Regional SYP and Youth Knowledge Products
QR codes
Empowering Millions: How the Safeguard Young People Programme (2013-2023) Catalysed a Decade of Change for Young People in East and Southern Africa

This brochure celebrates SYP’s ten years of significant achievements for adolescents and young people in East and Southern Africa. It includes supporting 17 million learners to access inclusive and quality comprehensive sexuality education in school; and reaching 14 million young people with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV services.

Safeguard Young People Programme Annual Report 2022

The SYP programme, a flagship initiative by the UNFPA Regional Office for East and Southern Africa, empowers adolescents and young people between the ages of 10 to 24 to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, early and unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, early marriage, gender-based violence, and other harmful cultural practices.

Safeguard Young People Programme 2021 Annual Report

The regional Safeguard Young People (SYP) programme empowers adolescents and young people aged 10 to 24 years to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections (including HIV), early and unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, early marriage, gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful cultural practices. In achieving this end, the SYP programme promotes gender-equitable norms, an enabling legal and policy environment,
comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), and high-quality adolescent and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health (AYFSRH) services.

**Safeguard Young People Programme Annual Report 2020**

When it became clear that the COVID-19 pandemic was set to change life as we know it, the SYP regional team employed several different strategies to ensure quality action at regional and country levels. As it was essential to align with the African Union Commission (AUC) on Youth and COVID-19, the programme worked in partnership with relevant youth networks and organizations and began applying the 3 Ps: Preventing, Providing and Protecting.

**The Safeguard Young People Programme Phase II Report 2017-2019**

SYP has been implemented by UNFPA and its regional and national partners since November 2013 in eight Southern African countries. Since then UNFPA successfully achieved a number of country and regional results in two Phases, which are detailed in this report.

**Our Journey**

These Safeguard Young People best practices have been implemented for periods varying between three and six years. With a clear description of strategies selected, lessons learned, what worked and what didn’t work, the step-by-step implementation processes documented here allow these best practices to be scaled up in different settings.
The year 2018 marked the fifth year of the Safeguard Young People (SYP) Programme, it was also the second year of its Phase II, 2017-2019. SYP is UNFPA East and Southern Africa youth flagship programme, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and other development partners according to the different countries of implementation.

Now, exactly in the middle of Phase II, we look back and we also look forward – to what we have already accomplished, often exceeding expectations, and to what we need to do to meet our targets for 2019.

The year 2017 brought renewed energy to young people’s sexual and reproductive health in Southern Africa as UNFPA embarked on Phase 2 of one of its flagship programmes, Safeguard Young People (SYP). SYP’s holistic approach is unique in joining the dots to address the SRHR needs of young people – including policy and laws, education, health and, critically, the agency of young people. The synergy of shared goals enabled SYP and its partners to work more efficiently and exceed annual targets in certain areas.
UNFPA's flagship programme, Safeguard Young People (SYP), responds to the urgent needs of millions of young people, charting a new way forward for Southern Africa. At the heart of the programme is the belief that young people need to be supported holistically in their own diverse and often complex environments so they can truly realize their full potential.

Since launching in 2014, UNFPA's Safeguard Young People Programme has achieved significant results. The programme works to scale up comprehensive interventions for adolescents and young people in Southern Africa through a multi-sectoral approach, touching on policy, integrated HIV and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, sexuality education for in- and out-of-school youth as well as youth empowerment. This report reflects on the significant accomplishments made from the programme as well as best practices and lessons learned that is crucial for the continued success of the programme moving forward.

This brochure provides an overview of one of UNFPA's flagship programmes - the Safeguard Young People. It outlines its unique approach and how it is helping millions of young people across Southern Africa.
Harmonization of the Legal Environment on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in East and Southern Africa

In 2015, UNFPA ESARO commissioned a study on the harmonization of the legal environment on adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR). The study assessed the laws and policies that affect ASRHR in 23 East and Southern African countries, and was updated in 2019.

Technical Brief: Harmonization of Minimum Ages and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

This technical brief provides an overview of the age of consent when it comes to sex, marriage and access to sexual and reproductive health services in East and Southern Africa. In particular, the brief explains why the harmonization of ages of consent to sex, health services and marriage requires setting different ages for consent.

