

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

[Mengistu Asnake Kibret](#)
[Pathfinder International Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)

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

The paper starts by providing a brief story of youths from the different parts of the world where the challenges they face and the existing opportunities are determining the quality of life in the next generation through a long lasting effect. The report offers a framework and provides several examples of policies and programs from different countries to address the issues of young people.

It also gives the cost benefit analysis of the problem by putting a “**youth lens**” into existing and broadening **opportunities**, developing **capabilities** of youth to choose among the opportunities, and providing a **second chance** for those who needs redirection in their behavior. After detailed analysis of the youth lenses of opportunities, capabilities and second chances, the report recommended broad policy directions with the need for better coordination and integration with national policy, stronger voices of the youth and evidence based data.

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

The UNFP framework for action summary paper starts by describing the problem and its magnitude related to young people and stressing the need for an urgent action now. The comprehensive contribution on holistic development of young people, global movement including UN reforms in supporting broader national development goals, and the changing aid environment were described as the need for the framework development.

Using its vision on young people UNFPA outlines the different areas of support to national governments and partners. In fulfilling this support UNFPA strategically positions itself in four key areas that include:

- Supportive policy based on population structure and poverty dynamics;
- Gender sensitive, life skills based SRH education;
- SHR services; and
- Young people’s leadership and participation.

The paper further describes the fund’s strategy on specific policy and programmatic action in order to deliver the four key areas. In linking the four key areas creating the “**Key chain**”: **an intergenerational alliance between young people and adults** is described in the paper. The framework is described as a guiding principle which can be adopted by countries based on their reality in the ground.

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

The WHO document starts by defining adolescence as a period of major physical and psychological change where it can be taken as an opportunity and at the same time as a risk in

the current and future health and life of the individual and society. It also describes that the public health and human rights reasons of investing in the health and development of adolescents.

Based on the reasons of investing on adolescents the paper describes the WHO “**4-S framework**” for strengthening health sector responses to adolescent health and development.

The paper further illustrates the need for national SRH and HIV programs to incorporate the key elements of the 4-S framework by gathering and using strategies information; developing supportive, evidence-informed policies; scaling up the provision and utilization of health services and commodities; and strengthening action and linkages with other government sectors.