

YouthNet

Repositioning Family Planning for
Youth: Advocacy to Action

Global, Regional and Country
Experiences

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Overview to Presentation

- Background and Rationale for Repositioning for Youth
- Global and Regional Advocacy and Capacity Building
- Country Advocacy and Implementation



Repositioning Family Planning (RFP)

- Repositioning FP is a global initiative to reinvigorate family planning to:
 - Promote FP as a **health** intervention-not a population issue.
 - Promote optimal birth spacing
 - link FP to other health and non-health interventions



Repositioning for Youth

- Youth make up a large segment of the population in Africa
- They represent 1.5 times the unmet need of adults
- High percentage of abortion
- Addressing their FP/RH needs is critical to meeting country health and development goals, including the MDGs



Global and Regional Advocacy Efforts

- Washington, DC
 - Repositioning FP Working Group-Strategy Document
- Regional Capacity Building
 - **East Africa:** Program and Policy Meeting (5 countries)
 - **West Africa:** Accra Meeting (18 countries)
 - **Sahel:** (8 countries)



Ghana Pre-Conference: Highlights

Repositioning FP for Youth

Objectives

1. Make the case for youth FP
2. Analyze the nature, causes and dimensions of unmet need among youth and implications for achieving health and development goals
3. Ensure FP needs of youth taken into account and included in the follow-up plan

Content

- Overview
- Analysis of unmet need for youth FP
- Plan for the week

Participants

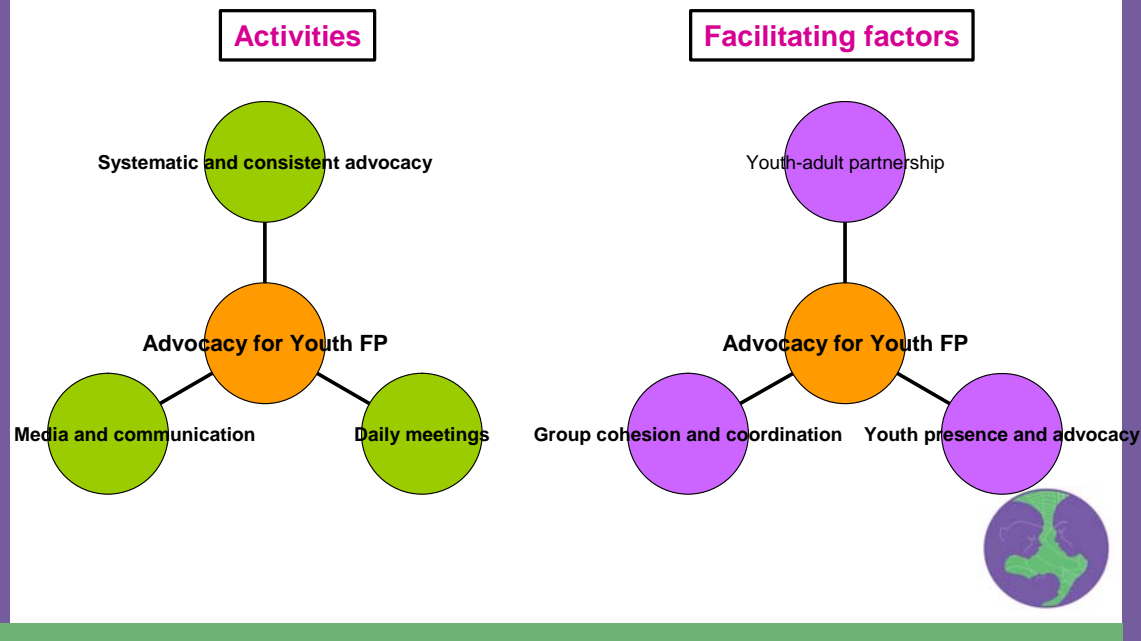
- 56 youth champions (17 youth & 39 adults)
- 12 countries and regional organizations





Ghana Conference: Highlights

Advocacy Efforts





Ghana Conference: Highlights (con't)

Results

- Youth FP recognized throughout the Conference
- Youth FP identified as a priority in the follow-up plan (8 out of 15 countries)
- Youth as partners in the implementation of the follow-up plan

Youth - A critical element in repositioning FP



A Country Example: Mali

Enabling Factors

- Regional Repositioning Meetings
- Political engagement
- Religious support
- New RH Law
- Increased role of Civil Society
- USAID/RFP : Focus Country
- Advocacy/Media campaigns



Mali-Activities and Results

- Advocacy day with Education Leaders
- 51 schools in Bamako
- 60 teachers trained in FP
- 120 Peer educators trained
- 30 Youth advocates trained
- Estimated 2,000 young people reached



Remaining challenges

- Cultural-social norms
- RH law very general: No statutes
- Youth friendly services?
- Sensitive agenda for some donors
- Institutionalization: Beyond 51 schools...



Conclusions

- Youth are and should be a critical part of FP
- Important to reach youth through integrated approaches (health and non-health)
- Advocacy is important, but efforts must be sustained locally
- Youth and community involvement paramount



Program Lessons Learned

- Advocacy at multiple levels was key to advancing RFP for youth
- Advocacy allowed for the leveraging of resources
- In-country commitment and follow-up critical