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Links & Tools

This section links you to useful YRH policy sites worldwide and to related policy and advocacy documents, case studies, and tools.

- Best of the Web: Our Favorites

- Organizations: Who is working on YRH policy

- Tools for YRH policymaking: Some are YRH-specific, others more general that you can adapt

- Case studies: YRH policymaking experiences from around the world

- Key papers, reports, and articles: Essential reading on policy and on YRH

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Links

Best of the Web

- [HIV/AIDS Policy Compendium Database](#)
  Contains over 3,400 annotated citations from policy papers from over 50 countries.

- [International Council on National Youth Policy](#)
  ICNYP is an international nongovernmental organization dedicated to the promotion and development of the national youth policy concepts and processes.

- [International Digest of Health Legislation](#)
  Contains a database of national and international health legislation, including on reproductive health and related topics.

- [UNESCO Asia and Pacific Region](#)
  Includes an analysis of YRH policies and advocacy strategies. Provides verbatim text from important YRH country policy documents, and country analysis.

- [United Nations Programme on Youth](#)
  Contains a wealth of information on youth issues, including on policy formulation and implementation.

Organizations and Projects

- [Advance Africa](#)

- [Advocates for Youth](#)

- [Africa Alive](#)

- [African Child Policy Forum](#)

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- African Youth Alliance

- Alan Guttmacher Institute

- Center for Reproductive Rights

- Interagency Youth Working Group

- INFO Project

- International Council on Management of Population Programmes (ICOMP)

- Health Policy Initiative

- Population Council

- Think Tank Initiative

- YouthForce

- YouthNet

Bilateral Donor Agencies

- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

- German Technical Assistance Agency (GTZ)

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
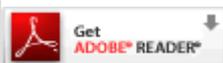
- US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Private Foundations

- Ford

- Hewlett

- MacArthur

- Packard

- Rockeller

- UN Foundation

United Nations Agencies

- UNAIDS

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- World Bank

- World Health Organization (WHO)

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Tools for Policymaking

Several tools exist to guide the YRH policymaking process. While some of these tools are specific to YRH, others are more general but can be adapted for YRH purposes.

Advocacy Kit for Adolescent Reproductive Health (1034kb) (Advocates for Youth, n.d.). This Advocacy Kit contains information on the basic components of an advocacy campaign. Specific sections address working in groups to achieve your goals (Coalition Building in Community Education and Advocacy), promoting your goals to the public (Education and Media Campaigns) and influencing the legislative process in your favor (Lobbying: the Art of Persuasion). It also includes a list of organizations concerned with adolescent reproductive and sexual health, sample press materials, information for addressing criticism and opposition, a sample needs assessment and other materials about specific adolescent health issues.

Advocating for Adolescent Reproductive Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (405kb) (Advocates for Youth and UNFPA, 2005). This advocacy kit is designed to help young advocates develop their skills. It describes some of the steps in organizing campaigns and provides information on developing, implementing, and evaluating a successful advocacy strategy. The toolkit provides examples of advocacy efforts by looking closely at the strategies and activities of reproductive health advocates in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. These examples can provide guidance, stimulate ideas, and generate new contacts among fellow youth activities from around the world.

Advocating for Adolescent Reproductive Health in Sub-Saharan Africa (477kb) (Advocates and Youth, 1998). This advocacy kit is designed to help advocates in Africa develop the skills to advocate for young people's reproductive health education and care. It describes some of the steps and provides some examples in organizing campaigns and provides information on developing, implementing, and evaluating a successful advocacy strategy.

Conceptual Framework for Evaluating Adolescent Reproductive Health Policies and Programs Design. Case Studies from Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Togo (156kb) (A.-E. Calves, 2002). This framework is designed to facilitate the assessment of ARH policy and program development by describing the components of good ARH policies and programs. The results of this assessment can help those working on ARH issues to identify the weaknesses in policies as articulated by national governments and programs as outlined in government documents. The tool presents major elements of ARH policy and program development and sets benchmarks against which future policy and program development can be measured. It also compares ARH policy and program development in three Francophone African countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Togo.

