



Rights and choices for all adolescents
and youth: a UNFPA global strategy





“MY BODY, MY LIFE, MY WORLD!” IS UNFPA’S NEW GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document has been conceptualized and produced by the Adolescent and Youth team of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Branch in UNFPA's Technical Division, under the guidance of Benoit Kalasa and Anneka Knutsson. It has been written by Danielle Engel, Irem Tümer, Cecile Mazzacurati, Mandira Paul, Satvika Chalasani, Ilya Zhukov, Bente Faugli, Jose Roberto Luna and Soyoltuya Bayaraa. It has benefited from the inputs and comments of UNFPA's regional office youth focal points as well as select country office colleagues.

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It puts young people—their talents, hopes, perspectives and unique needs—at the very centre of sustainable development. In doing so, it backs achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and aligns with the new United Nations Strategy on Youth as well as the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

Everything UNFPA does rests on the commitments to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all embodied in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action. These commitments are crucial for adolescents and youth.

Young people realizing their rights to make informed choices about their own bodies, their own lives and the world they live in is a matter of justice and a driver of a lifetime of returns.



DR. NATALIA KANEM **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** **UNFPA, the United Nations** **Population Fund**

In 1994, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, the world committed to realizing the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of people, particularly women, everywhere. Today, millions of women and girls, couples and families around the world enjoy better lives because of that landmark agreement.

Twenty-five years ago, many of these women were girls. In the decades since, we at UNFPA have had the privilege and challenge of accompanying countless girls on their journey from girlhood to womanhood, traversing the pivotal path of adolescence along the way. The journey brought opportunities; the journey brought obstacles. Nevertheless, the girls persisted, as did we in supporting them to make informed choices and exercise their rights.



"MY BODY, MY LIFE, MY WORLD!" IS UNFPA'S APPROACH TO COLLABORATE WITH, INVEST IN AND CHAMPION YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

As a global organization committed to the rights of young people, we and our partners have learned a lot about what girls and boys need – often from their own voices and perspectives. We know considerably more about the kind of investments

it takes to ensure they enjoy their adolescence and are prepared for young adulthood – investments that can help countries with large populations of young people accelerate sustainable development and reap a demographic dividend.

All of this learning is encapsulated in our updated and reinvigorated approach to collaborating with, investing in and championing young people around the world. "My Body, My Life, My World!", UNFPA's new strategy on adolescents and youth, supports the implementation of Youth 2030, the United Nations Youth Strategy launched in 2018. It is integral to UNFPA's efforts to achieve three transformative results by 2030 – zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices. These can only be achieved with the leadership and innovation of young people for young people, in development, in humanitarian action and in sustaining peace.

"My Body, My Life, My World!" comes at an opportune time.

As we celebrate our successes since the ICPD, let us also challenge ourselves to do better by the world's 1.8 billion young people, in all their diversity. With an eye to 2030, to delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals and to leaving no one behind, UNFPA is committed to achieving the vision laid out herein, with our partners, with young people and with the communities they call home.



YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY: WHAT SETS THEM APART?

YOUNG PEOPLE
CHANGING THE
WORLD



GRETA THUNBERG
kicked off a global
movement to combat
climate change at the
age of 15

200 M

**ADOLESCENTS AGED
12-17 ARE NOT IN
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Today's adolescents and youth, **1.8 billion strong**, are a quarter of the global population. Growing up in a world churning with historic transformations—political, social, economic and environmental—they have both acute concerns and high expectations for themselves and their societies.

Young people today are demanding more from their governments and societies, and more from the global community. Amid pressures transcending borders, from **changing labour markets to conflicts to climate change**, some see solutions in collective action. They are shaping social and economic development, challenging discriminatory norms, and building a foundation for a better future. In early 2019, for instance, hundreds of thousands of students in more than 100 coun-

tries, from the South Pacific to the edge of the Arctic Circle, mobilized in one of the largest international actions ever to protest the lack of tough action on global warming.

This generation is more connected through technology, media and the Internet than any other generation in human history. A full 70 per cent are online, putting them at the forefront of Internet adoption.¹ Consuming media, however, is not the same as participating in the digital economy, and adolescent and youth growing up in poverty are the least likely of all cohorts to use technology or develop digital skills. The odds worsen for girls or people with a disability. Moreover, being connected online is not a substitute for having safe spaces for human interaction which many adolescents and youth need and seek.

