



A SNAPSHOT OF BASELINE DATA PER COUNTRY

November 2021



KIT Royal
Tropical
Institute



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

POWER TO YOU(TH): A SNAPSHOT OF BASELINE DATA PER COUNTRY



Voor een gezond
en sterk Afrika



For sexual and
reproductive health
and rights



HIV/AIDS • GENDER EQUALITY • HUMAN RIGHTS

CHOICE FOR
YOUTH &
SEXUALITY



KIT Royal
Tropical
Institute

1. INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Power to You(th) (PTY) consortium and its technical research partner KIT, we hereby present the preliminary baseline data of the seven countries, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal and Uganda, where the programme is being implemented. As the full country baseline study reports are not yet finalised, this short report provides a first snapshot of the preliminary baseline data per pathway of the PTY programme for each specific country. The snapshot includes quantitative data from a survey held with young people and qualitative data. Besides the country baseline snapshots we also present seven desk reviews. The desk reviews have been written by KIT in the first half-year of the PTY programme implementation. The desk review reports have been validated by the PTY country teams and the technical working group of planning monitoring, evaluation, learning and research (TWG PMELR). All the PTY desk reviews are accessible via this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dDGEoDKGhO_JKEqa67JSi_0CL0m1hlmU

As per communication, the full country baseline study reports are currently being finalised and will be shared in January 2022.

2. STATE OF AFFAIRS BASELINE STUDIES

KIT, together with its in-country research partners, is currently occupied with the baseline data analysis. All data, apart from the online survey among youth advocates to assess the civic space available for lobby and advocacy, has been collected. The survey has not yet been closed, because the online response rate has been low in several countries. Nevertheless, KIT and its research partners are at the moment analysing all available data and drafting the baseline study reports. After finalising the first drafts of the baseline studies, in-country validation sessions will be held in November 2021 to discuss the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the seven baseline studies with the PTY country teams and consortium partners. After these validation sessions final versions of the baseline studies will be drafted. We expect to be able to share the fully drafted and validated baseline study reports with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by January 2022.

In the first quarter of 2022, the desk review and baseline data will be used to develop knowledge products (like infographics and policy briefs that can support evidence informed advocacy in-country) during knowledge translation workshops with the PTY in-country consortia, facilitated by KIT and its in-country research partners.

The Power to You(th) Consortium

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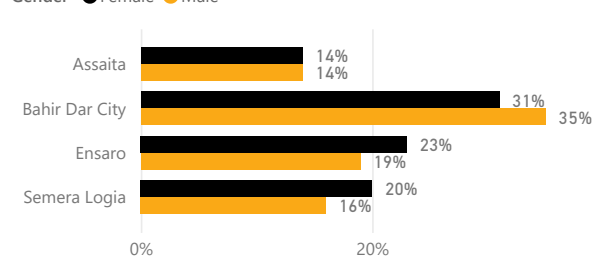
Ethiopia - Preliminary baseline insights

The three study areas for the baseline study of Power to You(th) in Ethiopia are Assaita, Bahir Dar City, Ensaro, and Semera Logia.

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies

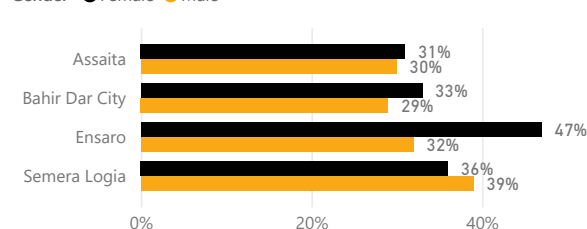
% of adolescents and young people who have ever participated in any activities or have taken action to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Gender ● Female ● Male



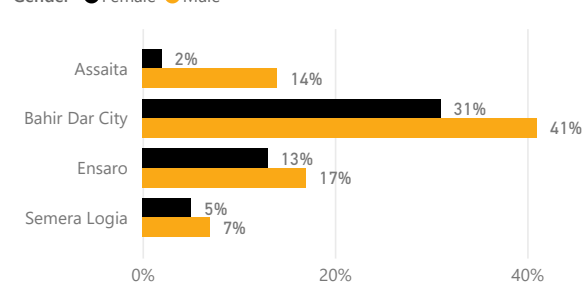
% of adolescents and youth who reported that adults involve young people (under age 24) in decisions regarding harmful practices sometimes, often or all the time

Gender ● Female ● Male



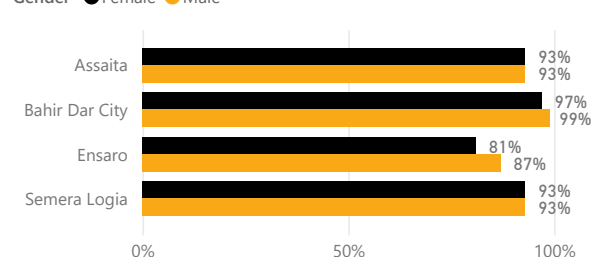
% of adolescents and young people who are engaged with a CSO that carries out specific activities with young people

Gender ● Female ● Male



% of adolescents and youth who reported that they will be involved in the decision on who and when to marry

Gender ● Female ● Male



Youth perspective on the meaningfulness of their participation in community activities to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Youth participation experiences were mainly in awareness raising activities through youth clubs, youth associations or youth centers. In some areas there were no youth clubs. Youth participation in those activities was mainly in the form of voluntary work. There was limited financial support for youth clubs and their activities.

Young people's perspective on the meaningfulness of their engagement with CSOs

Within youth groups, young people felt they could raise their voice, freely express and gain confidence. Youth engagement with other type of CSOs was more limited. They could not always lead activities and they felt it was difficult to be listened to.

Youth voice and agency regarding harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Among peers, adolescents and youth could talk more freely. Discussions with parents on these topics were less common, but took place. Parents were the main decision makers though youth tended to push their voice on topics that affected them. Generally, the decision making power of adolescents on relationships, marriage and participation in youth clubs was limited. Older girls could commonly decide about their education and on their marriage. Married young women did rarely decide alone on the use of contraception.

Barriers and opportunities for youth advocates in addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Youth clubs, youth associations and youth centers are an opportunity to further increase and expand the role of youth advocates. Also the acknowledgement of the importance of youth centered approaches and meaningful youth engagement by key stakeholders. The lack of financial support, the limited experience of youth in decision making and need to strengthen these skills, and the attitudes of some adults towards youth contributions are the main barriers.

Ethiopia

Pathway 2: CSOs amplify young people's voices to claim, protect and expand civic space

Description of effective use of accountability mechanisms by citizens /communities and CSOs towards SRHR of all people

The baseline study found no evidence of (effective) accountability mechanism in place or in use on SRHR. Some participants mentioned there are no accountability mechanisms by NGOs or are not functional and that health centers or community leaders are not hold accountable for SRHR issues. There seem to be emerging working groups aimed at better monitoring cases of child marriage.

