

REPORT ON THE PtY COUNTRY EXCHANGE LEARNING VISIT

 **BOLGATANGA, NORTHERN GHANA**



The Power to You(th) Programme, aims at empowering adolescent girls and young women from underserved communities, enabling their meaningful participation in decision-making processes concerning harmful practices, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and unintended pregnancies. With partners in Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Uganda, South Africa, and The Netherlands, this alliance strives to garner public support, advocate for enhanced policies and laws, and bolster civil society to amplify the voices of young people, enabling them to assert, safeguard, and expand civic space. Uniquely, Power to You(th) tackles deeply ingrained social norms by engaging different actors across the various layers of the social-ecological model.

As a partnership program, Power to You(th) aims at fostering collaboration and learning between the different partners in the program who include global and country partners. This is done through organizing linking and learning sessions between PtY countries as well as partnership meetings which bring together representatives from all PtY partners to share and learn from

one another. The PtY Coordination Lab coordinates Exchange linking and learning sessions between the different countries in PtY based on similarities, differences and interests expressed by the countries to learn from particular PtY countries.

From the 13th to the 16th of May 2024, partners from Uganda, Senegal, Malawi, Rutgers, Sonke Gender Justice and the coordination lab converged in the small border town of Bolgatanga-a town in Northern Ghana for a linking and learning session hosted by the PtY Ghana implementing team. The PtY contact from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs also joined the visit. The agenda for the meeting was co-created by all the country teams and an exciting week full of learnings awaited us. The main objective of the linking and learning was to create an opportunity for the different countries to identify similarities in their implementation context, look at the differences, share best practices and identify possible replications and adaptations that could be taken up by the participants in their country programs.

DAY ONE: GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

This day was sculptured to ensure that there was a proper understanding and appreciation of the context in which PtY is implemented in Ghana, Uganda and Senegal. This was done through a deep dive first into the country structure of PtY by the country teams which was later followed by a thorough look at the implementation per pathway.

PtY Ghana structure

The Ghana consortium has the Country Management team (CMT) at the apex of the consortium. The CMT is made up of the executive directors of the implementing partners(Norsaac, Songtaba and Ghana SRHR alliance), the National program coordinator, funding and grants advisor, and two young people (Youth CMT reps), with the executive director of the lead partner(Norsaac) sitting in as the CMT chair for the consortium. All the members have voting rights except the funding and grants advisor. Amongst other roles, the National program coordinator sits in as the secretary of the cmt. The young people on CMT connect with other young people, through the Movement of Youths in the implementing regions, brings the youth perspectives on issues in cmt meetings.

Under the CMT, are the Implementing partners. The Ghana consortium has 3 main implementing partners. These are the Youth Empowerment Team(pathway 1), the Ghana SRHR alliance (pathway 2) Norsaac and Songtaba(Pathway 3). With the NPC playing a coordinating role, she leads the implementation of pathway 4.

The technical working groups sit right under the IPs. The Ghana consortium has 5 technical working groups; the communication technical working group, the finance technical working group, the PMERL technical working group, the lobby and advocacy technical working group, and the GTA technical working group. Each technical working group has youth representation and participation, and they are treated as equal members of the technical working group. It is important to add that the young people from the technical working groups and the youth cmt join the Youth empowerment manager to form the Youth empowerment team.

Finally, the coordination Lab is also an integral part of the programme structure in Ghana. The coordination lab is led by the national program coordinator, and comprises the leads of the various technical working groups.

PtY Senegal structure

In Senegal, partner A and Partner B are the partnership leads for the Power To You(th)program. The two partners work in 5 regions in Senegal and they have 15 partners in total from the five Districts. Next to this is the country Management Team composed of 8 organizations who are all implementing partners. Finally there is a consultative team who offers strategic guidance to the program.

PtY Uganda structure

Country Management Team (CMT): At the top of the organogram, the Country Management Team (CMT) oversees the overall strategy and operations. The CMT is responsible for making high-level decisions and ensuring that the organization's objectives are met.

Youth Advisory Group: Directly feeding into the CMT is the Youth Advisory Group. This group provides valuable insights and feedback from the youth perspective, ensuring that the programs and strategies are relevant and impactful for young people.

Grant Management Unit: Parallel to the Youth Advisory Group, the Grant Management Team is focused on securing and managing funding.

