

An Introduction to

Youth for Health (Y4H)

Expanding Access to Life-Changing Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zambia

Youth for Health (Y4H) is a three-year initiative that will work to expand access to life-changing adolescent sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights (ASRHR), with a focus on reaching the poorest and most marginalised adolescent girls, including those with disabilities, in rural and hard-to-reach areas of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia. By unlocking demand and access and contributing towards changes in favour of supportive policies and funding environments, Youth for Health will increase and sustain access to ASRHR for girls and young women.

MSI Reproductive Choices has joined with seven partners, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Centre for the Study of Adolescence (CSA) Kenya, Health Alert Sierra Leone (HASiL), Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG), Sikika, Restless Development Zambia and Youth Network for Sustainable Development (YNSD) Ethiopia. Each partner brings a wealth of experience working with, and for, adolescents, including in youth-friendly services; youth-led accountability and participation in governance; youth leadership, especially of young women; youth mobilisation; and community engagement; as well as long-standing media and communication experience. Supported by MSI's global best practice and knowledge, partners will leverage their regional, national and sub-national geographical footprints, government relationships, mobiliser networks, knowledge and expertise to build capacity in the delivery of youth-friendly, discrimination-free SRHR information and services in the public sector.

Over three years, Y4H project will:

- Support **context-specific gender and social norm change interventions**, including:
 - ✓ building support for comprehensive sexuality education / reproductive health education in target countries
 - ✓ reach over **5 million** adolescent and young girls with SRH information, with a focus on the poorest and most marginalised, including adolescents with disabilities in rural and hard-to-reach areas.
- Support more **inclusive, client-centred, quality care** in the public sector, including:
 - ✓ Averting an estimated **215,000 unintended pregnancies**, including **25,150** amongst adolescent girls
 - ✓ reaching **5%** of clients who identify as being **disabled**.
- Contribute to a more enabling environment for the **respect, protection and fulfilment of ASRHR**, including:
 - ✓ **6%** increase in the domestic budget allocated for SRHR in target countries
 - ✓ **10** new and/or existing policies with enhanced reference to ASRHR, in particular on ASRHR and commodity security.



Key Outcome areas:

1. Increased demand for, and access to, high-quality, discrimination free ASRHR information and services.



Gender and social norm changes approaches will be implemented to ensure meaningful youth engagement in design and implementation and tailoring approaches to remove barriers to access at an individual, interpersonal, and community level. Y4H will also build the capacity to deliver comprehensive sex education in Kenya and Zambia, and reproductive health education in Ghana.

2. Increased public sector willingness and capacity to deliver and sustain high quality ASRHR information and services



MSI will lead in capacity building of public and community systems in the delivery of youth-friendly, discrimination-free ASRH information and services in all six countries. Partners will participate in joint facility assessments, conduct community scorecard exercises, as well as mobilising communities to support government-led outreach days.

3. Improved enabling policy and funding environment at regional, national, and sub-national level



Y4H partners, led by DSW, will collaborate to align policy asks and actions to work towards a supportive policy environment for ASRHR, including increasing the availability of quality commodities in the public sector and advocacy for domestic resource mobilisation. In all six countries, the consortium will leverage insights and evidence generated by the project to advocate for increased quality SRH commodities and policy changes in support of ASRHR.

Regional engagement

The Y4H consortium will work collaboratively with key partners and target regional bodies to strengthen the development and implementation of regional policies on adolescent SRH. Y4H will create momentum for the East African Community (EAC) to adopt a strong SRHR bill in line with international and African Union (AU) commitments, such as the AU Maputo Protocol.

At the AU level, the project will strengthen accountability mechanisms and develop and implement policy frameworks related to international commitments, such as,

- The Beijing Platform of Action
- The International Conference on Population and Development and their review conferences
- Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 5.



Y4H Partners

- MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI), all countries
- Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Global and Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania
- Youth Network for Sustainable Development (YNSD), Ethiopia
- Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG), Ghana
- Centre for Study of Adolescence, Kenya (CSA)
- Health Alert Sierra Leone (HASIL), Sierra Leone
- Sikika, Tanzania
- Restless Development, Zambia

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