Criminalization of Consensual Sexual Acts Among Adolescents in East and Southern Africa

The criminalization of consensual sexual activity among adolescents takes different forms in East and Southern Africa. Some countries criminalize defilement, which can be a consensual act, and this can result in the criminalization of adolescents and young people.
Harmonizing the Legal Environment for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

This study reviews the laws, policies and related frameworks in 23 countries in East and Southern Africa that create either impediments to, or an enabling environment for, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. The assessment resulted in the development of a harmonized regional legal framework, which translated international and regional legal provisions into useful strategies.

Framework for the Harmonization of the Legal Environment on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in East and Southern Africa

This framework is designed to provide legal guidance to states in the harmonizing of policies and laws relating to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights in East and Southern Africa, and in aligning them with international and regional commitments.

A Guide to Using the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage

The Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage, and Protecting Children Already in Marriage constitutes a milestone in the efforts to end child marriage in Southern Africa. It provides guidance to parliamentarians, Ministries of Justice, policymakers, and other stakeholders in SADC Member States as they develop effective national laws to end child marriage and address inconsistencies in their current legal frameworks.
Why Age Matters

This video targets parents, leaders and policymakers, explaining the different ages of consent to marriage, sexual activity and access to SRHR services, and what to take into consideration when working on relevant laws and policies to protect the rights and freedoms of young people.

Age of Consent

This video targets young people and informs them about the different ages of consent to marriage, sexual activity and access to SRHR services, and why they are important.

Promoting the SADC Model Law through Parliamentary Action

The legal office is buzzing with excitement today as Bahati and Fanaka prepare to televise Honourable Dalia Cumbe’s speech to her fellow parliamentarians about child marriage on International Day of the Girl.

What can I do to promote the SADC Model Law?

Bahati and Fanaka have organized a meeting with some elders, traditional leaders, teachers, health-care practitioners, parents and children from their community to talk about what child marriage is and how it affects the well-being of girls.
What is the SADC Model Law all about?

Mrs. Mondlane pays a visit to Fanaka at the legal office to get advice on how to prevent her daughter Chisisi from being married off at a young age.

Ending child marriages: How can the law help?

Bahati and Fanaka are young advocates who are working to end child marriage in their community.
ESA commitment

ESA Commitment Asset Folder

Why adolescents and young people need comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services in Eastern and Southern Africa (2013-2020)

This report is the summary of an in-depth Regional Report into the education and sexual reproductive health status of adolescents and young people in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Evaluation of the East and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People

Regional Report and Executive Summary
By 2013, there was growing concern among international and national development partners and governments that adolescents
and young people in East and Southern Africa urgently needed support to safeguard their sexual and reproductive health and ensure their access to comprehensive sexuality education.


Eastern and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment
Fulfilling our promise to education, health and well-being for adolescents and young people (2021-2030)
Youth Leadership, Participation and Accountability 2.0: Parts 1, 2 and 3

In 2018/2019, Restless Development and UNFPA ESARO worked with young people and development stakeholders from across East and Southern Africa to design a framework to better support them and the important work they do, specifically at local and national level, where much of the youth-led accountability takes place.

Remote Methods For Engaging Adolescents And Young People In Research

In this new, practical resource from the Accelerate Hub, we share lessons from 18 months of engaging with adolescents and young people through remote research methods in South Africa and Kenya, from April 2020 to October 2021. This toolkit is a useful resource for research projects and teams, policy-makers and implementing organizations that are undertaking remote research with adolescents and young people.

Guidance on Enhancing Youth Participation in East and Southern Africa

This guidance document has been developed to support Country Offices and their development partners in promoting and facilitating effective youth participation, engagement and mainstreaming through country and regional programmes.
Report of the Africa Symposium on Improving Menstrual Health Management

The African Coalition for Menstrual Health Management and UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office, in tandem with other partners, convened the second African Symposium on Menstrual Health, from 25-27 May 2021. This brought together 717 participants from 75 countries worldwide, the majority of them from Africa.

Menstrual Health in East and Southern Africa: Update of the 2018 Rapid Review and Stocktaking

This rapid review was commissioned to take stock and document progress made since the 2018 East and Southern Africa Menstrual Health Management Symposium, including at country level, with the additional purpose of assessing and documenting the impact of strengthened advocacy through the African Coalition for Menstrual Health.

