



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

April 2005

Newsletter



Better Policy, Healthier Youth

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News

Nigeria Approves a State-Level Adolescent Reproductive Health Strategic Plan

The state government recently approved its *Strategic Plan for Improving the Reproductive Health of Young Adults and Adolescents in Edo State, 2004–2009*. The plan was originally drafted by the 50-member Young Adult and Adolescent Reproductive Health Network, based on a comprehensive assessment of youth reproductive health status. The strategic plan has several critical activities, including social mobilization and advocacy, better access to youth-friendly services, youth involvement and participation, resource mobilization, capacity building and skills development, youth education and counseling, monitoring and evaluation, and ongoing research.

Source: *Youth Reproductive Health Policy, Country Brief Series No. 2*, October 2004. View at www.policyproject.com/abstract.cfm/2165.

See the strategic plan at www.youth-policy.com/content.cfm?page=papers.

Youth Weigh in on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

An international team of youth experts from various NGOs submitted the report “Youth

and the MDGs: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation,” to Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The report provides examples of existing forms of youth participation, case studies on youth in development, and recommendations for including youth in the implementation of the MDGs at all levels. Some of the MDGs, such as the one aimed at combating HIV/AIDS, are directly related to youth reproductive health; others are indirectly related, such as the MDG to promote gender equality and empower women.

View at www.mdgyouthpaper.org/.

Read more about youth involvement in policy-making at www.youth-policy.com/content.cfm?page=principle2.

The *youth-policy.com* newsletter includes recent news, events, and current policymaking efforts within the rapidly changing field of youth reproductive health. The *youth-policy.com* website, launched in 2004, is an online resource for improving youth reproductive health and HIV policies worldwide and is used by youth, policymakers, NGOs, donors, and technical experts. This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. Both *youth-policy.com* and the newsletter are brought to you by the Adolescent Working Group, POLICY Project in collaboration with YouthNet/Family Health International.

In Their Own Words: Practitioners Talk About Policy Impact

With the support of the POLICY Project Small Grants Program, the Ukrainian NGO *Poryatunok* recently completed a successful advocacy project aimed at improving YRH services in the cities of Poltava and Kremenchug. Advocates persuaded authorities to open two new youth clinics in Poltava and one in Kremenchug, securing funding through the municipal budgets. Skvira Larissa of *Poryatunok* comments on her group's accomplishments:

“After our advocacy campaign, the mayor of Kremenchug ordered the establishment of an interdepartmental coordinating board to examine issues of implementation of the national reproductive health plan. Young people need high quality services different from those provided to adults both in form and content; such services should be tailored to youth needs for information about contraceptives and/or sexual health. After the advocacy campaign, city council deputies realized the importance of reproductive health and made a decision to set up a youth-friendly clinic funded from the city budget.

“Adolescents and young people come to the clinic to receive counseling, information, diagnostics, treatment, and rehabilitation. I hope that the clinic will greatly contribute to adolescent health in the city by providing quality medical and social care, implementing preventive programs, and encouraging young people to take responsibility for their own health. This will be social support for adolescents to enter into adult life.”

Events

The Architects of the Future: Young Diplomats and the Millennium Development Goals

April 26–28, 2005, United Nations, New York

This symposium will build the leadership capacities of youth from around the world and will engage them in dialogue surrounding the Millennium Development Goals, many of which directly or indirectly address youth reproductive health.

View at www.athgo.org.

Deadline Submission Review WPAY (World Programme of Action for Youth)

April 30, 2005

In October 2005, the UN General Assembly will review the achievements made in the implementation of WPAY, including the goal dealing with youth and health, specifically reproductive health including HIV/AIDS prevention. To have your input considered, download the booklet “Making Commitments Matter: A Toolkit for Young People to Evaluate National Youth Policy”

View WPAY at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr/.

Download toolkit at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr/documents/Toolkit.pdf.

African Development Forum V Devoted to Youth Issues

June 15–19, 2005, UNCC, Addis Ababa

The UN Economic Commission for Africa brings together stakeholders on Africa's development to discuss policy alternatives within the

overall theme of youth development issues. Sub-themes will also touch on youth and health, including the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

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View at www.unysa-uk.org/index.asp?pid=1.

