Evaluation of UNFPA Support to Adolescents and Youth 2008-2015

Presentation to the Executive Board
Informal session

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Objectives and scope of the evaluation
Objectives of the evaluation

To assess the performance of UNFPA in its support to adolescents and youth during the period 2008 to 2015

To facilitate learning, capture good practices and generate knowledge from UNFPA experience implementing a range of interventions in the area of adolescents and youth across diverse contexts

To inform the development of the forthcoming 2018-2021 Strategic Plan and implementation of adolescents and youth interventions within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Scope of the evaluation

Geographic scope

The evaluation covers global, regional and country levels

Temporal scope

The evaluation covers the period 2008 to 2015, corresponding to three programmatic periods

- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015

SP 2008-11
MTR 2012-13
SP 2014-17
Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation covers **targeted** and **mainstreamed** interventions in support of adolescents and youth financed by **core** and **non-core** resources.

- Availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services by adolescents and youth
- Youth leadership and participation in policy dialogue and programming
- Availability and integration of adolescent girl programming in national policies and strategies
- Evidence-based policies and programmes incorporate the needs of adolescents and youth
- Availability of sexual and reproductive health education and information for adolescents and youth
The evaluation took place in **five phases**

- **Preparatory**
  - June 2014 to November 2014

- **Inception**
  - December 2014 to February 2015

- **Data collection**
  - March 2015 to September 2015

- **Analysis and reporting**
  - October 2015 to November 2016

- **Management response and dissemination**
  - Nov 2016 to 2017
Evaluation approach and methodology
Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation questions

Effectiveness and Sustainability

Efficiency

Relevance

Partnerships, Coordination, Added Value

EQ 1
EQ 2

EQ 3
EQ 4
EQ 5

EQ 6

EQ 7
Evaluation Questions

1. Alignment of support to adolescents and youth, particularly the most marginalised and vulnerable, with:
   - UNFPA policies and strategies
   - partner government priorities and plans
   - the needs of adolescents and youth.
   Responsiveness to changes in context

2. Incorporation of human rights, gender responsive and culturally sensitive approaches in programming and prioritisation of the most marginalised and vulnerable adolescents and youth, particularly young adolescent girls in interventions

3. Sustainability of the availability of sexual and reproductive health education and information and integrated services for adolescents and youth

4. Evidence-based policies and programmes that incorporate the needs and rights of adolescents and youth and priority for adolescent girls in national development policies and programmes

5. Adolescents and youth leadership, participation and empowerment, especially by marginalised and vulnerable adolescents and youth, particularly adolescent girls

6. Availability, optimisation and utilisation of resources to achieve results in support to adolescents and youth

7. UNFPA leadership, coordination and partnerships to advance adolescents and youth issues and promote South-South cooperation
Evaluation approach

- Theory based evaluation
- Mixed methods
- UNEG ethical principles
- Integration of human rights and gender equality
- Participatory
- Emphasis on use and learning
- Engagement of A&Y
The evaluation conducted 5 field studies, 4 extended desk studies and 3 regional reviews.
Methods for Data Collection

- Document review
- Semi-structured interviews
- Focus group discussions with A&Y
- Site visits
- ATLAS financial data analysis
- CO survey
- e-Roundtable with A&Y
Data Collection Overview

- Interviews: 670
- Documents: ~1860
- CO survey respondents: 104
- Site visits: 25

Distribution of key informants by level:
- National: 77%
- Regional: 14%
- Global: 9%

Distribution of key informants by type of stakeholder:
- A&Y beneficiaries: 43%
- UN: 18%
- Donors: 14%
- UNFPA: 11%
- International NGOs and CSOs: 7%
- National NGOs, CSOs & academia: 5%
- Government partners: 2%
- National NGOs, CSOs & academia: 7%
A&Y Engagement in the Evaluation

Youth leaders as consultants in each field study (5)

Global eRoundtable with A&Y leaders (82 leaders from 63 countries)

Focus group discussions with A&Y in each country case study (238)

Total 325
What frameworks guided UNFPA in its support to A&Y?

- UNFPA Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth (2006)
- UNFPA Strategic Plan 2008-2011
- Midterm Review of the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2008-2013
- UNFPA Strategy on Adolescents and Youth 2012-2020
- UNFPA Strategic Plan 2014-2017
What commitments has UNFPA made in support to A&Y?

- Expenditure in support of A&Y over the period 2008-2015 was USD 589 million, which represented 10% of total UNFPA expenditure.
- In 2015, financial support for A&Y accounted for 13% of UNFPA expenditure, which was an increase from 8.7% in 2008.
- A&Y officers and focal points were available in 90% of country offices and in all six regional offices.
Evaluation results
UNFPA significantly increased its priority, policy and programmatic focus on adolescents and youth during the evaluation period of 2008 to 2015.

UNFPA leadership helped implement the ICPD Programme for Action and other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Increased investment in financial and human resources.