Technical Brief on the Integration of Menstrual Health into Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policies and Programmes

This two-part technical brief provides guidance on how to strengthen and operationalize the integration of menstrual health in sexual and reproductive health and rights policies and programmes at global, regional and national levels. Part 1 provides an overview of the evidence-based rationale for integrating MH and SRHR. Part 2 offers technical guidance for the integration of MH in SRHR in policies and programmes.
First East and Southern Africa Regional Symposium on Improving Menstrual Health Management for Adolescent Girls and Women

UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office and the Department of Women in the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa co-hosted the first East and Southern African Symposium on Menstrual Health Management from 28 to 29 May 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. This historic meeting of committed professionals was an important step towards consolidating support for strengthening MHM in the region.

Menstrual Health Management in East and Southern Africa: A Review Paper

This review provides an overview of MHM policies and programmes in the ESA region, with a focus on education, school and community-based sexuality education, WASH, sexual and reproductive health, workplace support and humanitarian programming, as well as opening up the discussion regarding marginalized groups of women and girls such as disabled, prisoners and transgender men.
Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Resilient Futures: Young People, the Climate Crisis, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

This manual supports workshop facilitators to explain climate change and how it links to gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The workshop encourages young people to think about the natural world and how their health and well-being are connected to the environment around them.

Regional Comprehensive Sexuality Education Resource Package for Out-of-School Young People

The Regional Comprehensive Sexuality Education Resource Package for Out-of-School Young People was developed to age and developmentally relevant international standards, as a comprehensive set of teaching and learning materials for flexible use in settings outside the formal classrooms of the education sector. Several countries of East and Southern Africa have adapted this regional set of materials for nationally endorsed implementation. It comprises the following:

- Facilitator’s Manual
- Participant’s Workbook
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme Guide for working with out-of-school young people
- Training of Trainers Facilitation guide
- 3 posters
- Pamphlets
- CSE observation and monitoring tool
- National adaptation guide
iCAN Package: Facilitator’s Manual and Workbook

The iCAN Facilitator’s Guide on Sexual and Reproductive Health for Young People Living with HIV and Their Circles of Care aims to help address the challenges facing adolescents and young people living within the East and Southern Africa region.

Evaluation of Behaviour Change of Young People using TuneMe in Southern Africa

The objective of the evaluation was to understand the users, understand the progress made by individual users towards behaviour change, obtain client feedback/satisfaction, and obtain insights on implementation of the platform.

How effective is comprehensive sexuality education in preventing HIV?

This brief discusses the effectiveness of comprehensive sexuality education in preventing HIV, and lists key findings and recommendations.

The journey towards comprehensive sexuality education - Global status report (2021)

Drawing on multiple data sources, this Global Status Report provides a snapshot of how countries are advancing on their journeys towards school-based comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) across the world. CSE is central to children and young people’s well-being, equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy and responsible choices in their lives. This body of work assesses a range of factors to paint a picture of the global status of CSE, including laws and policies, coverage, curricula, delivery and enabling environment. It includes case studies and data at the regional and national levels as well as specific lessons learned.

The International technical guidance on sexuality education is a technical tool that presents the evidence base and rationale for delivering comprehensive sexuality education to young people in order to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals. The guidance identifies the characteristics of effective comprehensive sexuality education programmes, recommends essential topics and learning objectives that should be covered in curricula for all learners, and outlines approaches for planning, delivering and monitoring comprehensive sexuality education programmes.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Teacher Training in Eastern and Southern Africa (2015)

This report is a consolidated summary and analysis of the status of comprehensive sexuality education for teacher training in 21 countries in the East and Southern Africa region.

UNFPA Operational Guidance for Comprehensive Sexuality Education. A focus on Human rights and Gender (2014)

This Operational Guidance sets out UNFPA’s framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), which is one of five prongs to UNFPA’s Adolescent and Youth Strategy. This document guides UNFPA’s support to governments and other partners as CSE programmes, both in and out of school, are designed, implemented and evaluated. Building on current standards, it outlines steps to identify priorities, implement actions and evaluate outcomes – providing country-specific examples, tools for programme managers and technical advisers.
The Evaluation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education Programmes. A Focus on the Gender and Empowerment Outcomes

This report represents an important milestone in our understanding of advances in the field of comprehensive sexuality education evaluation. It offers an extensive review and analysis of a wide range of evaluation studies of different comprehensive sexuality education programmes, at different stages of development and from different contexts and settings across the globe. It enriches our knowledge of new methodologies, available questionnaires and instruments that can be applied in future assessments and evaluations, most particularly to measure the gender empowerment outcome of comprehensive sexuality education programmes. It addresses the adaptation of the methodology to various contexts and age-specific groups of young people and children.

