



INTERACTIVE HEALTH MAP FOR YOUTH-FRIENDLY SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

CASE STUDY

ABOUT FRONTLINE AIDS

Frontline AIDS wants a future free from AIDS for everyone, everywhere.

Around the world, millions of people are denied HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care simply because of who they are and where they live.

As a result, 1.7 million people were infected with HIV in 2018 and 770,000 died of AIDS-related illness.

Together with partners on the frontline, we work to break down the social, political and legal barriers that marginalised people face, and innovate to create a future free from AIDS.

ABOUT iREADY

i-READY supports and creates information and communication technology tools that can be used by adolescents and young people in Burundi and Mozambique to promote access to information on SRHR, peer support and adherence to HIV treatment. It is supported by the SPIDER centre (<https://spidercenter.org/>).

iREADY is part of the READY portfolio of programmes that aim to build resilient and empowered adolescents and young people. Young people helped create the READY movement and remain the core of it today. Read more, and find out how to join the READY movement: <https://frontlineaids.org/our-work-includes/ready/>

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BUILDING RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED YOUNG PEOPLE

READY+ is a project led by Frontline AIDS that's been running in Mozambique (plus eSwatini, Tanzania and Zimbabwe) since 2016. Its aim is to increase access to holistic care and support, promoting not only sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) but also mental health in order to foster resilience. Community Adolescent Treatment Supporters (CATS) play a vital role. During home and clinic visits, CATS provide information, counselling and support to other young people living with HIV and encourage adherence to HIV treatment.

REPSSI (the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative) leads the implementation of the READY+ project in Mozambique.

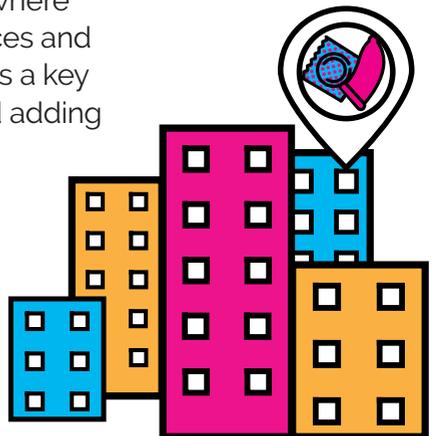


USING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SRHR INFORMATION

In the iREADY project, we partnered with the SPIDER centre, which supports the digitalisation of international development. This was done to integrate an information, communication and technology (ICT) component to READY+ to improve access to youth-friendly comprehensive HIV and SRHR information and services.

When the iREADY project in Mozambique was initially conceived, the idea was to develop an online platform of SRHR material that young peer supporters could access to assist them in their work.

However, further investigation showed that a number of existing online resources already provided such information. Following a series of consultations and visits, instead the project partners agreed to develop an interactive health map, showing young people where they could go to access health services and commodities. The interactive map fills a key information gap, complementing and adding value to existing platforms.



BUILDING AN INTERACTIVE HEALTH MAP

Collecting the data

REPSSI partnered with Digital Health, which developed an Android app that was used to capture information about places offering youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services in the cities of Maputo and Beira and in Maputo Province.

The data, including the geographic coordinates of each location, was submitted in real time on an online server, which allowed a daily report of the submissions and close monitoring of activity. Digital Health also submitted requests to the Ministries of Health, Education and Youth to gather more information about available youth-friendly services.

Developing a prototype map

Once the data was collected, Digital Health created Excel spreadsheets to organise the information and the GPS coordinates. They created files for each province, containing information about health corners at schools and health facilities with youth-friendly services. These files were then uploaded to Google Maps, where the different data points (i.e. service locations) were shown by type. Next, data points were verified and adjusted for greater accuracy to make it easier for users to locate the points on the ground.



The health map, as seen from a web browser

Feedback from partners

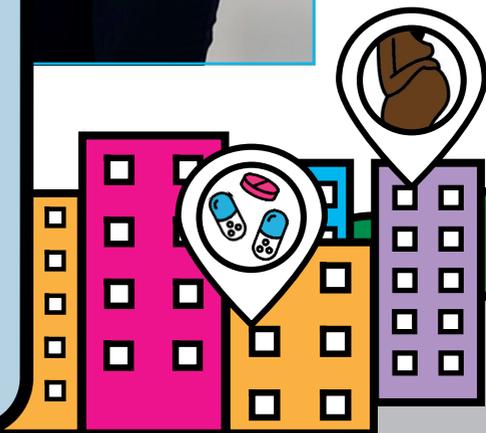
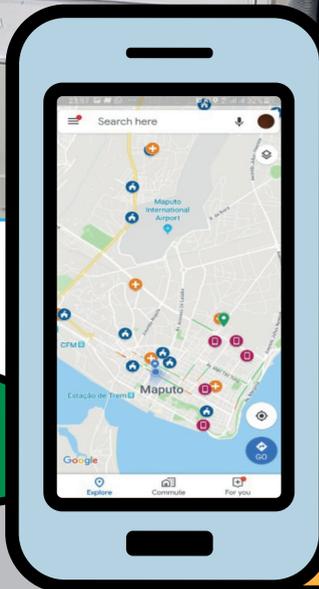
To ensure the map responded to the needs of the CATS in the READY+ programme, Digital Health shared the prototype health map with REPSSI for feedback. Further input was gathered from Frontline AIDS. This included suggestions to incorporate into the app the five main services offered in each health point, the contact details of a focal person, 'overfly' functionality in the points on the map and the ability to search for services quickly.