1.8 BILLION

ARE ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH,
A QUARTER OF THE GLOBAL
POPULATION



This new generation on balance is the most educated and healthiest ever. Yet 200 million adolescents aged 12-17 are not in secondary school, and far too many young refugees are still being denied access to quality education.² Many young people who enter the labour market end up **underemployed, in vulnerable jobs or living in poverty** despite working hard. Gender and social inequalities favouring boys and men as well as certain social and ethnic groups over others persist in education and employment.

Adolescence is a time where young people gain skills to make choices, including on their sexual and reproductive health. Trends vary significantly among regions. **Mean ages at**

first sexual experience, first marriage and first birth have all risen in sub-Saharan Africa, and risen for first marriage and first birth in Asia and Northern Africa. In contrast, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the timing of first birth has not changed significantly, and the regional mean age at first sexual experience has substantially declined.³

For adolescents and youth today, **transformative change is a desire** and a possibility in every part of the world. What needs to be done so that every young person can realize all of the rights and choices that they want and deserve? UNFPA has defined some top priorities based on what we have learned as a long-time, trusted partner of the next generation.

23%

OF REFUGEE
ADOLESCENTS
ATTEND SCHOOL

70%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE
ARE ONLINE

1. International Telecommunication Union. ICT Facts and Figures. 2017.
2. UNHCR. Turn the Tide: Refugee Education in Crisis. 2018. ; UNESCO. Fact Sheet No.48. 2018.
3. Bongaarts et al. Trends in the age at reproductive transitions in the developing world: The role of education. 2017.



**“ THE CASE FOR
UNIVERSALLY REALIZING
YOUNG PEOPLE'S
RIGHTS AND CHOICES
HAS NEVER BEEN MORE
CLEAR AND URGENT.**

THE CASE FOR ACTING NOW

Upholding human rights. Achieving sustainable development. Attaining peace and prosperity. If we want to make progress towards these global aspirations, we have to fulfill commitments to young people. The case for universally realizing their rights and choices has never been more clear or urgent.



THE RIGHTS IMPERATIVE

Every individual has the right to make informed choices about their body and life, and to participate as an active citizen. Some of the most consequential choices occur early in life. They include affirming sexual orientation and gender identity; choosing whether, when and whom to marry; determining whether and when to have children and how many; and deciding when and with whom to have sex.



THE DEVELOPMENT IMPERATIVE

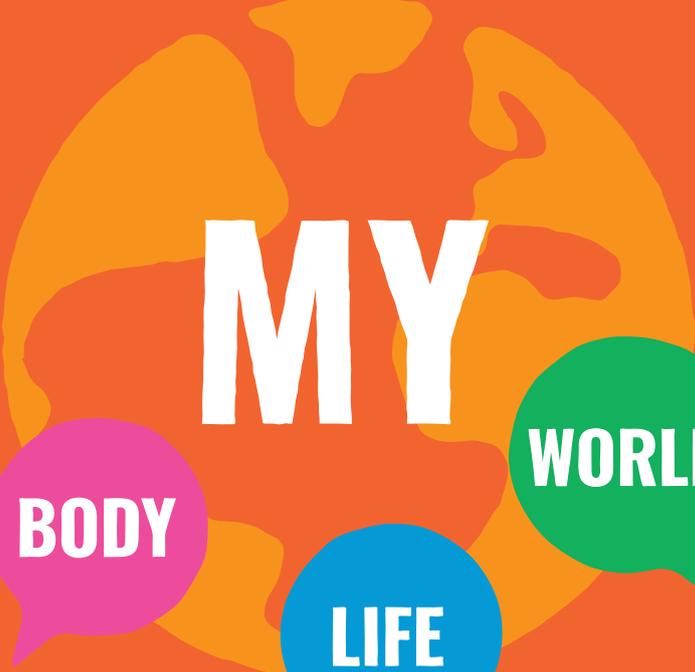
Sustainable development can only be achieved through investing in adolescents and youth at levels that guarantee their rights and choices. Their future depends on being healthy and educated, empowered to make informed decisions, and resilient in the face of change. **Investing in adolescents and youth also means maximizing the human capital⁴ necessary for countries' sustainable development. The first priority: intensifying support to those left furthest behind.**



THE DEMOGRAPHIC IMPERATIVE

All countries must invest in human well-being at all times, but **countries with large shares of adolescents and youth have an opportunity to accelerate development known as the demographic dividend.** It largely depends on prioritizing investment in their health, education, participation, social security and employment.

