



# 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

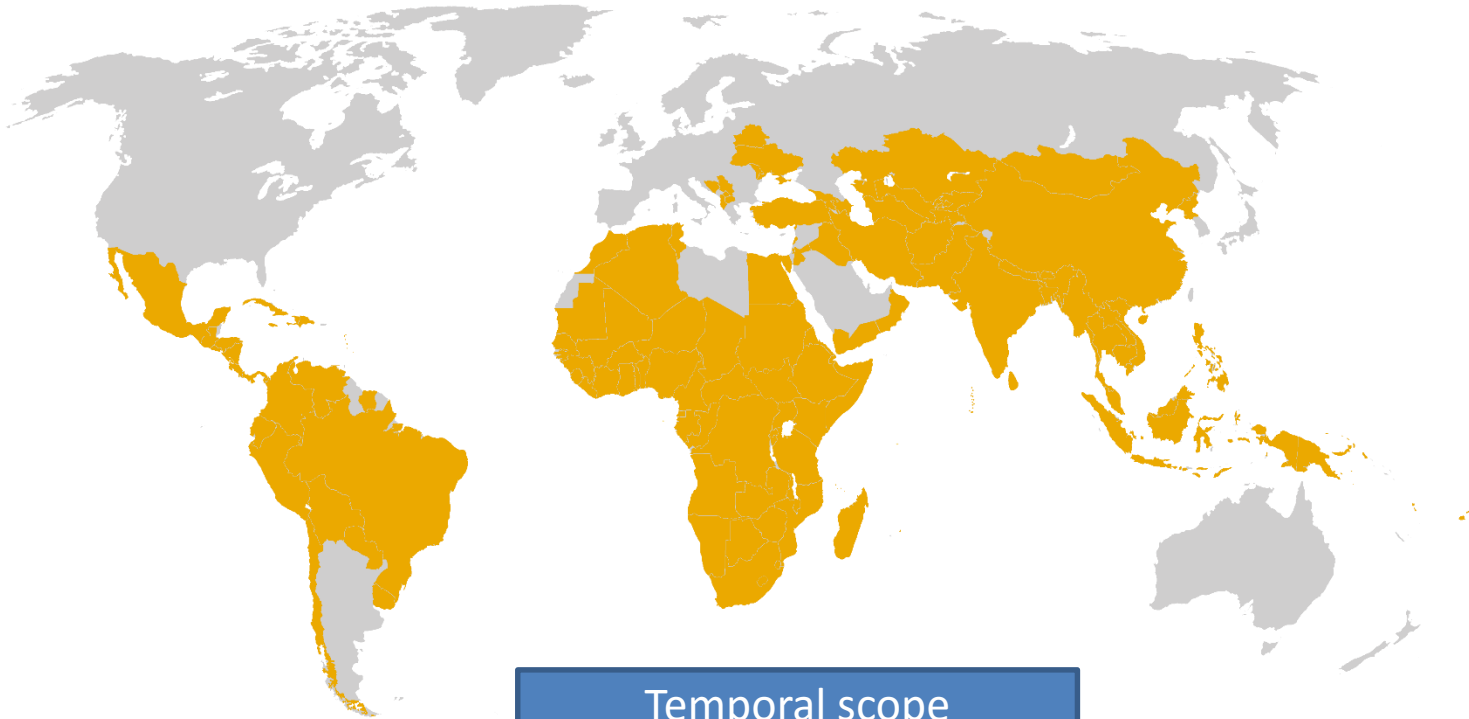


To inform the development of the forthcoming 2018-2021 Strategic Plan and implementation of adolescents and youth interventions within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

# 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**



# Scope of the evaluation

## Thematic scope

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

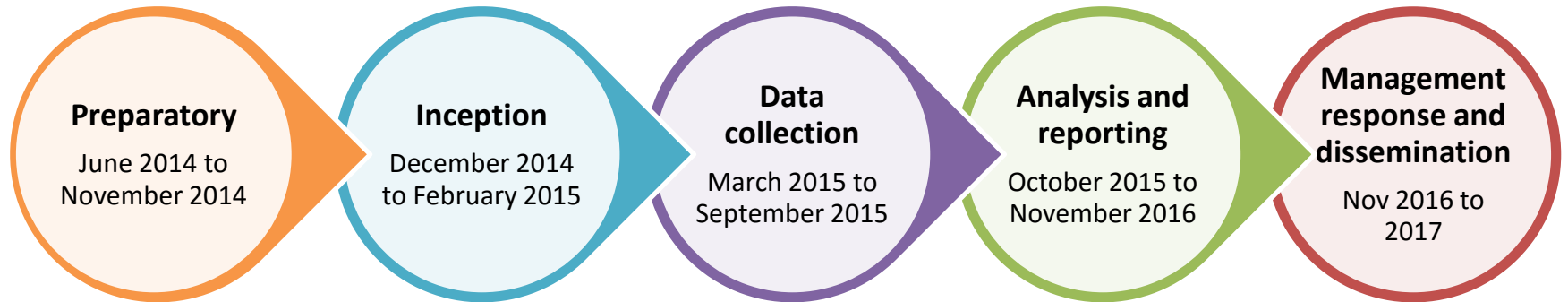
Evidence-based policies and programmes incorporate the needs of adolescents and youth