Pathway 4: State actors improve policy making and implementation on key issues

Laws, policies and budgets on harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Ethiopia has strong legal and policy frameworks on these issues although challenges remain in its full enforcement. There is an increase of the health budget, partially due to COVID-19. The budget mainly goes to salaries of civil servants, but not particularly for harmful practices of SGBV. These issues fall under the Federal Ministry of Health, Women's, children and youth affairs.

Pathway 3: Societal actors support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms

Level of public support for family planning and prevention of harmful practices and SGBV

There is public support from various state actors. The Women's and Children's affairs office plays an important role in preventing and responding to cases of child marriage and SGBV. The police prevents arranged child marriages. Health providers and teachers raise awareness about harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health. Committees against harmful traditional practices have been set up.

Situation of core components of available civic space to address harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancy

Funding for CSOs was limited, particularly for youth led ones. CSOs could speak more freely than civil servants. The most common report restrictions to the available civic space were on the access to information to exercise rights, the ability of all citizens to express opinions and on the state's respect for the right to associate peacefully. Collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organization was considered limited.

Attitudes and actions taken by social actors to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

CSOs and NGOs and youth clubs and associations are the social actors taking most actions to prevent these issues through attitudinal change activities and reporting cases. Parents and relatives are key decision makers in relation to harmful practices but not involved in actions to prevent them. Not all parents and elders are well informed about or against child marriage and FGM/C. Premarital sex is a taboo. Actions to prevent SGBV are less clear.

Role of media addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Media does provide attention to these topics. Television and social media were considered the most influential in shaping public opinion on these issues. A positive influence. Youth advocates mainly used social media for lobby and advocacy, particularly Facebook, Telegram, Instagram, as well as, magazines, radio and television.

Ghana - Preliminary baseline insights

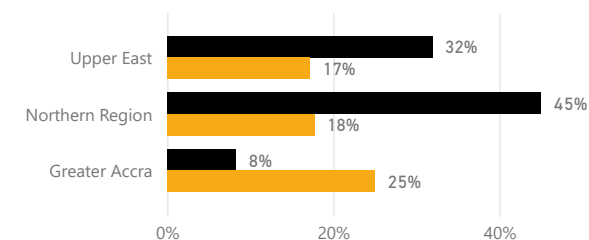


The three study areas for the baseline study of Power to You(th) in Ghana are the Upper East Region, Northern Region, and Greater Accra.

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies

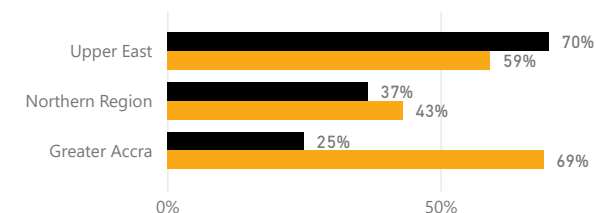
% of adolescents and young people who have ever participated in any activities or have taken action to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Gender ● Female ● Male



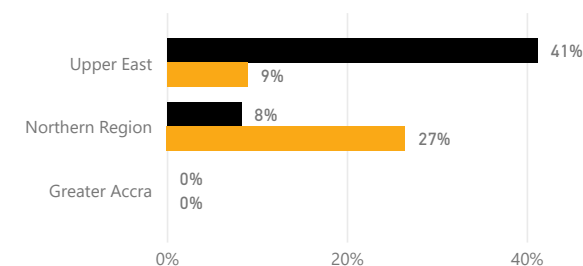
% of adolescents and youth who reported that adults involve young people (under age 24) in decisions regarding harmful practices sometimes, often or all the time

Gender ● Female ● Male



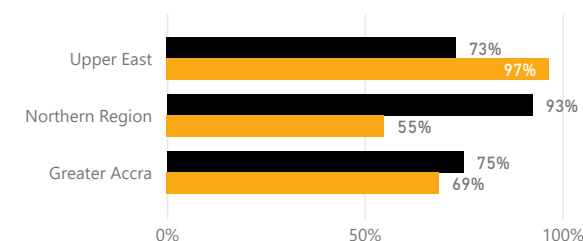
% of adolescents and young people who are engaged with a CSO that carries out specific activities with young people

Gender ● Female ● Male



% of adolescents and youth who reported that they will be involved in the decision on who and when to marry

Gender ● Female ● Male



Youth perspective on the meaningfulness of their participation in community activities to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Most young people who participated in community activities were engaged in educating girls on their rights and, for unintended pregnancy, raising awareness about family planning and contraception. Only a small minority of young people (15%) felt that they were meaningfully engaged. Many young people reported a lack of space for young people, especially girls, to meet and discuss these issues in their communities, but occasions like festivals were suggested as platforms for educating young people. Older people hold authority and are difficult to challenge or disobey; young people who do speak out and participate in activities did not feel older people always listened to their concerns or were taken seriously.

Young people's perspective on the meaningfulness of their engagement with CSOs

Most who were engaged with a youth-related CSO (19% of survey respondents) were involved with a youth-led or faith-based organisation. They were mostly involved in awareness-raising in the community. Among young people engaged with a CSO, most did not agree that young people were meaningfully engaged. For example, 76% did not agree that CSOs reviewed their performance with young people regarding youth involvement, and 64% did not agree that adults in the programme listened to them.

Youth voice and agency regarding harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Half of survey respondents felt they could express opinions about relationships, love, puberty and pregnancy in their community. Many young people did not speak out against harmful practices as they did not feel elders listened to their concerns. Lack of faith in police reporting mechanisms (due to perceived corruption and stigmatisation of reporting) hampered young people's voice and agency in relation to SGBV and child marriage. Some participants indicated young people could express themselves on these issues on social media and radio stations.

Ghana

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies

Barriers and opportunities for youth advocates in addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Youth groups are reportedly viewed as having low capacity, knowledge and motivation by state actors. Some young people expressed willingness to join programmes to tackle teenage pregnancy and child marriage but felt unable to talk about it in front of elders due to these perceptions. Some participants felt that traditional leaders lack interest in tackling these issues, as abuses can be seen as normal and leaders are often not comfortable with the rights-based approach. Young people also face difficulties getting resources to advocate for their rights. One participant stated that young people need to take the necessary steps to push for their rights by actively seeking help and approaching district authorities.

Pathway 2: CSOs amplify young people's voices to claim, protect and expand civic space

Description of effective use of accountability mechanisms by citizens /communities and CSOs towards SRHR of all people

Limited involvement of young people in policy formulation and implementation, and politicization of youth policies and institutions hamper accountability. These processes are largely centralized in the capital (Accra), and many CSOs and young people at the regional and district levels are left out, making it difficult to hold government accountable at lower levels. Decentralized government agencies/ departments like the Ghana Education Services (GES), Ghana Health Services (GHS) provide counselling and education to young people about harmful practices. Specifically, GHS provides an 'adolescent corner' for discussing youth concerns.

