Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement and Partnership in Sexual and Reproductive Health Programming: A Strategic Planning Guide

September 15, 2022

Sylvia Wong, UNFPA

Sylvia Wong is Innovation Coordinator at UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. She led and managed innovation initiatives, global challenges, and partnerships to source, implement, and scale-up new solutions that leverage digital and frontier tech, human-centered design, and data, with and for women, girls, and young people. As UNFPA Technical Specialist (Adolescents and Youth), she provided technical support on evidence-based programming, capacity building, and policy engagement to country teams and partners on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, child marriage, education and life skills, youth development, leadership and participation, in partnership with youth-led organizations and networks. She has joint Masters’ degrees in Public Health and International Affairs from Columbia University in New York.
Today’s Agenda

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Before we Begin

- Webinar will be recorded
- Visit our website: fphighimpactpractices.org
- Submit your questions anytime
- Download the handouts
**What are the High Impact Practices (HIPs)?**

- Evidence-based family planning practices
- Vetted by experts against specific criteria
- Documented in an easy-to-use format

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**HIP Categories**

HIP briefs are grouped into three primary categories:

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<th>Service Delivery</th>
<th>Social and Behavioral Change</th>
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<td>Address systemic barriers that affect an individual’s ability to access family planning information &amp; services.</td>
<td>Improve the availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of family planning services.</td>
<td>Influence knowledge, beliefs, behaviors, and social norms associated with family planning.</td>
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**Enhancements**

Approaches used in conjunction with HIPs to maximize the impact of HIP implementation or increase the reach.
HIP Briefs define the **practice** and summarize evidence of **impact** and experiential learning from implementing.
Today’s Panelists

Amy Uccello
USAID

Alan Jarandilla
IYAFP

Esi Asare Prah
MSIchoices Ghana

Amy Uccello, USAID

Amy is the Senior Youth and Reproductive Health Technical Advisor at USAID’s Office of Population and Reproductive Health. Amy Uccello has over 22 years of international development experience. Her technical expertise as a family planning specialist, centers on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (AYSRHR), adolescent development, cross-sectoral youth programming, and meaningful adolescent and youth engagement (MAYE). Her passion for AYSRHR is most evident when building local capacity, supporting youth leadership, and sharing global best practice through facilitation and training. Ms. Uccello supports a global portfolio of youth programs, offering technical guidance in AYSRHR demand generation, service delivery, and quality of care. Ms. Uccello earned her MA in International Development and Gender from American University’s School of International Service.
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HIP Guidance

High Impact Practice Briefs

The HIP briefs document evidence-based family planning practices, vetted by experts and documented in an easy-to-use format.

Other HIP Products

Planning Guides

The planning guides outline a strategic process to identify the most effective and efficient investments to address in a program.

Webinars

The HIP webinar series features presentations on HIP practices being implemented across the globe.

Papers

To complement other HIP materials, papers have been developed to discuss sustainability and equity of the HIPs.
1. MAYE is no longer “nice to have”
USAID’S UPDATED YOUTH POLICY IS SUPPORTING YOUTH AS EMERGING LEADERS AND VITAL PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL LEVEL.

2. It is time to deepen and strengthen our efforts in MAYE
Shifting power dynamics

One-off involvement ➔ Decision-making power
Youth as participants ➔ Youth as partners
Common suspects ➔ Representative youth

Will take:
- Commitment (changes to organizational structure/culture)
- Capacity Building (with committed resources)
- Patience with new approaches

* Challenge to donors as well

USAID’S UPDATED YOUTH POLICY PROMOTES INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT.

WE CAN DO MORE TO BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL YOUTH GROUPS.
3. MAYE is not only for youth projects & programs

What’s missing?

“Meaningful adolescent and youth engagement and partnership is a right for adolescents and youth and can improve the quality and responsiveness of sexual and reproductive health programs and policies, in turn leading to improved development outcomes.” (MAYE SPG)
Categories of Youth Projects

YOUTH-FOCUSED: An activity in which youth are the primary program participants.

YOUTH-RELEVANT: An activity that includes youth within its targeted participants or beneficiaries or has a youth-specific component.

*(NEW) YOUTH-LED: An activity which has youth leadership guiding its implementation, management, and design.

Thank You
Alan Jarandilla, IYAFP

Alan Jarandilla Nuñez is a lawyer and human rights defender from Bolivia. Alan is the Executive Director of the International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFP), a global youth-led organization working to advance the Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice (SRHRJ) for young people and promote meaningful adolescent and youth engagement in projects, programs, interventions, and decision-making processes. Alan has over ten years of experience advocating for SRHRJ in different decision-making processes. He is a vocal advocate for human rights, and meaningful youth engagement and partnerships at different levels.

