

[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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[World Bank. World Development Report 2007. Development and the next generation. Washington: World Bank; 2007.](#)

The Overview of the World Bank's (WB) report Development and the Next Generation first describes the challenges that youth face during their adolescent period, highlighting the magnitude of the problems related to adolescents. The document identifies five priorities or 'life transitions' encountered by young people, which government action must address: learning for work and life, going to work, growing up healthy, forming families, and exercising citizenship. The role of public policies in determining which way things go is underlined. Next, by putting a "youth-friendly lens" on these policies, the Overview introduces three strategic directions for reform set out by this framework. The directions are: expanding opportunities for young people (policies to help young people acquire, improve, and deploy their skills), enhancing capabilities for young people (policies to provide information and incentives to help them make good decisions), and giving youth a second chance if they have already missed out on opportunities through adequate policies. It is important that the different policies and interventions are coordinated and integrated to have the maximum effect. In order to enhance the effect of these policies, countries should work on coordinating and integrating youth interventions with national policy. Moreover, governments and other agencies need to learn to communicate with youth, make their programs attractive to them, and tap their immense talents as partners. In addition, more evaluation to lead evidence-based interventions is needed.

[UNFPA. UNFPA framework for action on adolescents and youth. Opening doors with 4 keys. New York: UNFPA; 2007.](#)

Pages 3 to 7 introduce the UNFPA Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth and the reasons for developing such a framework, starting with a description of the magnitude of the problem. The Framework describes UNFPA's strategy for working with governments and partners in promoting the development of young people, and specifically in supporting the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health agenda. Drawing on UNFPA vision that sees young people living in totality rather than in fragments, the document outlines the "Four Keys" guiding UNFPA's efforts. These are: creating a supportive policy setting (positioning the adolescent and youth agenda within the larger development context of poverty reduction), facilitating gender-sensitive, life skills-based SRH education, promoting a package of SRH services, and promoting young people's leadership and participation. The executive summary concludes underlining that this framework should serve as a guide for UNFPA-supported youth programmes, but still it leaves space to answer to diverse needs and regional and country variations.

[WHO. Strengthening the health sector response to adolescent health & development. Geneva: WHO; 2009.](#)

Pages 2 to 6 of the WHO's document Strengthening the Health Sector Response to Adolescent Health and Development outline the WHO strategy to strengthen the health sector in the field of adolescent health and development. The paper highlights the fact that it is recognized worldwide

that investing in the healthy development of adolescents is a necessary step. The investment in youth is necessary in order to decrease youth mortality and to improve the health of adolescents as well as the health of the next generation born to adolescents, and consequently decrease the economic loss due to sick future workforce. The health sector, led by Ministry of Health and with all partners together, should play an essential role in this process. The first pages of this document introduce the WHO strategy of “**S**trategic information, **S**upportive evidence informed policy, **S**ervices and commodities, and **S**trengthening other sectors”. The “4S” strategy outlines the different approaches for addressing young people’s issues in SRH and HIV/AIDS national programmes, taking into consideration the high vulnerability of adolescents towards SRH problems and HIV/AIDS, the fact that national SRH and HIV programmes do not often address adolescents’ needs in a systematic or concerted way, and the involvement of other sectors.