Pathway 3: Societal actors support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms

Level of public support for family planning and prevention of harmful practices and SGBV

Victims and survivors of harmful practices and SGBV reportedly face difficulties due to the widespread belief that it is better to deal with it within communities, rather than involving authorities or seeking formal access to justice. Informal mechanisms were often felt by participants to be inadequate and/or counter-productive and fail to address the root causes of harmful practices and SGBV, or adequately seek justice for survivors.

Attitudes and actions taken by social actors to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

The normalisation of rape and intimate partner violence was commonly mentioned. Action is often not taken on these issues as they are not viewed as particularly problematic. When survivors report perpetrators, sometimes the community will respond by shunning them. Social Welfare Officers were aware of these attitudes towards SGBV in particular, and called for education of the public on the Domestic Violence Act. Harmful social norms also influenced attitudes of law enforcement agencies such as the police. Political interference was reported, for example even when perpetrators of harmful practices are arrested political leaders often intervene to ask the police to drop cases which discourages police from pursuing offenders.

Situation of core components of available civic space to address harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancy

Most CSO survey respondents reported that all citizens are free to express views and opinions, and the state respects citizens' rights to associate and assemble. Most also reported that the safety and security of human rights advocates is protected. However, formal constraints on the civic participation of LGBTQ+ groups were mentioned and most respondents also reported that LGBTQ+ groups in particular have difficulty gathering and organising. The main restrictions were costs and requirements for authorisations, and use of violence, repression, and policing.

Role of media addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Some participants indicated that youth and adolescents could express themselves on these issues on social media platforms, and radio stations. Social media and radio were commonly mentioned by CSO survey respondents as media types they engaged with for lobbying and advocacy, and were also rated as most influential in shaping public opinion on these issues. Generally respondents reported that the influence of these forms of media was positive. Facebook was most commonly mentioned by CSO survey respondents as the platform they used regularly for lobbying and advocacy (92% of respondents stated this).

Pathway 4: State actors improve policy making and implementation on key issues

Laws, policies and budgets on harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Multiple laws and policies protect youth rights in Ghana, however, there are implementation challenges at the local level. At community level, advocating for child rights can be considered as encouraging children to be disrespectful to their elders. By-laws are more respected than national laws but implementation depends on local leaders and their ability to command respect/ adherence from communities. Some participants mentioned positive changes such as the Child and Family Welfare Policy 2015, the Children Act Amendment (2018) and the Ghana National Social Protection Policy (2015). Participants felt government agencies were not doing enough to educate the public on laws & policies. Participants reported that policy reviews and implementation largely depend on external funding from development partners.



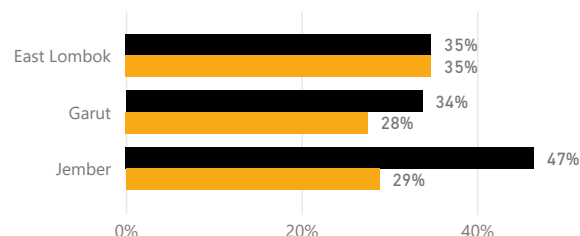
Indonesia - Preliminary baseline insights

The three study areas for the baseline study of Power to You(th) in Indonesia are East Lombok, Garut, and Jember.

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, VAWC and teenage pregnancies [1]

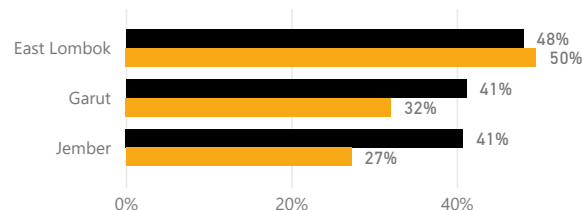
% of adolescents and young people who have ever participated in any activities or have taken action to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Gender ● Female ● Male



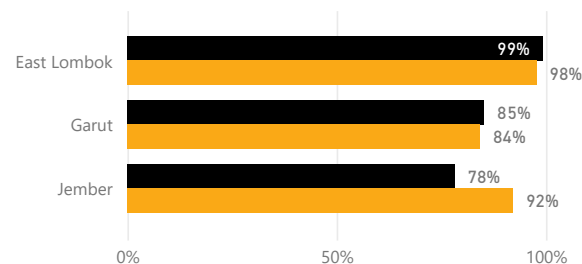
% of adolescents and youth who reported that adults involve young people (under age 24) in decisions regarding harmful practices sometimes, often or all the time

Gender ● Female ● Male



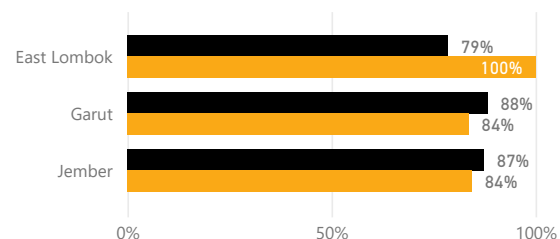
% of adolescents and young people who are engaged with a CSO that carries out specific activities with young people

Gender ● Female ● Male



% of adolescents and youth who reported that they will be involved in the decision on who and when to marry

Gender ● Female ● Male



Youth perspective on the meaningfulness of their participation in community activities to prevent harmful practices, teenage pregnancy or VAWC

At the village level, there has been very limited meaningful participation of young people in community activities regarding prevention of harmful practices, teenage pregnancy and VAWC. In Jember, some young people have been involved as participants in discussions about violence and involved in solving cases of violence in the village, but not as decision makers. In Garut, only young people who involved in Kirana - a youth group created by the local government, carried out some activities to prevent child marriage. In East Lombok, there were no specific activities to prevent these issues.

Young people's perspective on the meaningfulness of their engagement with CSOs

Some young people at the village level were unaware of the importance of their voices in the lobbying process. Not all young people could also participate in the musrenbang (community dialogue for development plan). However, at the district level, especially in Garut and Jember, there were several youth organizations who played an important role in lobbying and advocacy to the government. Youth had been involved and participated in youth organizations or groups as well as other CSOs. However, when it came to meaningful participation, adults, including the village and district governments, as well as religious and community leaders, continued to exert influence. Young people who were highly educated and members of active youth organizations such as LSD Anjani in East Lombok, FAJ and Insan GenRe in Jember, and IPPNU (youth wing of the Nahdlatul Ulama Islamic mass organisation), university student bodies, Pelita Intan Muda in Garut were able to participate meaningfully in fighting for their interests up to the district level in the process of hearings, lobbying, and being involved in the formulation of local government policies.