Empowering Youth through National Policies: UNESCO's Contribution (480kb) (UNESCO, 2004). In response to several Member States' request for assistance in formulating and developing a national youth policy, this publication provides guidance to decisionmakers who wish to formulate a national youth policy and to evaluate and improve already existing youth policies and programs. It promotes active partnership with young people in developing and improving national youth policies.

Global Guidance Briefs on HIV interventions for young people (ILO, UNAIDS, WHO, and others, 2008). This package of seven Guidance Briefs, based on the latest global evidence, is intended to help United Nations Country Teams and UN Theme Groups on AIDS to provide guidance to their staff members as well as governments, development partners,

civil society and other implementing partners on the specific actions that need to be in place to respond effectively to HIV among young people.

- 1. Overview of HIV interventions for young people
- 2. HIV interventions for most-at-risk young people
- 3. HIV interventions for young people in humanitarian emergencies
- 4. Community-based HIV interventions for young people
- 5. HIV interventions for young people in the education sector
- 6. HIV interventions for young people in the workplace
- 7. HIV Interventions in the health sector for young people.

Growing Up Global: An Advocacy Kit on Youth Issues (PRB and Advocates for Youth, 2006). Based on data and conclusions from the National Academy of Sciences book *Growing Up Global: The Changing Transition to Adulthood in Developing Countries*, the kit provides a wealth of clear and concise data about economic, social, developmental, and health trends for youth—as well as proven policy steps for addressing those trends.

Guide to the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (1.7 MB PDF) (UN, 2006). This Guide focuses on what Governments can do to fulfill the vision enshrined in the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). It acknowledges a need for a new impetus to be given to the design and implementation of youth policies and programmes. Each section of the book briefly examines the concept of each priority area and how it is experienced by youth. It looks at mechanisms and specific policies that may enhance the political, cultural and socio-economic opportunities for youth. The recommendations and ideas contained in the book are inspired by analyses, case studies, lessons learned and good practices documented by a wide range of sources. While some of the recommendations contained in this Guide may be considered "quick wins", others can only be implemented effectively with long-term commitment and recognition by Governments.

Indicators of a (National) Youth Policy (2002, European Youth Forum, 5pp). This document presents 11 indicators for what should be seen as essential elements of a (national) youth policy. '11 Indicators of a (National) Youth Policy' should be perceived as a guiding tool for government officials in the youth field, as well as a lobbying instrument for youth NGOs advocating for a more proactive youth policy.

Keep the Promise: A Teaching Resource on Advocacy and HIV and AIDS(2.10MB) (Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, 2006). Aimed at young people aged 11 to 16, this Christian, faith-based guide builds skills to carry out letter-writing campaigns and encourages young people to advocate in their communities.

Making Commitments Matter: A Toolkit for Young People to Evaluate National Youth Policy (UN Economic and Social Affairs, 2005). The toolkit is intended for youth organizations and representatives working with youth who are able to assess national actions. It is meant as a way for youth organizations to initiate dialogue with their governments on the UN Program on Youth.

My Voice Counts! Campaigns for Youth's Reproductive and Sexual Health Advocacy and Organizing Toolkit (234kb) (Advocates for Youth, 2005). My Voice Counts! is a U.S. national campaign that is created by and for young people and demands their right to sexual health information and services. The campaign works to secure: (1) Improved access to emergency contraception including access without a doctor's prescription; (2) Comprehensive sex education in America's schools; (3) Realistic global HIV prevention programs; and (4) U.S. funding for international family planning. This tool provides guidance to youth activists in the field of sexual health in creating a coordinated movement to bring youth's reproductive and sexual health information and services to the forefront of the United States agenda.

Networking for Policy Change: An Advocacy Training Manual (POLICY Project, 1999). This manual aims to build capacity of advocates to develop effective reproductive health advocacy skills, as well as to develop and maintain advocacy networks. It includes (1) topics on networking, communications, and policy environments, and (2) exercises on conceptualizing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating advocacy campaigns.

