

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 World Bank report looks at adolescents as a future generation that will carry out tasks of adults and looked at how from human resource capacity. Over 3 000 adolescents from 26 developing countries participated in focus groups discussions and their view and comments were used in development of this report. Many existing data were gathered to establish a new large database on youth and review of relevant documents and materials were done. The report development also included many consultative meetings in regions and specific countries. The report provides a framework of policies and programs that would address issues of adolescents in following five youth transitions:

- Continuing to learn
- Starting to work
- Developing a healthful lifestyle
- Beginning a family
- Exercising a citizenship

In order to ensure that each country is preparing a strong base for human capital the report is suggesting to look at policies that affect adolescents live from three crucial directions --- opportunities, capacities and second chance. By opportunities, the report mean “broaden the opportunities for developing human capital by expanding access to and improving the quality of education and health services; by facilitating the start to a working life; and by giving young people a voice to articulate the kind of assistance they want and a chance to participate in delivering it”.

*Capabilities.* Develop young people’s capabilities to choose well among these opportunities by recognizing them as decision-making agents and by helping ensure that their decisions are well informed, adequately resourced, and judicious.

*Second chances.* Provide an effective system of second chances through targeted programs that give young people the hope and the incentive to catch up from bad luck—or bad choices.

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

The UNFPA framework for action on adolescents and youth has been developed as a main strategic document for Fund’s regional and local offices to use. It highlights importance of investing in youth and co echoes with World Bank report on Development and next generation. The UNFPA framework is developed to address the its own needs, such as positioning its adolescent sexual and reproductive health in larger agenda of comprehensive youth development, guiding the Fund’s support in youth development area, and providing its position on adolescents

and youth. UNFPA has own vision on adolescents and youth, which says “A world fit for adolescents and youth is one in which their rights are promoted and protected. It is a world in which girls and boys have optimal opportunities to develop their full potential, to freely express themselves and have their views respected, and to live free of poverty, discrimination and violence”. In this framework document UNFPA expresses its strong involvement and commitment in the following key areas, which are drawn from its vision on young people:

- Supportive policy making which will use careful analysis of population structure and poverty dynamics
- Sexual and reproductive health education which is gender sensitive and incorporates life-skill
- Sexual and reproductive health services
- Leadership and participation of young people

UNFPA framework also presents about a concept of “intergenerational alliances” that will link above mentioned four key areas.

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

This is a first document that mentions UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and WHO uses its key point – “adolescents have the right to obtain the health information and services they need to survive and to grow and develop their full individual potential” as main basis for its 4S framework for strengthening the health sector response to adolescent health and development.

The WHO framework looks at main problems that many countries face when it comes addressing issues of adolescents development. First, disorganized tackling of adolescents’ needs, and second ad hoc approach of health sector in dealing with this issue. The WHO 4S framework recommends national health sectors to incorporate these elements in their programs on Sexual and Reproductive Health, and on HIV, which would serve as key entry points:

- Gathering and using Strategic information (first S)
- Developing Supportive, evidence-informed policies (second S)
- Scaling up the provision and utilization of health services and commodities (third S)
- Strengthening action and linkages with other government sectors