[1] The Power to You(th) country team in Indonesia uses the term 'teenage pregnancy' in place of unintended pregnancy and violence against women and children (VAWC) in place of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Indonesia

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, VAWC and teenage pregnancies

Youth voice and agency regarding harmful practices, teenage pregnancy and VAWC

Some young people and adolescents who had not previously been involved in activities regarding harmful practices, VAWC, or teenage pregnancy expressed a desire of doing so. However, there were several barriers to their participation, including the lack of available discussion forums for these issues, the lack of involvement of young people and adolescents in the *musrenbangdes* (which are community discussions for development planning at village level) the lack of friends involved, and the lack of attention paid to these issues by village officials and other stakeholders. The activities of young people and adolescents at the district level carried out by some organizations such as Children's Forum, GenRe (Kirana in Garut and Insan GenRe in Jember) and PIK-R (a center for Youth Information and Counseling) were the only places where they were actively involved in the activities regarding prevention of harmful practices, teenage pregnancy and VAWC. At the sub-district and village levels, there were relatively few activities that involved young people and adolescents in activities that raised these issues. In East Lombok, young people face a stigma that they are considered a 'child', and so they should not be involved in child marriage prevention practices such as the *belas* - a process of separating bride and groom who were married underage. They were not given the opportunity to express their opinions and their voices were not heard in the mediation process.

Barriers and opportunities for youth advocates in addressing harmful practices, teenage pregnancy and VAWC

There were few young people in the three intervention areas who had the chance or capacity to participate in various decision-making forums or to express their concerns at village and district levels. Their role in voicing and lobbying for SRHR issues to municipal governments was still quite limited. This has not been possible due to several obstacles: lack of awareness about the importance of these issues, limited information, limited space to express themselves, limited capacity to do the lobby and advocacy activities, lack of self-confidence on these issues, lack of funds from the village budget.

Pathway 2: CSOs amplify young people's voices to claim, protect and expand civic space

Description of effective use of accountability mechanisms by citizens /communities and CSOs towards SRHR of all people

In Garut and Jember, several youth organizations at the district level have been involved in hearings and meetings with the government and other CSOs, and even did street protests and demonstrations. However, in East Lombok, there has been no involvement of young people at the district level on these issues yet.

Pathway 3: Societal actors support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms

Level of public support for family planning and prevention of harmful practices and VAWC

There was already support in regards to policies at the provincial and district levels (Jember and Garut), especially regarding prevention of child marriage and violence against women and children. In East Lombok, beside policies at provincial and district levels, there were also policies for the prevention of child marriage at the village level. However, there was a lack of implementation of these policies. In East Lombok for instance, not all intervention villages have had regulations for preventing child marriage, while in Garut and Jember, the implementation mechanism has not been developed yet.

Attitudes and actions taken by social actors to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

There were different roles of social actors in preventing gender inequality practices in the three intervention areas. In Garut and Jember, social actors were still playing a minor role in efforts to tackle harmful practices, VAWC, and teenage pregnancy. Meanwhile in East Lombok, the role of social actors was active to prevent child marriage and other problems faced by young people. Among social actors, CSOs have made and were currently making efforts to prevent the practice of gender inequality which is the thematic focus of Power to You(th) program and child marriage was a prominent issue in these three areas.

Indonesia

Pathway 3: Societal actors support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms

Situation of core components of available civic space to address harmful practices, VAWC and teenage pregnancy

Some youth advocates (50% of 18 respondents) shared that the freedom of expression of organisations/change makers when lobbying and advocating on SRHR and their ability to protest on the issues of the programme was constrained in Indonesia, as per an online survey conducted. Social media was the most influential and used medium as per youth advocates who commonly discussed child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Of 16 respondents, most felt that the dialogue between CSOs and the government was constructive.

Role of media addressing harmful practices, teenage pregnancy and VAWC

The media played an important role in advocating and addressing harmful practices, teenage pregnancy and VAWC. Local media played a role in reporting cases, the number of child marriages and violence against women and children and activities regarding these issues carried out by related government agencies and CSOs. Social media was also used by government agencies, CSOs and youth organizations or groups to disseminate information related to these issues.

Pathway 4: State actors improve policy making and implementation on key issues

Laws, policies and budgets on harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Regarding the budget, there were several organizations and groups of young people who have accessed funding from local government and CSOs, although this budget was very limited. Several CSOs have also collaborated with local governments and some CSOs at the national and district levels and received funding. However, at the village level, the access of youth groups to funding from village funds was still very limited.

There were many different regulations issued at the village to provincial levels around child marriage, VAWC, and gender mainstreaming. The latter regulations were relatively new, because they were issued in 2020 as updates to previous regulations. In Garut, regulations on the protection of women and children from violence, and gender mainstreaming in regional development were issued. In Jember, the district head issued a circular letter on the prevention of child marriage. In East Lombok, the district head issued a regulation on gender mainstreaming, including gender responsive government budgets and on prevention of child marriage in 2020. The district head's commitment on these topics was evident as village governments were required to make village regulations. There were no regulations yet on FGM/C in the provincial, district and village levels.



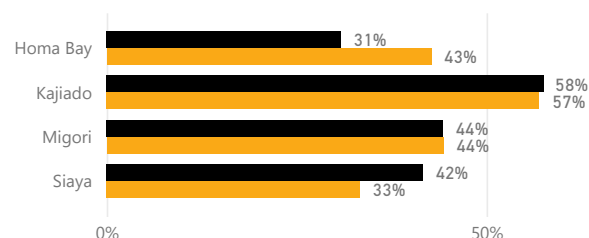
Kenya - Preliminary baseline insights

The four study areas for the baseline study of Power to You(th) in Kenya are Homa Bay, Kajiado, Migori, and Siaya.

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies

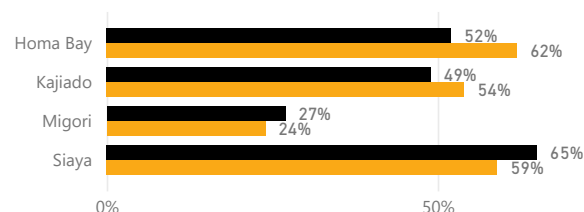
% of adolescents and young people who have ever participated in any activities or have taken action to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Gender ● Female ● Male



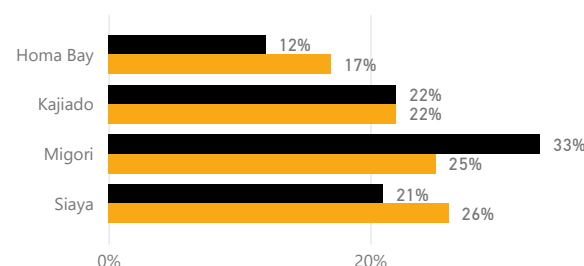
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Gender ● Female ● Male



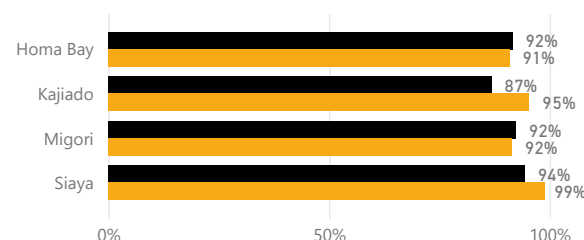
% of adolescents and young people who are engaged with a CSO that carries out specific activities with young people

Gender ● Female ● Male



% of adolescents and youth who reported that they will be involved in the decision on who and when to marry

Gender ● Female ● Male



Youth perspective on the meaningfulness of their participation in community activities to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Generally young people perceive to have limited meaningful participation. Those in school mostly participate in youth clubs and those out of school participate in church groups. Young people may have information on these issues from various sources but to translate that into making changes at community level is the challenge. For example, parliament youth representatives expressed to not feel their participation is meaningful and feel not supported enough (e.g not involved in or informed on budget).