NEWGEN (1663kb) (POLICY Project, 2002). The adolescent and young adult reproductive health "New Generation" Model, or NewGen, is a population-based projection model that can be used to illustrate the impacts of policies and programs aimed at improving the reproductive health of young people. NewGen's purpose is to generate information useful for policy awareness raising, goal setting, and planning. Although access to this tool is not restricted, it is intended that use of NewGen be supported with technical assistance in training new users and in conjunction with a process that involves relevant stakeholders in a particular country setting.

Policies on Adolescent Health and Development: A Guide for Policymakers (542kb) (World Health Organization, 2003). This booklet provides the rationale for investing in adolescents and presents guiding principles for adolescent health and development policies, various policy options, and elements of adolescent health and development policies.

Policy Circle (369 kb) (POLICY Project, 2004). This tool provides comprehensive guidance on the policymaking process. It can be used in any sector, including youth reproductive health. The paper describes a framework through which the components of policy development and implementation can be better understood and analyzed. The framework can also be used to analyze different levels of policy, including national and local policies, and sectoral and operational policies. Tools exist to analyze each component of the Policy Circle, which are included on a CD-Rom.

The Policy Environment Score: Measuring the Degree to Which the Policy Environment in Jamaica Supports Effective Policies and Programs for Reproductive Health: 2000 Follow-up Results (136kb) (POLICY Project, 2001). The Policy Environment Score (PES) is intended to measure the degree to which the policy environment in a particular country supports the reproductive health of the population, with particular focus on access to high-quality family planning and reproductive health services. It is designed to reflect both the level of support and changes that take place during one to three years as a result of policy activities.

The Policy Environment Score: Measuring the Degree to Which the Policy Environment in Jamaica Supports Effective Policies and Programs for Adolescent Reproductive Health: 2002 Round (147kb) (Youth.now and the POLICY Project, 2003). Prior to 2002, two rounds of the PES had been fielded in Jamaica, the first in 1999 and the second in 2000. This 2002 round of the PES, conducted jointly by Youth.now and the POLICY Project, focuses exclusively on adolescents.

Reproductive Rights of Adolescents: A Tool for Health and Empowerment(Center for Reproductive Rights, 2008, 25pp) This paper outlines the general framework of adolescents' reproductive and sexual rights. It focuses on sexuality education, access to confidential health care, child marriage and lack of educational opportunity, sexual violence, and female genital mutilation. The authors list recommendations about how governments, youth advocates, and health care providers can help ensure that adolescents have the ability to make and act on informed reproductive decisions.

Seminar on Youth Policy Development in South East Europe, Final Report (December 2008, 24 pages). This seminar, which was held between 22nd and 24th September 2008, in Belgrade was the second such event devoted to the development of youth policy in the region of South-East Europe organised by the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission and the SALTO SEE Resource Centre. It built upon the initial groundwork undertaken at the first seminar held at Trogir, Croatia in September 2007.
The stated aims of the seminar were summarised in the following terms:

- To share examples of good practice concerning youth policy development and/or implementation;
- To encourage dialogue about youth policy development and implementation among the main stakeholders in the youth field in the SEE region; and
- To identify the actions that should be taken at international level in order to develop youth policy in the SEE region.

Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women and Girls Living with HIV: Guidance for Program Managers, Health Workers and Activists (3.2 MB PDF) (EngenderHealth, 2008). While women and girls living with HIV should be able to exercise the same rights as everyone else—including to choose freely if and when to become pregnant—this is often not the case. Even in Brazil, which has one of the most progressive HIV programs in the world, yet where the face of HIV is increasingly female, women have faced a host of challenges. This report developed with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation draws on lessons learned in Brazil to offer guidance and recommendations for creating programs that protect and promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls living with HIV and AIDS.