Availability of sexual and reproductive health education and information for adolescents and youth



# Evaluation phases

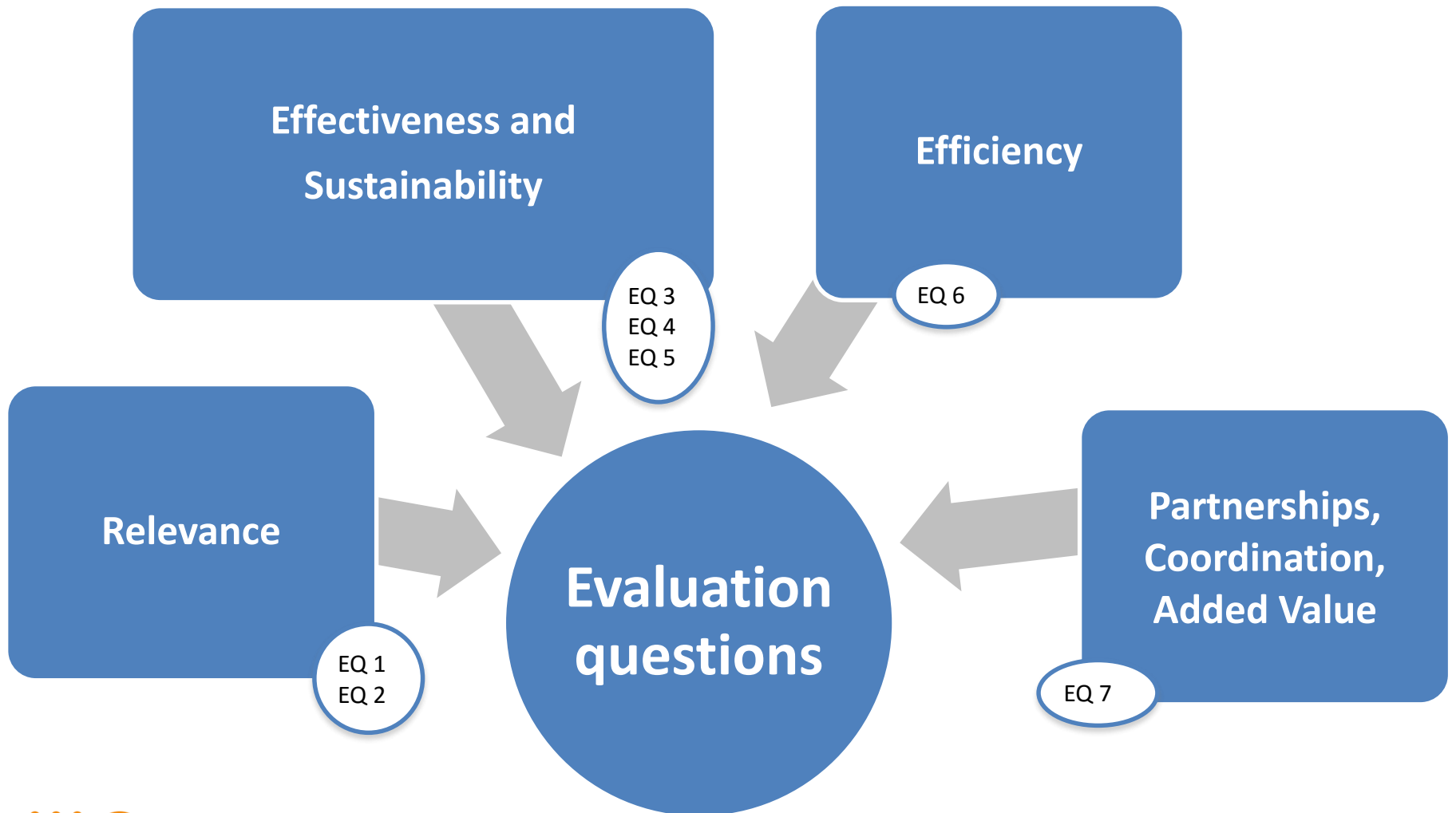
The evaluation took place in **five phases**