Young people's perspective on the meaningfulness of their engagement with CSOs

Most CSOs are engaged in development related activities and less on these PTY issues. Young people expressed to perceive themselves to be more meaningfully engaged when CSOs activities are well structured, organised and funded. For example, youth clubs within the school that focus on environment and health, most girls in youth clubs that focus on environment and health feel engaged in that.

Youth voice and agency regarding harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Young people expressed the feeling that they can talk more freely among their peers. In particular at school, they feel they have space to join debates and discussions. With parents however, it is less common and they feel less free to talk, even though parents are often the main decision makers. Young boys are perceived as more free than young girls to express themselves within the community. But still, the main difference is between those who went to school or not that goes hand-in-hand with their voice. Those educated feel they are more likely to make decisions around these topics. For example, an educated young girl says she won't "cut" her daughter. Also, most young people feel they do not have enough role models who are fighting for girls' education and rights, especially young girls. For example, in Kajiado, there are hardly any female teachers in schools.

Kenya

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, unintended pregnancies and SGBV

Barriers and opportunities for youth advocates in addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

An opportunity observed in all areas is that youth advocates are increasingly gaining access to information. With increasing groups of educated people and inter-ethnic marriages, it is creating more exposure to these issues. Also, there is a stronger political will to end these practices and there are national debates in the media about various laws, policies and Acts. It was noted that young people are also getting involved in the policy development process through their networks and representing CSOs. And so, there is a civic space being created that offers opportunities for youth advocates. However, barriers observed were mostly related to poverty, food insecurity, and illiteracy. Other challenges involve the fact that there are competing activities and unevenly distributed in a region. For example, in Homa Bay, there is a plethora of NGOs focusing on HIV activities and thus other theme activities have to compete. Some young people and mobilisers expressed that they are more involved with activities that have more financial gain.

Pathway 2: CSOs amplify young people's voices to claim, protect and expand civic space

Description of effective use of accountability mechanisms by citizens /communities and CSOs towards SRHR of all people

The accountability mechanisms in place for making leaders answerable to the electorate or to the needs of young people has been left to the CSOs. However, the CSOs face challenges in making the leaders accountable because to engage with the political leaders (who are in-charge of budgetary allocation at the county level) one needs to bring these leaders together and this is costly especially since CSOs do not have adequate resources.

Pathway 3: Societal actors support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms

Level of public support for family planning and prevention of harmful practices and SGBV

Health care workers are receptive to young girls using contraceptives and are able to provide for girls under age 18 because the law allows it and girls feel they do not need to tell their parents. But, there is secrecy in accessing it because girls are negatively judged by the community. Many caregivers in Migori were found to perceive that contraceptive use before marriage promotes promiscuity. In Siaya, in an effort to address teenage pregnancy, the country has developed an action plan; a process that has been inclusive with many stakeholders and soon to be launched. FGM/C in Migori and Kaijado it is taking place in secrete. In both areas, there is an "FGM/C abandonment policy" at the county level, implementation is however a challenge. Child marriage is a problem in Siaya, Homa Bay and Migori in general and it's propagated by the teenage pregnancy. According to Luo culture, when a girl gets pregnant, she is married off because she cannot eat with the father from the same table/plate. Another form of HP identified is *Nyumba mboke*, which allows women to marry their surrogates to raise children. Currently this is not receiving any level of public support for preventing it. There is public out-cry over SGBV and it is widely supported to prevent it. For example, Siaya is in the process of developing the SGBV policy. The development is in the advanced stages and that the policy has been tabled to the county health committee for discussion and its being taken to the County Assembly and undergoing public participation.

Pathway 4: State actors improve policy making and implementation on key issues

Laws, policies and budgets on harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Kenya has a strong ray of laws and policies on these issues and a 'good will by government to allocate resources for reproductive health. Implementation, however, remains a challenge, like accessing budget and implementation documents, making it difficult for CSOs to track status of implementation. *For more, see Kenya Desk Review section 4.4* .

Role of media addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Broad media (TV, printed newspapers, radio) still have an important role and do give attention to these topics. E.g. Through the media it became known is FGM emerging in areas where there was thought to be none. Remote areas with less internet connectivity, radio plays a big role. Social media, plays a greater role among young people, though can have both negative and positive impact. Government agencies also use social media.

Situation of core components of available civic space to address harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancy

NGOs and CSOs are leading the civic space and look for funding through resource mobilisations. For example school health clubs are funded by NGOs or CSOs. Civil servants and local politicians do not speak as freely as those from NGOs and CSOs. There is some level of collaboration between local government or county government and NGO/CSOs, though the latter are more active on these themes. For example one CSO is the secretariat for one of the thematic areas around SGBV that involves the county government. The county action plans and policies are made with the CSOs direct involvement.

Attitudes and actions taken by social actors to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Currently there is a greater push to have county level policies to allow for resource allocation. The national 'return to school policy' is in place and being implemented. The '100% transition from primary to secondary school'. More recently, efforts to find and support children to go back to school have been disrupted by the pandemic. There is an 'action plan' in response to teenage pregnancy in Siaya county. Also in Siaya there is a policy for SGBV at the county level, which is at an advanced stage in its development.



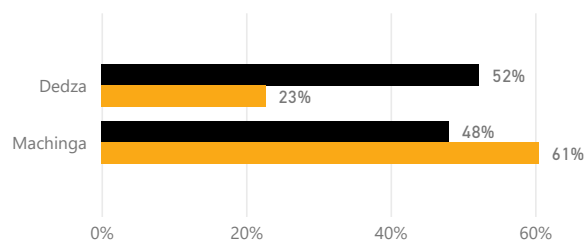
Malawi - Preliminary baseline insights

The two study areas for the baseline study of Power to You(th) in Malawi are Traditional Authority Tambala in Dedza in central Malawi and Traditional Authority Kapoloma in Machinga in Southern Malawi.

