

[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.](#)

This report focuses on the transitions that young people undergo in learning, starting to work, developing healthy lifestyles, deciding to begin a family and exercising citizenship.

Three strategic directions are being presented:

1. Opportunities: This means to broaden opportunities for young people to develop their human capital expanding and improving the quality not only of education but also of health services. The policy goals should also facilitate the start of working life and give young people a voice and participation in civic life.
2. Capabilities: The primary objective should be the development of young people's capabilities to take correct choices among their opportunities. They should have sufficient and accurate information about human capital needs and constraints and programs to address them. It is important to mention that human capital outcomes of young people affect those of their children.
3. Second chances: Targeted programs should provide second chances to give young people the hope and management to deal with consequences of bad outcomes that occur early in life.

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

UNFPA tries to view adolescents in a holistic manner, taking into account not only sexual and reproductive health issues but also education, livelihood and citizenship. UNFPA's work has focus on 4 key areas:

1. Supportive policy targeting young people and poverty reduction strategies.
2. Sexual and reproductive health education with gender and life-skills-based orientation.
3. Sexual and reproductive health services, with a minimum of contraception, HIV prevention and maternal health services.
4. Young people's leadership and participation.

The preceding points are interrelated and reinforced each other.

The Fund will build and support intergenerational alliances and at the program level it will advocate for social protection interventions for adolescents and youth comprised of education, sexual and reproductive health services and livelihood components.

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

The document highlights that the adolescent period is a time not only of dramatic physical and psychological modifications but also of social interactions and relationships changes. It could be a period of opportunities where adolescents can learn positive healthy habits that will lead them into a healthy adulthood but it could also be a time of vulnerability that could have a future negative impact on their health, behavior and habits.

It is worthy to invest in adolescent health because adolescents represent the future work force that can raise the economy and development of a country. The WHO 4-S framework currently uses 2 points to strengthen the health sector response to adolescent's health and development: HIV prevention, care and support and the prevention of early pregnancy and its complications. Public health ministries should gather strategic information, develop supportive evidenced-informed policies and improve health services for adolescents but other sector should be involved in providing health information and education.