



the
AFRICA
we want

Why adolescent sexual and reproductive health is key for Africa's development

WHAT UNFPA STRIVES FOR:

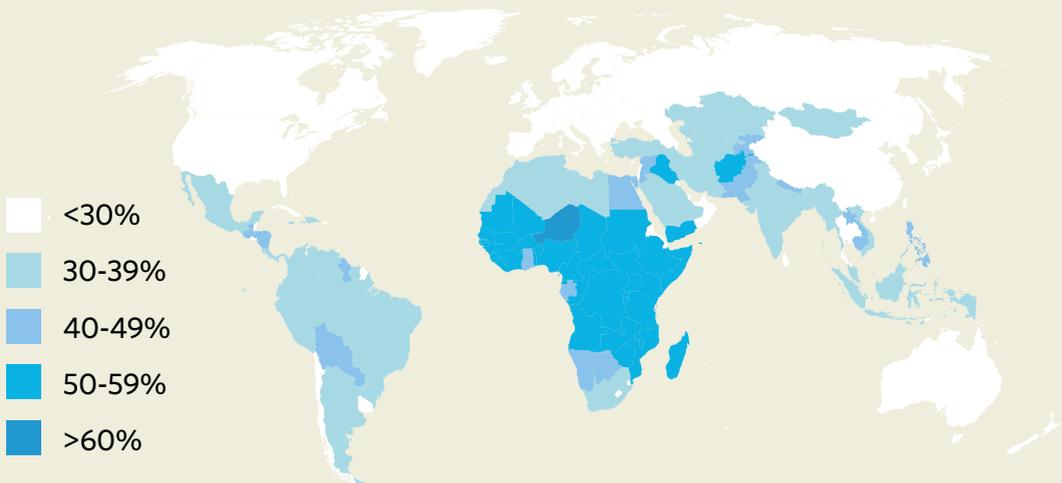
Imagine a world where all adolescents and young people are **healthy, productive and empowered**; free from sexually transmitted infections including HIV, unintended pregnancies, child marriage and sexual violence; and are **equipped with comprehensive knowledge and skills** to make **healthy decisions** about their life, relationships and future.

Together, we can achieve this. Here's how...

AFRICA'S FUTURE STARTS NOW

Young people make up the largest and fastest growing population in East and Southern Africa. Due to the sheer number of young people, their sexual behaviour will shape the course of the entire African continent. The time to seize the opportunity to renew the continent's social and economic capital is now.

33% of Africa's population is young people aged 10-24



If our youth are not invested in now, they face an uncertain future.



AIDS is still the
**leading cause of
DEATH**

among adolescents across
Africa

(UNAIDS 2016 estimates)



In sub-Saharan Africa,
more than
200 BIRTHS
per 1,000 girls

aged 15-19 occur each year

(UNICEF analysis based on 96 countries
with DHS/MICS data from 2006-2015)



If current trends continue,

1 BILLION
women and girls

will be married in
childhood by 2030

(UNICEF, 2013)

HOW WE WORK: A HOLISTIC APPROACH

At UNFPA, we believe that young people's sexual and reproductive health should be supported holistically. This is why we work in five integral areas



1. EMPOWERMENT

Enhancing leadership skills among young people – especially girls – in decision-making processes

Increasing life skills and entrepreneurial skills for greater employment and economic opportunity

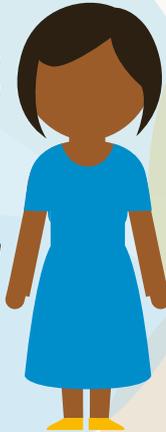


5. HEALTH

Implementing World Health Organization's standards on 'quality of care' into nation-wide policies, guidelines and strategies

Strengthening facilities to deliver youth-friendly health services

Training nurses and other health-care workers



2. EDUCATION

Increasing political and community support for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)

Integrating CSE into school curricula

Strengthening CSE delivery for out-of-school youth

Training teachers



4. EVIDENCE

Documenting and disseminating evidence, lessons learned and best practices to improve youth development interventions



3. LAWS & POLICIES

Advocating for laws and policies that positively impact young people

Engaging traditional and faith-based leaders

CHAMPIONING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S RIGHTS FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS

Past

1994

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)

ICPD achieves historic consensus that sexual and reproductive health is a fundamental human right. It also emphasizes that empowerment of women and girls is key to ensuring well-being of individuals, families and nations.

2000

Adoption of the Millennium Development Goals

2002

THE AFRICAN YOUTH ALLIANCE (2002 - 2005)

UNFPA launches a programme aimed at improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health, including prevention of HIV and AIDS, among young people aged 10-24 years.

The programme was implemented in partnership with PATH and Pathfinder International.

2007

35.6 million people reached through radio programmes on sexual and reproductive health

330,000 adolescents, young people and communities engaged

ACTION FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS

UNFPA launches a multi-country initiative focused on evidence-based programming for marginalized adolescent girls, especially those at risk of child marriage.

2013

UNFPA supports ministers of health and education in endorsing the *East and Southern African Ministerial Commitment* (2013-2020), which scales up CSE and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people.

2015

Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals

Present

UNFPA/UNICEF GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO ACCELERATE ACTION TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

(2016-2019)

New framework promotes the right of girls to delay marriage, addresses the conditions that keep the practice in place, and cares for girls already in union.

THE YOUTH ENTERPRISE MODEL

Pilot project in Uganda (2012-2017)

UNFPA launches pilot project to ensure adolescents and young people are not only building employable skills, but are also gaining knowledge and healthy decision-making behaviours.

Due to its success, the model is being expanded into other countries across the region.

The project is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and implemented by UNFPA in partnership with Communication for Development Foundation Uganda, Reproductive Health Uganda and Straight Talk Foundation.

61%

of young people in small and medium enterprises have started using contraceptives in the past 12 months



776,000

adolescent girls reached with child marriage prevention information



1.7 million

individuals and gatekeepers engaged to support adolescent girls' issues

THE SAFEGUARD YOUNG PEOPLE PROGRAMME (SYP)

(2014-2019)

UNFPA launches the SYP, a holistic initiative which addresses the sexual and reproductive health challenges facing adolescents and young people.

Funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development and implemented in collaboration with Southern African Development Community and eight governments.



7 million

youth exposed to sexual and reproductive health information in and out of school



1.7 million

youth received sexual and reproductive health services



78 million

condoms distributed



Future

WE ARE AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN AFRICA'S HISTORY

Investments now in young people's education, health and empowerment will open a window of opportunity known as a demographic dividend for economic and social development and prosperity.

UNFPA advocates for and work with young people to help them achieve their full potential. This is the future we want for all young Africans:

“ I am equipped with life skills, I am able to say no to sex without protection, I am able to go for family planning services, I am able to speak openly about myself. I encourage other young people to take responsibility so that we have a generation of young people who are knowledgeable, who are informed and who have the services they need available to them. ”

- Lucetta, 23, Zimbabwe

