



LET THEM KNOW

THE YOUTH-LED AYSRHR
GLOBAL ROADMAP FOR
ACTION

LEADERSHIP TEAM



William Otuck

Managing Director, Young
& Alive



**Alan Jarandilla
Nuñez**

Executive Director, IYAAP



Norhan Bader

Planning, Monitoring,
Evaluation, and Learning
Specialist, Love Matters
Arabic



Sadia Rahman

Program Director
Light to Life



Edouard Keita

Président du Comité
Exécutif, AMPPF/IPPF

ACRONYMS



AYSRHR-J: Adolescents and youth sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice

LGBTQ-I: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex

SRHR-J: Sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice

UHC: Universal Health Coverage

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice (SRHR-J) are crucial to adolescents' and youth' healthy physical and mental development. The growth in the youth population globally presents opportunities for nations with healthy, educated workforces to potentially shape their country's economic prospects. The world is currently experiencing the largest generation of young people in history. There are over 1.8 billion young people in the world today, 90% of whom live in low- and middle-income countries, where they tend to make up a large proportion of the population. In South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people aged 12-24 has steadily risen to 525 million in 2015 - almost half the global youth population.

To fully achieve their SRHR rights, youth and adolescents, youth have developed the AYSRHR Global Roadmap for Action (GRA). The GRA is a coordinated and unified initiative that outlines SRHR-J priorities, vision, goals, and recommendations for youth. With five key priority areas, the GRA outlines how youth want to achieve our AYSRHR-J goals. Each priority area has a vision statement, key gaps, challenges, and youth-developed key recommended actions.

With this GRA, we are challenging the AYSRHR community, including youth and youth-led organizations, donors, government, INGOs, and the private sector to join us in making our AYSRHR-J goals a reality.

Below are the key messages for the GRA:

The time to act is now for governments, donors, the private sector, INGOs, and youth-led organizations to come together and commit to a common AYSRHR-J vision and priorities. It is time we Let Them Know what we want, what we need, and what we expect through this GRA.

What We Need

Progressive AYSRHR-J Policies

A world in which AYSRHR-J policies address and are responsive to the diverse set of youth needs and identities to catalyze the social and political changes necessary to ensure their reproductive health needs are met

Acknowledge Diverse Youth Identities & Needs

A just, equitable, and sustainable AYSRHR-J field in which every youth, including LGBTIQ+ youth and youth with disabilities, enjoy the right to a life of dignity worldwide.

Meaningful Youth Partnerships & Engagement

A world in which equitable, mutually respectful, and beneficial youth partnership are the norm and the SRHR field is transformed from one that exists for youth to one that exists in partnership with youth for achieving a shared AYSRHR-J vision

Equitable AYSRHR-J Financing

A world where all unmet needs for AYSRHR-J services and commodities are equally funded and resourced addressed through increased financial resources and technical support supplied by the donor community, the private sector, and governments.

Transparent Data, Monitoring, & Reporting

A world in which comprehensive and transparent data on adolescents and youth, including disaggregation by age and gender and inclusion of diverse youth identities is available for decision making.

**WE ARE READY TO
LET
THEM
KNOW**



STATE OF AYSRHR

Adolescents (ages 10-19 years) and youth (15- 24 years) are a diverse social group and have various sexual and reproductive health, rights -and justice (SRHR-J) needs that are critical to their physical and mental development and wellbeing. The world is currently experiencing the largest generation of young people in history. Today, there are over 1.8 billion young people (ages of 10-24 years) in the world, making up more than 16% of the global population (1). Of the 1.8 billion youth, 90% reside in low- and middle-income countries, where are one of the fastest growing populations (1).

The growth in the youth population globally presents opportunities for nations to develop healthy and educated workforces that will shape their country's future. To fully achieve their SRHR-J, youth and adolescents require information on and access to modern contraceptives, menstruation hygiene, HIV/AIDS and STI prevention information testing and treatment, safe and legal abortion services, gender-based violence prevention and treatment services, and harmful practices counseling and referrals (1,2). For these services to be adolescent and youth-friendly, they must respect privacy, prioritize confidentiality, and obtain informed consent. They must also address the specific needs of young women and girls, especially LGBTQIA+ youth, young people living with disabilities, and those living in humanitarian emergencies. Including sexual and reproductive health services for everyone, especially young people, is essential to achieving universal health coverage (UHC).

