

[Module 3: Evidence based approaches to health service provision to adolescents - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment](#)

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## **Reality on the ground in terms of adolescent friendly health services in Afghanistan**

The MoPH child and adolescent health policy is: Every Afghan child has the right to reach adulthood without the burden of preventable health problems, or the lasting sequels of easily curable conditions. Hence, it is the policy of the MOPH to address the most prevalent and technically preventable or curable causes of child death as an absolute priority (1).

Unfortunately, there are no friendly health services and programs with proven success in Afghanistan; there are just few clinics for consulting, laboratory tests and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in large cities.

## **Estonia case study**

In 1999, the Ministry of Social Affairs asked the Estonian Sexual Health Association (ESHA) to develop a national programme for reproductive health (called “National Programme of Reproductive Health, 2001–2009”) which was approved by the government in 2000.

Amor youth clinics are youth-friendly free-of-charge sexual and reproductive health clinics in Estonia, where both males and females are welcome. The clinics are specially designed to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people. The clinics provide not only advice concerning contraception and testing for HIV/STIs, but also a chance to talk about relationships and sexuality with a professional. These clinics are meant exclusively for young people, though if they are part of a larger clinic then certain hours are dedicated to young people (2).

It is important to learn from the positive experiences of other countries. At the same time, not all good examples can be implemented without considering the local circumstances.

## **References**

1. [Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Public Health. National Child and Adolescent Health Policy 2009 - 2013.](#)
2. [WHO. Amor youth clinic network in Estonia. Geneva: WHO; 2009.](#)