From 2014, with the adoption of the current strategic plan, UNFPA has further deepened its focus on, and support to, adolescents and youth.
UNFPA is exceptionally well-placed to expand this leadership to a broader adolescents and youth agenda.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a timely opportunity to build on this base, further leveraging the demographic dividend.

UNFPA is a highly recognised and respected leader in adolescents and youth sexual and reproductive health.

UNFPA is at the forefront of support for adolescents and youth.

UNFPA has contributed to the availability and use of sexual and reproductive health services, education and information.

UNFPA contribution has proven essential to advancing the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of adolescents and youth, particularly those of girls.

Strong and effective support was found in UNFPA work on adolescent girls, an area in which UNFPA has been a leading advocate.

UNFPA champions the leadership and participation of young people by supporting the capacity building of youth leaders and youth-led organisations.

UNFPA has contributed to leadership and participation of young people within global and regional development processes.

UNFPA-supported, youth-led conferences generated often groundbreaking political commitments and opened critical windows of opportunity to deliver on sexual and reproductive health services and education for adolescents and youth.
Key findings
Key findings I

Alignment of support and responsiveness to changing contexts
- UNFPA support was well-aligned with government plans and policies
- UNFPA supported governments to develop national plans and strategies reflecting the needs of adolescents and youth
- UNFPA responded appropriately to changing contexts
- UNFPA advocated for investment in adolescents and youth
- Despite improved strategic focus over time, evidence suggest UNFPA still requires a clear comprehensive framework to guide both targeted and mainstreamed interventions

Incorporation of human rights, gender responsive and culturally sensitive approaches
- UNFPA has consistently incorporated human rights, gender responsive, and culturally sensitive approaches into programming
- UNFPA efforts to incorporate the most marginalised and vulnerable adolescents and youth, particularly adolescent girls, have increased since 2008
Key findings II

Sexual and reproductive health education and integrated services

- Increased availability and use of sexual and reproductive health services
- Gender based violence services were not regularly integrated in youth-friendly health services
- Reduced legal and policy barriers to sexual and reproductive health services increased use of services by young people
- Multisectoral and mainstreamed service programmes that engaged communities were more successful in making services comprehensive and accessible to young people
- Increased availability of sexual and reproductive health education and information programmes

Prioritising adolescent girls and adolescents and youth data for programming and policymaking

- Contribution to increasing the priority given to adolescent girls in national development policies and programmes
- UNFPA is a leader in adolescent girl issues at all levels
- There remains a lack of clarity around the concepts of marginalisation and vulnerability
- Adolescents and youth programming has not focused sufficiently on young adolescent girls aged 10 to 14 years
- UNFPA support to the collection of data on adolescents and youth was strong with more work needed in the use of data for policy-making
Key findings III

Adolescent and youth leadership, participation and empowerment

- UNFPA built the leadership capacity of young people
- UNFPA supported youth organisations to engage with implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies and programmes
- UNFPA support resulted in direct youth input to global, regional and national sexual and reproductive health agendas, including review of the ICPD

Availability and use of resources

- Adequate human resources were in place for adolescent and youth programming
  - Staff retention at country level posed challenges to sustainability and institutional memory
  - Staffing at HQ characterised by insufficient coordination and multiple lines of accountability
- Financial resources for adolescents and youth increased over the evaluation period
- Administrative and organisational structures have improved, although further effort is required to consolidate progress
Leadership, coordination and partnership

UNFPA has provided effective technical and political leadership on adolescents and youth sexual and reproductive health.

UNFPA leadership and coordination resulted in increased political commitment to adolescents and youth.

South-South cooperation was well-supported by headquarters and some regional offices but could be further explored at country level.
"UNFPA does a great job in collecting age-disaggregated data, but should do more in presenting and spreading it."
Majlinda Kadriu, 21, Kosovo

"Y-PEER faces challenges with each new generation of peers. A follow up programme could fill this gap by encouraging Y-PEERs to continue their activism (after they age out of the programme) and remain connected to the UNFPA mandate."
Irina Ianevska, 31, Macedonia

"Youth programming has to involve young people in all phases of the programmes design, implementation, M&E to go beyond punctual meetings with always the same 5 young people to get their advice."
Mohssa Rekhi, 26, Tunisia

"UNFPA established Youth Advisory Panels in countries in Asia such as Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh and also supported the establishment of National Youth Peer Education Networks in China and Myanmar."
Myat Sandi Min, 24, Myanmar

"Training and capacity building forums come and go but to empower young people they need mentorship."
Leila Wanjiu, 27, Kenya

"UNFPA works through youth centers and other youth organisations to identify marginalised and vulnerable youth."
Christian Ngomerezey, 23, Democratic Republic of Congo

"Sexual and reproductive health is a basis to guarantee many other things in adolescence, but sometimes young people need something else and this requires widening the focus to meet our needs."
Jennifer Vilas, 26, Uruguay

"In Botswana, UNFPA has been able to reach youth on a large scale though the CONDOMISE campaign training them on condom use and how to keep safe."
Peter Yun Tomescan, 23, Botswana

Selected quotes from the eRoundtable discussion with 82 past and current UNFPA youth advocates
Countries covered by the eRoundtable discussion (total 63)
Key conclusions
I. Strategic positioning of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth

UNFPA is a recognised leader in adolescents and youth sexual and reproductive health.