Adolescents and youth face significant barriers undermining their SRHR-J—including a lack of access to comprehensive sexuality education and essential services. These barriers relate to availability and accessibility and the services' quality. Laws and policies may limit young people's access to services and contraceptives, and health centers may discriminate against certain groups; for example, many of the services are designed for married women, leading to reduced access for other young women as well as a lack of male-friendly services (2). Entrenched social norms and gender inequality surrounding sexuality results in stigma and youth sexual activity. Due to their age, decision-makers and partners may not respect young people's ability to make decisions or express an opinion about their AYSRHR-J (2,3). All these factors make it difficult and often prevent young people from accessing sexual and reproductive health services.

In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) highlighted adolescent and youth sexuality and adolescent sexual and reproductive health as an issue on the global agenda. It was a landmark event highlighting the need to address the SRHR-J of young people, including adolescents, at a policy level (4).

Despite greater awareness of young people's sexual and reproductive health needs, some key issues have not improved or have improved to some extent but still require attention. Globally, societal shifts and behavioral patterns aggravated by developmental vulnerabilities create a convergence of factors that place today's adolescents at increased risk of adverse consequences for health.

13M

adolescents girls and young women with an unmet need for contraception (5)

10M

unintended pregnancies among adolescent girls aged 15–19 years in developing countries occur each year (6).

15%

of adolescent girls who are married or in union are using modern contraception (5).

28%

of adolescents ages 15–19 years and 29.47% for young adult women ages 20–24 years experience experience of either physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime (7).

12M

Every year, at least 12 million girls are married before they reach the age of 18 (8).

4900

young women aged 15–24 years become infected with HIV every week (9).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

SRHR-J priorities are currently featured on the SDG agenda. SDG 5.6 aims to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights by 2030 (10).

ICPD +25

The ICPD's development of SRHR-J, also known as the Nairobi Summit held in 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya, as a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ICPD in Cairo and recognised that fundamental cornerstones of population and development are reproductive health and rights, women's empowerment, and gender equality (4).

Working towards meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, donor countries pledged around \$1 billion to support sexual and reproductive health and gender equality programs. They have also identified thematic areas focused on youth: 1. Enabling environment for ASRHR-J; 2. Comprehensive Sexuality Education; 3. Adolescent-friendly SRH services and increasing adolescent demand and community support for their provision; 4. Intimate partner and sexual violence among adolescents, and Adolescents and youth's right to participation; 5. The promotion of youth leadership in developing SRH policies and programs (11,12).

FP2030

FP2030 is a global partnership of commitment to advancing rights-based family planning and prioritizing youth and adolescents' sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice (AYSRHR-J). One of their leading principles is "Intentional and equitable partnerships with adolescents, youths, and marginalized populations to meet their needs, informed by accurate and disaggregated data collection and use" (13). Many of their commitments focused on youth reflect this principle, and they have launched regional hubs specifically focus on adolescent and youth partners (13).

MAYE Global Consensus Statement

The Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement (MAYE) Global Consensus Statement was developed and launched in 2018 in consultations with over 30 organizations (14). The statement affirmed the fundamental rights of young people to fully participate in all aspects of their lives and outlined five core values in meaningful youth engagement: 1. Rights-based, 2. Transparent and informative, 3. Voluntary and free from coercion, 4. Respectful of young people's views, backgrounds, and identities, and 5. Safe. Over 250 organizations committed to implementing and practicing the MAYE Global Consensus Statement (14,15).

GRA FORMATION

History has seen many examples of how this growing positive engagement, along with young people's energy, enthusiasm, and passion, inspires social change movements. For example, adolescents and young adults have led movements for democracy in Asia and the Middle East, LGBTQIA+ rights, gender equality, and action on climate change. Conversely, where opportunities for positive engagement are absent, we have seen adolescents and young adults drawn into violent extremism and gang violence, with catastrophic health and societal outcomes. For this reason, youth-led organizations and networks are co-creating the first-ever Youth-Led AYSRHR-J Global Roadmap for Action (GRA). The AYSRHR-J GRA will unite these youth voices to outline a new vision for AYSRH and set out 2030 goals, priorities, and recommended actions, showing unity in expressing young people's SRHR-J needs and values across the world.