Program Team: Beneath the CMT, the Program Team is responsible for the implementation of projects and initiatives. This team includes program managers, coordinators, and field officers who work on various projects aligned with the organization's mission. They ensure that activities are executed efficiently and meet the set goals and objectives.

Finance Team: Working alongside the Program Team, the Finance Team manages the financial health of the organization. They work closely with the Grant Management Team to ensure proper fund utilization.

District Coordination Group: At the bottom of the organogram is the District Coordination Group. This group operates at the local level, coordinating activities and initiatives within specific districts. They report to the Program Team, ensuring that local needs are addressed and that programs are tailored to the district context.

CONTEXT AND STRATEGIES PER PATHWAY

UGANDA

The political context in which PtY is implemented in Uganda is both favorable to some extent but also unfavorable. The passing of the Anti-Homosexuality Act has rendered engagement with some CSOs futile since such engagement is viewed as promoting homosexuality which has been criminalized. On the other hand, the merging of policies, exemplified by the integration of the Adolescent Health (ADH) policy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) policies into a unified national health policy in Uganda, holds the potential to create a comprehensive and interconnected approach to addressing critical health and well-being issues among the young people. Environmentally, the program has been affected by floods in some of the implementing Districts which has led to a stall of activities while socially, the Imbalu circumcision ceremony which takes place every year continues to promote violence against women and an increase in teenage pregnancies.

PtY Uganda employs different strategies under the PtY pathways to empower adolescent girls and young women. These include:

PW 1: YOUNG PEOPLE DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS ON KEY ISSUES (STRENGTHENING YOUNG PEOPLE TO CLAIM CIVIC SPACE)

SMART ADVOCACY

- Issue identification
- Stakeholder and power analysis
- Messaging and messenger
- Message delivery
- Commitment follow-up



YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP



- Youth continue to provide PTY programme oversight through the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) at national level.
- 2 representatives are elected to represent the young people on the Country Management Team
- With consortium intervention, youth's voices are amplified on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues thus challenging traditional gender norms and roles that continue to limit their ability to

PW 2: CSOs AMPLIFY YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES TO CLAIM, PROTECT AND EXPAND CIVIC SPACE (STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY)

GRANT MANAGEMENT MENTORSHIP

Through our small grants initiatives, we've extended comprehensive mentorship encompassing both financial and programmatic guidance to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Feedback from these organizations underscores the critical role of the technical support received, not only ensuring compliance with our grants but also facilitating access to additional funding from various donors. Moreover, some CBOs for example Mbale Network of Young People living with HIV/AIDS (MYNPA) wrote abstracts and presented them at national level conferences on SRHR.

LOOSE COALITIONS OF CBOs

When like-minded organizations come together to address common challenges especially among the youth, they amplify their impact and create lasting change in their communities. This has been noted in the different mobilization drives and commemoration of international days such as International Youth Day in the different districts.



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PW 3: SOCIETAL ACTORS SUPPORT AND PROMOTE YOUTH RIGHTS AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL NORMS (CHANGING SOCIAL NORMS)

MALE ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

Forums lead to a change in attitudes of men and boys to drive the gender transformation agenda. Several men from the different sub counties have reported to have changed thus improving their relationships, all thanks to the PTY programme.



MEDIA UTILIZATION

Deliberate utilization of media as a potent tool for raising awareness and influencing public and political discourse. This proactive approach has significantly contributes to our program's presence in shaping critical conversations and agendas, amplifying our impact and engagement within the broader community. For example, during the commemoration of 16 days of activism, PTY partnered with the *Bumpy Love show* on NTV to raise awareness on the prevention of all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) against women and girls.



PW 4: STATE ACTORS IMPROVE POLICY MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION ON KEY ISSUES (IMPROVING POLICIES AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION)

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)

They identify advocacy issues, monitor the PTY work in the districts. It is a sustainable strategy as it brings about programme ownership by district stakeholders.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Building strategic partnerships, particularly with key ministries like the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (IGALA)
- District local government on cross border FGM (dialogues to end cross border FGM).
- Office of the Vice President and visionary women to address *gendered barriers for adolescents*.



