



# YouthNet

## *Youth Participation Guide:* Increasing Meaningful Youth Participation in RH and HIV/AIDS Programming

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**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



YouthNet



# Why Involve Youth?

- Youth participation is critical
  - Is a right and responsibility
  - Benefits programs (relevance, impact)
  - Benefits young people (skills, health)
- Pillar of YouthNet
  - One of five cross-cutting themes
  - Institutionally and programmatically strengthened the program
- But... involving young people can be challenging for some organizations

# Where to Involve Youth?



## Within an Institution

### Structural

Governance  
Administration  
Human resources  
Program coordination  
Financial development

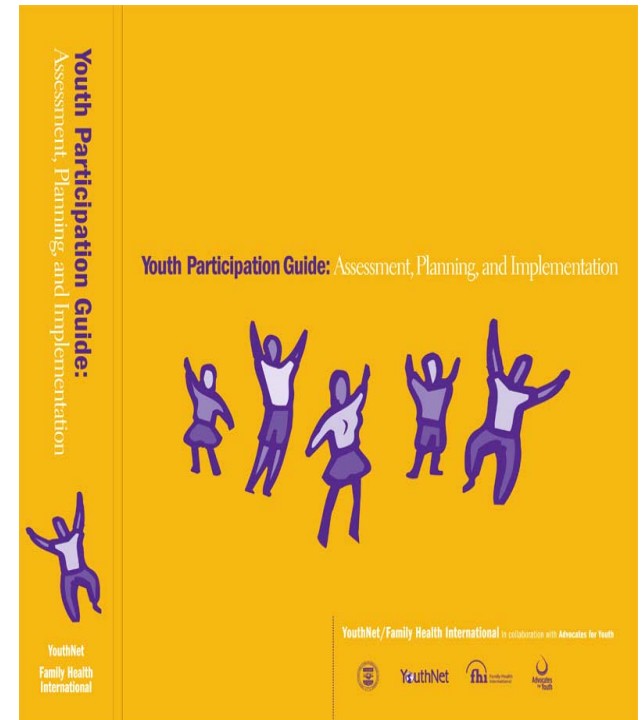
### Programmatic

Planning and design  
Implementation  
Evaluation  
Research

# How to Involve Youth?

## *Youth Participation Guide: Assessment, Planning, and Implementation*

- Increases level of meaningful youth participation in organizations/programs at institutional and programmatic levels
- Assists organizations and donors to assess youth participation and integrate youth into programming and work plan development



# Why the Guide

- Lack of practical guidelines
- Need for:
  - Institutional Assessment and Planning Tool
  - Youth-Adult Partnership Training Curriculum
- Capacity building





# Use of the Guide

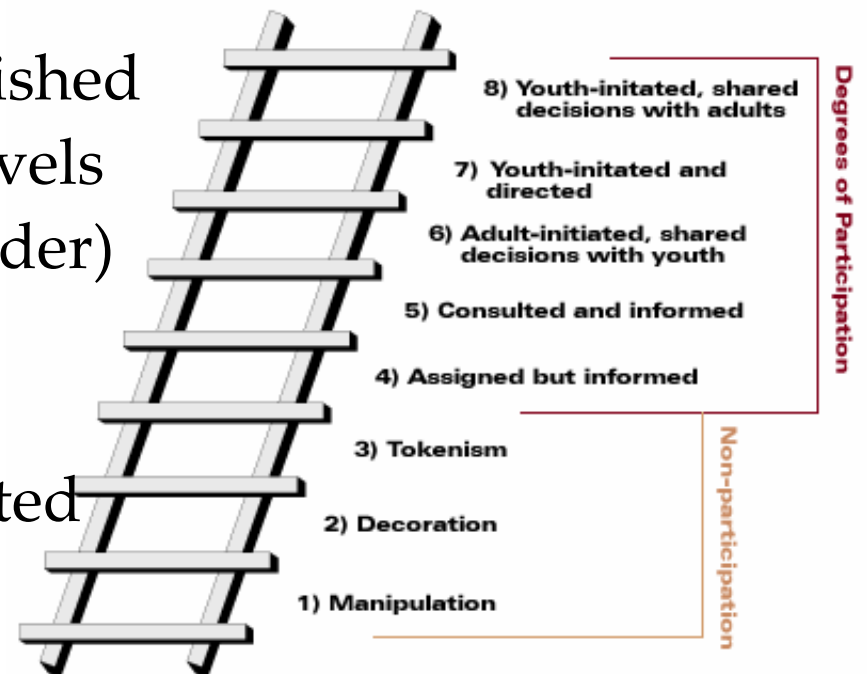
- High demand leading to translations in Bulgarian and Spanish; Swahili and Arabic in progress
- Regional trainings
  - Southern Africa – 10 countries
  - Eastern Europe – 6 countries
  - Latin America – 6 countries
- National workshops
  - Zambia, Uganda, Jordan, and Tanzania (2)



# Latin America and Caribbean Experience (1)

## Process:

- Adapted for PAHO / GTZ initiative  
“Promotion of Youth Development and Violence Prevention”
- Initial workshop established definitions and assessed levels of participation (Hart’s ladder)
- Second regional workshop TOT
- Country teams committed to replicate workshop and use IAPT (HEPI)





# Latin America and Caribbean Experience (2)

## Continued use of guide and training:

- *Argentina*: Held awareness-raising workshops in two municipalities
- *Nicaragua*: Replicated workshop with project team
- *Colombia*: Ministry of Social Protection conducted evaluation of youth participation
- *El Salvador*: Country team working with the Secretary of Youth has recommended training to be integrated into training center for staff
- *Colombia, El Salvador and Nicaragua*: Contracted young professionals to coordinate evaluation processes (using the Guide) and follow-up on action plan implementation



# Latin America and Caribbean Experience (3)

## Results:

- Continued high demand for Guide
- Training filling a gap
- Activities improved organizations' capacity to integrate youth participation into existing organizational structures, policies, and programs
- By project end, anticipated that at least 50% of the associated institutions will have increased youth participation