Placing Young People at the Forefront of their HIV & SRH Rights Agenda in Southern Africa

The SAfAIDS Y4R Model

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What Evidence Prompted this Model Response? (1)

- International, continental and SADC commitments to young people’s SRH and HIV → fulfilling and accountability [SADC MPS for OVCY (2011); UNESCO Young People Today: Time to Act Now (2013); ESA Ministerial Commitment on CSE (2013); UNAIDS Fast Track 90x90x90 (2015), The SDGs (2016)]

- SRH programs often overlook social, cultural and economic factors and structural barriers hindering young people (YP) from making informed, timely & healthy decisions. Vulnerabilities and risks for sub-groups often responded to in a homogenous manner

- Limited access to SRH:
  - **Rights information** and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) limited for in-and-out of school YP (+ stigma by community, leaders, parents)
  - **Services** in non-prejudicial and conducive environments continues to be limited/resisted, even where transformative laws/policies/frameworks exist
What Evidence Prompted this Model Response? (2)

• Conflicting policy/law e.g. mandatory parental consent notification requirements have detrimental effects on the decisions of YP to access HTS and inhibit SRH services e.g. FP for adolescent girls

• Harmful cultural and religious practices and norms remain unaddressed; and protective practices untapped to scale → gender equality education not integrated or harmonized

• Political commitment to investment in SRH for adolescents and YP, at all levels → critical for education, health, labor and legal sectors through a multi-sectoral SRH response for young people within their developmental-needs journey
What is Young 4 Real - Y4R?

- SAfAIDS launched the Y4R Model in 2011 → evolved informed by baselines & learning via a series of regional & national programmes

- Model enabled program & policy advocacy focus on A&YSRH to be:
  - Framed concept of “Investing in Young People is Investing in the Future”
  - Contributory to Closing the Gap in HIV and SRH → limited access to SRH information & services (creating demand), among Young People (10-24yrs) and prevailing structural barriers (building conducive environment)
  - Sustainable and community-absorbed → engaged critical stakeholders in the Circle of Support of young people, to enable a Movement of Recognition for Young People’s SRHR, including: parents/caregivers, traditional and religious leaders, service providers, teachers, media practitioners and policy makers
SAfAIDS Young 4 Real Model for AYSRH Rights

- Increased Access to Strategic HIV and SRH Information in Conducive Environments
- Increased Demand for SRH Services by Young People (10-24yrs)

- Radio Listening & Reading Clubs
- AGYW Risk Reduction 360º Clubs (in and out-of-school)
- Demand Creation
  - Dialogues (Community, Intergenerational, Hop-on Mobile taxi)
  - Music Bashes & Galas
  - Family Fun Days
  - Sports Events
- YPISA Champions (in and out-of-school)
- Advocacy Campaigns
- Champion Teachers and Local Leadership
- Capacity Strengthening & Mentoring
- Community Referral Networks
- Multi-media Campaigns Mass & Social Media
- Engaging Families Male Involvement
- Material Development & Dissemination (Capacity, Advocacy, IEC)
Scale-up of Y4R Model Application

- 2013 scale-up → Zimbabwe in farming, mining & Apostolic religious sects
- 2014 expansion → Swaziland, South Africa & Zambia (SCORE Program)
- 2016 broadened → integrating Gender Transformation, Male Involvement, OVC & their families and layering with PSS, livelihoods & social protection, through: CTRF4YP program (Sweden supported), DREAMS program (PEPFAR supported) in Zimbabwe; and ReACH (FHI360 supported) program in South Africa

**Pivotal** to Y4R Model success & sustainability → National partnerships (i) CS implementing partners, (ii) Ministries of Health, Education, Gender and Youth, (iii) Local leadership authorities & (iv) development partners. Regional linkages (i) SADC Secretariat initiatives and (ii) CSO advocacy processes, ensuring synergy and regional relevance and contributions
What Changed ➔ The Results

Broke barriers in effective communication between “adults” (parents, teachers, leadership) and YP ➔ conducive environment for YP

Increased knowledge, peer to peer referrals & co-empowerment ➔ increase in access to services (HTS, ART, PEP, SGBV counselling, PSS, social protection)

Endorsement and institutionalisation of materials for teachers and learners into the MoPSE Guidance and Counselling Lifeskills Curriculum in Zimbabwe

Transformational leadership skills among young people, in SRH, by building a growing and self-sustained pool of YPISA champions

Increased male involvement and ABYM protagonists for SRH rights of AGYW and sanctioning VAGW ➔ increased gender equality practices & reduced risk

Increased self-risk perceptions ➔ risk reduction practices

Increased number of champion teachers advocating SRHR for young people in schools, and motivating peers in attitudinal shifts
VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH Y4R

“The radio skits and the Stay safer series are very useful, we are expected to help young people at school but we lacked appropriate information”
Miss P. Moyo, a teacher in Bubi, Zimbabwe

“…from now on, I will wait until I reach 18 years to have sex… this is because I will be mature and be able to make my own decision”, said Lerato an OOS YPISA Champion in South Africa

“Morning. I am one of the zonal heads who attended the SAfAIDS workshop in Ndola. I'd like to thank you for the work that you are doing. It is saving people's lives. I am busy educating the learners on CSE even grade ones and what results I am getting is great.”
Teacher in Ndola, Zambia

“.. I was able to tell the group things I have never told anyone before and the whole group just followed suit and told really touching stories of others were raped and did not get any help. I will help my pupils acquire this important knowledge of CSE”.
Head teacher in Chingola, Zambia
**Key Lessons Learnt**

By engaging young people’s circle of care (parents, teachers) and influencers (local leadership) through breaking communication barriers between them and YP, via Intergenerational Dialogues; Champions are generated for YP SRH rights within the circle of care

This results in creation of a sustained conducive environment within which YP can access HIV and SRH services freely, report GBV; or other adverse practices placing them at risk of HIV infection

Diversity and inclusion, when integrated into YP program design, ensures inclusivity and specific needs met for female, male, transgender, and other YP sub-groups eg YPLHIV/ALHIV, YPWID, YPLWD and YLGBTI → transcending a homogenous approach + benefit beyond boundaries

YP can be powerful drivers of social change – as “Social Leaders”- when availed requisite tools, skills, confidence and entry into strategic and safe spaces to navigate the SRH and HIV response to meet their specific needs
Moving Forward…..

• Continue to align with SADC and other regional commitments, and link with SDGs (integration of WASH, social protection, livelihoods)

• Ensure more population-focused and localized interventions

• Expand pool of Young Leaders in SRH → SAfAIDS Young People’s SRH & Gender Transformation Leadership Academy (YPLA)

• Facilitate increased Linking & Learning to scale-up working/good practice models to inform investment within resource constraints

• Widen engagement of Local Assets e.g. law enforcement, within the circle of care of young people, especially in tackling SGBV as an HIV prevention and SRH promotion factor
Thank You to.....

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The Journey in Safeguarding A&YSRH Rights Continues with Passion & Focus!