SENEGAL

The PtY program in Senegal is implemented in an environment with a very young population where the last census showed that over 70% of the population were below 35 years. This has led to a significant increase in the number of young people taking part in decision-making bodies since 2022 with local elections. The country has witnessed a failure to adequately address the reproductive health needs of adolescents and young people as well as Persistence of FGM, early pregnancy and violence against women and girls in project areas. Socially, the socio-cultural and religious aspects of the country affect how the program is received and perceived. CSOs are highly committed to the cause and there are various opportunities in the areas of implementation

PtY Senegal uses different approaches and activities to reach their target audience. Below is a highlight of some of their approaches and activities.

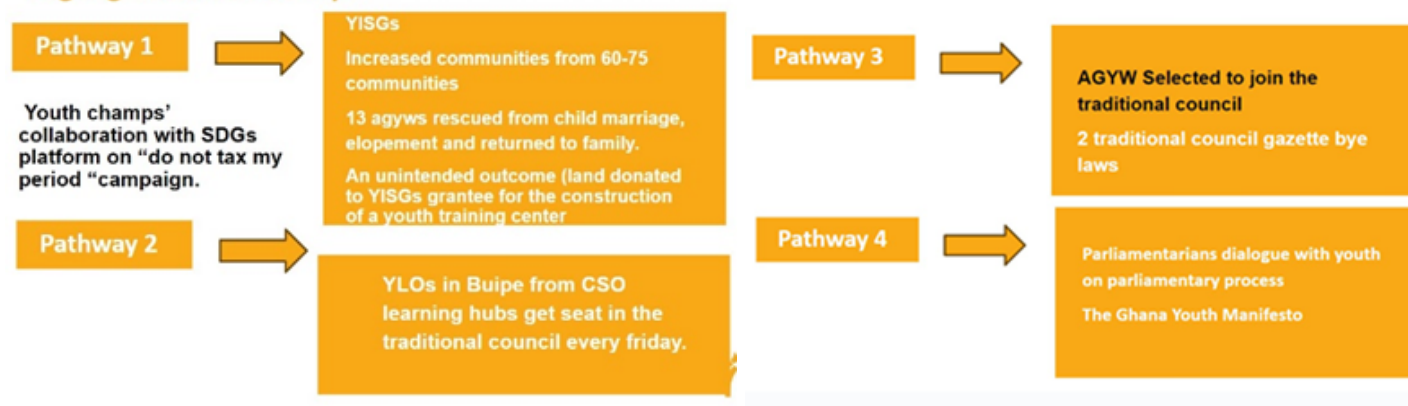


GHANA

Politically, the Ghana program is implemented in an environment that is considered somewhat positive with policies aimed at promoting youth empowerment such as the National youth policy, National employment policy, National social protection policies. Positive gains are however being eroded by an Anti-Gay bill in parliament which is hampering the full implementation of the PtY program. Economically, the country has been affected by Inflation as well as price hikes which has led to a revaluation of program activities. Technologically, the country is well advanced in the use of social media while socially, Traditional values and norms, cultural beliefs and practices largely dictate how a community behaves and treats women and girls.

The Ghana team uses different strategies to reach out to AGYW, CSOS, Societal actors and political leaders across the four pathways. Below is a highlight of their top achievements and strategy per pathway.

Highlight from Pathways



Main Reflections for the day:

- There is a need to demystify Partners A, B, or C and use the partner organization's name for reference.
- Empowering young people through co-chairing the CMT meetings and roles for mentorship is commendable.
- Working with MPs as champions and influencers is a win-win strategy.
- District TWG is a commendable strategy.
- It is good to get documented commitments instead of verbal ones.
- Involving political leaders to engage with the youth in sports activities is beneficial.

Recommendation/action items

- Document processes, achievements, and challenges in the different strategies.
- Fact sheets and infographics should be shared widely.
- It would be good to see how we can establish sustainability from all the country's strategies.

DAY TWO: THE FIELD VISIT

This day presented an opportunity to visit the actual implementation sites and interact with the community in Bolgatanga.

The Model Gendered Family/Household is a community-level strategy engaging households to enhance dialogue, distribute household tasks more equitably, and strengthen children's voices within the family unit. This initiative promotes inclusive decision-making and gender equality, transforming participants into active community ambassadors. The MGH approach has led to significant community changes, including the reporting of harmful practices like FGM and unintended pregnancies to authorities, a shift from child marriage traditions, and media engagement that amplifies PtY Ghana's impact and policy influence.