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies

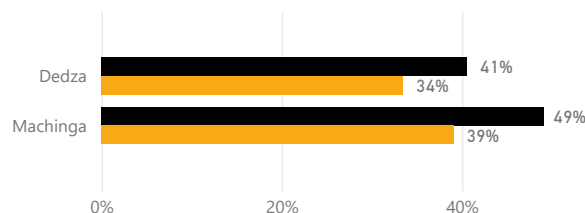
% of adolescents and young people who have ever participated in any activities or have taken action to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Gender ● Female ● Male



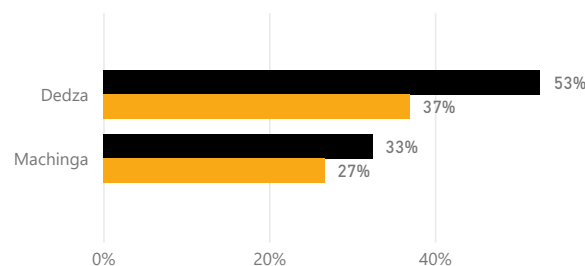
% of adolescents and youth who reported that adults involve young people (under age 24) in decisions regarding harmful practices sometimes, often or all the time

Gender ● Female ● Male



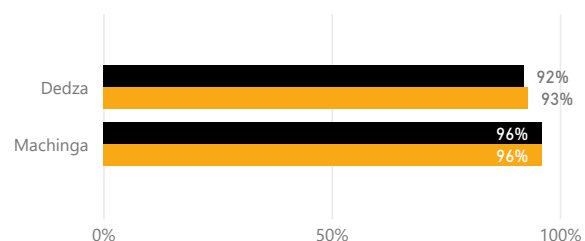
% of adolescents and young people who are engaged with a CSO that carries out specific activities with young people

Gender ● Female ● Male



% of adolescents and youth who reported that they will be involved in the decision on who and when to marry

Gender ● Female ● Male



Youth perspective on the meaningfulness of their participation in community activities to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Young people indicated to participate mainly through youth clubs in community activities. They share information and raise awareness on the issues. Some village heads /chiefs also listen to this. Some young people feel that their inputs are insufficiently considered. To be meaningfully engaged, young people felt they require more information, spaces to express themselves and self-confidence on these topics, as some young people are afraid or feel shy to speak out.

Young people's perspective on the meaningfulness of their engagement with CSOs

Most young people felt meaningfully engaged by adults in the organisations, in Dedza this was 85% and in Machinga 66%. A difference was noticed in how the quality of engagement in activities of CSOs was rated. Female respondents from Dedza (64%) and Machinga (49%) were more positive about the quality of engagement in activities of CSOs than the male respondents.

Youth voice and agency regarding harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Most participants indicated that their views are most respected by their friends, parents and teachers. Most also felt listened to. On the three issues, they cannot always easily speak out to older people in the community, as adults see young people as inexperienced or view changing harmful traditions as disrespectful. "They belittle our opinions", (Photo voice with young men, Machinga).

Barriers and opportunities for youth advocates in addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Youth representation exists (at least on paper) on a structural level in area and village development committees. Depending on the area, the youth are being represented in these committees, which is an opportunity to further strengthen the voice of young people. One barrier identified is that young people's structures are insufficiently supported; both financially and in their capacity to be able to advocate.

Malawi

Pathway 2: CSOs amplify young people's voices to claim, protect and expand civic space

Description of effective use of accountability mechanisms by citizens /communities and CSOs towards SRHR of all people

Some key informants referred to different development committees in the Traditional Authorities(TA) as a way to hold communities accountable to the laws, by-laws and policies in place. Recently the TA in Tambala has conducted a stakeholder mapping, so the TA has an overview of which organisations and institutions are active in the area, to be able to inform the communities about the plans and to know if implementation is happening. The committees seem to be active, but some people from the community indicated that they were not informed by them.

Pathway 4: State actors improve policy making and implementation on key issues

Laws, policies and budgets on harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

An overview of existing laws and policies is provided in the Malawi desk review report. There seems to be little transparency on budgets on the three issues. Key informants from the state and from NGOs emphasize the lack of transparency from both sides on the available budgets and under spending of budget with regard to SRHR by the government.

Pathway 3: Societal actors support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms

Level of public support for family planning and prevention of harmful practices and SGBV

Social welfare offices, chiefs, councillors, police, teachers, health workers, parents and churches are societal actors mentioned, who take action to change practices. Many societal actors contribute to awareness raising. When it comes to law enforcement, depending on the type of law violations, chiefs and social welfare offices intervene with support from NGOs/CBOs. Also, police sometimes arrest perpetrators. Citizen's voice and action committees, chiefs/village headmen play the biggest role in enforcing the bylaws.

Situation of core components of available civic space to address harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancy

Two third of the youth advocates (total n=31) indicated that the freedom of expression of organisations/advocates when lobbying and advocating on sexual and reproductive health & rights is free/ protected in Malawi. Regarding freedom of assembly, another component of civic space, one out of two respondents answered the same. Citizens' access to the information they require to exercise their rights was more constrained.

Attitudes and actions taken by social actors to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Most laws and policies that affect young people are formulated without the involvement of youth. The social welfare office is a custodian of the child protection policy and there seems to be space for youth to provide their perspectives. Some societal actors are corrupt, and can be easily bribed. Participants were positive about the activities of CSOs and NGOs on the three issues.

Role of media addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Of the 31 respondents who answered the question on how much attention the media pays to the issues of harmful practices (child marriage), sexual and gender-based violence, and unintended pregnancy in Malawi, 11 said 'medium attention' and 14 said 'a lot of attention'.



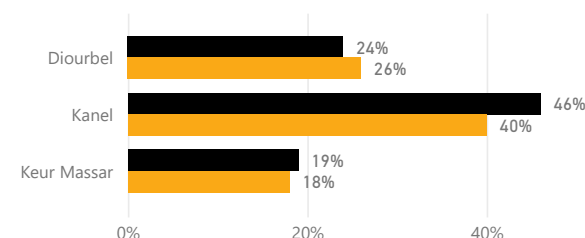
Senegal - Preliminary baseline insights

The three study areas for the baseline study of Power to You(th) in Senegal are Diourbel, and Kanel in the region of Matam and Keur Massar in the region of Dakar.

