



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

Implementing the Red Carpet Program Tools for Linkage to and Retention in Care of Adolescents and Youth Living with HIV

*Introduction & Overview to The
Red Carpet Program*



RED CARPET

The Red Carpet Program

Overview



Introduction to Red Carpet

The Red Carpet Program (RCP) is a package of services to increase early linkage and retention on HIV Treatment for adolescents and youth (10-24 years) living with HIV (AYLHIV) and has evolved to supporting all AYLHIV in care at the community and facility levels.

The program is grounded in providing:

- Fast-tracked services to reduce barriers for AYLHIV to access and utilize HIV services
- VIP experience and youth-friendly services at facilities, supportive learning institutions, and empowered youth peer navigators
- A link to the community, including schools, to support AYLHIV in accessing AY friendly and responsive services

Why Focus on AYLHIV?



Small Group Activity

Two Groups:

1. What barriers prevent adolescent and youth clients from accessing health care?
2. What facilitators help adolescent and youth clients to access health care?

(At the facility, client, and provider level)

Take 10 minutes to discuss in your groups; select a presenter to present to the group thereafter

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Small Group Activity

Barriers that prevent adolescent and youth clients from accessing health care

add

add

add

Facilitators that help adolescent and youth clients to access health care

add

add

add

Report out after 10 minutes

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Unique Barriers and Challenges AYLHIV Face Concerning Access and Uptake of Services Across the HIV Cascade

Unsatisfactory linkage and retention in care among AYLHIV

Legal and cultural constraints (age of consent)

Lack of adolescent friendly providers—attitudes, judgment

Stigma and discrimination

Individual factors: self-stigma, fear, competing priorities

Structural barriers: non-adolescent-friendly clinic times, length spent at facility, transport, cost

How does this affect health outcomes?

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Why Focus on AYLHIV

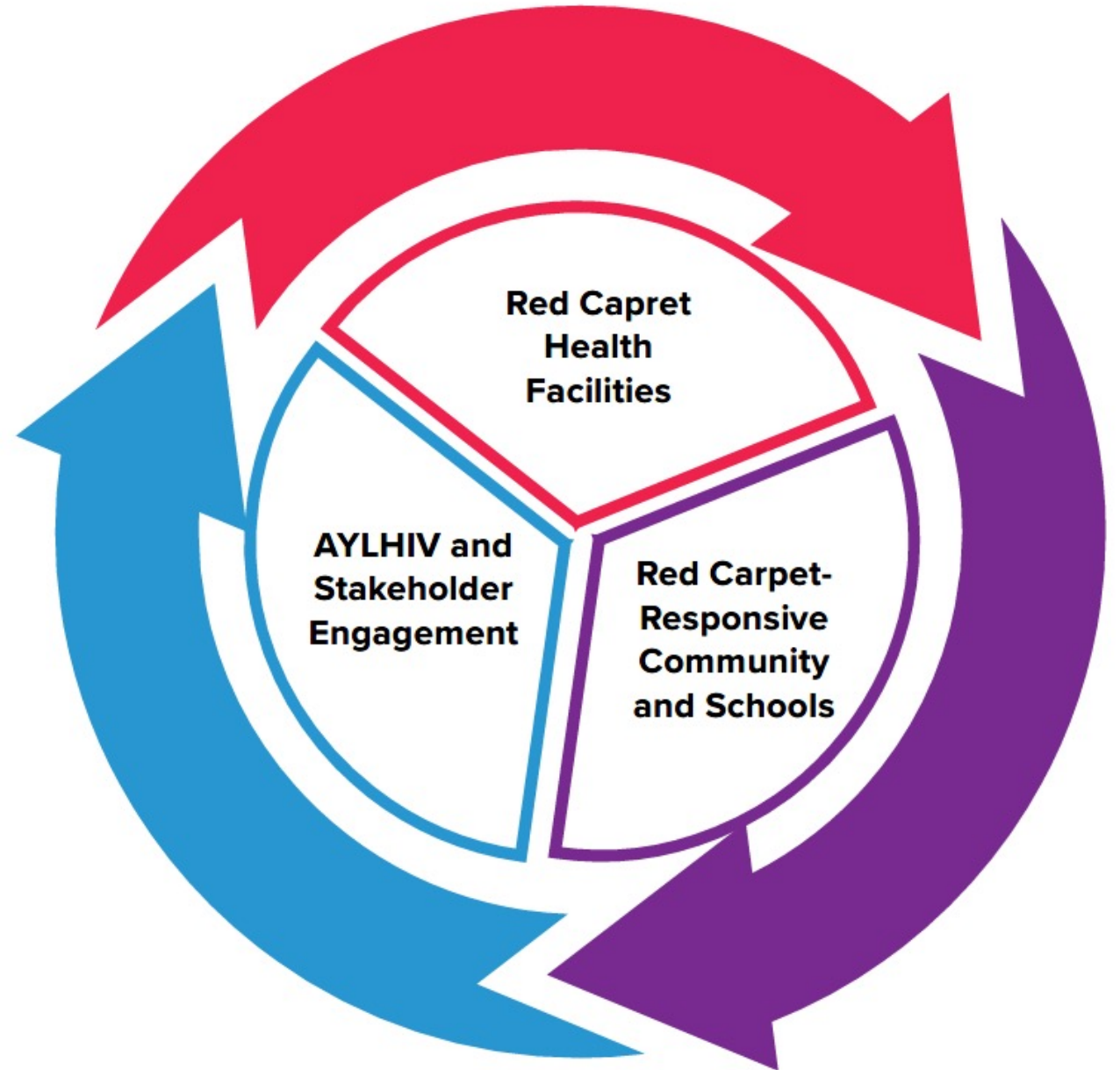
- Adolescents aged 10-14 years, 15-19 years, and young people aged 20-24 years old have unique and specific needs across the continuum of care (testing/identification, linkage, adherence, retention, and viral load suppression).
- Testing and linkage to care is a significant drop-off point in the continuum of care among AYLHIV.
- Unsuccessful linkages to care and treatment increases HIV-related morbidity and mortality in adolescents.
- AYLHIV also experience poor retention in HIV care which serve as critical precursors to antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence and viral suppression, which have typically been challenge areas for this population.