IYAFP and 120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders, with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health and Bayer, assembled a group of youth-led initiatives thought-leaders in the co-creation of the GRA. Members of the thought-leadership group were organizations, collectives, networks, and entities led by youth who demonstrate experience in SRHR, gender-based violence, LGBTQIA+ rights, and meaningful adolescent and youth engagement. We defined youth leadership as comprised of individuals under 35 years old and having transition policies to ensure the entity continues to be youth-led. The core leadership team, comprised of 5 youth, selected organizations and collectives through an application and review process. Selected organizations and collectives represent diverse geographical areas and areas of expertise.

Finally, it is time for governments, donors, INGOs, and youth-led organizations to unite and commit to implementing the GRA at the national, regional, and global levels. The health, rights, and lives of adolescents and young people depend on it. It is time we Let Them Know!

The GRA has been developed in partnership with 42 youth-led organizations and collectives around the world.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following six principles guided GRA development:

01
**Inclusion
& Equity**

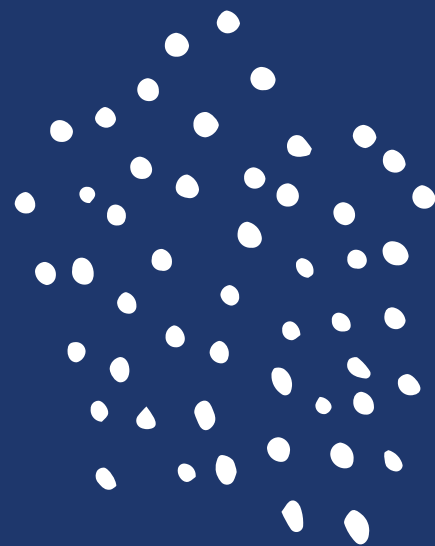
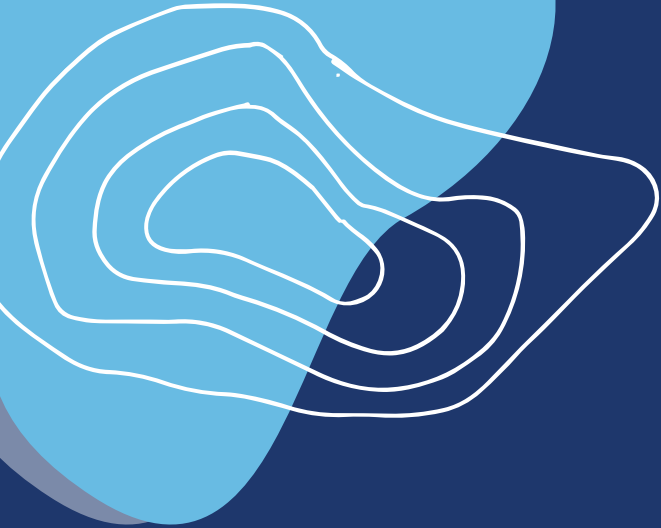
02
**Youth
Engagement &
Accountability**

03
**Integrity &
Transparency**

04
**Gender
transformative**

05
**Rights-
Based**
Universal Declaration of
Human Rights (16)

06
Interscetionality



2. METHODOLOGY

1

Desk review: A short desk review about the current situation and gap areas was developed to help guide the conversation and develop the research tools.

2

Orientation meetings for GRA thought members: the meetings provided an introduction about the GRA, expectations from members, and a detailed description of the methodology. Due to different time zones and languages, two orientation meetings were held in English and one meeting in french for francophone members.

3

Quantiative survey: a survey was shared with all thoughts members to assess their understanding and perspective of several themes in sexual and reproductive health for adolescents and young people, priorities and areas of gaps with regard to their region, and recommended policy and program actions. The survey also identified the key principles /values of the GPA. The survey was conducted in two languages in English and French. The survey had four section of ten questions, 1) orgainzation sections where gathering information about the orgainzation mandate, reach and main areas of focus, 2) Guiding principles/values that should inform the GRA work, 3) the main three themes concern young people and adolescent, 4) Main gaps and recommended actions to address them. The survey was filled by 31 member of GRA with consultation of their perspective orgainzations to ensure that there input was reflected in the survey.

4

Selection of focal points: Focal points from the thought members were selected to co-lead and co-design specific areas of the GRA with the leadership team. A total number of 12 focal points was selected to be The focal points were responsible either for a thematic or a regional consultation and/ or GRA Launch at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP 2022).