Youth Policy here and now! (287kb, 2005, 43pp) The seminar "Youth Policy – Here and now", took place at the Swedish Institute in Alexandria, 11-14 September, 2005. It was organised by the Ministry of Youth in Egypt, the Council of Europe – through the Youth Partnership with the European Commission - and the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs and the Swedish Institute in Alexandria. This report is a summary of the different sessions and questions discussed during the seminar. The seminar was a contribution to the youth policy developments and initiatives in the participating countries, and served to:

- Exchange practices of youth policy definition, implementation and monitoring
- Debate and exchange on the role and functions of youth policy in a democratic society
- Identify forms of youth participation and its role in developing cohesive youth policies
- Initiate dialogue and cooperation among youth policy practitioners in European and Middle East/Mediterranean countries
- Take stock of recent developments and initiatives in Europe and the Middle East regarding youth policy development.

Youth Policy Formulation Manual (124kb) (ICYNP, n.d.). This manual was developed for countries in the Asia and Pacific region initiating the process of formulating national youth policies, and for those countries interested in reviewing and building upon previous formulation initiatives.

Case Studies

[Adolescent and Youth Policy: The Experiences of Colombia, Dominican Republic and Nicaragua](#) (547kb) (Jill Russell and Xavier Solórzano, 2001). This report describes highlights the social, economic, and political context surrounding policy formulation in each country as well as the key social actors involved. Also illustrated are the processes by which selected youth policies were developed and lessons learned, as derived through a process analysis and an examination of resulting policy frameworks, laws, policies, and infrastructures.

[Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health in Asia and the Near East: Status, Issues, Policies, and Programs](#) (415kb) (POLICY Project, 2003). This series of 13 country case studies includes discussion of legal and policy issues related to youth reproductive health, current in-country programs, and operational barriers.
Links to the case studies:

- [Bangladesh](#) (473kb)
- [Cambodia](#) (583kb)
- [Egypt](#) (399kb)
- [India](#) (435kb)
- [Indonesia](#) (1,310kb)
- [Jordan](#) (449kb)
- [Morocco](#) (594kb)
- [Nepal](#) (434kb)
- [Pakistan](#) (978kb)
- [Sri Lanka](#) (409kb)
- [Philippines](#) (493kb)
- [Viet Nam](#) (453kb)
- [Yemen](#) (470kb)

[Adolescent Reproductive Health in Indonesia: Contested Values and Policy Inaction](#) in *Studies in Family Planning* 40 (2): 133-146. This study examines the changing social and political context of adolescent sexual and reproductive health policy in Indonesia. We describe how, in 2001, Indonesia was on the brink of implementing an adolescent reproductive health policy that was consistent with international agreements to which the Indonesian government was a party. Although the health of young Indonesians was known to be at risk, the opportunity for reform passed quickly with the emergence of a new competing force, Middle Eastern fundamentalist Islam. Faced with the risk of regional separatism and competing politico-religious influences, the Indonesian government retreated to the safety of inaction in this area of policy. In the absence of a supportive and committed political environment that reinforces policy specifically targeted to young people's reproductive health, extremist approaches that involve considerable health risk prevailed. The sexual and reproductive values and behaviors that are emerging among single young people in contemporary Indonesia are conditioned by a political context that allows the conflicting forces of traditional Indonesian values, Westernization, and the strong emerging force of fundamentalist Islam to compete for the allegiance of young people.

[Assessment of Youth Reproductive Health Programs in Nicaragua](#) (Family Health International, YouthNet, 2003)A four-person team, including a YouthNet staff member, U.S.-based consultant, and two local consultants carried out the current assessment. During the two-week consultancy, the team contacted a wide range of individuals and organizations involved in adolescent reproductive health, including service-delivery, policy-making, advocacy and funding organizations. An overview of relevant laws and policies is included.

[Botswana: Review of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Laws, Policies, and Practices](#) (197kb) (African Youth Alliance, 2001)

[Formulating and Implementing National Youth Policy: Lessons Learned from Bolivia and the Dominican Republic](#) (James E. Rosen, 2001). This report describes the formulation and implementation of youth policies in Bolivia and the Dominican Republic and draws lessons that advocates for youth programs can apply in other countries. Both countries have approved comprehensive national policies that incorporate strong youth health components, including reproductive health.

