



YouthNet

Experiences in Ethiopia: Policy Development

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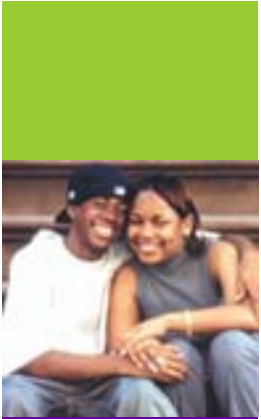
Overview

- AYRH Strategy Goals
- AYRH Strategy Process
 - Key to success
 - Challenges
- Video of interviews
- The Way Forward for Ethiopia
- Conclusion



AYRH Strategy Goals

- Creating an enabling positive environment.
- Increasing access and quality of sexual reproductive health services.
- Increasing awareness and knowledge about adolescent reproductive health issues.
- Informing the design to create innovative AYRH programs that are Ethiopian specific.



Reflections on the Strategy Development Process



Enabling Factors

- Poverty reduction programs
- Millennium Development Goals
- Elections
- New Ministries
- New Parliament
- New Criminal Code



Process

- MOH commitment
- TA support from YouthNet/FHI
- Consultative meetings with Population Council
- Multi-sectoral committee
- Advocacy days
- Working days with NGOs
- Selected regional consultations



Process

Multi-donor approach:

- Strength: High commitment to support the AYRH strategy
- Challenge: Strategy needs to reflect the best approaches for Ethiopia and not donors' mandate
- Key role of YouthNet/FHI: communication and leverage



Keys to Success

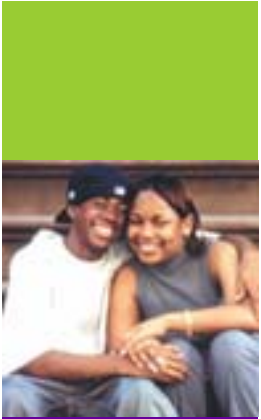
- Advocacy: High commitment from policy makers all along the process
- Identify “idea champion”
- Youth representation:
“Youth are key. They should be empowered. This policy belongs to them. If we try to do the policy without the youth, we are going to fail.”

Salhu Haile, Packard Foundation

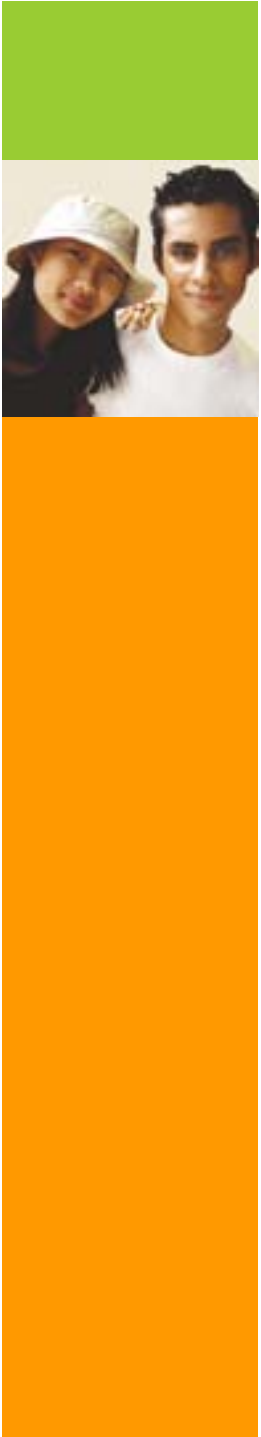


Challenges:

- Politically sensitive environment
- Bureaucracy: hierarchical and patriarchal
- Limited resources at FMOH including technology
- Perceptions towards “youth”
- Improved but challenging relationship with government and civil society
- Consensus vs time



Interviews with stakeholders from Ethiopia



The Way Forward

Leadership

Operational plan and implementation

Collaboration

Advocacy



Conclusions

- Crucial to be in the Ministry office
- Sensitivity to the cultural and political context
- Advocacy with multiple stakeholders
- Important to share lessons learned from NRH strategy
- Assure a multi-donor approach
- YouthNet role: technical assistance, coordination with multiple stakeholders, leverage of resources