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The RCP Model

RCP is composed of three individual, but interlinked, components that holistically ensure adolescent responsive services in the health facility and beyond.



Objectives of the RCP

- Improve access to specialized and fast-tracked HIV linkage to care, as well as the initiation of antiretroviral treatment (ART) and retention services
- Increase the capacity of health care workers (HCW) and peer/lay cadres in the implementation of the Red Carpet model of care, including the provision of adolescent-friendly and responsive service delivery, optimizing linkages and retention, and enhanced PSS for newly-identified AYLHIV, while also providing responsive ongoing care to those already enrolled
- Build the capacity of school personnel to provide a supportive environment

RED CARPET

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Objectives of Red Carpet (continued)

- Meaningfully engage AYLHIV in the design, implementation, and ongoing improvements of HIV prevention, care, and treatment interventions
- Build the capacity and knowledge of AYLHIV as adolescent and youth champions
- Establish comprehensive care support, ensuring learners living with HIV not only know where they can receive HIV services but are also aware of their current health status in terms of viral load and opportunistic infections. Additionally, support AYP in keeping clinical appointments at RCP health facilities as well as taking daily medication, etc.
- Improve the bi-directional referral between RCP responsive schools and RCP health facilities to improve the management of AYLHIV.

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Evidence

Following implementation of RCP, there was →

- Improved linkage to care
- More AYLHIV received peer counseling and psychosocial support (PSS)
- Improved initiation on treatment
- Improved retention on treatment at three and six months

Optimizing linkage to care and initiation and retention on treatment of adolescents with newly diagnosed HIV infection

Eva Caroline Ruria^a, Rose Masaba^a, Judith Kose^a, Godfrey Woelk^a, Eliud Mwangi^a, Lucy Matu^a, Hillary Ng'eno^a, Beatrice Bikeri^a and Natella Rakhmanina^{a,b,c}

Significant improvement in linkage to and early retention in care among adolescents and youth in Homa Bay, Kenya

| Retained in Care | Pre-intervention | Post-intervention |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| At 3 months | 142/215 (66.0) ^{a,§} | 389/432 ^b (90.0) [§] |
| At 6 months | 117/215 (54.4) [§] | 144/146 ^c (98.6) [§] |

^a Number (percentage)

^b Data for three months available for 432 patients enrolled within the first 3 months

^c Data at six months available for 146 patients enrolled within the first month [§] $p < 0.0001$

Citation: Ruria EC, Masaba R, Kose J, et al. Optimizing linkage to care and initiation and retention on treatment of adolescents with newly diagnosed HIV infection. *AIDS*. 2017;31 Suppl 3(Suppl 3):S253-S260. doi:10.1097/QAD.0000000000001538

Evidence After Scale-Up

- The model was scaled up after the evaluation showed that the implementation of RCP was associated with significant improvements in linkage and early retention in HIV care.
- Between 2017-2019, RCP was expanded to include 66 health facilities and 87 schools—the model also grew to include adolescents and youth 10-24 years
- In project year three (July 2018 to September 2019), **83% of the 1,740 AYLHIV newly identified as HIV-positive were linked to a facility.** The overall **viral load suppression for AYHLIV on ART was 82% (n=7,069)**, which was an improvement from 77% in the previous project year.

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The logo for 'Red Carpet' features the text 'RED CARPET' in white, bold, uppercase letters on a red background. To the right of the text is a red circular icon with a white target symbol inside.

RCP Elements for Implementation



There are various steps, elements, and different stakeholders to engage throughout the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the program

- ✓ Identification and engagement of stakeholders
- ✓ Selection and assessment of RCP site(s) (facilities and schools)
- ✓ Contextualization and customization of RCP
- ✓ Identification of RCP cadres and roles
- ✓ Onboarding and capacity building

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The Global Package Components

- Summary Red Carpet Brief
- Red Carpet Health Facilities Guide
- Red Carpet Community and School Linkages
- Red Carpet AYLHIV and Stakeholder Engagement Guide
- Red Carpet Standard Operating Procedures Package



Available [here](#)

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