Investing in Adolescents and Youth as Agents of Change:
The Future is a Girl Aged 10

July 1st, 2014
Partners’ Forum 2014
1.8 billion young people in the world today

- Young people
- Rest of the world
% population aged 10-24 in 2025
Why are we talking about young people?

• Because there already are and there will be a lot of them, and their young lives matter

• But the rest of their lives also depend on how successfully they negotiate through the passage from childhood to adulthood
Deconstructing “youth”

- Why do we say we must disaggregate data by gender and age (and other factors)?
  - Because outcomes differ by gender and age

- Why do outcomes differ?
  - Because risk and protective factors differ by gender and age

- Why do we care about those factors?
  - Because different determinants require differentiated responses – in laws, policies, and programs
Key definitions

Adolescents
- 10 to 19 (early/late)

Youth
- 15 to 24

Young people
- 10 to 24
Using rights as an allocation tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rights irremediably lost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Experiencing coerced sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Experiencing child marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Experiencing an unwanted or dangerous pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Being infected with HIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Having undergone FGM/C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rights costly to recover</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Interrupted education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rights delayed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Control over own earnings often gained only as an adult, if at all</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adolescent pregnancy

Child, early, and forced marriage
Child, early, and forced marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percent Married by 18</th>
<th>Percent Married by 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Asia</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central Asia</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Asia</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Africa</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Africa</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Africa</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 in 3, or 14 million girls, each year married before age 18, 1 in 9 girls before age 15
Adolescent pregnancy

19 out of 100 girls in developing countries gave birth by age 18

3 out of 100 gave birth before age 15
Maternal and child health

- Risk of maternal death almost 30% higher under the age of 20 (compared to 20-24)
- 70,000 maternal deaths among adolescents annually
Maternal and child health

Deaths from complications of unsafe abortion (n=70,000)

- Girls and women 24 and younger
- Older women
15-24 years olds account for almost 40% of all new infections among people 15 and older

Young women 15-24 account for 66% of new infections among young people worldwide
Gender-based violence

An estimated one in three women worldwide report they have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse, mostly at the hands of an intimate partner.
Forced first sex by age of woman at the time of first sexual experience
Early adolescence is the pivotal moment for females. That is when their lives go off track.

Percent of Guatemalan girls ages 10–19, by outcome

- In school
- Married as a child
- Has child
THE EVIDENCE ON WHAT WORKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
There is evidence for what works

• Education

• Information

• Services

• Opportunities

• And yet,
Education
Secondary school enrollment

Least developed

Less developed

More developed

0 20 40 60 80 100

Males
Females
Information

Knowledge of HIV prevention among 15-24s

• In sub-Saharan Africa, comprehensive and accurate understanding of HIV is low

• Only 36% of males ages 15-24

• Only 28% of females ages 15-24
Services

Contraceptive use and demand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (per cent)</th>
<th>Unmet Need for Family Planning (per cent)</th>
<th>Proportion of Demand Satisfied (per cent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opportunities

The Challenge of Youth Unemployment

Youth make up 17% of the world's population. There are 1.2 billion between 15 and 24 in developing countries.

Youth make up 40% of the world's unemployed.

- Global Adult Unemployment Rate: 4.5%
- Global Youth Unemployment Rate: 12.6%
FULFILLING COMMITMENTS TO ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH
Correcting the current investment failure to reach the young people most in need

Better-off females
Better-off males

Poorer adolescents and youth (cut off from access to information and services)

Secondary school
Youth center
Community center
Health center
Playing field
National savings
Roads and market
Local committee

Diagram showing connections between different centers and services, including schools, youth centers, health centers, playing fields, and national savings.
One size does not fit all

- Programs to enhance school quality
- Programs to reduce dropout rates
- Compensatory education and training programs
- Civic education programs
- Life skills programs
- SRH programs
- Job training programs
- Livelihood programs
- Targeted incentives, subsidies, transfers
- Enabling legal frameworks
- Economic policy
GENDERED GEOGRAPHIES
Urban KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Urban spatial area – grade 5 girls vs. boys
Urban spatial area - grade 8-9 girls vs. boys
Urban spatial area by gender and grade

- Grade 5 Boys
- Grade 5 Girls
- Grade 8-9 Girls
- Grade 8-9 Boys
Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Rural spatial area by gender and grade

- Grade 5 Boys
- Grade 5 Girls
- Grade 8-9 Boys
- Grade 8-9 Girls
Gendered trajectories

THE PICTURE IS DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

Enrollment rates in sub-Saharan Africa

- Entering School: 100 girls per 100 boys
- Primary School: 93 girls per 100 boys
- Secondary Education: 83 girls per 100 boys
- Tertiary Education: 60 girls per 100 boys
Key Areas for Future Action

- Laws, programs, and policies for AY should keep the most disadvantaged in view
  - Reach the poorest
  - Prioritize the youngest
  - Serve young men and women but start with girls

- Access to quality education, at least through secondary
- Access to comprehensive sexuality education
- Access to quality healthcare services, in particular SRH services
- Access to training, skills, jobs, entrepreneurship
- Opportunities for participation
Adolescents and Youth in the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action

• Remove legal, regulatory and social barriers

• Education and counselling in gender, sexual behaviour, family planning, HIV etc

• Information and services for reproductive and sexual health

• Family planning information, counselling, and services for sexually active adolescents

• Unrestricted access to confidential, private, services with trained providers
Goals for Healthy Adolescence and Youth

- Academically engaged
- Emotionally and physically safe
- Positive sense of self or self efficacy
- Life- and decision-making skills
- Physically and mentally healthy
- Trained and skilled
Injuries and violence, including GBV
Substance misuse
Sexual and reproductive health
Mental health
NCD prevention
Nutrition

National Adolescent Health Strategy
Thank you