UNFPA is well-positioned to lead on a broader adolescents and youth development agenda in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

There is a need to consolidate and strengthen strategic clarity and coordination for UNFPA support to adolescents and youth.

UNFPA has allocated adequate human and financial resources for adolescents and youth programming.
II. Programme areas for UNFPA support to increase quality, effectiveness and sustainability

UNFPA is a champion for adolescent girls and has sharpened its focus and attention on their needs

UNFPA has been at the vanguard of calling for the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of adolescents and youth, especially adolescent girls

UNFPA contributed to changing laws, policies and social norms that discriminate against young people

UNFPA has a long-standing commitment to meeting the needs of marginalised and vulnerable adolescents

UNFPA has made important contributions to increasing the use of youth-friendly health services and sexual and reproductive health education and information, for in- and out-of-school youth

There has been a particular focus on adolescent girls and young populations at risk of HIV, with strong results

UNFPA is widely recognised for its support for youth leadership and participation at all levels
III. Use of data for evidence-based programming and learning

UNFPA is a respected partner in the production and availability of adolescents and youth-related data and has a clear comparative advantage in this area.

UNFPA strengthened the capacity of national statistics offices to produce and disseminate disaggregated data on adolescents and youth.

Data collection and analysis on younger adolescents (10 to 14 year olds) remains inadequate.

UNFPA has scaled up efforts to become a learning organisation.

Further effort is required to:

- ensure that results-based management systems fully and accurately capture adolescents and youth programming;
- prioritise monitoring and evaluation, and lesson-learning initiatives.
Key recommendations
I. Strategic positioning of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth

- Through a unified framework for adolescents and youth, supported by an overarching theory of change, UNFPA should further consolidate and build on strong progress in adolescents and youth programming.
- Adolescent girl programming should be more fully reflected within the next Strategic Plan.

- Continue to deliver multi-sectoral, holistic support for adolescents and youth, ensuring the centrality of the needs of adolescent girls in particular.
- Better reflect the priority and commitment on adolescents and youth within the organisation’s management structure.
- Continue to provide strong leadership on adolescents and youth issues within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and support countries to monitor and report on progress on adolescents and youth-related goals and targets.

- Review resource-allocation for adolescents and youth, maximise efficiency and ensure that staff implementing adolescents and youth interventions have the necessary skill set to do so.
Achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, realize reproductive rights, and reduce maternal mortality to accelerate progress on the ICPD agenda, to improve the lives of adolescents and youth, and women, enabled by population dynamics, human rights, and gender equality.

**Outcomes SP 2014-2017**

1. Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services by adolescents and youth
2. Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health
3. Advanced gender equality, women’s and girls’ empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth
4. Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality

**Principles** = Human Rights, Gender, Cultural Sensitivity, Vulnerable & Marginalised
II. UNFPA programming to enhance relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability

- UNFPA should improve efforts to target the most vulnerable and marginalised among adolescents and youth by strengthening analysis and use of data.
- UNFPA should clearly define, based upon sound evidence, the dimensions that constitute vulnerability and marginalisation among adolescents and youth.
- UNFPA should consistently use a human rights-based approach in adolescents and youth programming.
- UNFPA should improve the quality and sustainability of sexual and reproductive health services, education and information for adolescents and youth by ensuring systematic linkages across UNFPA-supported interventions in these areas and encouraging multi-sectoral approaches.
- UNFPA should strengthen meaningful engagement of adolescents and youth at all levels of programming.
- UNFPA should further clarify the current focus of its support for leadership and participation within the new Strategic Plan 2018-2021.
III. Reporting, monitoring, evaluation and lesson learning

- Strengthen research, monitoring, reporting and evaluation to generate evidence for organisational learning and programming, and improve accountability for adolescents and youth support
- Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to generate evidence on adolescents and youth interventions
- Prioritize testing the adolescents and youth theory of change, use appropriate adolescents and youth indicators, accurately tag adolescents and youth interventions, consistently use results-based monitoring, and accurately report and capture good practices and successful implementation models
- Increase use of research and evaluative exercises on adolescents and youth for evidence-based programming to inform scale up and replication of good practice
- South-South cooperation should be a key strategy for dialogue and exchange of knowledge and good practices on support to adolescents and youth
Evaluation products
Evaluation products

External channels of dissemination:
- Knowledge products for learning
- Dissemination at conferences during 2017
- Workshops with A&Y to share results

Internal channels of dissemination:
- Presentation to Executive Committee
- Workshops with COs to share results
Evaluation team
Evaluation team

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Thank You!

QUESTIONS?
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