Next, REPSSI and Digital Health shared the prototype with partners from Maputo and Beira during a workshop. Participants contributed to verifying the map's data and provided useful suggestions on how to improve the map's features, including how to make it more attractive to young people, how to survey other platforms to incorporate more information in the map and how to disseminate the map. One of the suggestions was to include the opening hours of the health facilities and a list of the main services offered for each point.

Another point of debate was adapting services for young people with disabilities, who are often excluded from services. Participants also discussed the need to create partnerships with other organisations and institutions to make services more youth-friendly.



Participant at meeting to review the health map



Validation by government partners

Further events were held in Beira and Maputo to present the map to other partners and validate the data as well as to seek input on how to best disseminate the map.

A representative from the Maputo Provincial Directorate of Health shared information about all the health facilities that had specific adolescent and youth-friendly services to use as a checklist against what was already included. Accordingly, at least four more health facilities from Maputo Province were added to the map.

Participants at meeting to review the health map



Disseminating the map

Once the map was finalised, it was hosted on Digital Health's website (www.digitalehealth.com/mapa-de-saude/). It was then shared via Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. Along with the link to the map, there is also a short video showing how to navigate the map.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

AS OF THE END OF THE PROJECT (JULY 2019) THERE HAD BEEN:



1,210 map views



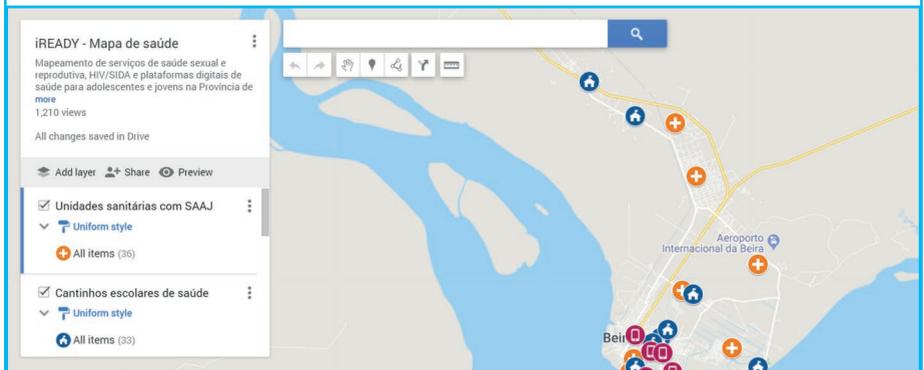
31,176 people reached on Facebook, leading to:

- 50 messaging conversations started
- 260 likes
- 7 comments
- 9 shares



4,486 people reached on Instagram, resulting in 7,641 impressions

We were not able to count how many people had been reached through WhatsApp groups.



WHAT WE LEARNED

- **Programming should be adaptive and able to respond to changed circumstances or new information.** REPSSI and Frontline AIDS had an initial idea for iREADY Mozambique. However, research showed that what was envisaged already existed. It is important not to replicate existing services but to identify and respond to gaps, which is what the interactive health map has done.
- **Feedback from users is key.** Once Digital Health developed the interactive map, it was important to gain feedback from users on how it would work (or not), what else was needed on the map to assist the CATS in their service delivery and any considerations in using the map in their day-to-day activities.
- **Partnership around ICT maximises results.** Several partners working on SRHR or HIV, and with marginalised people, were involved in developing the interactive health map. Their input made the content of the map stronger and their enthusiasm encouraged REPSSI, Digital Health and all involved.
- **Ministry of Health approval gives all partners confidence.** The participation of the Ministry of Health in the validation and dissemination process was an important source of reassurance for all partners. This official backing was critical in encouraging NGOs in Mozambique, beyond READY+ partners, to use the map.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Scale-up the interactive health map to reach more adolescents and young people from other provinces in Mozambique
- Partner with in-country NGOs for broader dissemination of the interactive health map
- Run more advertisements on social media
- Seek regular feedback from CATS as they use the interactive map in their day-to-day work with young people. Use the feedback to update the map's functionalities, making it more relevant and interesting for young people.
- Connect iREADY with our scorecard, READY to Care, which allows young people to rate the quality of health services they receive.

Young people getting to know the health map





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