5

Regional consultation meetings: Five (5) regional consultation meetings were held to discuss the specific issues and needs and priorities for the region facilitated by a focal point and one member of the leadership team. A summary report was developed for each meeting.

6

Thematic consultation meeting: An AYSRHR Global Forum was held in celebration of International Youth Day to discuss the gaps, and required actions needed for each key AYSRHR theme. A summary report was developed for each meeting. A total of eight (8) thematic meetings were conducted and facilitated by a focal point and one member of the leadership team, and each meeting was attended by at least five (5) members of the GRA.

7

Advisory Group: In addition to the GRA members, the core leadership team assembled an advisory group comprised of AYSRHR-J leaders and champions. The advisory group provided feedback on the GRA methodology, the GRA consultation results, and the document draft.

8

Analysis of consultations: A meeting was conducted with focal points and the leadership team where the focal point reviewed the main results for each consultation meeting and summarise all the action points. The results of the consultations meeting were organized into a matrix.

9

Draft roadmap: Focal points created a draft of each priority area with clear policy recommendations/actions. The draft was shared with the thought membership group via email to collect feedback and revisions.

10

Validation meetings & revisions: The GRA draft was presented to all GRA thought members and the advisory group members to review the roadmap and collect additional feedback via email. The leadership team addressed all comments from members and advisory group members to finalize draft.



3. PRIORITY AREAS



PRIORITY AREAS



I. Youth Identities



II. Meaningful adolescent and youth engagement and partnerships



III. Youth Leadership & Decision-Making



IV. Data, Monitoring, and Reporting



V. AYSRHR-J Financing

01.

PRIORITY I YOUTH IDENTITIES

Globally, youth and adolescent issues and needs are conspicuously gendered, raced, and classed, requiring a contextual, specific intervention response to their health and development. Therefore, it is pertinent to employ contextualised and relational understanding of young people's identities that adequately highlight crucial components such as gender inequalities, disabilities, and LGBTQIA+. Recognition of these identities is necessary if youth-centered interventions in sexual reproductive health and rights are effective and holistic.

VISION

A world where youth and adolescents, in all their differences and without any discrimination, are socially and economically empowered and strong and have access to SRH information, products, and services. A just, equitable, and sustainable AYSRHR-J field in which every youth, including LGBTIQ+ youth and youth with disabilities, enjoy the right to a life of dignity worldwide.

GAPS & CHALLENGES

The ways in which young people's gender and sexuality overlap within the contextual and institutional level call for the need to identify gaps (both existing and emerging ones):

- Lack of implementation and transparency of current policies that encourage social inclusion and a lack of accountability mechanisms to governance policies.
- Lack of knowledge, investment, and training on social inclusion (ex., disability mainstreaming)
- Lack of political and decision-making representation, such as fewer women, sexual and gender minorities, and those with disabilities at the table. Lack of representation results in a lack of policy-making from a gendered and intersectional lens.
- Lack of incorporation of SRHR-J education in the curriculum that educates communities about sexual minorities.
- Stigma, stereotyping, and patriarchal mindset of LGBTQIA+ and other youth identities in communities and policies, including negative connotations socially to feminism.

1. Dialogue & exchange as social justice collectives often work in silos due to resourcing and capacity limitations. Progressive-minded groups need more space and dialogue opportunities to learn and exchange with each other. This includes convenings to discuss alternatives and solutions to anti-LGBTIQ+ activities and space to strategies for the long-term rather than just reacting to specific episodes. It is essential to build the resilience of LGBTQIA+ and feminist civil society both in contexts affected and not yet affected by anti-LGBTQIA+ actors.
2. Follow a rights-based approach in legislation and SRHR-J programming, making it clear that any adolescent – no matter their status, orientation, or background – has a right to access SRH services and information. This includes promoting SRHR-J policies that improve access to family planning services as preventive action.
3. Engagement of the movable middle. There is consensus among all stakeholder groups engaged in the dialogues that we must work with the "movable middle." This term refers to a section of the population that can either be in favor of or against LGBTQIA+ rights and gender justice issues but at the same time feel resistance or hesitation. The "movable middle" can become new allies, champions, or opposition to the cause. Civil society organizations should define who can be categorized as an ally and develop a list of institutional partners. Similarly, they should identify the "movable middle" within global, regional, and national institutions and contexts. Civil society should continuously map the "movable middle" to sensitize them in each country and region.