New on youth-policy.com

37 New Policy Documents Available on youth-policy.com's Searchable Database

New documents include the Declaration of Antigua—Gender-Based Violence (2003), which proposes action points such as interministry participation and budget allocations aimed toward lowering the incidence of gender-based violence in Antigua; and the Uganda National Policy for Voluntary Counselling and Testing (2003)

See Uganda National Policy for VCT at www.youth-policy.com/Policies/Uganda_Nat_Policy_for_HIV_Voluntary_Counselling_and_Testing.cfm.

See Declaration of Antigua at www.youth-policy.com/Policies/DECLAR_OF_ANTIGUA.cfm.

New Links and Resources

Growing Up Global: The Changing Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries. Edited by Population Council researcher Cynthia Lloyd and published by the U.S. National Academies' National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, the report reviews the available research and presents policy and program recommendations. Chapter 4 of the report deals directly with sexual and reproductive health of young people including risk behaviors and their consequences.

See at www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/ExecutiveSummary.pdf.

African Regional Youth Initiative (ARYI). ARYI is a youth-led organization composed of over 100 youth and community-based projects fighting HIV/AIDS in Africa. ARYI's Youth Policy Group is active in eight countries, including Uganda, Liberia, and Rwanda. The mission of the Youth Policy Group is to promote and advocate for youth reproductive health policies and programs in Africa while empowering youth to participate in policy development processes.

Read more at www.aryi.interconnection.org.

Search the database for policies addressing HIV/AIDS and youth in Africa at www.youth-policy.com/compendium.cfm?search=b.

UNFPA's Global Youth Partners Initiative. This youth-driven advocacy initiative aims to rally partners and stakeholders to increase investment and strengthen commitments for preventing HIV infections among young people, especially among under-served youth.

Read more at www.unfpa.org/hiv/gyp/index.htm.

Read more about youth involvement in policy-making at www.youth-policy.com/content.cfm?page=principle2.

Arab Youth Directory (AYD). Developed by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the AYD gives an online overview of youth NGOs and the UN agencies working for youth and the ministries in the region. Several of the featured NGOs, such as the Egyptian Medical Women's Association, work directly on advocacy and awareness activities related to youth reproductive health. The directory also aims to build the capacity of youth NGOs, empower them to participate in the formulation and implementation of youth policies, and enable them to develop a mechanism for national and regional cooperation.

Read more at www.escwa.org.lb/ayd/index.asp.

Children Having Children. The 2004 edition of *Save the Children's State of the World's Mothers* focuses on teenage mothers. The report proposes a range of policy action points and emphasizes girls' education and improving the status of young mothers.

See at www.savethechildren.org/mothers/report_2004/images/pdf/SOWM_2004_final.pdf.

Read more about maternal health policies for youth at www.youth-policy.com/content.cfm?page=MaternityCare.

Search the database for related policies at www.youth-policy.com/compendium.cfm?search=b.

Investing in People: National Progress in Implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, Chapter 5: Adolescent Reproductive Health and Youth. This global survey summarizes responses from 169 countries on the steps they have taken to implement the Cairo Programme of Action, including measures related to adolescent reproductive health and youth.

See at www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/284_filename_globalsurvey.pdf

Search the database for youth reproductive health policies by country at www.youth-policy.com/compendium.cfm?search=b.

At What Age?.....Are School-Children Employed, Married and Taken to Court? (second edition). This 2004 report analyzes legislation for over 150 countries on minimum ages for entry into work and marriage, age at which a child can be considered criminally responsible, and children's access to compulsory education.

See at www.right-to-education.org/home/index.html.

Feedback and Evaluation

Just in! The December 2004–March 2005 Monitoring Report of *youth-policy.com* Usership Results

See full report details at www.youth-policy.com/documents/yp_monitoring_dec_feb_2005.pdf.

Please send your comments, questions, requests, and ideas to yrh@policyproject.com.

To subscribe to the *youth-policy.com* newsletter, or to contribute ideas or feedback or ask questions, please email yrh@policyproject.com. For copies of publications, please contact the organization referenced at the end of the article.

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The POLICY Project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under Contract No. HRN-C-00-00-00006-00, beginning July 7, 2000. It is implemented by Futures Group in collaboration with The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) and Research Triangle Institute (RTI). The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of USAID.