Regional module for teacher training on comprehensive sexuality education for East and Southern Africa (2015)

The module was developed as a resource to support pre–service training of teachers for the delivery of school–based sexuality education in East and Southern Africa. Designed for trainers who are delivering pre–service training on sexuality education in the region, the material provides a core set of lesson plans to equip teachers with the basic knowledge and skills necessary to deliver effective sexuality education in the classroom. While the material is focused on training teachers for school–based sexuality education, the material can be adapted to out–of–school environments. Further, given the importance of local realities within which sexuality education is being delivered, trainers are encouraged to further adapt the lessons to their particular country contexts where possible.
**Disability Inclusion**


Young Persons with Disabilities: Global Study on Ending Gender-based Violence and Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights contains new qualitative, global research. This study provides an analysis on the situation of young persons with disabilities concerning discrimination and gender-based violence, including the impact on their sexual and reproductive health and rights. It also provides an assessment of legal, policy and programming developments and specific good practices in service delivery as well as best-standard prevention and protection measures. Finally, policy and programming recommendations are provided to assist in greater promotion of the rights of young persons with disabilities, with a particular emphasis on preventing and responding to gender-based violence, and realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights.

**Women and Young Persons with Disabilities: Guidelines for Providing Rights-Based and Gender-Responsive Services to Address Gender-Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women and Young Persons with Disabilities (2018)**

This resource, developed by the United Nations Population Fund and Women Enabled International, provides practical and concrete guidance on the provision of inclusive and accessible services related to gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for women and young persons with disabilities.
Leaving No One Behind Feasibility Case Study: Applying the “Breaking the Silence”: Approach in Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Adolescents and Young People with Disabilities during the COVID-19 epidemic

Young people with disabilities have the same sexual and reproductive health needs and rights as their peers without disabilities. Breaking the Silence aims to improve the SRHR in young people with disabilities through making CSE accessible to these young people both in and out of school.


The updated version of this report was developed under the Leaving No One Behind project, which focused on young people with disabilities’ lack of access to SRHR in South Africa and the completion of the Breaking the Silence CSE curriculum implementation approach.

Bradley Carpenter, Maria Bakaroudis & Jill Hanass-Hancock (2023). Validating the Teacher Sexuality Education Questionnaire Scales to Assess Educators’ Preparedness to Deliver CSE to Young People with Disabilities Sexuality and Disability. 41, 677–690. DOI: 10.1007/s11195-023-09798-8

The Path To Equality For Women And Young Persons With Disabilities: Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Ending Gender-Based Violence

This presentation guide is designed to help users make the most of the Path to Equality for Women and Young Persons with Disabilities: Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Ending Gender-Based Violence ENGAGE presentation.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls with Disabilities

This resource pack aims to aid a range of actors such as United Nations Country Teams, civil society, governments, multilateral organizations, and others involved in COVID-19.
response and recovery to ensure that their policies and practices are inclusive of women and girls with disabilities and their rights are promoted.

**The Right to Access: Regional Strategic Guidance to increase access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Young Persons with Disabilities in East and Southern Africa**

This Regional Strategic Guidance is intended to highlight their particular barriers and bring together recommendations to help ensure, in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals, that “no one is left behind” in efforts to improve outcomes for young people in the region.

**Increasing Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Young Persons with Disabilities in East and Southern Africa**

To develop an evidence-informed regional strategy to increase access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services for young people living with disabilities (YPWD) in ESA, three complementary pieces of research were conducted.

**Disability Awareness Checklist for Healthcare Services**

A user friendly checklist that provides guidance to help make health providers and health services more accessible and disability inclusive.

**Disability Awareness Checklist Facilitator Guide Visual**

This is a facilitator’s guide for consistent training on how to use the accompanying Disability Awareness Checklist for Healthcare Services.
Tuneme.org is a mobile site (mobisite) designed for low- and high-end devices in environments where high data charges and poor network coverage combine to limit access to online services. Through social features and content designed to engage users rather than lecture, Tune Me aims to equip adolescents with the information and motivation they need to make better choices. Download the app.

The **AMAZE videos** are a core component of SYP's digital solutions, providing short animated CSE videos aimed at young adolescents 10-14 year olds that align with the standards of the International Technical Guidance on CSE covering topics under themes such as Puberty and Menstrual Health, Gender Identity, Personal Safety, Sexual Orientation, Healthy Relationships & STIs, Pregnancy and Reproduction. To date SYP has developed a playlist of 29 videos.