4. Strengthen civil society responses. Fundamental limitations of LGBTQIA+, gender equity, and other movements stem from the lack of long-term funding and concerns about organizational capacities. Criminalization of LGBTQIA+ individuals and movements, and challenges with local organizing and leadership. There are issues due to funding competition or lack of skills among staff and individuals. Resources are vital to enable organizations and movements to strengthen internal capacities. This way, they can function effectively and counter anti-LGBTQIA+ attacks while also planning long-term strategies -an often neglected activity due to capacity limitations.

5. Prioritize strategies that educate and raise awareness among parents and communities to prevent stigmatization, prejudice, and denial of health services to adolescents with disabilities or those who are HIV-positive, who engage in sex work, who are out of school, who inject drugs, who belong to the LGBTQIA+ community or who are associated with other sexual minority groups.

6. Positive narrative change & strategic communications: The language and messaging used to communicate with external actors need to be simplified, made relatable to people, portrayed in a positive tone, and feature values-based narratives. It is crucial to strengthen internal solidarity within the LGBTQIA+ movement, address societal polarization, and unite people around shared values. Organizations must be equipped to gain new skills and engage in strategic communications, storytelling, and activism, embracing new media and marketing technologies.



01.

PRIORITY II

MEANINGFUL ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Adolescents and young people are not only beneficiaries of SHRHR-J interventions, programs, policies, laws, and projects; they are also key actors who have played an essential role over the years in shaping actions to improve their health and wellbeing based on their needs, priorities, and lived experiences. Therefore, adolescent and youth partnerships should be equitable, mutually respectful, and beneficial relationships that allow stakeholders to work together and make complementary contributions to processes that lead to achieving a shared AYSRHR-J vision.

VISION

A world in which equitable, mutually respectful, and beneficial youth partnerships are the norm and the SRHR field is transformed from one that exists for youth to one that exists in partnership with youth for achieving a shared AYSRHR-J vision. Young people are willfully engaged and can also hold decision-makers accountable for the commitments made toward sustainable development through increased capacity, access, and agency.

CAPS & CHALLENGES

Although youth participation in AYSRHR-J is becoming increasingly evident, they are rarely involved in decision-making by policy and other decision-making avenues. Several barriers still exist that prevent young people from having an equitable seat at the decision-making table:

- Sexual and reproductive health care still discriminates against adolescents and youth in many countries. Young people often do not have access to the opportunities to participate fully in leadership positions in these spaces. Professional opportunities for youth in the SRHR-J field remain a privilege, and an age-bounded timeframe makes becoming older a time bomb to leave the field.
- The education of young people, especially girls, remains a challenge in developing countries. In addition, youth often have low economic power and minimal access to resources.

- There needs to be an enabling environment for youth to thrive in their roles, including a lack of resources and capacity to strengthen young people's abilities, support their activities, and compensate for their time. More is needed to bring adolescents and young people into the SRHR-J field (quantity), the spaces can be hostile for young people, and issues such as ageism, stigma, and tokenism remain (quality).
- Young people and youth-led organizations are not seen as experts or treated as equal partners when involved in decision-making processes. This treatment results in inadequate payment for their time, work, and expertise. Youth are often tokenized when represented and lack true equal power.
- Adolescents and young people involved in the SRHR-J decision-making are usually unrepresentative of underserved communities regarding geography, economic position, and education.
- There need to be more shared definitions, indicators, and benchmarks for what success looks like for youth partnership, which leads to informality and insufficient information to build the case of how young people are crucial for the SRHR-J field development.

Youth partnerships in SRHR-J are an evolving priority, and the effort requires cross-stakeholder collaboration, willingness to learn and unlearn, and resources to implement emerging solutions. Existing solutions and resources to the challenges around youth partnerships to engage with include:

- Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement Consensus statement (see Appendix I)
- 120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders network (see Appendix I)

- We Trust You(th) Initiative (see Appendix I)
- YIELD Project (see Appendix I)
- international organizations such as UN agencies and multisectoral partnerships such as PMNCH and other technical and financial partners are increasingly encouraging the participation and leadership of youth and girls.
- Platforms such as PMNCH's 1.8 billion young people for change campaign and the Global Forum for Adolescents for young people to raise their voices and share their perspectives at global, regional and national levels (see Appendix I)

1. Actively consider and recruit youth from different identities (gender identity, ethnicity, economic, education, sexual orientation, etc.) and ensure representation in decision-making.
2. Create a safe space for youth to participate and integrate into SRHR-J programs and train adults to better collaborate with young people, including safeguarding practices and rights-based approaches. This includes the creation of balanced power relations between adults and youth in participation for the inclusion and respect of youth voices in partnerships and decision-making at all levels and establishing mechanisms to guarantee it. Creating this space will often require changing adult behavior and institutional cultures, addressing structures that constrain adolescents in decision-making across all sectors.

