

# **A PROMISED RENEWED: ENDING PREVENTABLE CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS AND YOUTH**

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# IMPORTANCE & RELEVANCE

- THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH, LAUNCHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL IN 2010, STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MDG ON MATERNAL MORTALITY REDUCTION.

# CALL TO ACTION GOALS:

1. MOBILIZE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO END PREVENTABLE CHILD DEATHS.
2. ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON A GLOBAL ROADMAP HIGHLIGHTING INNOVATIVE AND PROVEN STRATEGIES TO ACCELERATE REDUCTIONS IN CHILD MORTALITY.
3. DRIVE SUSTAINED COLLECTIVE ACTION AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

# ACTING ON THE CALL

## USAID'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARD ENDING PREVENTABLE MATERNAL MORTALITY 2020

- AS A PATHWAY TO THE AGREED UPON GLOBAL TARGETS FOR 2030 AND BEYOND, USAID WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ENDING PREVENTABLE MATERNAL MORTALITY IN 24 PRIORITY COUNTRIES BY INCREASING USE OF FAMILY PLANNING, MATERNITY CARE, AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND NUTRITION SERVICES.



# **USAID PRIMARY COMPONENTS**

1. ENABLING AND MOBILIZING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES
2. ADVANCING QUALITY, RESPECTFUL CARE
3. STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING

# STRIKING FACTS

- ABOUT **16M ADOLESCENT GIRLS** GIVE BIRTH EVERY YEAR – MOST IN LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES.
- AN ESTIMATED **3M GIRLS** AGED 15-19 UNDERGO UNSAFE ABORTIONS EVERY YEAR.
- STILL BIRTHS AND NEWBORN DEATHS ARE **50% HIGHER** AMONG INFANTS OF ADOLESCENT MOTHERS THAN AMONG INFANTS OF WOMEN AGED 20-29.
- INFANTS OF ADOLESCENT MOTHERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE **LOW BIRTH WEIGHT.**
- ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO MATERNAL AND CHILD MORTALITY.

# WHAT'S YOUTH GOT TO DO WITH IT?

- YOUTH ARE AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL -- THEY ARE DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY OUR POLICIES AND PROGRAMMING.
- 10 TO 24 YEARS OLD MAKE UP NEARLY  $\frac{1}{4}$  OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION.
- WE ARE THE LARGEST POPULATION OF YOUTH IN HISTORY.

Inaccessibility to contraceptives/lack of comprehensive SRHR information



Unwanted pregnancy/poor birth spacing



Consultation (abortion is illegal)

Unsafe abortions (costs, risks, trauma, ↑maternal mortality)



Never return (↑maternal mortality)

Hospital - Vacuum aspiration/curettage (costs, risks, trauma, ↑maternal mortality)

# **WRONG ASSUMPTIONS MADE**

- “YOUNG GIRLS ARE JUST PROMISCUOUS IN THAT REGION.”
- I MAY BE EXAGGERATING BECAUSE I AM A “YOUTH” AND “FEMALE.”

# **REALITIES DIRECTLY LINKED TO INCREASED MATERNAL AND CHILD MORTALITY**

- ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTION.
- COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH.
- YOUTH SEXUAL RIGHTS.

# MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT?

## WHAT DOES REAL, MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT LOOK LIKE?

- YOUTH SHOULD BE KEY PILLARS IN ADDRESSING THE PREVENTION OF CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS.
- YOUTH ARE NO LONGER JUST “VICTIMS”
- GIVEN THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION MADE UP OF YOUTHS, IT MAY BE SAFE TO SAY WE ARE A POPULATION OF NEED, BUT AMAZINGLY, **THE SOLUTION LIES WITHIN US**, AS WELL.

# **YOUTH ARE AVAILABLE, WILLING.....**

- IN 2013, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING (ICFP), MORE THAN 50 YOUTH DELEGATES CAME TO ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
- IN 2013 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ALLIANCE ON FAMILY PLANNING (IYAFP) WAS FORMED – 290 YOUTH FROM 59 COUNTRIES APPLIED TO BE COUNTRY COORDINATORS AND WE HAVE RECEIVED 400 MEMBER REQUESTS!!!

The image features a light gray background with a subtle gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are several realistic water droplets of various sizes, rendered with soft shadows and highlights to give them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

**WHAT CAN YOUTH DO?**

# OKO IN GHANA (OKOFRANCIS@GMAIL.COM)



26/3/2014

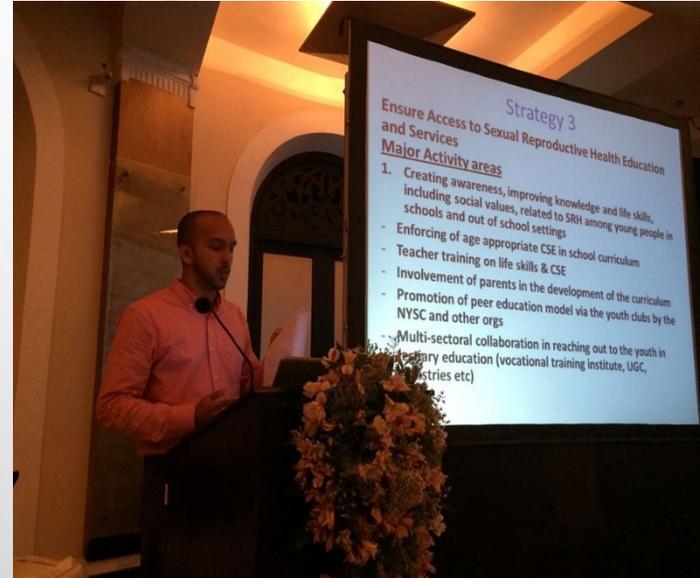
# ADEBISI IN NIGERIA



# AMANDA IN UGANDA



# DAKSHITHA IN SRI LANKA



# JEROME IN LIBERIA



# WHAT CAN YOUTH DO?

- BESIDES COMPRISING A GOOD PORTION OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, YOUTH ARE THE MOST INTERNET AND TECH SAVVY.
- FROM STUDIES, RESEARCH TO PROGRAMS AND GOALS, THE IMPORTANCE OF TECHNOLOGY CANNOT BE SIDELINED.
- THE SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE STATISTICS ON TWITTER, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, LINKEDIN ETC ARE ALL PROOF THAT TO A GIVEN EXTENT, YOUTH HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.
- SIMPLY PUT, "YOUTH KNOW WHAT YOUTH NEED."

# WHAT CAN YOUTH DO?

- IT IS EXCITING AND REFRESHING TO NOTICE THE GLOBAL INTEREST IN INVESTING IN YOUTH AND PAYING ATTENTION TO OUR NEEDS AND PROBLEMS **BUT** IT IS TIME FOR POLICY MAKERS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO SAY “COME AND LETS REASON TOGETHER,”

*“LETS SIT DOWN TOGETHER AND FIND SOLUTIONS OR IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS”*

- THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF YOUTH-LED INITIATIVES. YOUTHS ARE VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND RESOURCES.



# **YOUTH AT THE CENTER**

**INVESTING AND INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE CRUCIAL AND ESSENTIAL IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE PROMISED RENEWED.**

