

## Talking About Sex

£7,361.28

**Trains and supports teenagers to promote sexual health and to sell condoms in the suburbs of Bamako, Mali in order to prevent Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases.**

TFN's grant helped recruit and train young people who then teach other boys and girls about reproductive health risks including HIV/AIDS. The overall annual budget for the project was just over £18,000, including the salaries of the project manager, and two workers, a man and a woman, who recruit, train and support the young people. Other expenditure includes training materials, expenses for the Peer Educator volunteers, and contraceptives. The Funding Network grant provided approaching half the annual budget for the year, and they received regular reports from J&D as well as quarterly accounts confirming expenditure details.

### Project results for the year

- In the second year the project extended to cover the whole of Lafioabougou commune. The 11 Lafioabougou schools and 22 of the *grins* (a Malian word to describe the informal clubs where young people meet, talk, and drink tea!) were covered by the project
- By the end of the year over 120 young people had become trained Peer Educators.
- In 2006/7 almost 7000 young people had attended information sessions with almost equal proportions of boys and girls- an important achievement in Mali.
- 112 young people had received counselling- in this activity more girls than boys received help and advice.
- Music and film events and a football tournament were also used to spread the project's message. These activities have been extremely well attended- at the last football final over 1,000 people were present.
- The number of successful referrals to Health centres has increased significantly.

Here are some comments from young people who have been involved.

*“Because of the training provided by J&D I learnt some very important and interesting things about sexually transmitted diseases and the battle against HIV/AIDS. It's helped me change my own behaviour- that is I've learned to make sure I carry condoms and always use them.”*

Adama Sangaré, nicknamed Nostra - a member of the Sébenicoro 'grin'