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Co-author team:
- Alan Jarandilla Nuñez (IYAFP)
- Meroji Sebany (Save the Children/MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership)
- Fila Magnus (IYAFP)
- Callie Simon (Save the Children/MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership)
- Lara Estepheap (IYAFP)
Purpose

• Facilitate meaningful, equitable engagement and partnership with adolescents, youth, and/or youth-led organizations on sexual and reproductive health programs and initiatives.

Process

• Scanned peer-reviewed and gray literature

• Conducted virtual consultations with 30 adolescents and youth + 12 representatives from donor, youth-serving and youth-led organizations
“Meaningful adolescent and youth engagement is an inclusive, intentional, mutually-respectful partnership between adolescents, youth, and adults whereby power is shared, respective contributions are valued, and young people’s ideas, perspectives, skills, and strengths are integrated into the design and delivery of programs, strategies, policies, funding mechanisms, and organizations that affect their lives and their communities, countries, and world.”

- Global Consensus Statement on Meaningful Youth Engagement

Rationale: Why engage and partner with adolescents and youth?

• It is a right.
• Promotes positive youth development.
• Improves the quality and responsiveness of sexual and reproductive health programs, services and policies.
5 steps to meaningfully engage and partner with adolescents and youth

1. Prepare your institution, project, or initiative to meaningfully engage and partner with youth

2. Determine which youth to engage and the mechanisms of engagement and partnership

3. Implement the engagement and partnership with youth

4. Monitor, measure and be accountable

5. Sustain youth engagement and partnership

Steps 1-2

Prepare your institution, project, or initiative to meaningfully engage and partner with youth

- Conduct internal assessment
- Create an action plan for needed changes

Determine which youth to engage and the mechanisms of engagement and partnership

- Identify which youth to engage
- Co-create scope and establish structure of engagement and partnership with youth
Ways to engage and partner with adolescents and youth

- Youth lead sexual and reproductive health research design, data analysis, and dissemination.
- Youth-lead organizations funded to lead specific activities and initiatives.
- Youth lead advocacy and social accountability.
- Youth serve in decision-making structures.
- Youth co-create organization mission statements and strategic plans.
- Youth participate in national budgeting processes.

Steps 3

Implement the engagement and partnership with youth

- Formalize the process
- Compensate youth fairly
- Provide ongoing support
- Ensure continuous trust-building and learning
Steps 4-5

Monitor, measure and be accountable

- Measure and evaluate the process, quality, and effectiveness
- Co-create and implement accountability strategies

Sustain youth engagement and partnership

- Plan for and create opportunities for long-term relationships

How can you use the SPG today?

- Conduct an internal assessment to determine readiness
- Review and update policies, systems, and processes
- Improve the level and quality of youth partnership
- Use in conjunction with other HIP briefs and Strategic Planning Guides
THANK YOU

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Esi Asare Prah, MSIchoices Ghana

Esi Asare Prah is a Ghanaian feminist with especial interest in Health Policy and Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights. She currently works as the Advocacy and Donor Relations Manager at MSI Ghana, where she leads all advocacy projects, develop/strengthen Strategic internal and external relations with key stakeholders, donors, state institutions and civil society partners, generate, facilitate transfer of knowledge/learnings and oversee the delivery of gender and youth responsive interventions. Esi is a ICFP2022 Youth Trailblazer and member of the IBP Track Program Implementation Subcommittee.
THE NEED

Almost 50% of Ghana’s population is <20 yrs old.

Approx 70% sexually active by age 20.

17% and 32% modern contraception among married and unmarried girls 15 – 19yrs res.

57% unmet need for contraception >20yrs olds.

Low Adolescent reach by MSG channels.
THE RESPONSE

- Youth performance tracking
- SBCC engagements

Youth Advisory Board

- Responsive programming
- Material development
- Integrated YFS
- Advocacy
- Youth-led campaigns

Integrated Committee

- Activity-specific Planning committees
- Departmental Steering Committees

Partnerships with Youth Groups

- Youth-led CSOs
- Student body groups

KEY BUMPS ALONG THE WAY

- Inclusive participation
- Funding
Questions & Answers
Before we close

Presentation and Recording available here:

For more information, please visit:

• High Impact Practices: www.fphighimpactpractices.org

• Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People:

• Adolescent-Responsive Contraceptive Services:
  https://www.fphighimpactpractices.org/briefs/adolescent-responsive-contraceptive-services/
IBP Track Program Implementation

Nov. 12-13  Youth Preconference
Nov. 13     Two Pre-conferences on Program Implementation
Nov. 14     Opening Ceremony
Nov. 15-17  Program Implementation Sessions
  • Eight sessions focused on WHO Tools and High Impact Practices
  • Partnership with Eight Youth Trailblazers

Youth: https://icfp2022.org/youth-community/

Program Implementation: https://icfp2022.org/program-implementation/

Thank you for your participation today!