

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 central message of the overview from the document *The World Development Report: Development and the next Generation* is the importance and necessity of investing in the youth, and doing so in a timely and prudent manner. The document highlights the fact that the youth of the world are a large, important and diverse group of individuals, faced with different challenges and opportunities, in search of an identity, and the need to remain relevant in a changing world throughout the key phases of their development. It underlines the period of youth as a time for prudent decision making regarding skills development, education, and healthy habits. The overview makes the case for this in that such investments can be cost effective and have far reaching consequences both for the current as well as on future generations. It stresses the economic window of opportunity for many developing countries, including Uganda, and the need for quality education as well as appropriate skills to cope in an increasingly competitive world. It makes good economic sense and is a channel out of poverty for many countries

The overview lays emphasis on individual as well as collective action, stressing the role of governments in ensuring or promoting equity; furthering healthy behavior, or access to services, and involving people towards the development of their particular areas. It highlights the value of developing the correct policy environment. The overview further suggests interventions that can work such as the need to emphasis and measure the quality of any intervention, the need to focus on holistic rather than piecemeal interventions, the necessity of youth participation in civic and other matters, the need to access information, and harnessing the capability to respond to this information. It stresses the need for tailored interventions both for in school as well as for out of school youth, particularly emphasizing better delivery of information through the different relevant channels available, including peer or teacher education or though the internet. Lastly, it succinctly addresses the main areas of policy initiatives for the youth, namely, addressing opportunities that arise, fostering the capabilities of the young, and also, where necessary, availing 'second' or third or even fifth chances... for those youth who may have inadvertently fallen by the wayside, and become caught up in crime, war, and the like. The overview also suggests working principles and solutions such as improving coordination and integration, greater youth participation and more research and evaluation on programmes and interventions that actually work and can be replicated, the best or promising practices.

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

*The Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth* is a guiding and living document of UNFPA. It builds on UNFPA's vision of young people, based on the case for an overarching framework within which to address adolescent health issues, within the broader context of health in general, and within broader national and international development issues such as poverty reduction and the MDGs. It also helps to retain UNFPA corporate identity within the context of

international aid and development, and to remain country and context specific and responsive. It is a call to action by translating theory and words into action. It outlines areas of support to governments and individuals by UNFPA. It will foster an inter-sectoral and multi-sectoral approach as well as strategic partnerships with diverse constituencies such as civil society, the media, other development partners and the like.

To do this, UNFPA has strategically placed its main interventions in four broad areas, all related to the overarching goal of poverty reduction and national development. This framework will help to guide UNFPA's programmatic and policy interventions in the area of adolescent and youth reproductive health. Firstly, UNFPA will influence public policy towards young people's sexual and reproductive health issues by demonstrating different scenarios of young people's health and the impact of this on national progress; secondly, it will support the provision of gender sensitive life planning skills for the in school and out of school youth, and in diverse settings, with focus on the disadvantaged and the hard to reach. UNFPA will influence policy on young people's SRHR with added attention to gender issues; Thirdly, it will promote the provision of sexual and reproductive health services that includes a minimum package of services, and supporting service delivery that is integrated to national interventions; Lastly, UNFPA will also strategically work with young people and seek mechanisms for incorporating their input into community, national and international policy; to do this it will aid the development of their advocacy, peer education and leadership skills. These four keys are interlinked and interdependent, and to foster this, UNFPA will promote intergenerational alliances with different stakeholders such as adults. The four areas are premised and underpinned by the key principles of social equity, gender, rights based, and cultural sensitivity.

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

The World Health Organization document *Strengthening the Health Sector Response to adolescent Health and Development* makes the case for investing in adolescents' health and development, highlighting the fact that by doing so we can prevent many needless deaths and ill health, improve the economy, and the fact that adolescents are particularly vulnerable to a host of conditions and situations. It further outlines the WHO's 4-S Framework.

The WHO's 4-S Framework is a template for strengthening the health sector's response to adolescent health and development, in response to need for more systematic, rather than the often ad hoc and disjointed interventions. It illuminates the two main programmatic entry points to other adolescent health interventions, which are:

- HIV prevention care and support of those with HIV
- Preventing pregnancy and pregnancy related morbidity and mortality

The framework also highlights the 4 key intervention areas, and their rationale:

1. Gathering and using strategic information: This needs to be up to date and relevant, and the Ministry of Health and other national actors need to undertake actions such as the systematic collection analysis and use of data for programming and advocacy.
2. At national level, to develop supportive evidence based policies to guide programmatic actions to address the challenges faced by adolescents

3. Scaling up the provision of commodities and services to adolescents in a way that overcomes or limits the barriers to access. The key role of government in providing standardized, quality and sustainable services is paramount. These services could grow out of the already existing HIV/AIDS or family planning or other interventions in place
4. Strengthening of other sectors such as Ministries of Education, youth and sports; Ministry of Gender, Labor and social development, of Uganda. Interventions always need to be evidence based and the interventions should be synergistic and complementary.