

Module 1: Introduction to adolescence and to adolescent health - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

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The three documents present approaches and key areas to ensure that appropriate action is taken to boost adolescent development and ensure a smooth transition into adult hood. There is recognition of the multiple challenges faced by adolescents and young people today as they struggle to make decisions in this rapidly changing environment. UNFPA in their framework for action present their commitments to not only work on issues of sexual and reproductive health, rather in broader areas that encompass issues faced by young people. WHO recognises that a lot has to be done to improve adolescent health and development and the health sector plays a crucial role although they cannot work in isolation. The World Bank report shows the transitions that young people undergo in the various areas of their life, health, education, work and citizenship. If decisions at each transitional stage are made well then human capital for the next generation will be safe guarded, if made badly the cost of repairing the damage will be very costly.

To ensure holistic delivery of services to adolescents and young people key areas for action in the three documents are suggested as follows:

1. Use of strategic and population based information for decision making recognising that demographics have a great impact on how youth issues are addressed.
2. Evidence based and supportive policies while positioning adolescents and young people's agenda within the wider context of poverty reduction and ensuring inclusion in national development plans and strategies
3. Comprehensive packages in sexual and reproductive health care and education while ensuring that HIV/ AIDS and early pregnancy issues are adequately addressed.
4. Promoting young people's leadership and participation in decision making
5. Providing a system that gives adolescents and youth second chances in life and allowing them to make up the bad choices in life.

References

1. [World Bank. World Development Report 2007. Development and the next generation. Washington: World Bank; 2007.](#)
2. [UNFPA. UNFPA framework for action on adolescents and youth. Opening doors with 4 keys. New York: UNFPA; 2007.](#)
3. [WHO. Strengthening the health sector response to adolescent health & development. Geneva: WHO; 2009.](#)