[Ghana: Analysis of National Reproductive Health Policy](#) (148kb) (African Youth Alliance, 2003). Includes a focus on adolescents.

[In This Generation: Sexual & Reproductive Health Policies for a Youthful World](#) (Margaret E. Greene, Zohra Rasekh, and Kahli Ahset-Amen, 2002). Through case studies on Ghana, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Mail, Mexico, the Netherlands, and the United States, this report highlight successes, lessons learned, and key elements for understanding current policies targeting young people's reproductive health.

[Israeli National Youth Policy](#) (Chaim Lahav, Sept. 2008). In Israel, there is no national youth policy. No organization exists on a national level and which is responsible for a complete and integrated view which could coordinate the different services handling youth and youngsters. Over the last two decades, the experience in Israel mainly focused on creating a national policy for specific youth related issues. In Israel, similarly to other countries around the world, the youth services are scattered among a large number of government ministries. The large quantity of organizations dealing with the subject, with no national policy or at least some coordination mechanisms, can result in redundancies and a waste of resources in which shortage always exists as far as certain subjects and populations are concerned. Only recently (2007), did the Israeli government pass its first resolution as to getting a national program concerning children and youth at risk into operation.

[Options and Opportunities for Adolescents](#). The web site for this UNFPA project includes adolescent reproductive health policy reviews

- No. 1: Jamaica: Strengthening Multisectoral Coordination for Youth: This policy brief describes the efforts in Jamaica to strengthen multisectoral coordination on youth issues. A nationally inclusive process, led largely by young people from the National Centre for Youth Development, produced a revised national youth policy and drafted a national strategic plan for youth development.
- No. 2: Nigeria: Advocacy and Strategic Planning for Youth Reproductive Health in Edo State: This policy brief describes how a network of groups spanning government and civil society was formed and took the lead in strategic planning on youth reproductive health issues at the state level in Nigeria. The network carried out a situation assessment and drafted a strategic plan, recently approved by the government in Edo State.
- No. 3: Peru: Civil Society Key to Youth Policy Implementation
- No. 4: Egypt: Youth Champions Working for Policy Implementation
- No. 5: Uganda: Networking for Policy Change

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Papers, Reports, and Articles

Background Paper on the Fundamentals of a National Youth Policy (127kb) (International Council on National Youth Policy, 2001). This paper is meant to be used for advisory services to governments, nongovernmental and/or community-based organizations, and to provide capacity building for integrated and cross-sectoral national youth policies and programs of action.

Commitments: Youth Reproductive Health, the World Bank, and the Millennium Development Goals (332kb) (The Global Health Council, 2004). This report aims to further the case for youth reproductive health as essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also identifies the comparative advantage of the World Bank to reduce poverty and promote youth reproductive health. One of its recommendations is that the World Bank convenes and conducts a high-level policy dialogue in support of youth and the MDGs. It encourages the Bank to further its efforts to promote the meaningful participation of young people in policy dialogue, health reform and national poverty eradication planning.

Economic Strengthening for Vulnerable Children: Principles of Program Design and Technical Recommendations for Effective Field Interventions (AED, 2008, 70pp). The multi-faceted nature of child vulnerability–whether due to such epidemics as HIV/AIDS, conflict, natural disasters, extreme poverty, or a host of other contextual factors–is reflected in the wide spectrum of professional disciplines that have mobilized to address it. Among these, economic strengthening is gaining in importance and prominence, with few experts working to reduce child vulnerability in doubt that poverty is a major contributor to the challenges they face. This guide begins to fill the gap that may exist at the intersecton of the various disciplines.