4. The World Bank Human Capital Project emphasizes the need to accelerate investments in health, education and skills of people for greater equity and economic growth, in particular in Africa <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/africa-human-capital-plan>.



MY



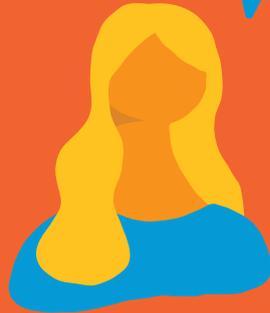
BODY



WORLD



LIFE





UNFPA'S VISION: A WORLD WHERE EVERY YOUNG PERSON CAN MAKE THEIR CHOICES AND ENJOY THEIR RIGHTS.

YOUNG PEOPLE CHANGING THE WORLD



LOUIS BRAILLE
invented Braille at 15



SUSAN B. ANTHONY
collected anti-slavery
petitions at 17

“My Body, My Life, My World!”, UNFPA’s new global strategy for adolescents and youth, puts young people at the centre of sustainable development. It is a **rallying cry for every young person to have the knowledge and power to make informed choices about their bodies and lives, and to participate in transforming their world.**

The strategy embraces all adolescents (aged 10 to 19) and youth (aged 15 to 24), celebrating their rich diversity. It recognizes the heterogeneity of their needs and desires, and is fully committed to ending the inequities many still face. It accounts for gender, sexual orientation and ability status, and affirms sexuality as a positive dimension of personality. It also considers other intersections such as ethnicity, social status and religion.

The strategy draws on **sound evidence in designing comprehensive strategies to deliver rights and choices.** Through a lifecycle approach, it builds on links between adolescence and youth and both earlier and later stages of life. The strategy applies across development, peacebuilding and humanitarian settings, and can be readily adapted to an array of contexts and cultures.

Making a real difference in the lives of young people rests **on shared leadership and shared responsibility.** Youth-led and youth-serving organizations, governments, community leaders, UN entities, civil society, academia, the private sector and the media all have essential roles to play.