# Evaluation approach and methodology



# Evaluation Criteria



# 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

**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

**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

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

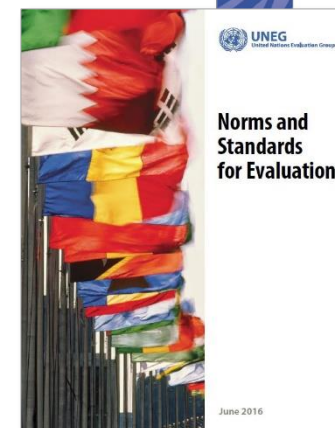
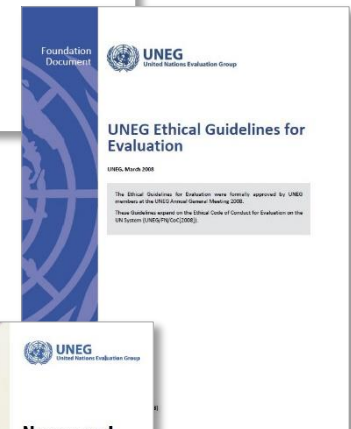
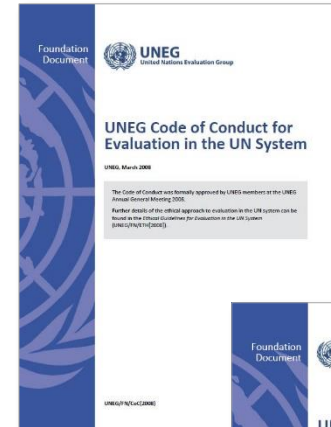
**3** Sustainability of the availability of sexual and reproductive health education and information and integrated services for adolescents and youth

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

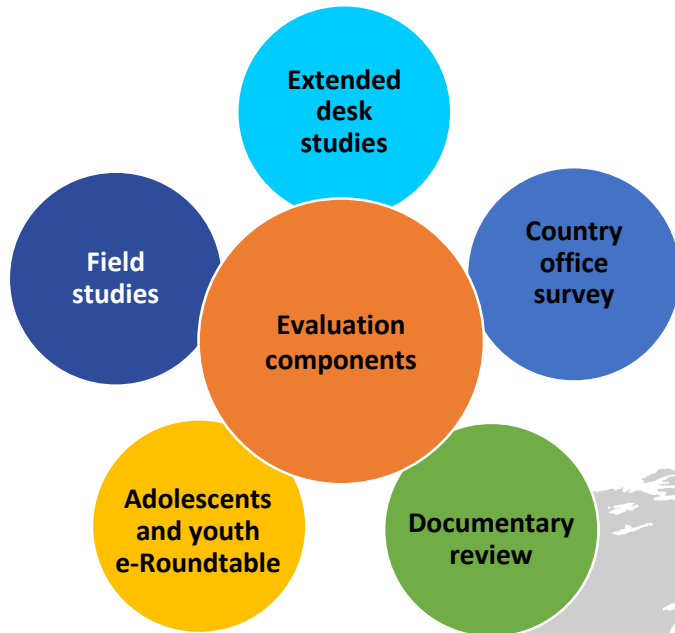
**7** UNFPA leadership, coordination and partnerships to advance adolescents and youth issues and promote South-South cooperation