Evidence Base for Programming for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in Low Prevalence and Concentrated Epidemic Countries (Quality Assurance Project, March 2008, 150p). The specific objectives of this study are to: 1) review, analyze, and document the situation of children affected by HIV/AIDS in low prevalence and concentrated epidemic settings related to health, nutrition, education, protection, placement, psychosocial and cognitive development as well as socioeconomic status and experiences with HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination; 2) review, analyze, and document evidence on interventions to support children affected by HIV and AIDS in low prevalence and concentrated HIV epidemic areas; 3) summarize the extent of the evidence base,; and 4) formulate and prioritize practical recommendations to strengthen the evidence base for programming on affected children.

Factors Influencing Transactional Sex Among Young Men and Women in 12 Sub-Saharan African Countries (155kb) (POLICY Project, 2004). To begin to protect young men and young women from the heightened risk of HIV, policymakers and program managers should gain a better understanding of transactional sex among youth. This study analyzes data from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) from 12 sub-Saharan African countries. It explores whether adolescent boys and girls are at higher risk for engaging in transactional sex than older men and women, and examines the relationship between young men and young women's individual socio-demographic characteristics and the probability that they will engage in the exchange of sex for money.

How young is "too young"? Comparative perspectives on adolescent sexual, marital, and reproductive transitions (by R. Dixon-Mueller in Studies in Family Planning (Special Issue on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Sub-Saharan Africa) 2008;39(4):247–62) This study suggests three criteria for assessing the extent to which the timing of sexual, marital, and reproductive transitions among male and female adolescents could be considered "too young": (1) the physiological maturation of

the body; (2) the cognitive capacity for making safe, informed, and voluntary decisions; and (3) institutionalized concepts of "old enough" for consent to sexual intercourse and marriage as reflected in legal frameworks and international standards. The author proposes expanding the age grouping of adolescence, from the customary 15–19, into three age categories — early adolescence (ages 10–14, or 10–11 and 12–14), middle adolescence (15–17), and late adolescence (18–19) — to better capture the age-specific variations in the trajectories of male and female sexual, marital, and reproductive events. … Policies and programs should focus on building capacity and creating an enabling environment for making safe and voluntary transitions among all age groups, but particularly among 10- to 14-year-olds, whose sexual and reproductive health and rights are at stake.

Implementing Adolescent Reproductive Rights Through the Convention on the Rights of the Child (249kb) (Center for Reproductive Rights, 1999). This short publication provides a framework for looking at the reproductive rights of adolescents and gives examples of best practices in policy making from around the world.

Importance of Choice and Definition for the Measurement of Child Poverty—the case of Vietnam in *Child Indicators Research* Online First 2009.(10.1007/s12187-008-9028-0) Increased attention to childrens' special position within poverty measurement resulted in the development of various child poverty approaches in the last decade. Analysis shows that their development processes involve a similar set of steps and decisions, predominantly taken in the same sequence. However, it also becomes apparent that many of these decisions are made implicitly rather than explicitly, resulting in unclear and non-transparent underlying constructs. Consequently, child poverty approaches often lack a solid and robust foundation and are misinterpreted and misunderstood when used for analytical and policy purposes. This paper distills a generic construction process from the analysis of existing child poverty approaches, presenting a tool for clear and transparent development of such approaches. It is then applied to the case of Vietnam.

Improving the Education Response to HIV and AIDS: Lessons of partner efforts in coordination, harmonisation, alignment, information sharing and monitoring in Jamaica, Kenya, Thailand and Zambia (810kb) (UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Education, 2008).This report synthesises case study exercises undertaken to examine the quality, effectiveness and coordination of the education sector's response to the HIV epidemic in four countries – Jamaica, Kenya, Thailand and Zambia. In each country, stakeholders assessed: critical achievements and gaps in the education sector response to HIV and AIDS; the evolution and effectiveness of coordination mechanisms and structures; progress toward harmonisation and alignment; information-sharing on HIV & AIDS and education; key resources for the response; and monitoring and evaluation. This report presents the overall findings from the study and makes recommendations for the UNAIDS Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Education and its partners to improve coordination in support of country level and global actions. Detailed information on the results for each country is included in appendices of this report.