The Modeled Gender Household has become one of the best practices in Ghana which when adapted, can be replicated in other countries. The Sirigu community is one of the implementation sites of PtY Ghana. Here we got an opportunity to

interact with the Model Gender Household facilitators who are community volunteers charged with the responsibility of identifying and promoting harmonious living within their communities.

Next we got to meet an actual household that is part of the Model Gender Household where we met the Basha family who shared their journey with us. The mother of the house described how her husband had embraced the principles taught in the program. He actively participated in household chores and childcare, setting a positive example for their children. This shift not only strengthened their relationship but also instilled a sense of equality and cooperation in their home. The household's transformation was evident in every aspect of their daily life. From shared decision-making to equitable distribution of tasks, they demonstrated a harmonious balance that was inspiring to witness. The Model Gender Household initiative had not only improved their quality of life but also served as a beacon of hope for other families in the community. As we left their home, we couldn't help but feel inspired by their story. It was a powerful reminder of the tangible impact that gender equality programs can have on individual lives and entire communities.

Interaction with the Queen Mother

Recently, the queen mother was elected to her position, marking a significant development in Mirigu. Unlike many roles, the queen mother serves for life and is carefully monitored by a council of elders to ensure her continued suitability.

The queen mother has a personal history that fuels her mission; having experienced teenage pregnancy herself, she is deeply committed to ending harmful practices. Together with her entourage and with the support of the elders, she actively visits schools and collaborates with teachers and students to improve enrollment and retention rates.

Her influence extends beyond Mirigu's borders. She was invited to a chief forum in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, where she was the only woman present. Despite this, she was accorded the respect due to her position and took the opportunity to advocate for issues affecting young people and women, which resonated strongly in the forum.

Back home, she continues to be a vocal advocate for her community, aiming to secure more support for youth and women and to reduce harmful practices. However, she faces challenges due to her youth and gender, as some men in her community have ulterior motives. Additionally, she needs support, such as a laptop, to help with her work and to maintain documentation.

The role of the queen mother is gaining momentum, and the Ghana team continues to support communities in recognizing the importance of having a woman in this influential position to address the concerns of young people and women.

INTERACTION WITH THE MIRIGU CHIEF'S FORUM

Mirigu-which is one of PtY Ghana implementation areas, is a community that has recently drafted by-laws to protect the residents in this community. We got an opportunity to meet with the Chief and the council of Elders who together with their counterparts from Kandiga and Nabango drafted the by-laws.

This interaction presented an opportunity to appreciate the strong impact that traditional leaders hold in a community and strengthened the need to work closely with traditional leaders if meaningful change is to be realized in a community.

The Mirigu Chief presented the 13 by-laws and pointed out that harsh punishment was in place for those who violated the by-laws. The by-laws were on:

- Teenage Pregnancy
- FGM
- Forced marriage
- Night social life
- Bush burning
- Funerals
- Indiscriminate disposal of waste
- Open defecation
- Stealing
- Rape and Sexual harassment
- Child trafficking
- Child labour
- Noise making between 15th Sept to Oct 15th which is considered a holy period when communities pray for rains and it is believed that making noise during this period could lead to a failure in the prayers for rain.

From the interaction with the Mirigu chief, we were able to appreciate the importance of working closely with those who wield power in the communities we live in.

Key takeaways for the day:

Below are insights and reflections from the participants on the field visit:

- It was interesting to learn how Model Gender Household facilitators are able to carry on the facilitation through the training that they received from PtY.
- The By laws in the Mirigu chiefdom will play a big role in eradicating harmful practices if implemented. There is a need for PtY to support and follow up with the chiefdom on progress. This includes supporting the chiefdom with the legal review of the by-laws to ensure they conform to the National standards.
- The Queen mother felt PtY played a role in her ascension to the throne. That is an entry point for women leadership in the community.
- There's a need for creating a platform for the leadership structure to include women. It is possible to break the norms that exist.

