

UNAIDS 2023

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# Result Area 7: Young people

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**2022 Results report**



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## Result Area 7: Young people

### Budget and expenditures for all Cosponsors (in US\$)

Core central and country envelopes		Non-core		Total	
Budget	Expenditures and encumbrances	Budget	Expenditures and encumbrances	Budget	Expenditures and encumbrances
\$6,550,900	\$3,894,140	\$22,656,700	\$43,694,572	\$29,207,600	\$47,588,713

### Joint Programme 2022 results

*High-level political will from ministries of education and health, among others to establish new commitments to scaling-up access to youth-friendly SRH services, economic empowerment, and quality education (including comprehensive sexuality education) mobilized through advocacy.*

**Education Plus.** The Education Plus initiative, endorsed and co-led by the UNAIDS Secretariat, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women has been launched in 13 countries,<sup>3</sup> as well as during the African Union summit in Zambia mid-2022, which was attended by 200 high-level decision-makers. Education Plus and its objectives featured prominently during the Transforming Education Summit, including in its Youth Declaration and the Call to Action on Gender Equality. The African Union in 2022 adopted three declarations advancing the goals of Education Plus: The African Union Declaration on Transforming Education in Africa; the African Union Declaration of the Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science, Technology; and the Youth Advocacy Declaration.

#### Indicator progress on young people (RA 7)

- **51 countries** scaled-up **multisectoral interventions** that align with ministerial commitments to **increase access to youth-friendly SRH services**, including CSE, to improve young people's well-being.<sup>1</sup>
- **26 countries** developed and implemented costed plans to expand and institutionalize **youth-led HIV responses**.<sup>2</sup>

Policy changes driven and supported by Education Plus initiative in champion countries, included the adoption of policies to prevent and manage pregnancies in learners (in Cameroon, Lesotho, South Africa and Uganda); education policies to address the needs of out-of-school children and adolescents (Cameroon and Lesotho); and progressive integration of interventions into sector-wide education policies (Malawi, Sierra Leone and Zambia). In Lesotho, an Education Plus investment case found that keeping girls in secondary school could reduce HIV incidence by 50%. An additional eight countries are now being supported with Education Plus investment cases.

**Promoting HIV and SRH.** The Joint Programme continued to prioritize young people's access to youth-friendly services. The Sida-funded "[2gether4SRHR](#)", which brings together the efforts of UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, the UNAIDS Secretariat, regional economic communities, national governments and civil society organizations in 10 countries, developed a toolkit on SRH and HIV for adolescents and young people, in collaboration with

<sup>1</sup> Support provided by the Joint Programme included capacity building (68 countries); technical assistance (64 countries) and advocacy/ communications support (63 countries).

<sup>2</sup> Support by the Joint Programme focussed on technical assistance (26 countries); advocacy/communications (24 countries) and capacity building (23 countries).

<sup>3</sup> Benin, Cameroon, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Y+ Global and with content co-created by adolescents and young people from five countries. The toolkit facilitated the engagement of young people and promoted the uptake of services for SRHR, HIV, sexual and gender-based violence, and mental health. In 2022, a comprehensive report shared the learnings, best practice and insights from "2gether4SRHR" to inform future UN programming.

In Uganda, UN Women led a regional campaign to promote the importance of secondary education for girls as a protective factor from HIV, child marriage and early pregnancies, engaging over 15 000 community leaders, including faith-based and traditional leaders.

**Expanding quality comprehensive sexuality education.** CSE remained a major focus for the Joint Programme in 2022. UNESCO and UNFPA supported over 80 countries to strengthen in-and-out-of-school CSE and promote healthy, safe, inclusive learning environments. That included over 40 countries in Africa, primarily through the "Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future" (O3) programme, which has reached more than 30 million learners in 2018–2022 through support for strengthened CSE programmes and delivery; and over 60 countries across the world where UNFPA supported out-of-school CSE for young people living with HIV and young key populations (Ethiopia, Ghana, Philippines), young people with disabilities (Malawi), young people in humanitarian settings (Moldova), and young indigenous people (Colombia).