Including Married Adolescents in Adolescent Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Policy (555kb)(Population Council, 2004). The paper gives an explanation for why married adolescents have so often been overlooked, and articulates the reasons why marriage, and particularly early marriage, might bring elevated risk of HIV. It discuss gaps in HIV/AIDS policies for married adolescents, the implications and provide initial analytic tools to assist policymakers in determining how to accord appropriate levels of priority to the marriage process and married adolescents in HIV/AIDS prevention efforts. The paper also offers a menu of potential policy interventions and actions to make married adolescents an integral part of reproductive health and HIV prevention initiatives.

International Human Right: Sexuality Education for Adolescents in Schools (Center for Reproductive Rights, 2008, 7pp) This document discusses governments' obligation under international human rights law to provide school-based sexuality education that is scientifically accurate and objective and free of prejudice and discrimination.

Investing in Young People's Health and Development: Research that Improves Policies and Programs (2-page overview of International Conference, April 2008). The conference was held in Abuja, Nigeria, and hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with its Nigeria partners, the Center for Population and Reproductive Health at the University of Ibadan and the Department of Community Health at Obafemi Awolowo University. At the conference, more than 160 experts shared the results of their research and program efforts on population, development, sexual and reproductive health, poverty reduction and gender equity issues as these affect young people. PowerPoint slides and abstracts from presentations at the conference, as well as poster abstracts, are available on this conference Web site.

Legislative and Policy Environment for Adolescent Health in Latin America and the Caribbean (1.19MB) (Rosalia Rodriguez-Garcia, Jill S. Russell, Matilde Maddaleno, and Mariana Kastrinakis, 1999). This document presents the results of the Adolescent Health Policy Project supported by the Adolescent Health Program of the Pan American Health Organization and by the George Washington University Center for International Health.

Meeting Young Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs in Nigeria (Guttmacher Institute , 2009, 24pp). This report focuses on the reproductive health status and needs of young women aged 15–19 in Nigeria, drawing mainly on findings from the Nigeria Demographic and Health Surveys of 1990 and 2003 and on unstructured interviews with key stakeholders in the

government and NGOs involved in promoting adolescent reproductive health in the country. It assesses the current status of and recent trends in the sexual and reproductive behaviors and health needs of these women. It also examines social and health policies and programs addressing such needs and highlights the gaps in policies and services that suggest priority areas for improving the implementation of adolescent sexual and reproductive health and development policies.

Policies for Orphans and Vulnerable Children: A Framework for Moving Ahead (1.01MB) (POLICY Project, 2003). This document summarizes the global OVC situation and identifies policy-level gaps in national responses to the growing crisis. Importantly, the report proposes a country-level OVC "policy package" and offers recommendations to guide future policy dialogue and action. Adopting laws that protect the rights of all children, encouraging multisectoral collaboration, placing a special emphasis on educational opportunities, and establishing systems to identify the most vulnerable children are all crucial aspects of a comprehensive OVC policy response.
Also available in French.(1.04MB)

Rapid Analysis of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) and HIV/AIDS-related Policies in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Uganda (535kb) (Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat for East, Central and Southern Africa, 2002). This report describes existing adolescent reproductive health and HIV/AIDS policies in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Uganda. Report findings are based on key informant interviews collected in the three countries, as well as research of strategic plans, guidelines, and analyses.

Reducing Adolescent Girls' Vulnerability to HIV Infection: Examining Microfinance and Sustainable Livelihood Approaches--A Literature and Program Review (USAID|Health Policy Inititative, July 2008). This literature and program review focused on the current and future role of microfinance and sustainable livelihood strategies in reducing adolescent girls' vulnerability to HIV infection in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Part 1 of this literature and program review focuses on youth-centered programs to prevent HIV infection among vulnerable female adolescents--including microfinance (MF) and sustainable livelihood programs. Part 2 analyzes the relationship between microfinance and HIV prevention in the general population, with a focus on women and the oldest adolescents in the target group. Adapting the traditional microfinance model to meet the need sof this sub-group could prove to benefit not only these adolescents but also the microfinance industry.