**“ THE STRATEGY
DRAWS ON SOUND
EVIDENCE IN
DESIGNING
COMPREHENSIVE
STRATEGIES TO
GUARANTEE RIGHTS
AND CHOICES.**

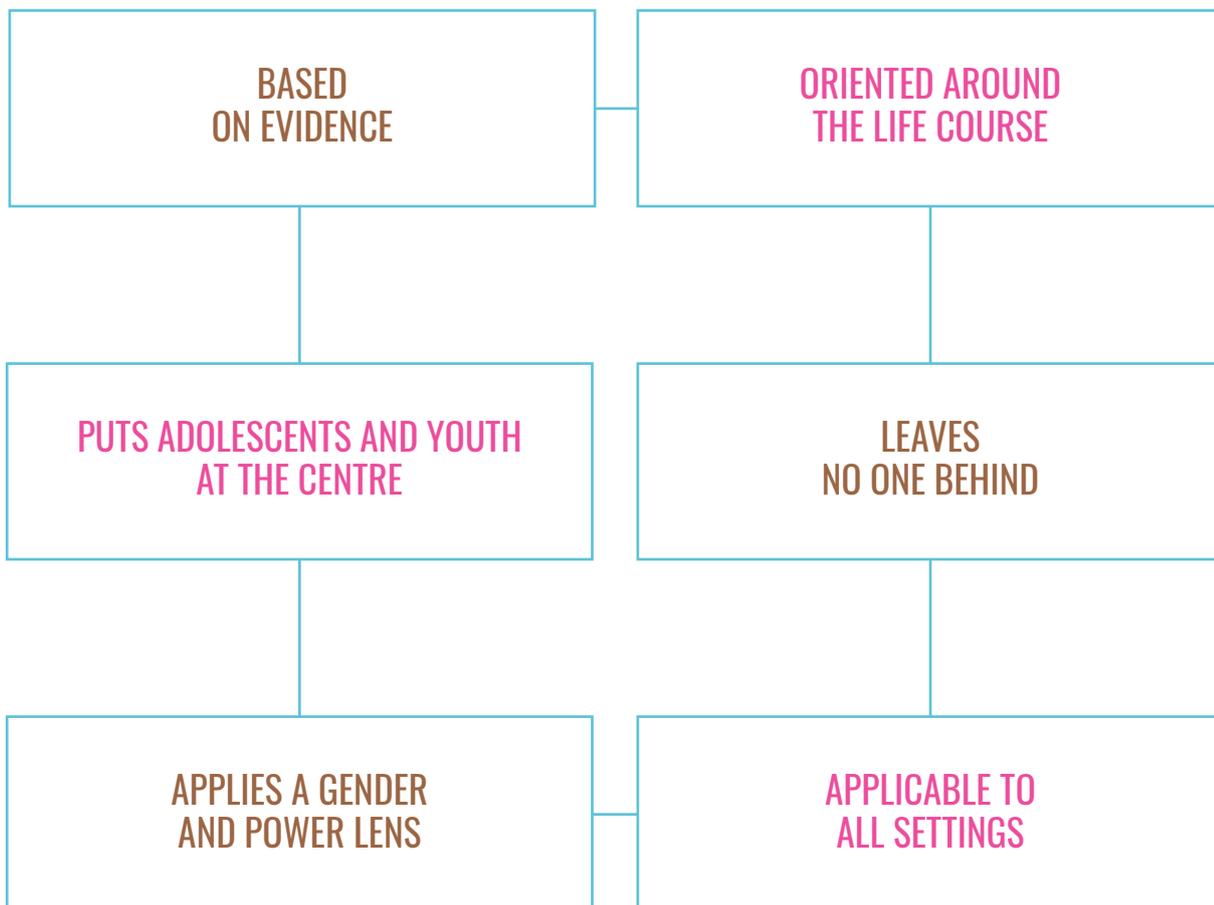


**“ KEEPING ADOLESCENTS
AND YOUTH IN SCHOOL
HELPS TO PREVENT EARLY
MARRIAGE AND HIGH-RISK
CHILDBEARING.**

WHAT THE ICPD HAD TO SAY: THE 1994 PROGRAMME OF ACTION COMMITS COUNTRIES TO...

...the promotion to the fullest extent of the health, wellbeing and potential of all adolescents and youth; meeting the special needs of adolescents and youth, especially young women and girls for social, family and community support, employment opportunities, participation in political processes and access to education, health, counselling and high-quality reproductive health services; keeping adolescents and youth, in particular young women and girls in school, to help prevent early marriage and high-risk childbearing and to reduce associated mortality and morbidity...

PRINCIPLES OF THE UNFPA STRATEGY

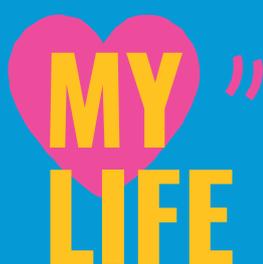


**RIGHTS AND CHOICES FOR EVERY ADOLESCENT
AND YOUTH: A UNFPA GLOBAL STRATEGY**

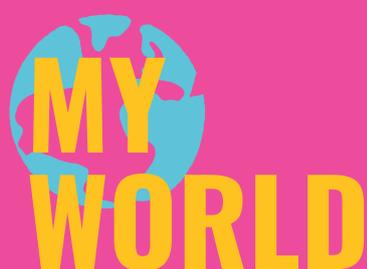


**MY
BODY**

**ENSURE ACCESS TO
INTEGRATED SEXUAL
AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH SERVICES
AND INFORMATION
FOR ALL ADOLESCENTS
AND YOUTH**



ADDRESS
**DETERMINANTS
OF HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING**
OF ADOLESCENTS AND
YOUTH, UPHOLDING
RIGHTS AND INVESTING
IN HUMAN CAPITAL



