

Formative evaluation of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth

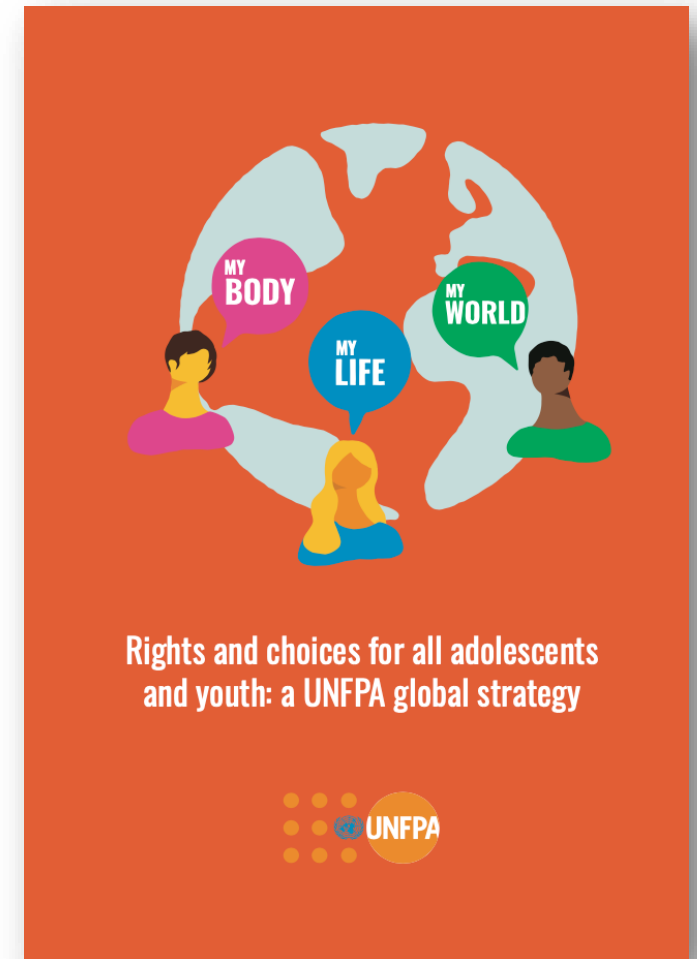
UNFPA Evaluation Office

2023



Evaluation purpose and scope

- **Purpose:** To assess the implementation of the UNFPA Adolescents and Youth Strategy
- **Scope:** Adolescent and youth programming from 2015 to 2022, with a focus on the period since the launch of the present Strategy in 2019



Evaluation objectives

- To assess the conceptual framework of the UNFPA Strategy on Adolescents and Youth
- To facilitate learning, capture good practices and generate knowledge from UNFPA experience on what worked and did not work
- To provide actionable inputs for the implementation of the present UNFPA Strategy on Adolescents and Youth
- To integrate practical and innovative ways of engaging young people in this evaluation

Evaluation data sources

Data from gathered from a wide range of primary and secondary data sources using a mix of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods




832 young people participated in focus group discussions

419
stakeholders interviewed



70
UNFPA staff participated in an online survey



14 country case studies

Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mozambique, Niger, Philippines, Türkiye, Ukraine, Zimbabwe





Conclusions

Conclusion 1



- The Strategy is relevant to UNFPA programming and articulates changes that are needed to fully realize the three transformative results
- It provides a holistic vision of how to meet the needs of adolescents and youth through integrated interventions
- The multisectoral nature of the Strategy has the potential to fundamentally change the way UNFPA addresses adolescent and youth issues, but it has yet to be fully operationalized

Conclusion 2



- UNFPA support to adolescents and youth has positively contributed to each of the Strategy's dimensions (body, life, world), particularly in the areas where UNFPA has traditionally led
- The Strategy also offers an opportunity to amplify support within UNFPA mandate areas by including youth economic empowerment or youth participation in climate action