UNESCO and partners developed a new initiative, "Building Stronger Foundations", which will focus on providing a strong CSE foundation for children aged 5–12 years. UNESCO with the Global Education Monitoring Report team is to develop a series of profiles enhancing education review for 50 countries, focusing on sexuality education, with the aim of motivating national policy dialogues and promoting regional peer-to-peer learning. UNESCO also created the "Digital Sex-Ed Creators Hub", a community of practice for 290 content creators (from more than 60 countries) for cutting-edge digital content creation for adolescents and young people. UNFPA supported the development and implementation of a digital CSE centre of excellence in Latin America, as well as digital CSE applications in Tunisia, Morocco and elsewhere. It used traditional media to reach populations with limited access to the Internet, with CSE topics included in radio shows in Malawi and a TV series in Honduras.

**Catalyzing national action on HIV and SRH.** The Joint Programme's advocacy and technical support drove improvements in addressing the needs of young people. Country-level technical and advocacy meetings with permanent secretaries for education, health, gender and youth focused on securing endorsement of the renewed ESA Commitment on Young People beyond the 11 countries that had endorsed already. UNESCO launched the "Education Saves Lives" campaign, which reached 15 million people across Africa with messages on the urgency of developing health education programmes that address HIV, child marriage and gender-based violence. In 2022, UNICEF continued its technical assistance partnership with the Global Fund's Adolescent Girls and Young Women Strategic Initiative in 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop a sustainable package of HIV prevention services for adolescent girls and young women within national strategies and budgets.

**Building the evidence base for action.** The Joint Programme strengthened the scientific evidence to guide effective interventions for young people. UNESCO also advanced a research agenda on CSE through two multicountry studies that are informed by evidence gaps and research needs. The first will examine the short- and medium-term nonhealth outcomes of CSE, while documenting the sociocultural factors and context of the programme in six different countries. The second, currently in its proposal evaluation phase, will investigate adolescents' and young people's perspectives, attitudes and experiences of CSE.

In 2022, UNICEF collaborated with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to complete and publish a strategic review of the evidence base for 33 interventions targeting young people with gender-transformative programming. Such programming explicitly seeks to redress gender inequalities through approaches that enhance the choice, agency, resources and social norms of marginalized populations in order to improve HIV or SRH outcomes. The strategic review identified key elements of successful interventions for young people and outlined a learning agenda for generating future evidence. UNICEF and the UNAIDS Secretariat jointly published an advocacy brief on HIV and young key populations in the Asia and Pacific region.

**Young people in humanitarian settings.** The Joint Programme improved the lives of adolescents in refugee settings. To ensure service availability and access for adolescent refugees, UNHCR equipped and trained community promoters and peer educators with information, education and communications materials to facilitate both information sharing and referrals to adolescent-friendly health services. In 2022, 36 UNHCR country operations monitored and supported programmes to improve service delivery for adolescent and youth in refugee settings. Twenty-six operations ensured the availability of information, education and communication materials for adolescent refugees, while 22 operations offered health providers training to deliver services in adolescent-friendly ways. In 17 operations, community promoters facilitated adolescent SRH health programme implementation.

**Integration of youth-focused HIV programming in health and development opportunities.** The World Bank pursued multiple projects addressing the HIV-related health and education needs of youth, including through support for girls' and women's empowerment in at least 30 International Development Association countries and programmes to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in at least 15 countries. The World Bank remains the largest financier of education in low- and middle-income countries, with programmes in more than 80 countries. Its Western and Central Africa Regional Education Strategy aims to train at least 1 million young people with digital skills and enable at least 60% of recipients to obtain better jobs. The US\$ 680 million Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project (in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) provides young women with life skills, and improves their access to quality reproductive, child, and maternal health services; it has reached over 2 million girls and achieved an educational retention rate of 92% among girls and young women. The number of national and regional legal frameworks that support enrolling and maintaining girls in school, as well as adolescent reproductive health and the elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices, doubled to 18 in 2022.

*Strengthened youth leadership and youth-led responses, including engagement in decision-making, organizational capacities, monitoring and research, advocacy and service delivery through advocacy and country-level guidance.*

**Building youth leadership in the response.** The Joint Programme worked to place young people at the centre of efforts to improve HIV responses for young people. UNESCO and UNAIDS Secretariat jointly supported the Youth Lead Asia-Pacific Youth forum on HIV, which was attended by 30 youth advocates. UNICEF collaborated with UNDP, the UNAIDS Secretariat and UNFPA to update the toolkit for advocacy and capacity-building among adolescents and young people.