# Evaluation approach

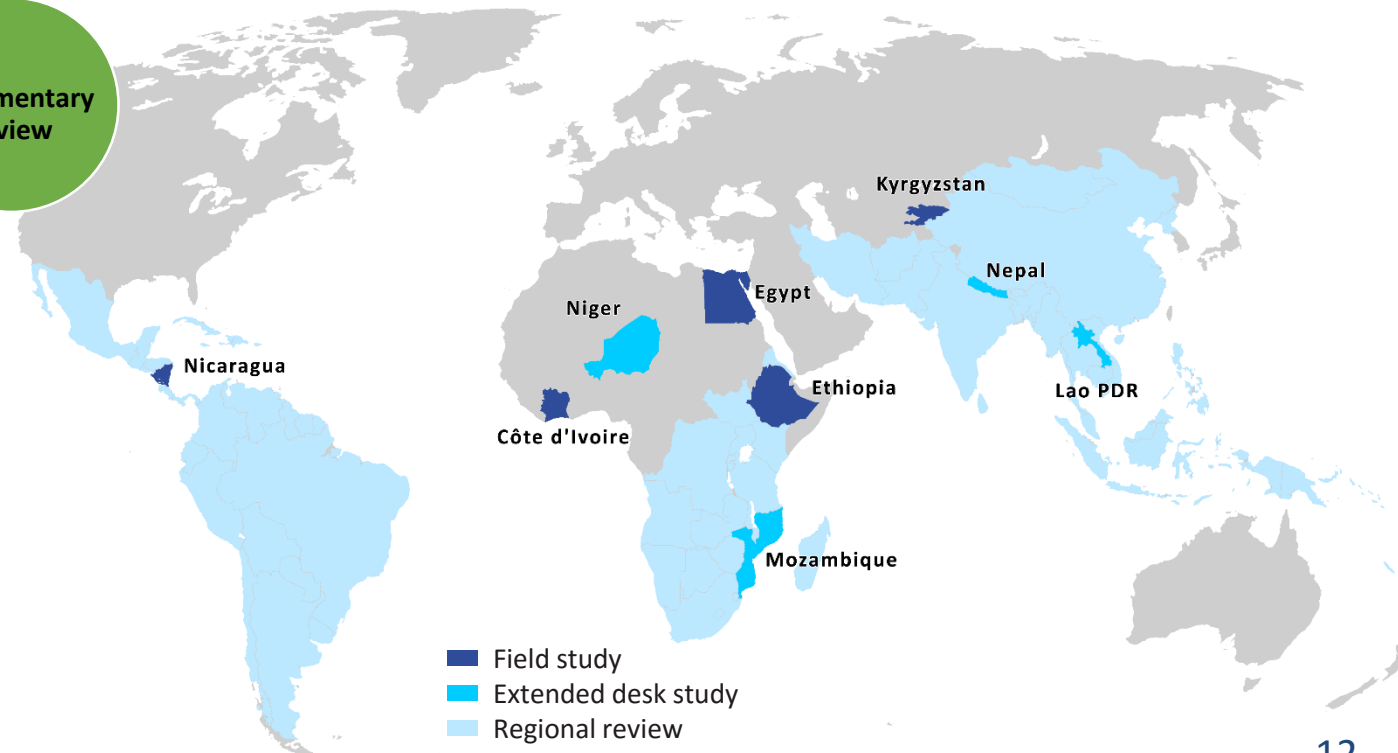
- ✓ Theory based evaluation
- ✓ Mixed methods
- ✓ UNEG ethical principles
- ✓ Integration of human rights and gender equality
- ✓ Participatory
- ✓ Emphasis on use and learning
- ✓ Engagement of A&Y