What areas can be replicated by the community that you work in

- MGH is very important and it can be replicated in the family. Husband and wife should support each other and give away the stereotype that women are made to do certain duties. Teach children to assist each other in duties
- Community ownership of issues that were talking of. How the paramount chief talked passionately about the by-laws impacting people. Empower leadership back at home to take that role
- Empower heroines. Socialize the community to recognize what a role youth can play.
- There is significant MIYP in power for example the leadership of the queen mother which can be replicated in the community.
- Similarities in between MGH and Men Engage are evident and can be scaled up to include the children.

- The community has embraced the program and has taken ownership as demonstrated by the champions.
- Working on the bylaws, that can assist the community to end some harmful practices in the community. Acceptance when bylaws come from the community
- Model traditional leaders can assist in ending harmful practices that are felt in Senegal coz they are the ones doing this practice and are protecting this practice.

Feedback to team Ghana

- Develop a comprehensive toolkit or guideline for the MGH program that the moderators can use as a guideline when engaging the household.
- While there is evident interest and passion among the team, transitioning bylaws into actionable steps poses a significant challenge. To address this, focus on empowering team members to become role models by effectively implementing the bylaws themselves and subsequently cascading them down to the community.
- The community's decision to incorporate a passionate and eager young individual, e.g the queen mother, into a decision-making role is commendable. To ensure her success in this position, it is imperative to provide empowerment and training opportunities. An exchange visit to a country like Malawi could greatly benefit her agenda by providing insights into similar issues and broadening her perspective. Leveraging her position as a role model, she can effectively learn and grow into her role while inspiring others in the community.
- It is recommended to document some of these success stories to showcase the positive impact of our efforts.
- Refine the existing by-laws, as they appear to be numerous and lacking in specificity. The Ghana team should seek assistance from legal experts to ensure that the by-laws are comprehensive and aligned with local legislation. It is essential to detail these by-laws and connect them explicitly to the program's objectives, ensuring that they effectively support the program's goals and initiatives.
- It is advisable to prioritize key aspects over consolidating all 10 by-laws into a single document.
- Motivation for the Module Gender Household Families need to be awarded with not only money but through festivals or awards that will help motivate them and influence on other people in the community to help eradicate it.

DAY THREE: MIYP IMPLEMENTATION IN THE PROGRAM

On this day, we focussed on MIYP promotion within the program through panel discussions, country sharing sessions and field visits to interact with the Movements of Youth in Ghana as well as the recipients of the Youth Small Grants in Ghana.

BEST PRACTICES FROM SENEGAL AND UGANDA

SENEGAL-THE CII LA BOKK PLATFORM

This is a multi-stakeholder platform for exchange learning and concerted advocacy. It goes beyond political and ideological affiliations and aims at promoting meaningful youth participation in decision making bodies. The Cii la Bokk which is a localization of Power To You(th) term in Olaf seeks to Create an inclusive learning and exchange environment for young people, Promote reform of laws and policies that discriminate against young people and Promote youth leadership and empowerment

Sustainability of the Cii La Bokk Platform

Cii la Bokk has a charter that guides its implementation. One of the articles in the charter is on fundraising to ensure that members within the platform are able to raise funds for the platform from their different networks hence ensuring its sustainability.

Cii La Bokk membership and coordination comprises young leaders (Executive Directors) from the CSOs (they are within the sphere of influence). The CSOs represent different sectors of the community for example entrepreneurs, PWDs, the informal sector representing those who did not attain formal education among others.

[CII LA BOKK PLATFORM](#)

UGANDA-THE YOUNG EMANZI TOOLKIT

[YOUNG EMANZI TOOLKIT](#)

This is an approach used to engage men and boys both in and out of school to promote gender equality. Using the toolkit, young men and boys are identified and taken through a series of training aimed at enhancing their understanding of gender, self esteem, reproductive health issues and substance abuse. The tool kit is divided into 3 modules: reproductive health, financial literacy and gender.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Role of youth and Youth Led Organizations in the PtY Structure

Senegal

- All PtY program coordinators in Senegal are Young and adult -youth partnerships in all organizations have been enhanced.
- Youths are at the forefront of advocacy and they are the ones who engage with parliamentarians with the support of the adults.