### Variations in the Menstrual Cycle: Get to know your cycle

This video reviews the stages of the menstrual cycle and talks about how it can vary in terms of how long it lasts and how often it comes, especially when girls are first getting their periods, which is totally normal.

### Blessers: Older Partners and Transactional Relationships

This video explores the issue of relationships particularly between older men and girls that are sexual and transactional, often referred to as "blesser-blessee" relationships in parts of South Africa. The video features two sisters discussing the younger sister’s friend, who has recently taken up a relationship with a much older man who has been providing her with gifts.

### HIV Treatment Adherence

In this video, we learn about HIV treatment adherence from Karabo, who has just done a presentation about living with HIV at school,
for which her cousin expresses appreciation. Key points about adherence are relayed in her conversation about the presentation with her older sister (who is also HIV positive), including what adherence means, tools for adhering to HIV treatment, and the benefits of adhering to it.

**View more AMAZE videos**

The Let’s Talk! Campaign invites the people of Eastern and Southern Africa to engage in conversations about early and unintended pregnancy. The campaign encourages intergenerational dialogue and community activation as a means to foster change across all levels of society, through three main pillars. 1. Health: Advocating for increased access to sexual reproductive health services (including contraception) for all adolescents and young people, without judgment or discrimination. 2. Education: Ensuring that adolescents and young people have access to good quality comprehensive sexuality education to equip them to make informed life choices and prevent early and unintended pregnancy. 3. Rights: Ensuring that all adolescents and young people know their rights and are empowered to make decisions regarding sexuality, health and education that will allow them to reach their full potential. The webpage contains many helpful resources, including the radio drama series and videos of the regional champions.
Bradley Carpenter, Maria Bakaroudis & Jill Hanass-Hancock (2023). Validating the Teacher Sexuality Education Questionnaire Scales to Assess Educators’ Preparedness to Deliver CSE to Young People with Disabilities Sexuality and Disability. 41, 677–690. DOI: 10.1007/s11195-023-09798-8


SYP Music album

- We Will ft. artists from Southern Africa (Official Music Video)
- Conjiva (Condom) ft. artists from Southern Africa (Official Music Video)
- Give Me A Chance ft. artists from Southern Africa (Official Music Video)
- Hereeng (Let’s Go) by Stlofa – Lesotho (Official Music Video)
- Just Us by Zeus – Botswana (Official Music Video)
- Busi by DJ Kaliwa – Zambia (Official Music Video)
- Rudo by Bryan K – Zimbabwe (Official Music Video)
- Jack and Jill by KrTC of Hip Hop - Eswatini (Official Music Video)
- Private Party ft. artists from Southern Africa (Official Music Video)
- Chimanga (Maize) by Gwamba – Malawi (Official Music Video)
Climate change


This global report examines the integration of sexual reproductive health and rights and related themes - including health, gender, population dynamics, youth, human rights, vulnerable groups and participation - in the NDCs of countries from 2020. It offers recommendations on how the next submissions can more effectively address these intersections in terms of impact, commitments, budget and other critical actions.

Resilient Futures: Young People, the Climate Crisis, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

This guide helps the workshop facilitator explain climate change and how it links to gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The workshop encourages young people to think about the natural world and how their health and well-being are connected to the environment around them.

Environmental Crises Exacerbate Some Drivers of Child Marriage

This infographic explains why upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights during environmental instability caused by climate change means taking action on child marriage.
Child Marriage and Environmental Crises: An Evidence Brief

Child marriage is a violation of a girl’s human rights and can present challenges for her health and well-being across the life course. Climate change increases vulnerability and, as a result, can erode the ability of families and communities to ensure and uphold sexual and reproductive health and rights. Building resilience to climate change means tackling the complex issues of rights, health and justice, including child marriage.

UNFPA and the Climate Crisis. Strengthening Resilience and Protecting Progress within the Decade of Action

The UN Secretary General has stated that, “The Decade of Action will see special amplification around three challenges: eradicating poverty and reducing inequality; driving climate action and supporting a healthy planet; achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.” Each of these is central to the ICPD and UNFPA’s mandate. For UNFPA, limiting the impact of climate change on the achievement of our transformative results and increasing the resilience of people and systems to cope with climate change.

