
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH WHOLE SITE ORIENTATION GUIDE

Background

Adolescents and youth face a wide range of barriers in accessing adolescent and youth reproductive health (AYSRH) services particularly in public facilities. These include lack of privacy and confidentiality, costs of services and transportation, long waiting time, persistent stock-out of commodities and consumables, restrictive norms and stigma around adolescent and youth sexuality, young people's limited or incorrect knowledge of services, myths and misconceptions around contraception; limited self-efficacy. Though adolescents and youth are a heterogeneous group, they share two common characteristics in seeking health services: They want to be treated with respect and to be sure that their confidentiality is protected (WHO, 2002).

There is a general perception which is a reality for young people that if facility is not seen to be youth-friendly, then the young people will not go there to access services. Therefore, getting the facility management, service providers, and other non-clinical staff to provide services in a youth friendly manner will go a long way in promoting access and quality of services including contraceptive services for young people.

The WSO is targeted at improving the knowledge and attitude of health facility staff on provision of appropriate health care to clients to visit the facility. This module has been developed to provide appropriate information on Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services (AYFHS). This will be targeted at:

- All staff working in health facilities (irrespective of cadre)
- Community stakeholders (for example, WDC, WHC, QIT, among others)

The session should be facilitated by a service provider who has been trained on AYFHS.

The [national training manual on adolescent health](#) should be your reference document for the talking point.

Overall Goal

- Increase access of young people to modern contraceptives information and services.

Objectives:

- To equip all cadre of staff working in a health facility with accurate information about AYFHS
- To debunk myths and misconceptions about AYFHS
- To raise enhancers and not inhibitors for AYFHS among people who work in health facilities

Areas of focus for WSO on AYFHS:

1. Adolescents and Youth
 - Definition of adolescent/youth (including physical, mental and emotional development)
 - Discuss characteristics of adolescents and youth
 - Discuss common challenges of adolescents and youth
 - Outline the youth/adolescent RH needs

2. Key Components of Adolescent & Youth Friendly Healthcare Services (AYFHS)
 - Define and outline the components of Youth Friendly Healthcare Services
 - Outline factors that inhibit uptake of AYFHS
 - Outline factors that promote uptake of AYFHS
 - Discuss the importance of integrating AYFHS in other health and social programs/intervention
 - Discuss importance of neat, attractive and private settings
 - Discuss importance of simple and fast client flow within the facility
 - Discuss the importance of interpersonal communication skills in LPAY
 - Discuss Counselling and Information for AYFHS
 - Discuss the importance of confidentiality & privacy in LPAY
 - Discuss the importance of referral and linkage to appropriate services in LPAY

3. Role of Health Care Giver in AYFHS
 - Discuss the role of HCW in AYFHS
 - Outline telling signs used to identifying AYRH issues/needs in the community
 - Outline again the importance of adequate referrals and linkages to AYFHS
 - Outline importance of linking youth and adolescents to confidential counselling/social services
 - Discuss linkage between HCWs and Social support services/relevant agencies or line ministries – outline state specific processes and contact details