



YouthNet

What about Communities and YRH?

Highlights of Global Activities
to Promote Community Involvement
as a Key Component of YRH Programs

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Community Involvement Within the YN Program Framework

An effective strategy to help achieve sustainable
YRH outcomes

- *Dialogue and mobilization to challenge and change gender and other social norms*
- *Create more enabling environments that encourage and support youth RH choices*





Global YN Activities Sought Answers to Two Questions

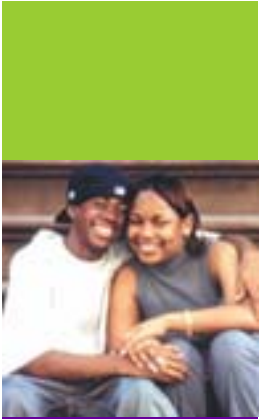
- Q:** What program experiences and current better practices exist to involve communities in strategic ways around YRH issues?
- Q:** What evaluation and research evidence exists to reaffirm the inherent value that involving communities is a critical program pathway to improved YRH outcomes?



Which led to...

- ➔ International technical consultation on program and research issues related to working with communities to improve YRH
- ➔ Literature review of YRH programs and research that had substantial CI involvement
- ➔ Annotated bibliography





Key Program Findings of Technical Consultation

- Issues of definition and attributes of CI
- Current better practice does exist but is not easily available to global audience
- Most current YRH programs focus on knowledge, services, enabling environment
- Program gaps include working with vulnerable youth and conflict mitigation
- Little evaluation of better practices





Key **Research** Findings of Technical Consultation

- Little systematic research available
- Similar issues of definition and attribute
- Logical placement of CI in context of YRH programs – process or outcome?
- To understand better the contributions of CI:
Need more rigorous program evaluation and research
plus
Standardized impact and outcome indicators

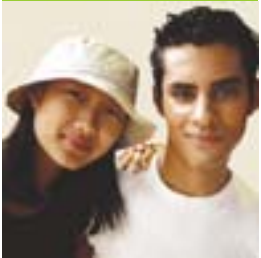


Recommendations for Programs

- Building the Knowledge Base

- More conceptual frameworks that show how CI links to YRH outcomes
- More and better documentation of processes, tools, approaches to develop base of lessons learned and better practices
- Substantially involve community in evaluation of process and effects





Recommendations for Research

- Building the Evidence Base

- Test and define standardized indicators, including measures of normative change
- Research on program effectiveness of different CI approaches
- Tease out effect of CI on building supportive environments and on sustainability



GTL Tools and Guidelines for Field Practitioners

- *Youth InfoNet* mined wealth of available program literature on the internet
- Annotated bibliography of tools and guidelines and other resources
- YN Guide to Participatory Assessments



To Conclude

- YN leaves a body of work highlighting the state of YRH and CI research and programs *and* recommended ways forward
- As efforts grow to address youth rights (and responsibilities), CI /YRH programs and related research will need to continue to evolve
- Need for more conscious partnerships to address gaps: youth-community *and* research-implementing organizations

