

Providing Sexual and Reproductive Health Through Youth-Friendly Services

Why use this approach?

Adolescent and youth-friendly services (AYFS) must be offered in an environment where the adolescents and young people feel free to access them without being judged or condemned by those who work in the health facility or the entire society. This approach provides a guide on how to provide services with an understanding of what young people in a particular society want.



STEP 1: Conduct a facility assessment

Using IPPF's Provide or WHO SEARO's Supervisory/Self-Assessment Checklist for Adolescent Friendly Health Services, assess the status of the characteristics of the health facility, the service providers and the program to evaluate how youth-friendly the services are currently. As part of the assessment, engage adolescents and youth in focus groups to ensure the assessment and identified criteria is appropriate.



STEP 2: Develop an action plan

Develop an action plan based on the facility assessment results for improving the quality of service delivery. Ensure that health providers are trained in competencies in adolescent health care. Work with the Reproductive Health focal person and facility in-charges to identify topics that meet staff's learning needs and interests in AYRSH.



STEP 3: Identify trainers

Identify adolescent SRH/FP trainers who can act as mentors.



STEP 4: Conduct regular coaching and mentorship

Coach and mentor facility staff regularly to increase the number of competent skilled service providers who are able to offer FP services as well as to ensure quality assurance.



STEP 5: Ensure relevant professional development

Ensure staff participation in continuous professional education in adolescent health care.



STEP 6: Make services visible

Provide systems to inform adolescents and youth on how to access and obtain SRH health services, e.g., signages with appropriate services available and operating hours, display the AYFS national standards like a charter, ensure CHAs/CHEWs/VHTs are well-aware of AYFS facilities to refer to, etc.



STEP 7: Monitor standard of care

Monitor and evaluate the standard of care delivered to adolescents at service delivery points. The monitoring framework should make it possible to measure short- and medium-term progress including feedback from recipients of AYSRH services.



STEP 8: Build partnerships

Partner with the Reproductive Health Management teams to conduct assessments and certifications of eligible providers who receive positive feedback as being AYFS providers.