Conclusion 3



- UNFPA has shown effective leadership in the development of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action
- Integration of adolescents and youth into humanitarian response has been uneven and ad-hoc, rather than systematic
- There are financial and capacity challenges to integrating adolescents and youth into the humanitarian response
- Untapped avenues remain for UNFPA to expand in, including work around Youth, Peace and Security, youth and climate resilience, and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace continuum

Conclusion 4



- The tenets of HRBA are evident in adolescents and youth programming, where it strongly emphasizes non-discrimination and participation measures
- However, a deeper examination of underlying factors of exclusion would enable UNFPA to better target programming to reach those furthest behind first

Conclusion 5



- UNFPA has assumed multiple leadership roles, becoming the 'de facto' leading UN agency on youth
- However, such leadership comes with costs as well as risks
- Institutional clarity is needed on which thematic areas of adolescents and youth UNFPA will lead on, play a supporting role, or leverage partnerships to advance work

Conclusion 6



- UNFPA regularly assesses its youth interventions, but there is limited measurement beyond the output level or impact on individuals.
- UNFPA has leveraged its population data component to inform adolescent and youth programming
- There are opportunities to strengthen its population data capabilities to enhance its policy advocacy for adolescents and youth

Conclusion 7



- UNFPA corporate structure inhibits its ability to implement the multisectoral vision of the Strategy
- Better positioning of the adolescents and youth team within UNFPA is important both in terms of functionality and efficiency
- Limited staffing and capacities pose challenges to the delivery of the adolescents and youth agenda, particularly in humanitarian settings



Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Enhance the operationalization of the integrated and multisectoral nature of the Strategy by ensuring the efficient roll-out, implementation and use of its operational guidance and by expanding corporate learning, experience sharing, and cross-fertilization

Priority: High

Target: Technical Division, Policy and Strategy Division



Recommendation 2

Further enhance each of the three dimensions (My Body, My Life, My World) of the Strategy based on the evidence provided in this evaluation

Priority: High

Target: Technical Division, regional and country offices, in cooperation with the Policy and Strategy Division



Recommendation 3

Fully integrate adolescents and youth within the UNFPA humanitarian response and leverage youth, peace and security and climate resilience

Priority: High

Target: Technical Division and Humanitarian Response Division

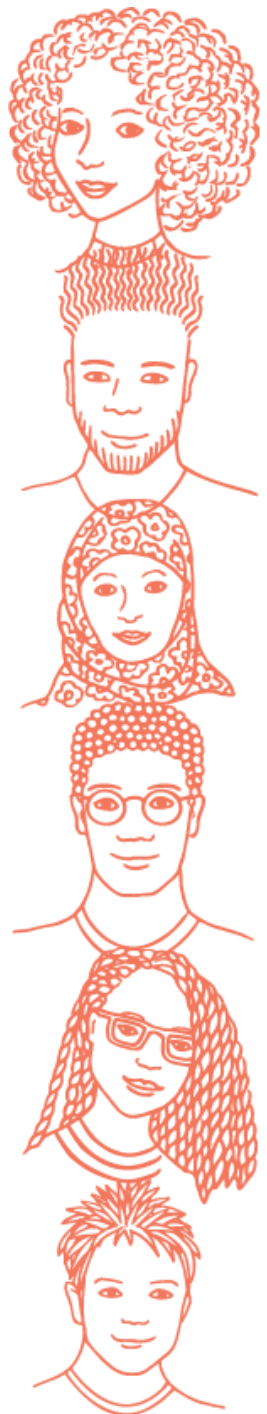


Recommendation 4

Ensure all adolescent and youth interventions are grounded in human rights-based and gender-transformative approaches to ensure inclusion across all groups of adolescents and youth and address the root causes of gender inequality and discrimination

Priority: High

Target: Technical Division, Policy and Strategy Division, regional offices



Recommendation 5

Identify UNFPA corporate priorities and approaches for leadership, coordination, and partnership, within adolescent and youth programming

Priority: High

Target: Technical Division, Policy and Strategy Division, regional offices



Recommendation 6

Leverage population data analytics in the adolescents and youth area to enhance policy advocacy capabilities, including through strong investment cases