PROMOTE THE
LEADERSHIP OF
ADOLESCENTS AND
YOUTH AND **THEIR
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT
TO PARTICIPATE**
IN SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT,
HUMANITARIAN
ACTION AND IN
SUSTAINING PEACE

MY BODY:

**MAKING
INFORMED
CHOICES
OVER
THEIR OWN
BODIES**





MY BODY: ALL ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH CAN EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES OVER THEIR OWN BODIES

YOUNG PEOPLE CHANGING THE WORLD



MALALA YOUSAFZAI
won the Nobel Peace Prize at 17



BLAISE PASCAL
created the first mechanical calculator at 18

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are cornerstones of the transition from youth to adulthood. A number of issues mold the decisions adolescents and youth make. Social, cultural and religious factors sway choices, as do available information, awareness, empowerment and access to services. Very young adolescents (aged 10-14) are primarily influenced by parents and caregivers, older adolescents (aged 15-19) by their peers or the media.

Under “My body” UNFPA will **uphold sexual and reproductive health and rights to ensure that all adolescents and youth can make informed choices about their bodies**. This depends on sexual and reproductive health services being responsive to the needs of adolescents and youth and provided in an integrated manner, accessible to all adolescents and youth. Services must be responsive, respectful, confidential and affordable, as all of them may otherwise refrain from seeking them.

UNFPA's approach: Services fully geared to realizing the rights and choices of adolescents and youth must be integrated in comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights interventions, overall, and in maternal health policies and programmes. All health-care providers should have accurate and adequate skills to serve adolescents and youth, and all health facilities should offer necessary commodities, services and information. Making links between health-care services and schools extends effective outreach and referrals.



WE SUPPORT

QUALITY, INTEGRATED, AND INNOVATIVE ADOLESCENT- AND YOUTH-FRIENDLY SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO CONDOMS AND MODERN CONTRACEPTION

HEALTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES THAT PRIORITIZE THE NEEDS OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

A HEALTH WORKFORCE ABLE TO DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY, NON-JUDGMENTAL AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES TO ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS THAT CAN PROVIDE DATA ON ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR YOUNG SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



WE ACT TO PREVENT

EARLY AND/OR UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES

UNSAFE ABORTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY, INCLUDING OBSTETRIC FISTULA

UNSAFE SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS

NEW HIV AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

MY LIFE:

**ENJOYING A
HEALTHY
LIFE AND
SUCCESSFUL
TRANSITION
INTO
ADULTHOOD**





MY LIFE: ALL ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH CAN EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES FOR A HEALTHY LIFE AND SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION INTO ADULTHOOD

YOUNG PEOPLE
CHANGING THE
WORLD



YUSRA MARDINI
made history on the
first Olympic refugee
team at 18



IGOR SIKORSKY
invented the
helicopter at 20

The choices young people make—or are forced to make—determine their lives now and their futures as adults. The implications are many, including current and long-term health, and the health of future generations. A single choice to stay in school may protect against early pregnancy, child marriage, gender-based violence and HIV infection. Yet many young people will not be able to make that choice. Poverty, humanitarian crises, race, ethnicity, gender and cultural traditions are among the many factors that may stand in the way.

Under "My life", UNFPA will **address the determinants of adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights.**

Any approach to sexual and reproductive health and rights and well-being must recognize the larger environment influencing adolescents' and youths' opportunities, abilities and motivation to shape the lives they want. Our aim must be to reach and serve the whole adolescent person. This means mitigating adolescents' risk of developing harmful behaviours, while promoting positive, protective elements known to support youth development.

UNFPA's approach: Access to comprehensive sexuality education, supportive families and peers, safe schools and spaces for adolescents, and the development of skills and other assets set adolescents and youth on a positive trajectory to adulthood. We emphasize respect for adolescents' agency and autonomy, partnering with them rather than serving them as passive beneficiaries.