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies

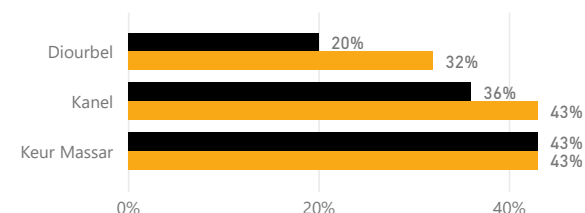
% of adolescents and young people who have ever participated in any activities or have taken action to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Gender ● Female ● Male



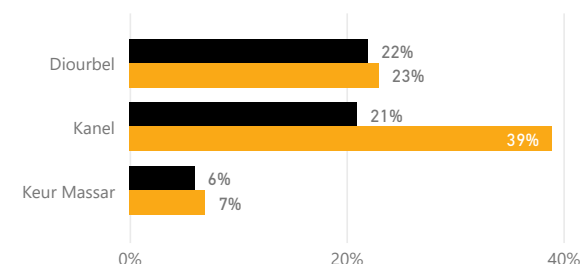
% of adolescents and youth who reported that adults involve young people (under age 24) in decisions regarding harmful practices sometimes, often or all the time

Gender ● Female ● Male



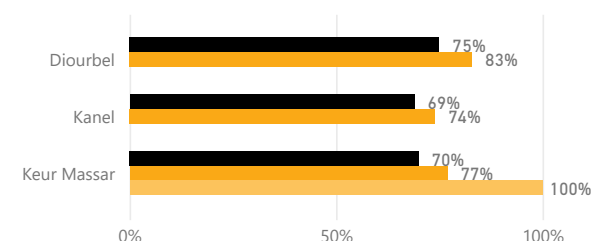
% of adolescents and young people who are engaged with a CSO that carries out specific activities with young people

Gender ● Female ● Male



% of adolescents and youth who reported that they will be involved in the decision on who and when to marry¹

Gender ● Female ● Male ● Prefer not to answer



[1] One respondent in Keur Massar said "Prefer not to answer" for Gender. Only for this indicator this person gave an answer and hence included only in this chart.

Youth perspective on the meaningfulness of their participation in community activities to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

The participation experience of adolescents and youth was mainly in awareness raising activities in Adolescent Advice Centers (centres ado) or health posts, as peer to peer educators or engagement in youth clubs. In most programmes and projects youth were considered beneficiaries. The resources for youth-led activities are little and there are limited initiatives from state actors to engage adolescents and youth in addressing harmful practices and SGBV.

Young people's perspective on the meaningfulness of their engagement with CSOs

Youth people who were engaged with CSOs were generally satisfied with their role, felt invited to contribute, and could lead activities or participate in decisions. Youth clubs or the appointment of youth ambassadors were seen as strategies that facilitated youth engagement. Beyond CSOs and NGOs there was little representation of youth, particularly within state actors, and their points of view were not easily taken into account.

Youth voice and agency regarding harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Youth can express themselves in relation to these topics. Adolescent advice centers and social media are key spaces for youth voice. Youth spaces outside school are limited. Some young people feel they can decide on topics like their education or relationships. Parents have a strong influence in decisions concerning youth and many decisions are taken at a family level.

Barriers and opportunities for youth advocates in addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Youth use of social media is an opportunity for their advocacy role. Adolescent advice centers are also an important structure to identify and support youth advocates. The limited political will of some stakeholders will to engage youth in decision making roles can be a barrier. Also the little funding for youth advocates.

Senegal

Pathway 2: CSOs amplify young people's voices to claim, protect and expand civic space

Description of effective use of accountability mechanisms by citizens /communities and CSOs towards SRHR of all people

Many young people and key informants are not well informed about the initiatives and promises of the government. This makes it hard to hold them accountable. However, in a scattered manner, some accountability mechanisms are mentioned, such as the National Coordination for the Protection of Children's Rights. These mechanisms watch the implementation of the law at national level. At community level, mechanisms are less known. One interviewee mentions that it is very rare to see an victim of harmful practices gain rightfulness in a formal way. Additionally, even if accountability mechanisms exist, children and young people are unlikely to use them out of fear of repercussions in later life.

Pathway 4: State actors improve policy making and implementation on key issues

Laws, policies and budgets on harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

There are quite some laws and policies on reproductive health, harmful practices and SGBV in place in Senegal. Violence against children is restricted under the penal law. At the moment, various laws and policies are in the process of being endorsed or have just been adopted. These include the criminalization of rape, a law against FGM/C, a law decriminalizing safe abortion in case of rape or incest, adapting the minimal age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18, and the instalment of youth advisory centres. Especially the criminalization of rape is seen as a large step forward in Senegal. However, while laws and policies may exist, implementation and budgeting are lagging behind.

Pathway 3: Societal actors support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms

Level of public support for family planning and prevention of harmful practices and SGBV

The level of public support is quite limited. Interviewees mention that they do not see a lot of willingness of the State and local authorities to involve young people in decision-making processes. More political and social engagement is needed to promote adolescent and youth SRHR. These should include decision-makers, influencers, religious and community leaders and healthcare providers. At a local level, community leaders and *badienou gokh* seem to play a large role in raising awareness against harmful practices, including rape and child marriage.

Situation of core components of available civic space to address harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancy

The civic space in Senegal seems to be well restrained by laws. One informant from a CSO mentions that the freedom of expression is well defined and framed by national laws that change every time there are national elections. At the same time, the opposition fights for more civic space for themselves, directing themselves against the lobby and advocacy initiatives of CSOs fighting against harmful practices. Regarding financing and stability, finances are often insufficient when it comes to lobbying for SRHR.

Attitudes and actions taken by social actors to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

In Senegal, there still is a large taboo around harmful practices and unintended pregnancies. As a result, limited actions are taken by social actors to prevent them. Interviewees recognize that family elders need to play a larger role in promoting the SRHR of their children. Especially in religious communities it is hard to find support in social structures. The healthcare system seems to be one of the most accessible supporters in the abandonment of harmful practices, raising awareness and providing care. At the household level, adolescents and youth (both male and female) are more likely to turn to their mother than their father, but in general, these issues are rarely discussed in the household setting.

Role of media addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

The media play a key role in addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV, ranging from providing evidence-based and relevant information to lobby and advocacy. Indeed, interviewees mentioned that it is important that the media provide reliable information from the communities and produce attractive shows to raise awareness on the consequences of harmful practices. While doing this, it is important to shed light on harmful practices both from a victim and aggressor view. Until now, however, the exposure that the media in Senegal are giving to harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and children's rights violations are quite limited. Often they only cover cases of rape or abuse, without talking about SRHR or youth engagement in general.