3. Compensate young people's time through capacity building, professional development opportunities, and financial support. Provide financial and technical support to adolescents and youth working to build networks and organizations to defend their human rights. Technical support can include hosting training for young people about advocacy, management, empowering capacity building, managing funds, and fundraising. Youth Identities (gender inequalities, LGBTQIA+, disabilities, etc.)

5. Offer options for youth to "age up" into other positions within organizations and in the same topics and not "age out" of the SRHR-J field and move on to other areas because of lack of opportunities as older adults, and allow for appropriate handover processes and professional

6. Bring together governments, civil society, donors, the private sector, and youth organizations to increase investment in a systems-based approach to foster the mainstreaming of inclusive youth participation across the SRHR-J ecosystem. Strengthen coordination and collaboration among young people in multiple sectors (e.g., youth, gender, health, education, and HIV/AIDS) with stakeholders.

01.

PRIORITY III

PROGRESSIVE

POLICIES

A world in which AYSRHR-J policies address and are responsive to the diverse youth needs and identities to catalyze the social and political changes necessary to ensure their reproductive health needs are met.

- Sexual and reproductive health care still discriminates against adolescents and youth in many countries.
- Youth are not included in the policy and program development, and more data on youth participation in decision-making groups needs to be collected.
- Weak political will for SRHR-J in many countries.

1. Bring together governments, civil society, donors, the private sector, and youth organizations to develop policies.

2. Governments provide information and transparency about young people's role in policy development, including updated data on youth participation in decision-making.
3. Incorporate young people's participatory rights as a critical element in addressing their SRHR-J needs and establishing a supportive policy environment for youth involvement in SRHR-J policy-making. Recognize young people as key stakeholders in decision-making through voting rights in SRHR-J policy-making, broad participation, and respect for their perspectives. Prioritize and visualize youth involvement and leadership in sexual reproductive health and rights decision-making.
4. Bring youth and youth-led organizations into policy-making and development processes. Bringing youth into the policy-making decision can be achieved through:
 - a. Supporting the shaping of youth voices at global and national for SRHR-J policy-making and implementing laws and policies.
 - b. Acting in solidarity with youth, including challenging cultural views around young people's restricted roles and status, will help achieve the ambitious goal of young people's active and meaningful participation in SRHR-J policy-making.
 - c. Supporting networks of youth advocates to attend, speak and lead international and regional forums.
 - d. Inviting and integrating active youth participation in international fora where issues affecting them are discussed.

01.

PRIORITY IV

DATA, MONITORING & REPORTING

A world in which comprehensive and transparent data on adolescents and youth, including disaggregation by age and gender and inclusion of diverse youth identities, is available for decision-making.

- Lack of comprehensive and accurate data on AYSRHR-J, including the lack of age-aggregated data on issues such as adolescent and youth-performed abortions and maternal mortality rates and commodity uptake of RH/FP commodities.
- Lack of youth-driven research agenda on AYSRHR-J
- Lack of data about young people's needs for information and services respecting their perspectives.
- Lack of harmonized data between existing information systems with a Down-Up approach.

- FP2030 Motion Tracker (see Appendix I)
- Knowledge Success platforms (see Appendix I)

1. Everyone: Create accurate and accessible data on AYSRHR-J collaboratively between governments, higher educational institutions, and global and local organizations in a harmonized SRHR-J information data management. Harmonization can be achieved by establishing a monitoring, evaluation, and governance system to maintain accountability.
2. Increase investment in research to understand youth's needs, priorities, and concerns. This investment includes intensive research to ensure that advocacy is evidence-based and best practice, studies to evaluate issues from a gendered perspective to support gender-informed policies, and the translations of research to policies. This investment should also include disseminating best practices from a program or project implementation in open-access scientific or journalistic channels, making information and data accessible.
3. Engage youth in data generation and AYSRHR-J research agenda setting
4. Ensure the processing and availability of disaggregated data, including disaggregations by different age ranges, gender identities, and priority groups
5. Generate evidence of the intersection with other barriers (i.e., LGBTQIA+ living in poverty), and raise the visibility of new evidence to changes in policy
6. Track the impact of young people in the SRHR-J field by implementing shared definitions, indicators, and benchmarks in strategies, M&E plans, and work plans throughout both organizations and governments.