WE SUPPORT

ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH, IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

PROGRAMMES CENTRED ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS THAT BUILD THEIR HEALTH, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND COGNITIVE ASSETS, AND REACH THE MOST MARGINALIZED

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT, INCLUDING BOYS, MEN, GIRLS, WOMEN AND LOCAL LEADERS

THE GENERATION OF DATA AND EVIDENCE SO THAT DECISION MAKERS AND PLANNERS CAN PRIORITIZE INVESTMENTS IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH ACROSS ALL RELEVANT SECTORS, INCLUDING EDUCATION AND DECENT WORK

PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES DEDICATED TO BUILDING THE CAPABILITIES AND HUMAN CAPITAL OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH



WE ACT TO END

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

CHILD MARRIAGE AS A HARMFUL PRACTICE

EARLY AND/OR UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES

SCHOOL DROPOUT

STIGMA BASED ON AGE, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, ABILITY STATUS AND MORE

DISCRIMINATORY POWER STRUCTURES AND GENDER AND SOCIAL NORMS

MY WORLD:

LEADING AND PARTICIPATING IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND PEACE





MY WORLD: ALL ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH CAN EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND SUSTAINING PEACE

YOUNG PEOPLE CHANGING THE WORLD



ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL
developed the telephone at 18



STEVEN BIKO
started the movement which campaigned for an end to apartheid and the transition of South Africa toward universal suffrage when he was 22

Where young people have a say in the choices that are made, policies and services are more likely to respond to their rights and needs. All adolescents and youth must have opportunities to learn and practice evolving decision-making skills in their families, communities and beyond. This is also true in humanitarian and peacebuilding contexts, where adolescents and youth are critical agents of positive change.

Under "My World", UNFPA will work with partners and youth networks to strengthen the capacities of adolescents and youth, and ensure their contributions span the local to the global. UNFPA will facilitate access to key people and institutions, including governments.

UNFPA's approach: Bolstering youth movements and working with youth-led organizations will expand possibilities for them to shape a more equitable, peaceful and just future. It is particularly important to strengthen movements and organizations led by marginalized populations, including key populations of youth and adolescent girls, as well as to create intergenerational platforms and entry-points for adolescents and youth to engage at local, national and global levels, including in humanitarian and peacebuilding processes.



WE SUPPORT

THE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH IN DECISION-MAKING AND DIALOGUE

YOUTH-LED ORGANIZATIONS, INITIATIVES AND MOVEMENTS, AND THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING IN HUMANITARIAN AND PEACEBUILDING CONTEXTS

YOUTH-LED ADVOCACY, MOBILIZATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

A GREATER FOCUS ON AND INVESTMENT IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH IN SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES, AND IN PEACEBUILDING AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

DEMOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE, INCLUDING SEX- AND AGE-DISAGGREGATED DATA ON YOUNG PEOPLE



WE ACT TO STOP

EXCLUSION AND DISENFRANCHISEMENT

GENDER INEQUALITIES

DISCRIMINATION BASED ON AGE

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

VIOLENCE, INSECURITY AND INSTABILITY

HORIZON 2030: NO TURNING BACK

Commitment to realizing the rights and choices of all adolescents and youth has steadily gained ground since the 2015 adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There is growing agreement on what needs to be done, impelled by the 2030 deadline for the global Sustainable Development Goals as well as recognition of the central roles of adolescents and youth.

YOUNG PEOPLE
CHANGING THE
WORLD



ANNE FRANK
wrote her diary, one
of the most widely
read books in the
world, at 13

1994

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREES THAT INVESTMENT IN YOUNG PEOPLE IS CRITICAL; IT CALLS FOR ELIMINATING CHILD MARRIAGE AND FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND ADDRESSING ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ISSUES.

2017

THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY LAUNCHES THE **ACCELERATED ACTION FOR THE HEALTH OF ADOLESCENTS** TO ASSIST GOVERNMENTS IN MEETING SPECIFIC ADOLESCENT HEALTH NEEDS.

2015

THE **2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** COMMITS TO REALIZING THE RIGHTS OF ADOLESCENTS AND TO TAPPING YOUNG PEOPLE'S POTENTIAL FOR POSITIVE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION.

-
IN **RESOLUTION 2250**, THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST TIME FORMALLY RECOGNIZES YOUNG PEOPLE'S IMPORTANT ROLES IN ACHIEVING LASTING PEACE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

2016

MORE THAN 40 HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS—GOVERNMENTS, NGOS AND UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES—ENDORSE THE **COMPACT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION**, AN UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENT TO THE PRIORITIES AND PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

2018

THE **INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL GUIDANCE ON SEXUALITY EDUCATION** IS RELEASED TO GUIDE TEACHING AND LEARNING ABOUT THE COGNITIVE, EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SEXUALITY.

THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL CHAMPIONS THE NEW GLOBAL **UN STRATEGY YOUTH 2030**, AIMED AT RAMPING UP ACTION TO ADVANCE THE RIGHTS AND PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY.



YOUTH 2030: JOINING HANDS ACROSS THE UNITED NATIONS

“Youth 2030”, the UN Youth Strategy launched in 2018, mobilizes the United Nations to step up its work with and for young people. Through "My Body, My Life, My World!", UNFPA makes integral contributions to each of five priorities for action.

Here’s how the two line up.

UN STRATEGY	UNFPA STRATEGY
ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND ADVOCACY	BACKS MEANINGFUL AND INCLUSIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT, INTERGENERATIONAL PLATFORMS AND THE CULTIVATION OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS.
INFORMED AND HEALTHY FOUNDATIONS	INCREASES ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS, AND ADDRESS INEQUALITIES SO ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH CAN MAKE INFORMED CHOICES ABOUT THEIR BODIES AND PLAN THEIR LIVES. #MYBODY, #MYLIFE
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DECENT WORK	HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP SOFT SKILLS AND HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF AT DECENT AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT. #MYLIFE
YOUTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS	ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH EVERYWHERE. #MYBODY #MYLIFE #MYWORLD
PEACE AND RESILIENCE	STANDS BEHIND ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH AS ACTIVE PARTNERS IN PEACEBUILDING PROCESSES AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION. #MY WORLD

IT'S IN OUR DNA: SERVING THE NEXT GENERATION

UNFPA upholds the rights and choices of adolescent and youth as a cornerstone of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. We stand together with them across the globe. Our work with adolescents and youth is bold, vocal and visible:



WE FOCUS ON ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2018-2021, our roadmap for the first leg of the journey to 2030 and the SDGs, prioritizes investments in young people across four outcomes, including one dedicated to adolescents and youth. Realizing their rights and choices is the only way to achieve three transformative results—ending preventable maternal deaths, ending the unmet need for family planning, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices.



WE ARE A TRUSTED ALLY

UNFPA knows from long experience that ensuring rights and choices for all critically depends on the meaningful engagement of adolescents and youth. This must include the poorest and most marginalized, and reach the places where adolescents and youth live. We systematically invest in strengthening national and regional youth-led networks, and pioneering models for youth leadership and participation in many countries. Adolescents and youth both benefit from our programmes, and as our close partners, offer vital contributions to shaping their design and implementation.



WE WALK THE TALK

As UNFPA, we strive to create an organizational culture that encourages adolescents and youth to contribute and lead at all levels. We support young innovators with fellowships. Our young professional network, "Tangerine", is a dedicated space for young staff that is the first of its kind in the United Nations system. We frequently open our doors to youth networks and organizations, providing them opportunities to meet, connect and mobilize. Through conscious emphasis on intergenerational dialogue and collaboration, we make sure young people are empowered within our organization as well as outside.

“MY BODY, MY LIFE MY WORLD!” CUTS ACROSS ALL OUTCOMES OF THE UNFPA STRATEGIC PLAN



MY BODY: increased access to integrated sexual and reproductive health services and information for all adolescents and youth—in line with Outcome 1 on integrated sexual and reproductive services and reproductive rights.



MY LIFE: Address determinants of adolescents' and youths' health and well-being, in particular girls, upholding rights and investing in human capital, so that they can thrive and exercise autonomy and choice in their transition to adulthood—in line with Outcome 2 on adolescent and youth empowerment and rights and Outcome 3 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.



MY WORLD: Systematic and meaningful participation of adolescents and youth in sustainable development, humanitarian action and sustaining peace, and the visibility of their priorities in policies and programmes responsive to their needs and priorities—in line with Outcome 2 and Outcome 4 on population dynamics and sustainable development.



Delivering a world where
every pregnancy is wanted
every childbirth is safe and
every young person's
potential is fulfilled