



Youth Participation in RH/HIV Programs and Research

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Youth Participation

- Why youth?
- The fundamentals
- Is it important?
- How is it implemented?
- What about its effects?
- Lessons learned and opportunities



Youth and Participation: The Fundamentals

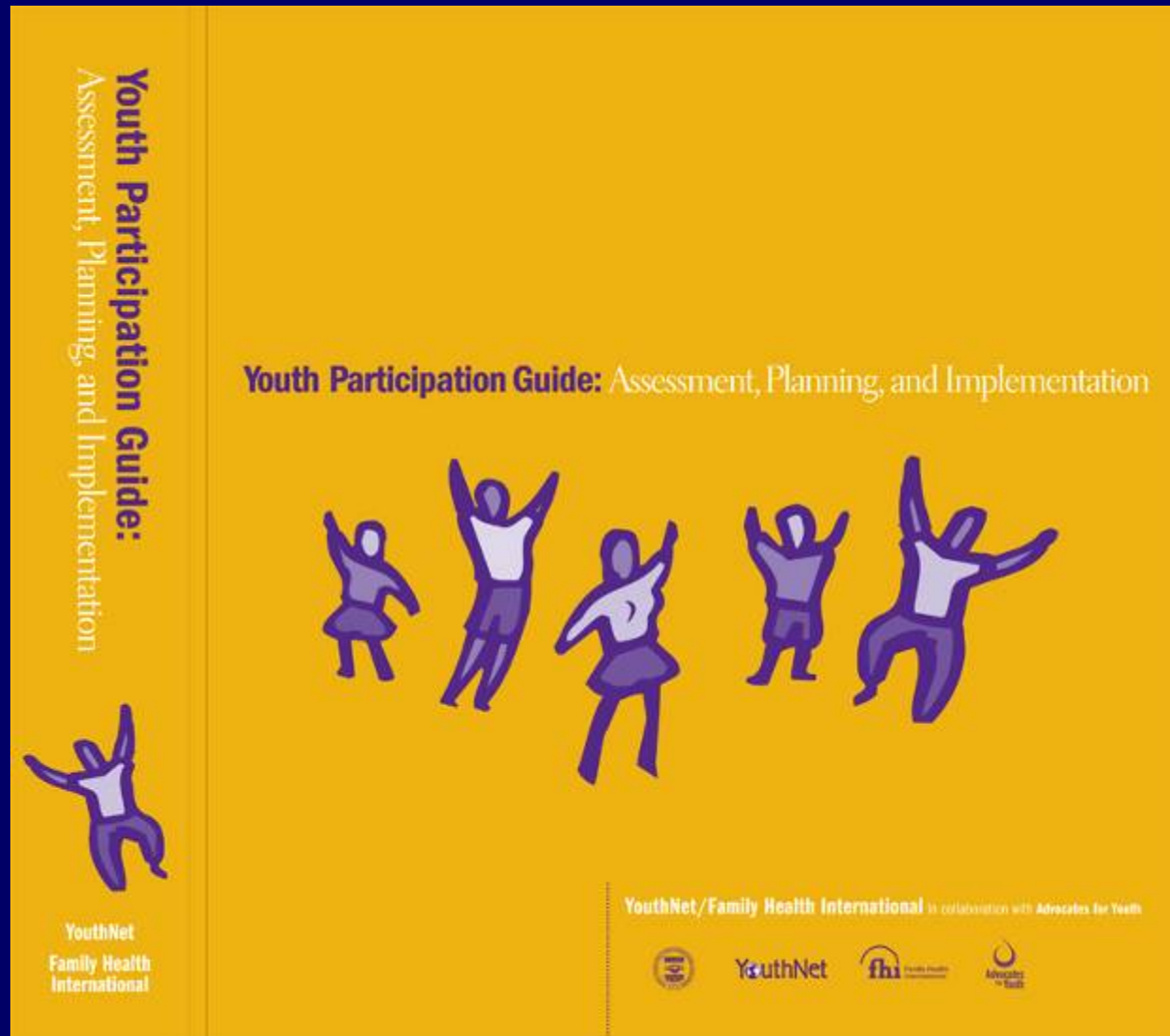
- Context matters
- Some risk-taking is normal
- Adolescence presents an opportunity
- Youth are not “mini adults”
- Younger youth vs. older youth
- Youth are diverse



Youth Participation: Is It Important?