01.

PRIORITY V AYSRHR-J FINANCING

Despite the substantial benefits of investing in SRHR-J, more financial resources are needed to progress. In addition, financial resources are required to address AYSRHR-J's unmet needs.

VISION

A world where financial resources and technical support supplied by the donor community, the private sector, and the government reach a diverse group and directly impact young people equitably and effectively to address AYSRHR-J's unmet needs.

GAPS & CHALLENGES

- The trend in donor funding practices and priorities for AYSRHR-J needs to be clarified.
- Lack of meaningful donor commitments for additional funding
- Donors' requirements on funding limit youth-led organizations' ability to access funding to implement activities
- Local organizations compete with national and international organizations for the same funding and lack local projects at the country level.
- Small budgets are allocated for issues such as HIV/AIDS activities at higher education institutions.
- Limited/no funding for unregistered youth-led organizations/ or those whose work is controversial to government priorities. For instance, those working for LGBTQI+ rights remain unregistered due to government restrictions.
- Little or no government ownership for the reproductive health/family planning annual budgets towards the AYSRHR-J.

Donors

1. Donors should include SRHR-J as an integral part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) efforts and protect health investments vis-à-vis other emerging priorities. *As part of their investments to help* countries to reach UHC, donors need to include SRHR-J explicitly. Donors should work with governments to ensure that everyone has access to an essential package of health interventions to achieve UHC, many of which are SRHRJ-related interventions. The mantra should be "there is no UHC without SRHRJ." In addition, donors should better integrate and more efficiently use their resources across HIV and SRHRJ.

2. Ensure there are transparent and equitable criteria for funding youth-led organizations and projects and invest in supporting youth-led organization stewardship of funds. Current donor funding practices often hinder these organizations during the application process due to the youth organization's lack of solid structure, registration, and bookkeeping compared to more prominent international organizations. Donors should invest the time and resources needed to support more accessible access to grants and other funding opportunities for these local youth-led organizations

Government & Donors

3. Donors and governments should be clear about their financial commitments to AYSRHR-J. When announcing commitments to AYSRHR-J, donors should be fully transparent as to what extent the pledges are and how they relate to their previous commitments. In addition, to improve accountability and transparency, donors should be clear as to whether their commitments are actually new and additional and how they relate to their prior commitments.

4. Governments and political leadership must strengthen their support of AYSRHR-J at the country level. For donor and domestic investments in AYSRHR-J to be effective, there must be a solid national political commitment to discuss AYSRH-J issues openly. This commitment is necessary to advocate for funding comprehensive, evidence-based AYSRHR-J interventions. In addition, political leaders can raise awareness among their governments about the high cost-effectiveness of investing in health and AYSRHR-J and the significant health, social, and economic returns that could result from increased domestic spending on AYSRHR-J.

5. Countries explicitly prioritize health, including AYSRHR-J, in their domestic budgets. In addition, countries need to reduce spending inefficiencies to avoid wasting resources for health.



4. LOOKING FORWARD

NEXT STEPS

Young people, governments, and partners at all levels must commit to implementing this Roadmap with the support of donors, INGOs, the private sector, and youth-led organizations. Adolescents and youth have the right to comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare, and all stakeholders must ensure they receive the support and services they need. The time for inaction on adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights is over. Instead, we must work together to implement this Roadmap and create a world where all young people can lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Despite progress in recent years, adolescents and youth still face disproportionate barriers to accessing sexual education, contraception, and comprehensive healthcare services. This Roadmap outlines specific recommendations and strategies to address these challenges, including greater investment in comprehensive sexuality education; removing legal barriers to accessing contraception; addressing gender-based violence; promoting sexual diversity, and increasing youth participation in decision-making processes.

