

## **Main results of the corporate evaluation of UNFPA Support to Adolescents and Youth (2008-2015)**

The thematic evaluation of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth, 2008-2015, aims to assess the performance of UNFPA in its support to adolescents and youth and to facilitate learning, capture good practices and generate knowledge from UNFPA experience across a range of programmatic interventions. The evaluation results will be used to inform the development of the new UNFPA strategic plan and implementation of adolescents and youth interventions within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The evaluation addresses the country, regional and global levels and covers all countries of UNFPA support to adolescents and youth.

### **Key conclusions**

The evaluation concludes that UNFPA has significantly increased its priority and programmatic focus in terms of support to adolescents and youth during the evaluation period. UNFPA is a recognised leader in the area of adolescents and youth sexual and reproductive health and is well-positioned to lead on a broader development agenda in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNFPA contributed to creating a more favorable environment for the prioritization of adolescents and youth at global, regional and country levels. UNFPA has been effective in securing political commitments, at all levels, to advance the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth through bold and skilled leadership, strategic advocacy and use of partnerships. UNFPA has been at the forefront of supporting the availability and use of sexual and reproductive health services, and education and information for adolescents and youth. UNFPA has made important contributions to increasing the availability and use of youth-friendly health services and sexual and reproductive health education and information, for in- and out-of-school youth.

The evaluation concludes UNFPA contribution has proven essential to advancing the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of adolescents and youth, specifically those of adolescent girls (an area in which UNFPA has been a leading advocate). The evaluation shows that UNFPA is widely recognised for its support for youth leadership and participation at all levels, through capacity building of youth leaders, youth-led organisations and networks of youth organisations. UNFPA is a respected partner in the production and availability of adolescents and youth-related data and has a clear comparative advantage in this area, although data collection and analysis on younger adolescents (10 to 14 year old) remains a challenge.

The evaluation concludes there were challenges with coherence between adolescents and youth outcomes, outputs and indicators within the strategic plan. While UNFPA support for adolescents and youth generally aligned with past and current UNFPA strategic plans and adolescents and youth strategies, insufficient clarity on certain aspects of the current Strategy on Adolescents and Youth 2012-2020 and the multiple entry points between mainstreamed and dedicated adolescents and youth programmes at all levels posed a challenge for coordination and synergy between programmatic activities. Theories of change associated with the adolescents and youth outputs provided guidance to adolescents and youth programming within UNFPA, but were not generally utilized to inform programming at country level. As a result, adolescents and youth activities in some contexts have not been well aligned to UNFPA strategies or effective in addressing the holistic needs of adolescents and youth.

The evaluation concludes UNFPA put in place an appropriate number of human resources to implement adolescents and youth interventions at all levels who were highly valued by partners as technical counterparts. Adolescents and youth staff skills sets, particularly at country level, were not as strong in advocacy and policy dialogue to implement the full range of programming modalities or navigate complex contexts where skills in advocacy, diplomacy and negotiation were needed. At headquarters there was insufficient coordination across the different branches implementing adolescent and youth interventions. There has been a 73 per cent increase in expenditure on adolescents and youth between 2008 and 2015, and an increase of adolescents and youth expenditure as a percentage of total UNFPA expenditure, reflecting the increased priority to supporting adolescents and youth. Implementation rates on aggregate improved during the evaluation period, reaching a high level of 90 per cent in 2015.

## **Key recommendations**

The evaluation recommends that UNFPA continues to provide strong leadership on adolescents and youth issues within the framework of Agenda 2030 and delivers multi-sectoral, holistic support, ensuring the centrality of the needs of adolescent girls in particular. The evaluation suggests that UNFPA consolidates and builds on strong progress in adolescent and youth programming to ensure a coherent and synergistic approach that incorporates all UNFPA targeted and mainstreamed adolescents and youth programming within an overarching theory of change. The report calls for UNFPA to improve efforts to target the most vulnerable and marginalized among adolescents and youth by strengthening the analysis and use of data and consistent use of a human rights-based approach. The evaluation prompts UNFPA to continue to improve the quality and sustainability of sexual and reproductive health services, and education and information for adolescents and youth, enhancing systematic linkages across interventions in these areas. To strengthen meaningful engagement of adolescents and youth at all levels of programming, the evaluation suggests building on recent good practice and promoting a systematic, transparent, constituency-based youth representation, participation and leadership. Finally, the evaluation encourages UNFPA to strengthen research, monitoring, reporting and evaluation to generate evidence for organizational learning, programming and accountability and to review resource allocation for adolescents and youth, ensuring that staff have the necessary skill set.