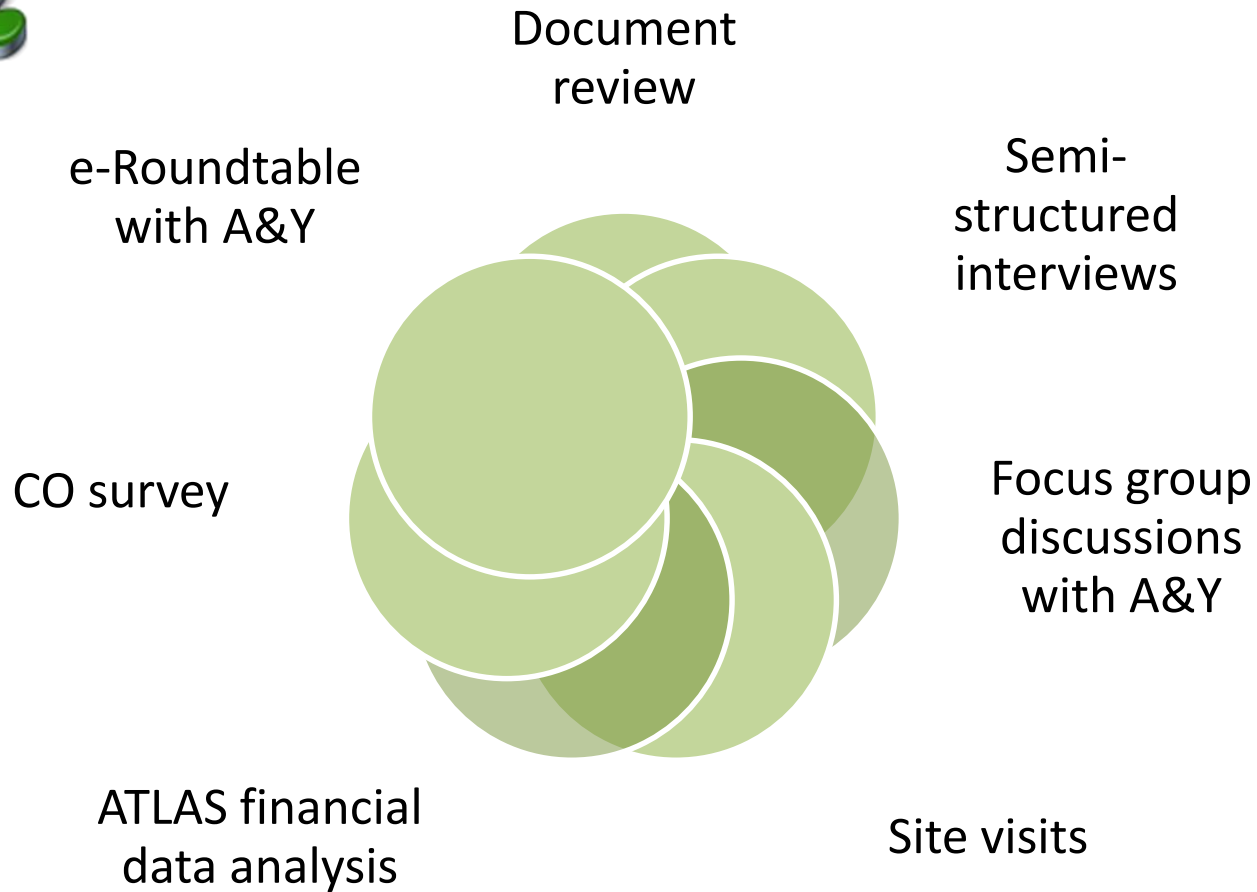
# Evaluation Components



The evaluation conducted **5 field studies**, **4 extended desk studies** and **3 regional reviews**