- Many strategies for involving youth in the design, implementation, monitoring/evaluation of RH/HIV programs, however:
 - Does youth participation lead to stronger program outcomes?
 - How much should target audiences be involved in programs designed to meet their needs?
- Depends on your perspective...

How Is It Implemented? (1)



How Is It Implemented? (2)

The Guide serves to:

- Increases level of meaningful participation in organizations and programs



- Assists organizations and donors to assess and integrate youth into programming and work plan activity development

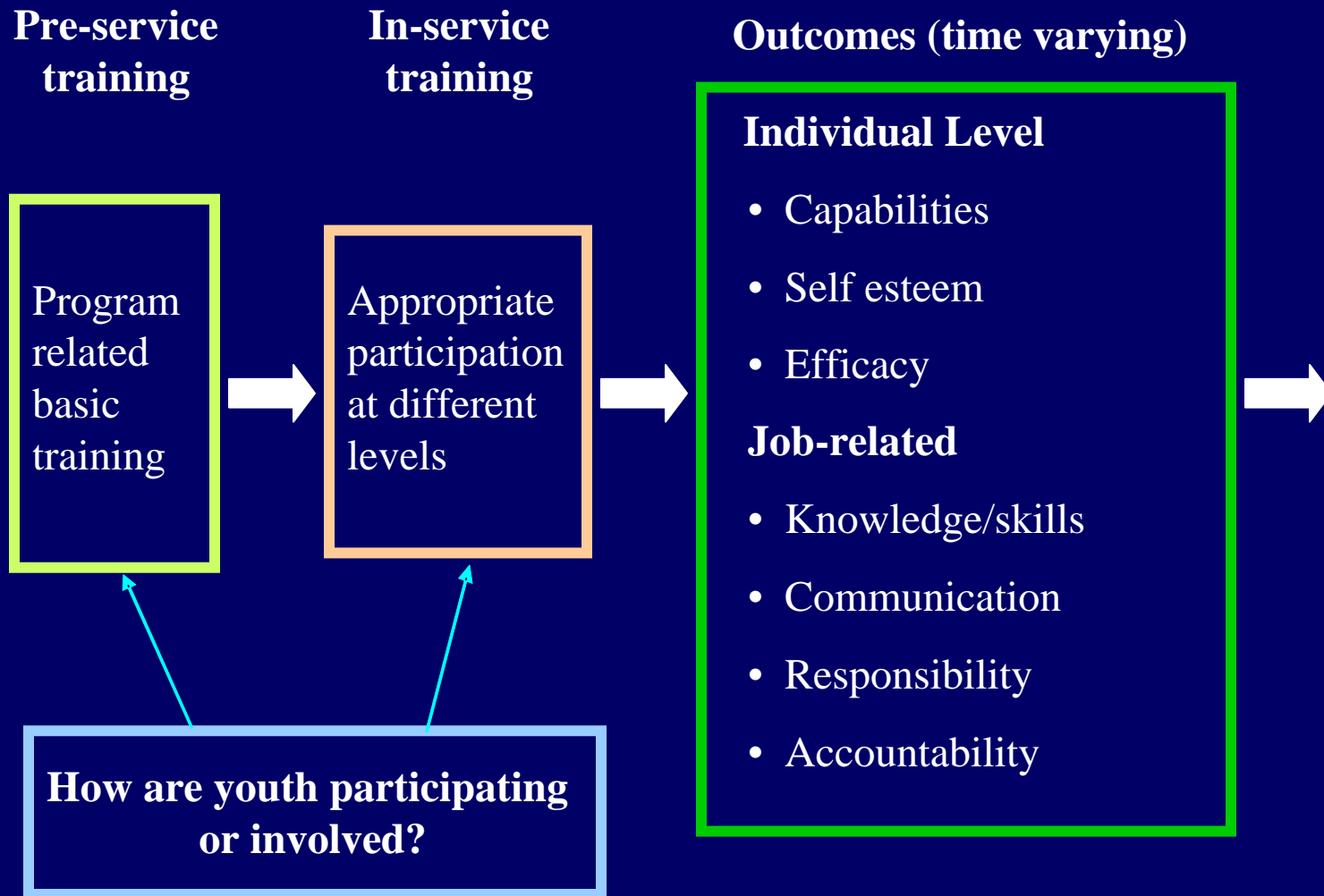
How Is It Implemented? (3)

Structure of Guide:

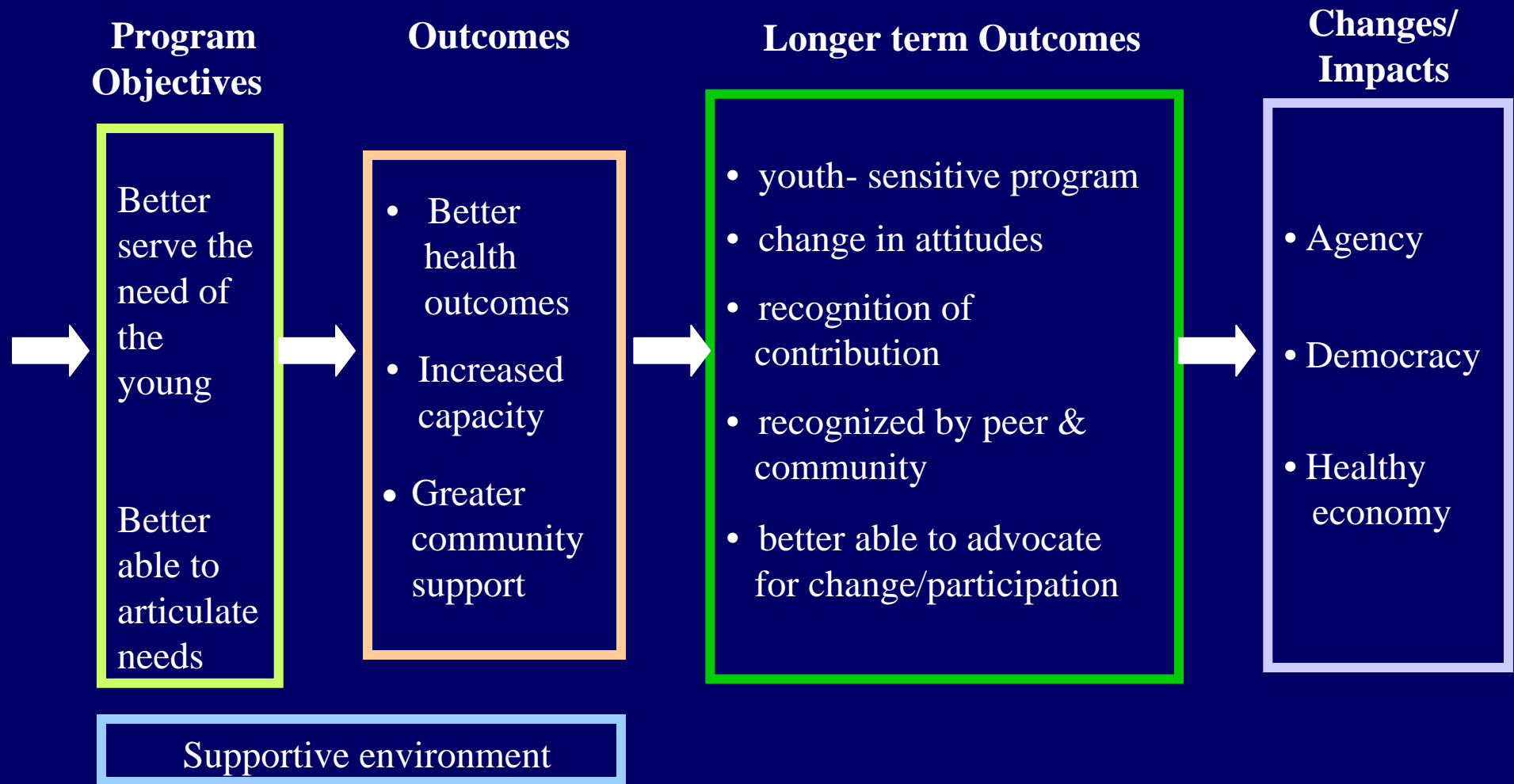
- Introduction
- Conceptual Overview
- Background Handouts
- Institutional Assessment and Planning Tool
- Youth-Adult Partnership Training Curriculum
- Resources



Illustrative Example: Youth Participation in a Service Delivery Project (1)



Illustrative Example: Youth Participation in a Service Delivery Project (2)



Lessons Learned

- Perhaps evidence not necessary given human rights imperative
- Not an either/or phenomenon
- Youth have the RIGHT to be involved!
- Links to research on resiliency (protective factors for youth)
- Programs are more relevant and sustainable
- Links to youth development