Priority: Medium

Target: Technical Division, Policy and Strategy Division



Recommendation 7

Review the UNFPA corporate structure and the adolescents and youth staff capacities to ensure adequate capability to implement the UNFPA Strategy on Adolescents and Youth

Priority: High

Target: Technical Division, Humanitarian Response Division, Division for Human Resources, Policy and Strategy Division, regional offices



Recommendation 8

Within the framework of the recently launched 'Peoples Strategy', develop a specific human resources work plan for the meaningful participation of young professionals in UNFPA, focused on enhancing recruitment and strengthening the career development of young professionals as well as creating an enabling environment for intergenerational leadership, learning and contribution

Priority: Medium

Target: Human Resources Division, senior leadership



Recommendation 9*

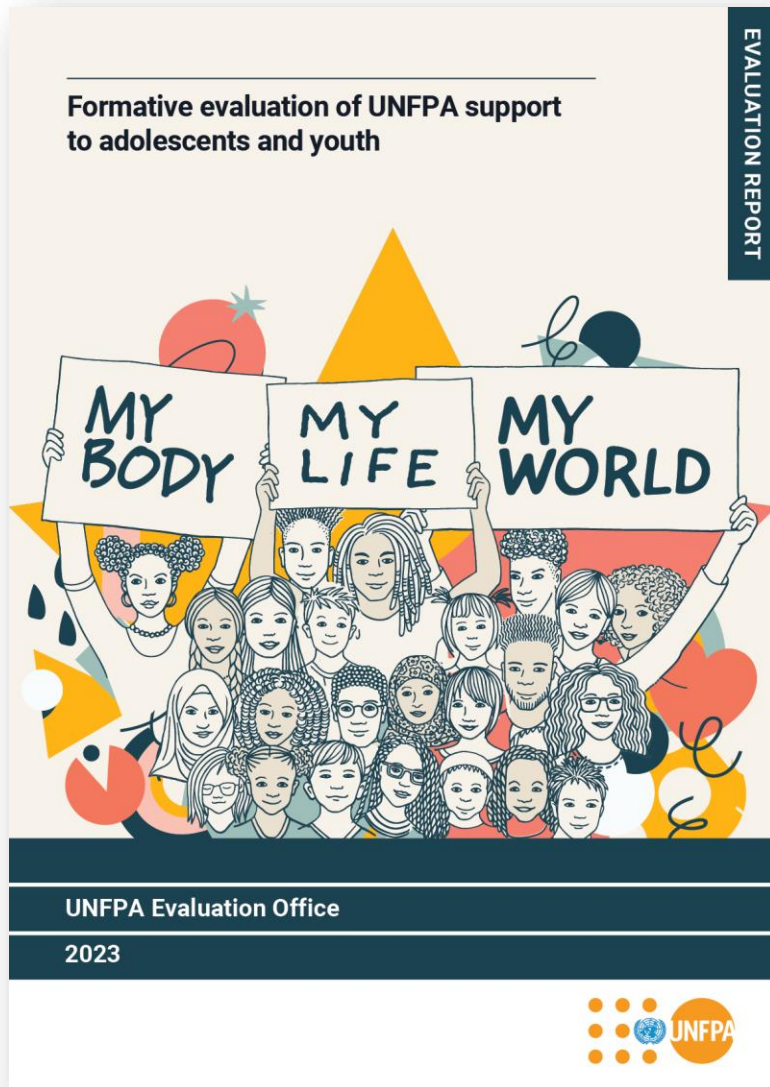
Increasingly engage young people in UNFPA evaluations and continue to advocate with partners for the meaningful engagement of young people in evaluation

*This recommendation was developed from a summary of recommendations made by the Youth Steering Committee members and young evaluators

Priority: Medium

Target: Evaluation Office; regional offices





Thank you

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For more information, see the evaluation materials available at unfpa.org/evaluation

- Evaluation report
- Evaluation brief (EN, FR, SP)
- Management response
- Short video

For further information, please contact Valeria Carou-Jones (carou-jones@unfpa.org) and Karen Cadondon (cadondon@unfpa.org)

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