This Roadmap provides the youth-said vision of where we would like to go in AYSRHR-J. The "how" will be determined by the young people and local contexts in partnerships with governments, donors, INGOs, and the private sector. Stakeholders across AYSRHR-J have a role to play in implementing the GRA.



JOIN US

INVEST IN US



JOIN

YOUTH & YOUTH-LED ORGANIZATIONS

- We invite youth and youth-led organizations to join us in creating a coalition of youth-led organizations charged with maintaining, implementing, and evaluating the GRA. Youth-led initiatives joining this initiative have the unique opportunity to utilize the GRA as an advocacy tool in their campaigns and hold your governments accountable for their commitments to AYSRHR-J. Together, we can create a world where all young people can access comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare and exercise their rights fully.
- Youth-led initiatives joining this initiative have the unique opportunity to utilize the Global Roadmap for Action as an advocacy tool in their campaigns and hold your governments accountable for their commitments to AYSRHR-J. Together, we can create a world where all young people can access comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare and exercise their rights fully.

Join us [here](#)

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DONORS, DECISION- MAKERS, & PARTNERS:

1. Invest in the GRA: As the GRA evolves and grows, we expect that donors and decision-makers invest in the structure of the GRA, including the creation and support of accountability and evaluation mechanisms and resources, the maintenance of advisory group and coalition of youth led-organizations, and funding mechanisms for GRA activities globally and locally. Donors, policymakers, and partners can join the GRA advisory group to contribute to the development and implementation of the GRA. The advisory group will work with the GRA youth-led organizations to provide their feedback, recommendations, and review of GRA priorities and implementation.

Donors and policymakers can indicate their interest in supporting and investing in the GRA [here](#)

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DONORS, DECISION- MAKERS, & PARTNERS:

- Bring youth to the table in decision-making & funding. Invest in youth voices and youth-led organizations. The GRA recommendations provide a range of input and resources on how to do this effectively.
- Implement recommendations outlined in the GRA to ensure youth-led and youth-said priorities are centered. Recommendations on implementing:
 - Integrating the GRA with other international commitments, such as the ICFP actions, is essential. To start, we recommend that decision-makers work with youth in their countries or regions to identify their top 3 priority actions they want to commit. Commitments should be made in partnership with youth.

Donors, policymakers, and partners can submit their GRA commitments [here](#)



5. CONCLUSION

The AYSRHR GRA presents a comprehensive plan for governments, donors, INGOs, and youth-led organizations to prioritize young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Despite progress in recent years, adolescents and youth still face disproportionate barriers to accessing sexual education, contraception, and comprehensive healthcare services. This Roadmap outlines specific recommendations and strategies to address these challenges, including greater investment in comprehensive sexuality education; removing legal barriers to accessing contraception; addressing gender-based violence; promoting sexual diversity, and increasing youth participation in decision-making processes.

Partnerships

Meaningful youth engagement is crucial in designing and implementing sexual and reproductive health programs and policies. Young people must have a seat at the table as respected equal partners in decision-making, and advocacy efforts must amplify youth voices. Active youth participation means the rejection of tokenism participation and engagement.

Resources

National, regional, and global Implementation of the GRA must prioritize domestic resource mobilization and youth engagement. Adequate funding for sexual and reproductive health programs must come from a country's budget rather than relying on external donor support. AYSRHR-J financing ensures long-term sustainability and allows for greater ownership and buy-in from national governments.



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Contact

Contact the GRA team for general information: aysrh.gpa@gmail.com

Social Media Pages:

Twitter: [@letthemknow_gra](https://twitter.com/letthemknow_gra)

Instagram: [@letthemknow_gra](https://www.instagram.com/letthemknow_gra)

Facebook: [@letthemknow_gra](https://www.facebook.com/letthemknow_gra)



APPENDIX I:

EXISTING SOLUTIONS & RESOURCES

Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement Consensus statement:

<http://meaningfulyouthengagement.org/home/global-consensus-statement-story/>

120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders network: <https://www.120under40.org/about-us/>

We Trust You(th) Initiative: <https://www.wetrustyouth.org/>

YIELD Project: <https://yieldhub.global/resources/yield-full-report/>

PMNCH's 1.8 billion young people for change campaign and the Global Forum for Adolescents: <https://pmnch.who.int/>

FP2030 Motion Tracker: <https://www.motiontracker.org/about-motion-tracker>

Knowledge Success platforms: <https://knowledgesuccess.org/>