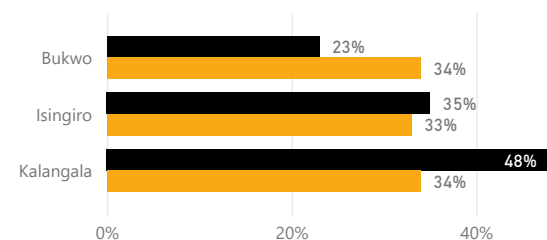
Uganda - Preliminary baseline insights

The three study areas for the baseline study of Power to You(th) in Uganda are Bukwo, Isingiro, Kalangala

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancies

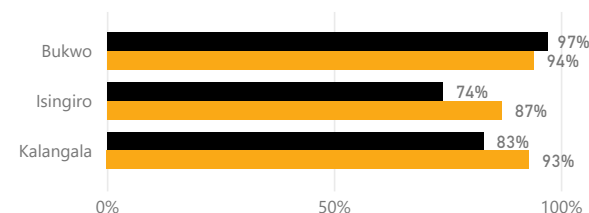
% of adolescents and young people who have ever participated in any activities or have taken action to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Gender ● Female ● Male



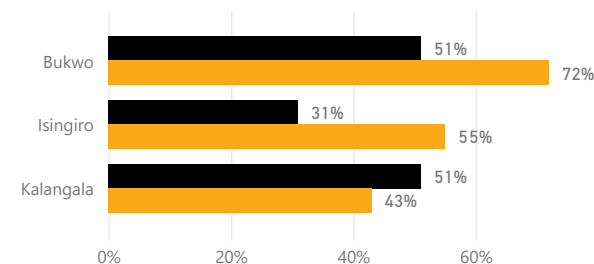
% of adolescents and youth who reported that adults involve young people (under age 24) in decisions regarding harmful practices sometimes, often or all the time

Gender ● Female ● Male



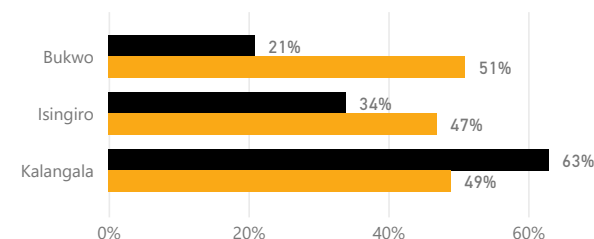
% of adolescents and young people who are engaged with a CSO that carries out specific activities with young people

Gender ● Female ● Male



% of adolescents and youth who reported that they will be involved in the decision on who and when to marry

Gender ● Female ● Male



Youth perspective on the meaningfulness of their participation in community activities to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Education and creative alternative life journeys are emphasized mainly, how young people have been engaged in community activities related to the PtY core issues. Respondents from Bukwo felt meaningfully involved (85%), followed by Isingiro (72%). In Kalangala 1 out of 2 respondents considered their engagement meaningful. Advancing meaningful engagement of young people to speak up about their SRHR realities in all their diversity seemed to be needed in all three implementation districts but particularly in Kalangala.

Young people's perspective on the meaningfulness of their engagement with CSOs

Overall interviewees reported their engagement with CSOs was beneficial to their lives and wellbeing. However, several young people raised a number of issues that obstruct meaningful engagement, such as: insufficient financial means, cases of manipulation and sexual harassment, less voices of marginalised youth as well as adults taking over positions created for youth. Most young people engaged with CSOs were involved in football clubs and saving groups at the village level as well as patriotism/debating clubs– with little direct links to SRHR.

Youth voice and agency regarding harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Young people were overall hesitant about speaking out on PtY core issues. They considered that community, religious and political leaders as well as their parents and teachers as most influential and make the decisions. Participants commented that youth who moved out of their parents' homes, or who were educated and employed had a stronger say compared to those who were not well educated or living in a refugee settlement.

Uganda

Pathway 1: Young people demand accountability and responsiveness on harmful practices, unintended pregnancies and SGBV

Barriers and opportunities for youth advocates in addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

An opportunity observed in all the three study districts is that stakeholders, collaborators and donors had started creating an enabling environment for youth advocates at the national, sub national/ district level through different youth structures. For instance, the national youth council, school councils and youth CSOs invited youth to take part in policy discussions. However, participants pointed out the challenges of insufficient funding for successfully implementing activities. It was mentioned that people living in humanitarian settings, such as Nakivale, had been excluded from participating in several youth forums, and therefore lack information and opportunities to access media and advocacy platforms.

Pathway 2: CSOs amplify young people's voices to claim, protect and expand civic space

Description of effective use of accountability mechanisms by citizens /communities and CSOs towards SRHR of all people

CSOs have notably contributed to the general awareness of child and youth rights. Some of the activities include teaching youth and political leaders and influencing the enacting of community bylaws on these rights. The community members of Kalangala and Bukwo districts wished for more emphasis being put on education-related accountability mechanisms and overall participants stressed weak law enforcement by the authorities, such as the police and the child protection agency, related to the PtY core issues.

Pathway 3: Societal actors support and promote youth rights and progressive social norms

Level of public support for family planning and prevention of harmful practices and SGBV

Activities organised by CSOs or government initiatives often linked girls' education and economic empowerment to effectively address the PtY core issues. Participants noted that there were sensitization campaigns carried out by the media and CSOs. Further, it emerged that arrests by police and punishments by community leaders were common actions taken in communities to address child marriage, FGM/C and SGBV. Although the government was trying to address these issues, some participants stressed unsatisfactory outcomes of authorities' actions taken, which were related to institutions' under funding and bribery.

Situation of core components of available civic space to address harmful practices, SGBV and unintended pregnancy

The COVID-19 pandemic had affected the civic space as to what extent public gathering and youth fora on the topics of SRHR could be carried out. So in relation to the current implications of the pandemic, for instance a CSO representative from Isingiro considered that social media clearly presented an enabling online alternative for expressing opinions about SRHR issues in civic spaces.

Role of media addressing harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

Overall, participants reported low access to media in remote communities, which explained why media played a limited role in CSO's lobbying and advocacy activities at local level. Where accessible, participants considered media platforms to be an enabling tool for sharing positive messages about SRHR. (Social) media has contributed recently to positive norm change, particularly where NGOs were less present and to also engage adult audiences. Participants stressed the importance of radio to reach and sensitise communities with SRHR-related messages in the remote areas where NGOs are hardly able to reach.

Attitudes and actions taken by social actors to prevent harmful practices, unintended pregnancy or SGBV

Young people in the 3 districts felt most supported by their parents, religious leaders and health workers to address harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV, but also at times their teachers and political leaders. Interestingly, partners and peers (thus young people themselves) were hardly mentioned as active supporters of related activities or actions. Interviewees elaborated that religious leaders mainly focused their activities on counselling with young people and their parents.

Pathway 4: State actors improve policy making and implementation on key issues

Laws, policies and budgets on harmful practices, unintended pregnancy and SGBV

An overview of existing laws and policies is provided in the Uganda desk review report. Uganda has several laws, policies and frameworks in place to reduce vulnerabilities and inequalities of young women and adolescent girls. However, the implementation of national policies and frameworks at a local level is weak and gender specific vulnerabilities persist. Key informants indicated that there was an average level of awareness about the laws in place especially in regards to child marriages and SGBV, however enforcement of the law faces challenges predominantly related to underfunding and bribery.

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