Ghana

- The youth are highly involved in the PtY structure. There is a youth empowerment team and a youth empowerment manager responsible for mentoring the youth in the organizations.
- There is a youth in comms team, a smart journalist team who are trained on how to identify SRHR issues in the community and are taught how to report on the issues. The smart journalists are also linked to media houses in the country.
- There is a youth PMERL group as well as youth representation in the CMT who are involved in decision making including having equal voting rights. Movements of youth have also been identified and strengthened in the communities.
- The youth-led organizations, through the YISGs, are also responsible for driving change in their communities through their own initiatives and ideals. Through the YISGs, the YLOs receive funding, and are able to contribute directly to achieving the programme outcome areas.
- The Movement of Youth is a vibrant group of young people, presenting numerous opportunities for the programme in terms of mentoring, activism and campaigns. Through the MOYs, the programme was able to identify and train selected young people as youth champs. These youth champs led advocacy on the programme.

Uganda

- PtY identifies young people at the district level who are part of the Youth Advisory Group. They are part of the CMT and are actively engaged in the decision-making process of the program. Young people are also part of the TWGs to amplify their voices.
- Small grants have been awarded to 39 CSOs, of which 20 are youth-led.

Things That Are Not Working Well

Uganda

- Young people are not being notified on time about opportunities.
- There is a perception that young people don't know what they want.
- High expectations are placed on young people.
- Young people are being taken advantage of.

Ghana

- There is a difference in the capacity of young people due to cultural backgrounds.
- Young people's priorities are constantly changing.
- Opportunities for young people are being turned down.
- Young people are learning at different paces.

Senegal

- The language barrier: French speakers have to double their efforts to increase youth participation because interpretation is a problem.
- Advocacy efforts are not nationwide.
- Some leaders are not accessible.
- In the GMT, French-speaking countries are underrepresented, with a privilege given to English-speaking countries.
- There are many things to share, but there are no platforms available.

THE FIELD VISIT

After an intense day in the conference room, the afternoon was taken to the field to interact with the Movements of Youth and the recipients of the Small Grants Initiative in Ghana.

The Movement of Youths.

The Young Urban Women's Movement (YUWM) is one of the young women-led organizations that operates at all levels, from the national to the community level. This movement works in coalition with other Civil Society Organizations to advocate for women's rights and combat harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation and teenage pregnancies. The movement actively defends women who are not financially stable by teaching them valuable life skills, such as soap making and clothes

making. These skills do not only empower women economically but also help them gain independence and improve their quality of life. By addressing both advocacy and practical skill development, the Young Urban Women's Movement plays a crucial role in promoting gender equality and supporting women's rights across various communities.

Youth Small Grants Initiative

The group consisted of volunteers who had come together to advocate for menstrual hygiene which is a big contributing factor to school drop out, teenage pregnancy and gender based violence.

DAY FOUR:

After an intense three days of linking and learning, we finally came to the last day of our exchange learning. The highlights for the day included a session on dealing with opposition, a reflection on the MTE and development of an action plan on how we would share the lessons gained in Ghana linking and learning.

Reflections from Day 3

- The Women-led structure defends women who are not financially stable. This structure operates at all levels, from the national to the community.
- We visited an organization that focuses on menstruation management. They explained how their activities support young girls, and we were impressed by their commitment to sustainability and their positive relationship with local authorities.
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- Champion involvement at all levels is evident in the Ghana Movement of Youth.
- Countries employ various strategies to promote Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation (MIYP). For Ghana this is through the MOYs among others.

Dealing with opposition

How has pushback affected PtY?

Uganda

- Opposition parties are well-connected and organized. They target the office of the president and find influential people in parliament to make friends with them as a way to pass laws.
- In Uganda, some organizations that had been profiled for PtY grants were blacklisted, and no more finances will be directed to LGBTQI organizations.
- Anything related to SRHR rights is misunderstood as promoting LGBTQI, leading to increased homophobia towards PtY.

As a mitigation strategy:



- A mapping of opposition groups has been done.
- A loose coalition of actors has been formed funded by the Dutch MOFA to investigate what the opposition groups are using to influence the passing of the Bill.
- PtY Uganda has also changed the way they package information for example instead of using the term LGBTQI, they now use *Key populations*
- Uganda is also conducting a review of the AHA bill to identify violations of human rights.
- A Bill in support of intersex persons has been drafted since this is a biological occurrence.