# Methods for Data Collection



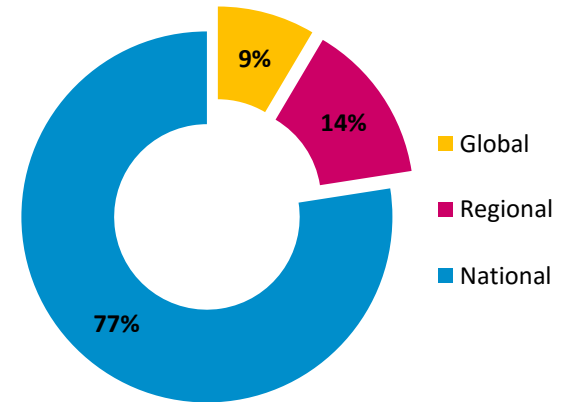
# Data Collection Overview

Interviews  **670**

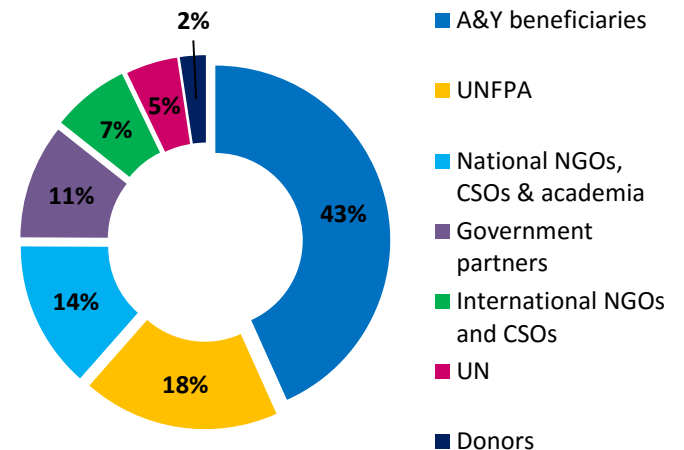
Documents  **~1860**

CO survey respondents  **104**

Site visits  **25**

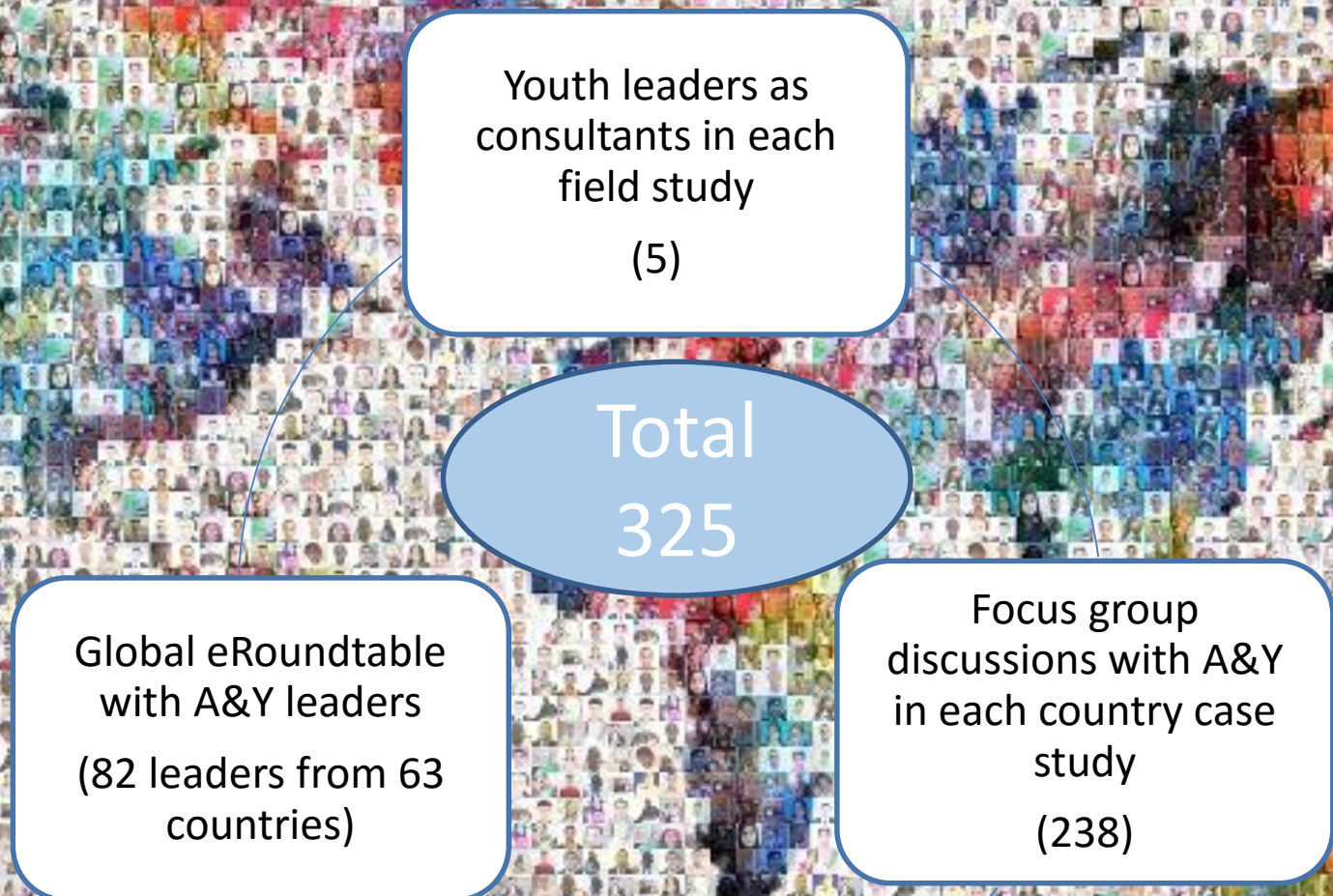


Distribution of key informants by level



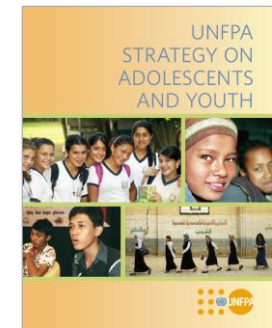
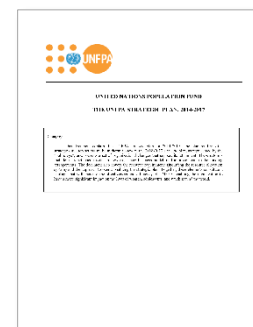
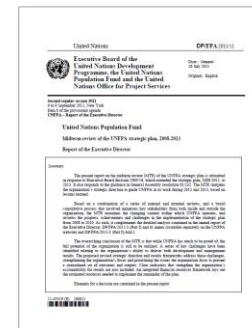
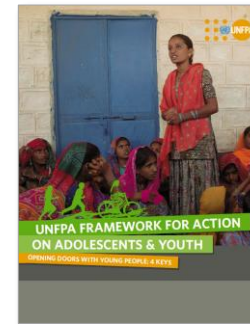
Distribution of key informants by type of stakeholder