In 2019, UNFPA organized an International Symposium on SRHR, Gender and Climate Change Resilience to share knowledge and identify programmes to reduce the impacts of climate change and build the resilience of communities in vulnerable settings. The resulting Future Africa Call to Action outlines both the impacts of climate change on the achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and the contributions that the ICPD community can make to building climate resilience. It puts forward a programmatic framework with four pillars connecting the promise of ICPD25 and the achievement of climate change adaptation and resilience.
The Impact of the Climate Crisis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Advocacy Brief (2022)

The climate crisis impacts sexual and reproductive health and the ability to realize fundamental human rights. Realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) contributes to reducing inequalities and increases individuals and communities’ resilience to climate change to help ensure no one is left behind as climate impacts intensify. Learn about the negative impact of climate change on maternal health, gender-based violence and child marriage. What is required in response to climate change to ensure sexual and reproductive health services, supplies and GBV services?


National climate policies play a key role in determining responses to climate change, including plans to build adaptive capacity and resilience. An evaluation of national climate policies with a specific focus on health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues, can provide important information on gaps and areas of potential improvement to ensure healthy and resilient communities.

UNFPA, in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London, undertook a review and systematic content analysis of SRHR references and related thematic areas in NDC documents for 50 countries.

The review aimed to describe how SRHR is currently represented in NDC and related policy documents to help determine how climate policy can better reflect SRHR.
Infographic: The Negative Impact of Climate Change on Maternal Health (2022)

This infographic looks at how climate change directly and indirectly impacts maternal health, making pregnancy less safe and worsening neonatal health outcomes.

Infographic: Bodily Autonomy and Access to Family Planning are Essential for Responding to Climate Change (2022)

This infographic draws the links between climate change, family planning and bodily autonomy. It explains why we need to strengthen individual and community resilience by investing in a healthy, educated and empowered population whose sexual and reproductive health needs are addressed.

Infographic: Environmental Crises Exacerbate Some Drivers of Child Marriage (2022)

This infographic explains why upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights during environmental instability caused by climate change means taking action on child marriage.

Infographic: Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence (2022)

Climate change creates and exacerbates circumstances conducive to gender-based violence. This infographic draws the links and explains why climate action must tackle gender-based violence.
Infographic: Responding to Climate Change Requires Health Systems Strengthening (2022)

This infographic looks at why responses to climate change must focus on health systems strengthening, including sexual and reproductive health services, supplies and gender-based violence services and response.

Animated video: The Impact of the Climate Crisis on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2022)

The global climate crisis is one of the most pressing problems we face. It disrupts development, multiplies people’s vulnerabilities and worsens gender equality. It is time that we build resilient health systems that protect the wellbeing of all.

Animated video for adolescents: Climate Change’s Impact on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2022)

This animated video explains how climate change impacts our sexual and reproductive health and rights.
Programmatic Guidance on Integrating Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Economic Empowerment of Young People

The purpose of this guidance document is to support national and subnational stakeholders with evidence-based programmatic guidance to design and implement effective programmes integrating ASRHR and economic empowerment interventions for adolescent and young people.

Three part tutorial on the Programmatic Guidance on Integrating Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Economic Empowerment of Young People

Tutorial video 1
Tutorial video 2
Tutorial video 3

Mapping of Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Economic Empowerment Programmes for Adolescents and Young People

Systematic mapping of documented, existing initiatives and programmes that integrate/d sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in economic empowerment and/or asset-building and/or entrepreneurship frameworks/programmes for young people.
Youth Enterprise Model: No Wealth Without Health

UNFPA’s Youth Enterprise Model (YEM) project in Uganda creates opportunities and spaces for young people to acquire the skills needed for business and work, together with the information needed to make safe, responsible decisions related to their sexual and reproductive health. In 2018, an evaluation assessed the effectiveness, efficiency, impact, relevance, and sustainability of YEM during its five years of operation. This publication summarizes the findings.

Youth Enterprise Model: Unleashing the power of young people

This report is a collection of stories from service providers, peer educators and the young people who benefit from the Youth Enterprise Model (YEM) and are witnessing its positive impact in action.

Demographic Dividend Brochure

The demographic dividend is the economic benefit that can arise when a population has a relatively large proportion of working age people, and effectively invests in their empowerment, education and employment.
GBV and other harmful practices (including Child marriage and FGM)

A Guidance Note on Alternative Rites of Passage and Cultural Practices for Adolescents and Young People in East and Southern Africa

This guidance note describes the dominant adolescent rites of passage and initiation ceremonies in four countries in the Southern African region - Malawi, Eswatini, South Africa and Zambia. UNFPA-ESARO chose to focus on these four countries because they are implementing countries of the Safeguard Young People Programme (SYP). UNFPA-ESARO’s goal in this guidance document is to raise additional awareness about those practices that are limiting young people’s potential and, in some cases, harming them physically, socially and emotionally.

