

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.

World Development Report 2007; Development and the Next Generation largely focused on adolescents and young people. It highlighted practical scenarios and case studies of the lives of young people across the globe to press home the need to support this target group to actualize their dreams and aspirations. The report captured three strategic directions for change ; opportunities through improving access, quality of education and health services, capabilities through development of young people's capabilities to choose well and enhance decision making and second chances that provides an effective system through targeting disadvantaged young people thereby reintegrating them to have meaningful life.

The report recommended useful policy directions in line with opportunities, capabilities and second chances such as reallocation of resources to respond to the need of young people and ensuring quality life by not only looking at government, but resources from parents and communities. Also reforms to respond to failures in markets, institutions, and policies making unfavorable climate for human capital investments in young people as well as ensuring better coordination and integration with national policy, stronger voices for the youths and effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and using evidenced based criteria in decision making.

UNFPA. UNFPA framework for action on adolescents and youth. Opening doors with 4 keys. New York: UNFPA; 2007.

The UNFPA Framework of Action on Adolescents and Youths provides a strategic framework and enabling environment for concerted efforts, comprehensive and integrated actions to support growth and development of adolescents and youths. It emerges based on evidences available about the challenges being faced by these groups ranging from surviving on less than \$2 a day, educational problems , unacceptable maternal and infant mortality rates , high rates of HIV infections especially among girls to mention but few. The framework for action guides the UNFPA's support in the area of adolescents and Youth and how it would relate with governments and other non state actors in the realization of its mandate and allows common action and strategies where UNFPA is operating.

UNFPA as captured in this framework would support governments and partners to empower adolescents and youths to realize their dreams, improve access to health services and uphold their rights and ensures their participation in all matters related to their development. The Fund base on the framework would achieve its vision through Four key areas identified; supportive policies in line with poverty and population dynamics, gender sensitive SRH education and health services, SRH services and Young People's Leadership and Participation. The key areas would be promoted through intergenerational alliances and guided by over arching Fund's principles of achieving social equity, rights protection, gender responsiveness and cultural sensitivity with a firm commitment to ICPD and achieving the MDGs.

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

The WHO ‘Strengthening the Health Sector Response to Adolescent Health and Development’ is a framework that provides the justification and rationale for countries to invest in adolescents in the area of health and development. Investing in them provides protection and ensures the future of any nation, as they are catalyst for economic development. The document highlighted the need for many sectors not only health to play a role in improving adolescents’ health and development. Some challenges of national SRH and HIV programmes as observed by the document were; needs of the adolescents were not being address in a strategic and concerted manner. Hence the introduction of ‘4- S framework that guides programmes and policies related to adolescent health and development.

The 4 – S framework follows a step by step approach of realising the provision of services and protection of adolescents’ rights. It started by encouraging data gathering and using strategic information, as it was observed in many countries, although research and health information system were in place, but yet did not translate to policy and programme development. From gathering data, it moved to developing and ensuring supportive evidence informed policies in place and using such to scale up services and commodities as well as strengthening other relevant sectors such as civil societies to also provide for the adolescents. The 4 strategies were structured in such as way that implications for action by the heath sector were captured which prompted critical thinking with respect to what should be put in place to realise the strategies, such as enabling environment and monitoring mechanism to mention but few.