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Students develop new mobile app to fight HIV

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LIRA. Students at Lira Town College in Lira District have developed a mobile app that will enable HIV positive people to access Anti-Retroviral drugs (ARVs) easier.

Once installed on a smartphone, the app enables HIV clients to order for the life-prolonging drugs online.

For one to use this app, you first need to register your personal details, including health status and the name of the facility where you access the treatment.

At this point, you submit the details to the administrator (the Cool Stars), who will in turn deliver the medicine to you through their partner organisations.

Tabitha Adongo, Sarah Ejang, Norah Achan Awoii, Robinnah Acio and Musarapat Mubarak, the five Senior Six students behind the innovation, said they developed the app in memory of their friend, Ronald Opio, a then Senior Two student, who died due to HIV in 2015 partly because he feared to accept his status and to take his medication.

The app

The mobile app enables people living positively with HIV to access ARVs through ordering for the drugs online. Developed by five Senior Six students; Tabitha Adongo, Sarah Ejang, Norah Achan Awoii, Robinnah Acio and Musarapat Mubarak, the app also sets reminders to them to take their medication.

The young innovators said many Ugandans are not on medication because "some of them cannot access ARVs yet many have not accepted that they are HIV positive."

"We [Cool Stars] have come up with this app that enables people living positively with HIV to access ARVs through ordering online. The app also sets reminders to them to take their medication," they said as they showcased the technology at a Technovation Challenge - Northern Uganda at Lira Town College last Saturday.

"Our app is unique in such a way that it helps those who fear being seen by friends and other people and those who are unable to stand long lines when they have gone to pick ARVs," they said.

Our app is also unique because it is cost-effective and saves time."