# A&Y Engagement in the Evaluation



# 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

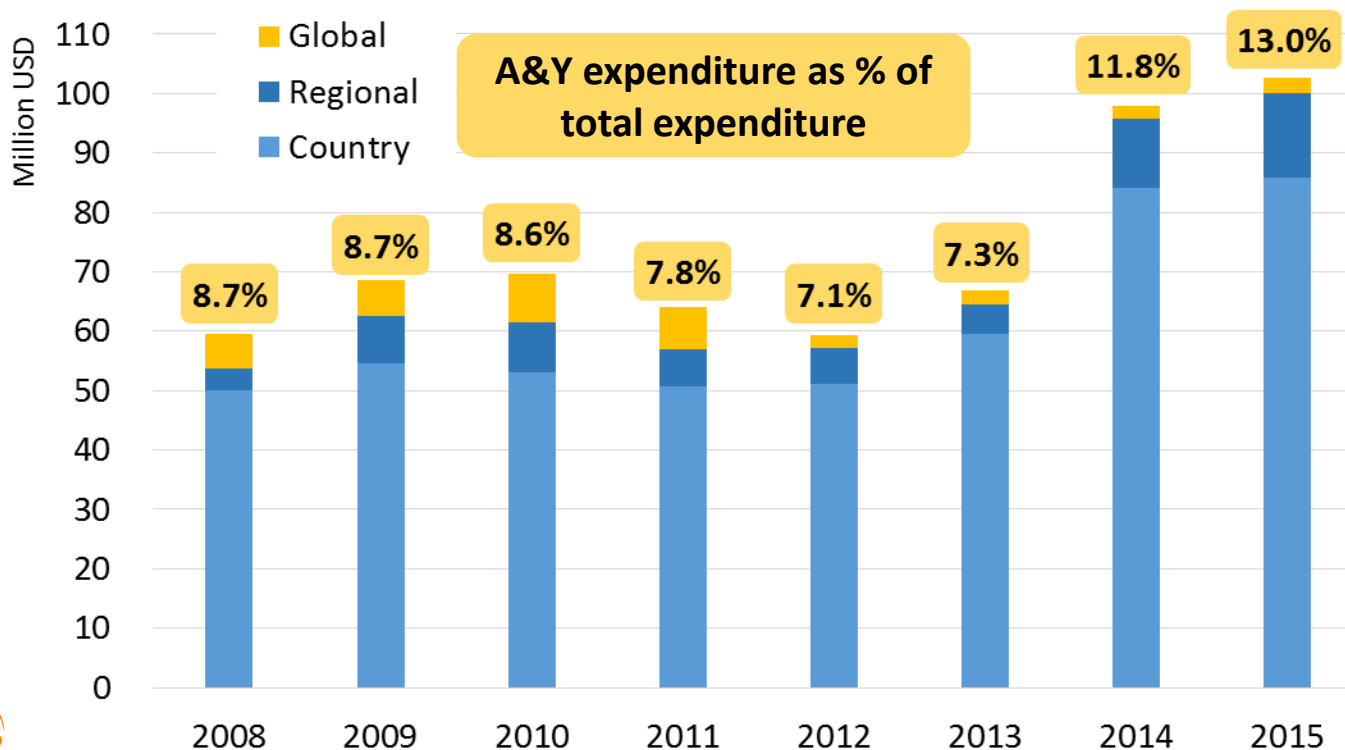




# What commitments has UNFPA made in support to A&Y?

- ▶ 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

**Expenditure in support of A&Y**



Evaluation results

# Overall assessment I

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



# Overall assessment II

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

- ▶ 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 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





# Key findings IV

## 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



# VOICES OF YOUTH

"UNFPA does a great job in collecting age-disaggregated data, but should do more in presenting and spreading it."

*Aulone 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 Janevska, 31, Macedonia*

"Youth programming has to involve young people in all phases of the programmes de-sign, implementation, M&E to go beyond punctual meetings with always the same 5 young people to get their advice."

*Mayssa Rekhis, 26, Tunis*

"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 Wanjiru, 27, Kenya*

"UNFPA works through youth centers and other youth organisations to identify marginalised and vulnerable youth."

*Christian Ngomenze, 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 Viñas, 29, 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 Yuri Tlometsane, 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

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

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

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

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 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

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

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- ▶ 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
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- ▶ 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
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- ▶ 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



Impact

**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

Outcome 1: Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV) that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access