The Impact of Rites of Passage and Cultural Practices on Adolescents’ and Young People’s Sexual and Reproductive Health in East and Southern Africa

UNFPA-ESARO contracted with an independent consultant to review the existing literature relating to adolescent rites of passage and initiation ceremonies in four countries in Southern Africa (Malawi, Eswatini, South Africa and Zambia), to assess the impacts of these rites on young people in those countries, and propose alternatives for those found to be harmful physically, socially and/or emotionally.

Addressing harmful practices through social innovation: A UNFPA innovation guide for “you” and startups

The toolkit provides resources for young people to develop their innovative ideas and accelerate collective efforts to end harmful practices like FGM and child marriage. The interactive, self-help toolkit provides practical guidance and connection to social enterprise growth support within and outside Africa.

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Why adolescents and young people need comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services in Eastern and Southern Africa.
Building Resilience after Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

The prevalence of SGBV remains high in East and Southern Africa, a region where according to the latest SADC Sexual Reproductive Health Scorecard data, in seven countries, around 20 per cent of those aged 15-24 years reported they experienced violence from an intimate partner.

Child Marriage in COVID-19 contexts: Disruptions, Alternative Approaches and Building Programme Resilience

COVID-19 has upended the lives of children and families across the globe and adversely affected programmes to end child marriage. The pandemic is having a devastating effect on families, communities and economies. In the medium to long term, the threat of child marriage is far greater when communities are affected by economic shocks and have limited access to basic services such as health, education and child protection, all of which are being negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Child Marriage: A Mapping of Programmes and Partners in Twelve Countries in East and Southern Africa

Child marriage can have devastating consequences for girls and their future children. This report presents the results of a mapping of programmes and partnerships that seek to prevent and mitigate the effects of child marriage in East and Southern Africa. The mapping focused on 12 countries in the region where the prevalence of child marriage is greater than 30 per cent.

Social Media Safety

Everything you post and share online creates a permanent public image of you. Every post is like a tattoo – it’s forever! This leaflet is a great guide about how to stay safe while using social media - what to do and what not to do. Essential reading for adolescents and young people.
Regional Report: Assessment of Adolescents and Youth-Friendly Health Service Delivery: East and Southern Africa

The Assessment of Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services in the East and Southern Africa Region (2015-2017) was undertaken with the purpose of conducting a review of existing adolescent and youth-friendly health services (AYFHS) policies, guidelines, protocols and standards, and assessing how they are implemented in 23 countries of the East and Southern Africa (ESA) region.

Regional Guidance: Strengthening Competency-Based Education on Adolescent Health in Pre- and In-Service Training for Health-Care Providers

This guidance document offers a strategic framework and processes to strengthen competency-based pre- and in-service training on adolescent health for health-care providers, as a contribution to achieving universal health coverage for all adolescents and youth in the region.

Assessment of Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Service Delivery in the East and Southern Africa Region

A multi-year initiative (2014-2017) to improve and scale up youth-friendly health services and enhance quality of care for young people is being conducted by UNFPA ESARO and the IPPF Africa Regional Office.
Youth-Friendly Health Services pamphlet

Youth-friendly services are health-care services that meet the needs of young people, between the ages of 10-24 years old, like you! The staff that provide youth-friendly health services aren't there to judge you. They are trained and ready to help you. Read this pamphlet for more information.

Know your rights

What are human rights? Human rights are the basic freedoms and protections that all people should have just because they are human beings. Your rights are guaranteed and promoted by international, regional and national laws. Your government has agreed to promote and protect your human rights.

Do you know your status?

As a young person, you have the right to know your HIV status and the right to go for HIV testing services. If you answer "yes" to any of these statements, it's time for an HIV test.

What works to prevent HIV among adolescent girls?

This brief looks at the evidence on what works to prevent HIV infection in adolescent girls, and provides key findings and recommendations.

Stories of Change

This report is a collation of stories from some of the service providers, peer educators and the people who benefit from the Catalysing Change on Family Planning in East Africa project. The report highlights the life-changing effects that the project has had for adolescents and young people.