

# Participation Tools



## Adolescent Participation

**Rationale:** Adolescents have the right to participate in SRH programs that target them. As demonstrated by many programs elaborated in development settings, adolescents' involvement in the design and implementation of programs as well as in program monitoring are key to ensuring that programs are both acceptable and accessible to them and that their SRH needs are being met.

In addition, adolescent involvement in program evaluation can guide the development of future programming. Adolescent participation at all stages of the program cycle can lead to more relevant programming, strengthen program outcomes and contribute to meaningful partnerships between adolescents and adults.

Adolescent participation remains essential in crisis settings, even though the favorable conditions that encourage adolescents' participation - including time, funding and commitment - might be limited by the emergency circumstances. The following matrix provides some examples of ways that adolescents can participate during implementation of the MISP and comprehensive SRH services.

Participation for ASRH in humanitarian settings		
	During MISP Implementation	Comprehensive RH Services
<b>Who to engage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adolescent leaders<sup>23</sup></li> <li>Existing adolescent groups and networks</li> <li>High-risk adolescents<sup>24</sup></li> </ul> <p><i>Female and male adolescents should have equal access to and participate equally in all activities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adolescent leaders</li> <li>Adolescent groups and networks</li> <li>High-risk adolescents</li> <li>Adolescent advisory panels</li> </ul> <p><i>Female and male adolescents should have equal access to and participate equally in all activities</i></p>
<b>Needs Identification/ Program Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in <b>forums</b> such as SRH coordination meetings or GBV prevention task forces;</li> <li>Identify suitable locations for making condoms available to adolescent females and males;</li> <li>Map out existing adolescent-oriented, gender-sensitive services;</li> <li>Participate in the design of ASRH strategies and messages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to participate in activities carried out during MISP implementation;</li> <li>Through focus group discussions (with inclusion of high risk groups), provide feedback on their needs and assistance in identifying their most-at-risk peers.</li> <li>Ensure the integration of gender considerations at all stages of the needs assessment and program design.</li> </ul>
<b>Program Implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share information with peers about the importance of seeking medical care for survivors of sexual violence and where that care is available;</li> <li>Inform pregnant adolescents about where to seek skilled delivery care when they go into labor;</li> <li>Share information with peers about where to access adolescent-friendly, gender-sensitive and confidential SRH services, including contraception and treatment for STIs;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to participate in activities carried out during MISP implementation;</li> <li>Be trained in CBD and as peer educators and counselors;</li> <li>Set up clubs that include activities especially targeted at most at-risk adolescents and drama or music groups that disseminate behavior change communication (BCC) messages.</li> <li>Ensure that program activities are gender-sensitive in terms of their location, timing and participation of male and female adolescents together or separately as culture and social practices dictate.</li> <li>Establish psychosocial support groups for adolescent survivors of sexual violence and for adolescents living with HIV.</li> </ul>
<b>Program Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide feedback on program implementation through participation in SRH coordination, GBV prevention task force, and other similar forums.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to participate in activities carried out during MISP implementation;</li> <li>Participate in monitoring of quality of RH programs;</li> <li>Participate in the evaluation of ASRH programs by contributing to the elaboration of the methodology, the analysis and the actual data collection process.</li> </ul>

There are several models for adolescent participation that have been used in development contexts and that could be adapted for use in emergency situations. Two examples of field-tested models are described below.

The **Partnership-Defined Quality for Youth (PDQ-Y)** methodology, which is used by Save the Children, engages youth and health workers in a process that identifies adolescent SRH needs, defines quality, explores ways of collaborating, and emphasizes mutual responsibility for problem solving. The process involves meeting with adolescents and health workers separately to explore their perceptions of ASRH needs, quality of care, the strengths and weaknesses of the existing services, and the responsibilities and rights of the clients and health workers. Then, there is a bridging the gap session, during which adolescents and health workers come together to share their ideas and come up with ways to collaborate with the shared vision of improving adolescent-friendly services. In the final step, adolescents and health workers work in partnership to develop and implement action plans, and adolescents are involved in monitoring the quality improvements of health services (Save the Children, 2008).

The **Youth-Adult Partnerships (YAP)** model, developed by Family Health International and YouthNet, is based on the principles that youths have the right to participate; that participation makes programs more relevant and sustainable; and that

participation increases the resiliency and development of young persons. Through this model, adults and adolescents engage not only in dialogue, but also in action as equal partners. The YAP model integrates adolescent perspectives and skills with adult experience and wisdom; offers each party the opportunity to make suggestions and decisions; recognizes and values the contributions of each; and allows youth and adults to work in full partnership envisioning, developing, implementing, and evaluating programs (FHI, 2005). In order for YAP to be successful, adolescents and adults must show mutual respect. Adults must feel confident in the adolescents' abilities to make decisions; they must see the adolescents' assets and recognize the value of what they can contribute to the partnership; and they must be willing to provide the adolescents with additional training, if needed. (Norman, J. *Advocates for Youth*, 2001).

**The participation of high-risk adolescents, including those who are very young, separated from their families, heads of household, CAAFAG, marginalized or have disabilities, is particularly important during crisis situations. The participation of high-risk adolescents can help reduce barriers to accessing SRH information and services and can help programs be sure that the specific needs of these groups are addressed.**

## SUGGESTED READING:

1. *Advocates for Youth. Transitions. Vol. 14, No. 1, October, 2001.*  
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/storage/advfy/documents/transitions1401.pdf>.
2. *Save the Children. Partnership-Defined Quality for Youth: A Process Manual for Improving Reproductive Health Services Through Youth-Provider Collaboration, Save the Children, 2008. www.savethechildren.org.*
3. *WHO/UNFPA/UNICEF. Programming for Adolescent Health and Development: a Report of a WHO/UNFPA/UNICEF Study Group on Programming for Adolescent Health. WHO, 1999.*  
[http://www.who.int/child\\_adolescent\\_health/documents/trs\\_886/en/print.html](http://www.who.int/child_adolescent_health/documents/trs_886/en/print.html)
4. *YouthNet, Family Health International. Youth Participation Guide: Assessment, Planning and Implementation. FHI, 2005. http://www.fhi.org/en/youth/youthnet/rhtrainmat/ypguide.htm.*