come in on a daily bases, that said, their attendance peaked usually on Thursday morning with an average of five attendants. "The environmental sanitation carried out every Thursday morning created a partial conducive environment for the youths to sneak into the centre because all the employees of the other enterprises within the same compound were not around", said the informant. An average of six youths came in weekly and a range of fifteen to twenty youths came in monthly. The informant expressed exhaustion while enumerating the challenges faced in the centre. Firstly, lack of water that lead to poor sanitary toilets and environment. Secondly, very poor power supply that resulted to the under usage of the electrical equipment provided. Thirdly and very crucial, lack of safe space for the youths that accessed the centre. When probed, the informant revealed that lack of safe space further lead to; the youths who were aware of the centre were reluctant to enter because they do not want to be seen by someone they knew; the youths especially the females felt uneasy to request for a specific service of their choice; and no space to install most of the game equipment provided and for outdoor games. Additionally, she stated that the authorities were aware of these and she is hoping that they will soon fix the situation. On a final note, the informant made some recommendations that could boost the centre's usage and ensure sustainability. They are; strategic plan for advocacy and awareness;

and the centre should be fortified with necessary resources such as manpower, materials and finance.

3.22 Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

In **Ikeja**, all the youths who participated in the FGD session were aware of the YFC. The participants got their initial information through the following means: a friend (40%), sibling (20%), and the remaining 40% knew through direct publicity by Hello Lagos staff. The participants were able to mention the activities and services they accessed in the centre. The activities mentioned include: games and sports such as scrabble, snake ladder, table tennis, volley ball, soccer; movies; and computer trainings. The services mentioned include: counseling; health talk on abstinence and sexual abuse; and watch educative videos. All the participants accorded that Friday is their most convenient day to come to the centre because schools dismissed them earlier on Fridays. Nonetheless, some of them mentioned a combination of others days such as Mondays and Fridays (6.67%); Wednesdays and Fridays (20%); and Thursdays and Fridays (13.33%). The participants said that they followed a defined activity time table each time they accessed the centre and they went further expressed satisfaction with the activities and services accessed, however, they pointed out a major flaw which is that some of the equipment are damaged. All the youths expressed interest while mentioning the activities and services that could improve delivery and that could make them want to keep coming. 6 (40%) youths advocated for a transportation system that could facilitate them to attend external events organized by Hello Lagos or its affiliates which could aid them to gain knowledge and win awards; 8 (53.33%) youths said, "if there were internet connection on the computer system it will aid them in their take home assignments and projects "; and 13 (86.67%) of the youths said that for their daily session to be more productive, it would be good if there was constant drinking water and that boards should be used for teaching and not papers. Other activities mentioned by the youths include; vocational training, talent hunt, debate, quiz, movies, music and dance. All of the youths accorded that the centre would be an ideal place for them to receive services such as; family planning, drug abuse prevention sessions, antenatal care and sex education. On a final note, the youths said that they could contribute to the success of the centre by cooperating with the staff.

In **Oko-Awo**, only one (6.67%) of the participants was aware of the centre, though, he had never accessed it. Weekends was the most convenient time for almost all of the participants (93.33%) except for one who said that his most convenient time was noon daily. The youths enumerate some activities and services that they would love to access and that could make them want to keep coming. The activities and services enumerated include; football (46.67%), table tennis (20%), computer training (40%), career counseling (26.67%), vocational training (53.33%), library (26.67%), gym (13.33) and free medical tests

(86.67%). the youths went further to explain that these activities would help develop their careers and entrepreneur skills. As for the factors that could hinder or discourage them from coming to the YFC; 12 (80%) of the youths said that the environment was not friendly and therefore not conducive; 4 (26.67) said that their family member would discourage them; and 5 (33.33%) said that they would not like to encounter familiar faces within the centre. All of the youths accorded that the centre would be an ideal place for them to receive services such as; family planning, drug abuse prevention sessions, antenatal care and sex education.

In **Agege**, none of the participants were aware of the YFC. About three quarter of the participants (73.33%) said that they have no convenient time because they were always occupied in their trade. The other participants said Weekends would be their most convenient time to come. The youths enumerated some activities and services that they would love to access and that could make them want to keep coming. The activities and services enumerated include; football (46.67%), computer training (13.33%), career counseling (13.33%), vocational training (73.33%), free medical tests (46.67%) and sex education (86.67%). the youths went further to explain that these activities would help develop their entrepreneur skills and stay safe from unwanted pregnancy and STIs. As for the factors that could hinder or discourage them from coming to the YFC; 10 (66.67%) of the youths said that the environment was overcrowded and therefore not conducive; and 9 (60%) said that they would not like to encounter familiar faces within the centre. All of the youths accorded that the centre would be an ideal place for them to receive services such as; family planning, drug abuse prevention sessions, antenatal care and sex education.

4.0 Conclusion

The results of this survey revealed that the Hello Lagos centres are underutilized. Poor publicity is a major contributing factor for the underutilization of these centres. Other contributing factors include; low manpower, debilitating centre and lack of safe space.

5.0 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, I suggest the following:

- **Publicity** – A lot of need to be done on publicity. Firstly it ought to start by developing a strategic plan with SMART objectives on how to reach both ISY and OSY equally also putting in mind those locations such as Oko-Awo with poor publicity.
- **Staff** – there ought to be a minimum of two qualified staff at each centre. There is a need to deploy both qualified male and female counsellors because some youths do not open up well enough when they are being counselled on a sensitive matter by a counsellor of the opposite sex. There should be a plan to identify the need to train and retrain the staff.
- **Material resources** – there is an urgent need to refurbish the centres with equipment.
- **Maintenance structure** – after refurbishing the centres, a well-defined maintenance plan and structure should be in place.
- **Safe space** – the centres should be isolated from other facilities in order to create a safe space for the youths.
- **Home visits** – conduct home visits to publicise the centres and the services they offer in order for their family members to support the youths to access the centres.
- **Transportation** – a transportation system to transport youths that live far from the centre.
- **Liaise with other health facilities** – this will ensure that all the centres are abreast with the newest development on efficient service delivery to ensure sustainability.

References

1. National population Commission. 2009.
2. National baseline survey, 2012. National bureau of statistics/Federal ministry of youth development.
3. Preliminary report. Nigeria demographic and health survey. October 2013.
4. Adolescent sexuality and reproductive health (Hello Lagos). Lagos State ministry of health. http://www.lagosstateministryofhealth.com/programme_info.php?programme_id=22. Accessed in October 2015.