Regional Symposium on Harmonisation of Laws on Children in Eastern and Southern Africa (Proceedings of Conference, May 2007). The conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The African Child Policy Forum considered a project to examine the harmonisation of national legislation on laws on children with the CRC and ACRWC. This idea followed concerns raised at the International Policy Conference on the African Child and the Family organized by the African Child Policy Forum in May 2004, which brought together participants from governments, international agencies and over 130 NGOs from around Africa and beyond. A recommendation from that Conference was the need to harmonise national laws including the appropriate incorporation of customary laws and to encourage the sharing of experiences with harmonisation. In a response to this recommendation, a project was subsequently conceived and implemented with the support and collaboration of the UNICEF Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa Office (ESARO) based in Nairobi. The project involved a review of laws and experiences in harmonisation in 18 Eastern and Southern African countries which included Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition to the Proceedings report, other reports on the Harmonisation of Laws are available. Presentations from the conference, are available on this Web site.

Sexuality Education in Schools: The International Experience and Implications for Nigeria (161kb)(POLICY Project, 2004). Nigeria is in the early stages of carrying out its new national policy on sexuality and reproductive health education. Worldwide, school-based programs are an important element of efforts to improve the reproductive health of young people. This paper reviews the international experience and its implications for Nigeria.

State of Denial: Adolescent Reproductive Rights in Zimbabwe (Center for Reproductive Rights and the Child and Law Foundation, 2002). This report documents legal, policy, and social barriers that adolescents in Zimbabwe face in realizing their international human right.

State of the World Population 2004. The Cairo Consensus at Ten: Population, Reproductive Health and The Global Effort to End Poverty (1.72MB) (UNFPA, 2004). This report highlights the progress made since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. The chapter on adolescents and young people highlights a number of countries that have passed laws, drafted new constitutions or approved amendments to legal codes that protect and promote adolescents' rights, including their right to reproductive health care.

State of World Population 2003. Making One Billion Count: Investing in Adolescents' Health and Rights (UNFPA, 2003). The State of World Population 2003 report examines the challenges and risks faced by the 1.2 billion adolescents that affect directly their physical, emotional, and mental well-being. The 80-page report stresses that increasing the knowledge, opportunities, choices, and participation of young people will enable them to lead healthy and productive lives. Selected topics include gender inequality, HIV/AIDS, health behavior, reproductive health care, examples of comprehensive programs, and giving priority to adolescents.

[Strategic Directions for Improving the Health and Development of Children and Adolescents](#) (WHO, 2003). WHO developed the Strategic Directions for Improving the Health and Development of Children and Adolescents in response to a global call for renewed and intensified action to promote and protect the health and development of the 0 – 19 years old age group. The document is intended to contribute to the definition of a new and common agenda for children and adolescents with Member States and partners, and to guide the work within the Organization.

[World Youth Report 2007](#) (7630KB) (UN, 2007). The World Youth Report 2007 examines the challenges and opportunities existing for the roughly 1.2 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in the world. Distinct from the 2003 and 2005 editions, it provides a regional overview summarizing the major youth development trends in the fifteen priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth. The report explores major issues of concern to youth development, including employment, education, health, poverty and violence. At the same time, it highlights youth as a positive force for development and provides recommendations for supporting their essential contributions.

[Youth Supplement to UNFPA's State of the World Population Report 2008](#) (UNFPA, 2008, 56p). This is the third edition of the Youth Supplement to UNFPA's State of the World Population Report. The 2008 Report focuses on the interactions among culture, gender, and human rights and the critical importance of culturally sensitive approaches for effective development policies and programmes. The Youth Supplement addresses culture as it shapes and nurtures the lives of young people and shows how young people develop their own subcultures, which are often different from and may conflict with the dominant culture. The Supplement points out the value to young people of protecting the culture in which they grew up, but it speaks on behalf of their right to embrace their own cultures in their own ways.

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