UNAIDS's #GenEndIt Youth Ambassadors programme reached more than 35 000 young people with peer-led prevention, human rights and SRH messages and activities. The youth-led #GenEndIt Youth Steering Group advocates for donor countries to prioritize HIV in their foreign aid policies. It has created a training package and donor financing landscape brief to support that work.

#UPROOT youth-led accountability scorecards were completed in ten countries (Burundi, Ghana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Nigeria, Philippines, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe) with technical support from the UNAIDS Secretariat, in partnership with The PACT and Y+ Global. An HIV Prevention South-to-South Learning Network workshop, an initiative of the GPC, was attended by adolescent girls and young women from 13 GPC countries (Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe). In addition to building capacity and sharing action plans, the SSLN workshop contributed to developing the skills of youth champions.

In partnership with the PEPFAR and the Global Fund, UN Women increased the feminist leadership skills of 185 adolescent girls and young women (DREAMS ambassadors, HER Voice ambassadors and African Women Leaders Network's Youth Caucus) in 15 sub-Saharan Africa countries to elevate their advocacy efforts. Young women advocates attended feminist leadership sessions and were then paired with seasoned women leaders as their mentors. In October 2022, on the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl Child, UN Women convened a high-level meeting on championing the priorities of women and girls in the HIV response, in partnership with PEPFAR, UNAIDS, the African Women Leaders Network and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. Women ministers of health and gender, representatives of national AIDS commissions, and young women leaders addressed young women's disproportionate burden of HIV. The meeting resulted in a set of recommendations and [the launch of an intergenerational collective](#) to address HIV among adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Young people are increasingly involved in programme cycles.** For example, young people are members of the UNESCO-led technical advisory group on CSE, advisory groups on new research, and as leaders and creators of health education programmes and research (such as digital health education). UNESCO initiatives to build and support youth leadership and youth-led responses include supports for the delivery of quality CSE programmes, and the "Back-to-School" campaign, which helps young people continue on their education paths. The joint UNESCO-UNFPA capacity-building initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean has reached more than 1,000 professionals in over 20 countries. In eastern Europe and central Asia, at least 4 million young people have improved their knowledge and attitudes about HIV and SRH issues thanks to UNESCO-supported youth-led digital media/platforms and artificial intelligence-powered chatbots that operate in three languages. A new online course for adolescents and their parents about HIV prevention and SRH is available thanks to UNESCO's technical support.

UNICEF supported the Adolescent and Young Key Populations Partnership between UN agencies, youth networks, implementing partner organizations and young champions across different regions. Linking young people to essential services. UNICEF and partners continued to innovate and build on the success of the unique and youth-friendly "U-Test" model, which combines social media, digital outreach and traditional HIV prevention methods to reach young people with information about HIV and link them to support and care services, including PrEP. "U-Test" has reached 2.8 million young people online and via health facilities and has distributed almost 75 000 HIV self-test kits. The perspectives of these marginalized and often hard-to-reach populations are essential for designing and delivering accessible HIV and SRH services that meet their needs. In Brazil, UNICEF supported the training of 48 young LGBTQI+ leaders living with HIV to engage in community discussions and advocacy aimed at improving HIV-related policies. It also trained 829 young people living with HIV to strengthen local networks and reduce stigma and violence.

A World Bank project in Zambia covered the school fees for more than 90 000 girls living in extremely poor households. Its Secondary Education Quality Improvement Programme in the United Republic of Tanzania helped create safe learning environments for 1 million

students through a comprehensive safe school programme, which has contributed to a 41% increase in girls' enrolment in secondary schools since 2017.

Through the PEPFAR/USAID-funded Fast-Track Cities project, the quality and responsiveness of service delivery for young people and key populations in informal settlements in Kenya has improved, with the number of health facilities offering integrated services for young people and key populations increasing from zero in 2018 to more than 30 by the end of 2022. The Youthwyze initiative, which supports young people with information on HIV and SRH services, human rights and gender-based violence, reached more than 9,000 adolescents and young people in Namibia.



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