Ghana

The promotion of proper sexual rights and Ghanaian family values bill was introduced to the Ghanaian parliament in 2021. The bill has been referred to as the anti gay bill and has since been a topical discourse in the Ghanaian political and legal environment. In the early part of 2024, the bill was passed by parliament, and sent to the president of Ghana, to assent to it. The propensity of the bill to hinder SRHR promotion efforts is high, and has had enormous impact on the program.

How has pushback affected PtY?

- The safe space model declined because they want to uphold their family values.
- There are different pushback factors due to religion; conversations around SRHR are seen as foreign culture, affecting discussions on the rights of young people.
- Comprehensive sexuality education, including the idea and social package on sexual education and human rights, brought tension and was recalled and altered.

As a mitigation strategy:

- PtY Ghana has employed a strategy of organizing rallies on family planning and promotion of SRHR working closely with the Ministry of Health in Ghana which is mandated by the government to implement SRHR programs.
- An injunction has also been made to stop the signing of the anti homosexuality bill.
- The Ghana consortium made a decision to update their risk matrix to include rising opposition and the threat associated therein.

A 3 day learning session on dealing with opposition is being organized in July and this will create another opportunity for participants to share and exchange ideas on the topic.

Reflection on the MTE

The MTE was completed in August 2-23 and countries had already validated the results. It was imperative to discuss whether the results of the MTE were influencing how PtY partners were implementing the program. Below are the reflections:

- The MTE influenced a proper work plan structure. For example, Team Ghana was able to identify areas that were struggling in terms of implementation, thus influencing proper budgeting and program impact.
- Technical working groups were working in silos, but now there are bilateral meetings and joint implementation of activities by TWGs at the Global level.
- GTA wasn't well integrated, but now all countries have a structured plan involving a checklist applied to every program activity, thus influencing positive program implementation.
- Initially, MIYP was the responsibility of Partner B. However, it has since become a shared responsibility among all partners, who have also introduced district focal persons to enhance MIYP.

- The program has significantly involved Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at the grassroots level. This includes rolling out technical support and Youth Interest Groups (YIGs) to CSOs.
- The initiative has partnered with embassies to provide income generation opportunities and skills training for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW). This integration aims to empower AGYW economically and equip them with valuable skills.
- There has been an increase in access to services through referrals, although not all commodities are available. There is ongoing lobbying to ensure comprehensive access to services, extending beyond advocacy to include tangible support.
- The program has partnered with the "Grandma" project to integrate GTA and MIYP. Two members attended a training session and learned new strategies for effective integration.
- Efforts to follow up on engagements with local authorities have been fruitful. Some authorities have already integrated budgets to support youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in their communities. For example, the Mayor of Natam allocated 10 million CFA to the sanitary district to support youth SRHR. Similar actions have been seen in other implementing areas.
- Non-Monetary Incentives for Local Learning Units (LLUs): The team has incorporated non-monetary incentives for LLUs, including citations and photo frames, to acknowledge and motivate their efforts.
- Support for CSO Learning Hub: The CSO learning hub should be supported to implement the learnings from the hub, ensuring that CSOs can benefit from shared knowledge and best practices.
- Extended Youth Interest Group Support (YISGS): The program has extended YISGS to create opportunities for CSOs to access funding, thereby enhancing their capacity to implement impactful projects.

CONCLUSION

What do you want to take forward?

Ghana

- The Young Emanzi toolkit for male engagement-to build on the MGH
- Opposition mapping to identify potential opposition
- Development of curriculum for the Module Gendered Household
- Establish a youth advisory board to CMT
- Localize PtY terms as was done with the Cii La Bokk platform.

Uganda

- Model Gender Household-develop a curriculum to guide the facilitators.
- Safety and security on dealing with opposition-training to staff.
- Strategy of smart journalist and legal literacy volunteers
- Working with cultural leaders to be part of the development process.

Senegal

- Engagement of traditional leaders. Senegal will adapt and replicate in their contexts.
- Model Gender Household- Follow up with Ghana on conception to ideation.

The different countries agreed that the learnings from the week would be shared through:

- Bi-Monthly coordinators meeting
- Virtual exchange learning meetings with other countries
- Share internally with partners and CMTs.
- Report
- Continuous country linking and learning opportunities

Recommendations:

- The Lab to follow up on action points to see how far countries have progressed with their plans
- Sonke to share a media young advocates toolkit engagement-the toolkit equips youths on how to conduct training sessions, how to structure messages etc.