Outcome 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

Outcome 3: Advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth

Outcome 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

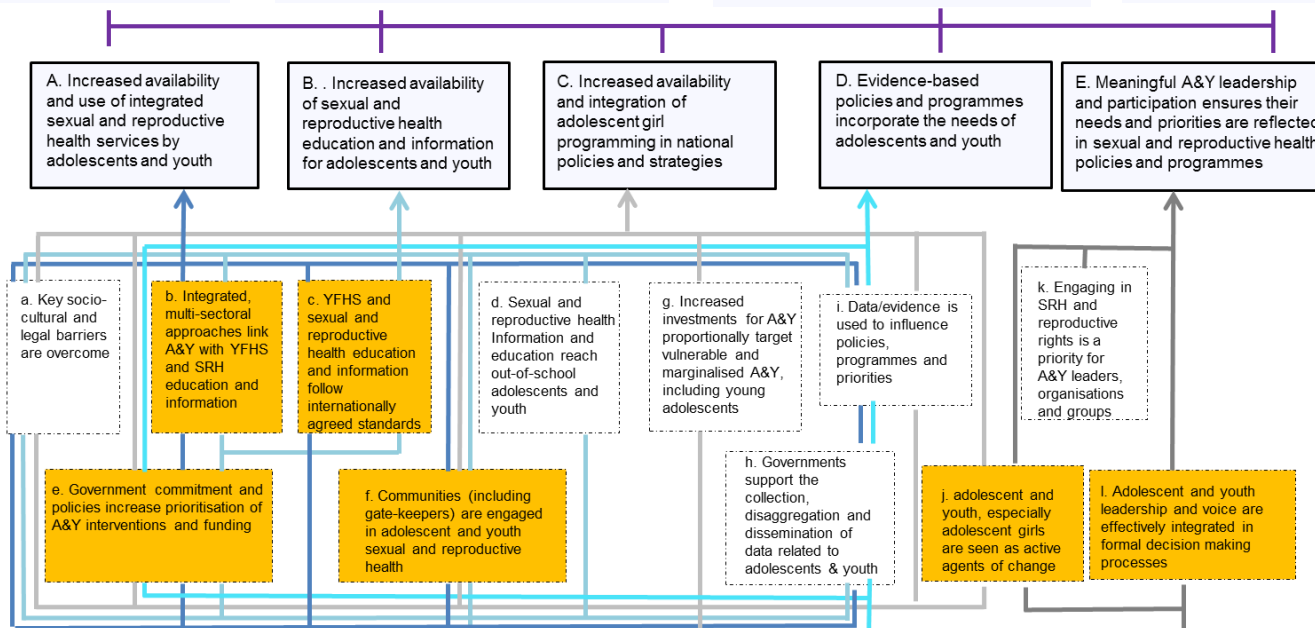
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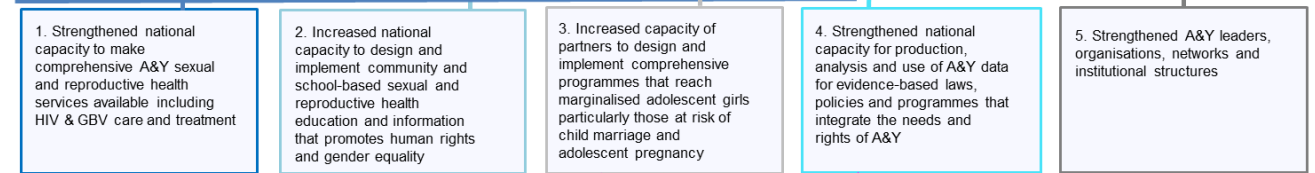
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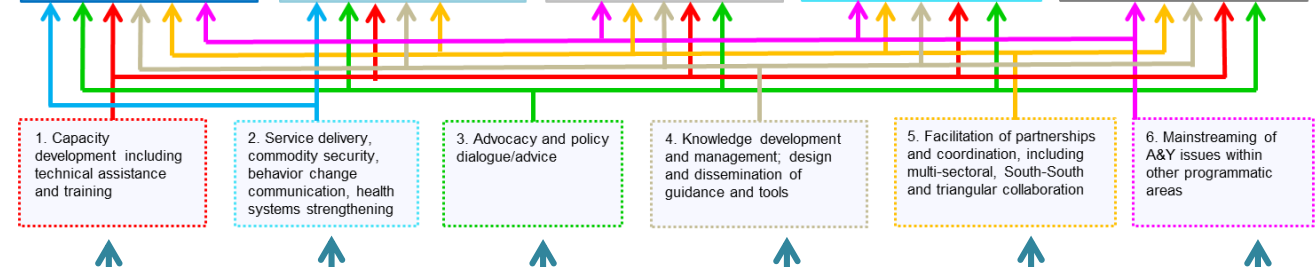
Hypotheses



Outputs



Modes of Engagement (Activities)



INPUTS

Principles = Human Rights, Gender, Cultural Sensitivity, Vulnerable & Marginalised

Assumptions (activities to outputs)

**Assumption a:** A&Y are respected and valued members of society

**Assumption b:** UNFPA builds the capacity of its partners on evidence based approaches that have shown effect

**Assumption c:** Duty bearers and decision makers prioritise A&Y programmes in a context of competing priorities.

## 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

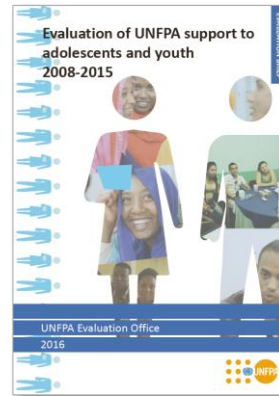
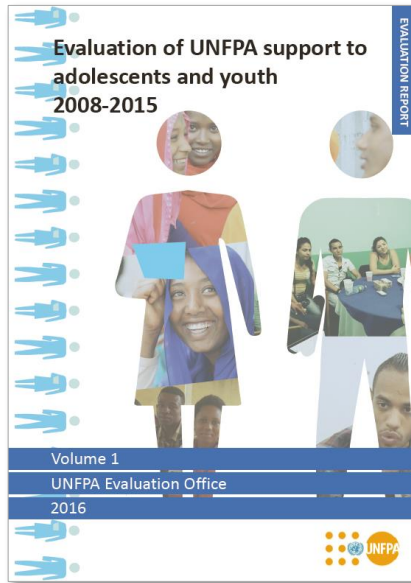
# III. Reporting, monitoring, evaluation and lesson learning

- ▶ 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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