

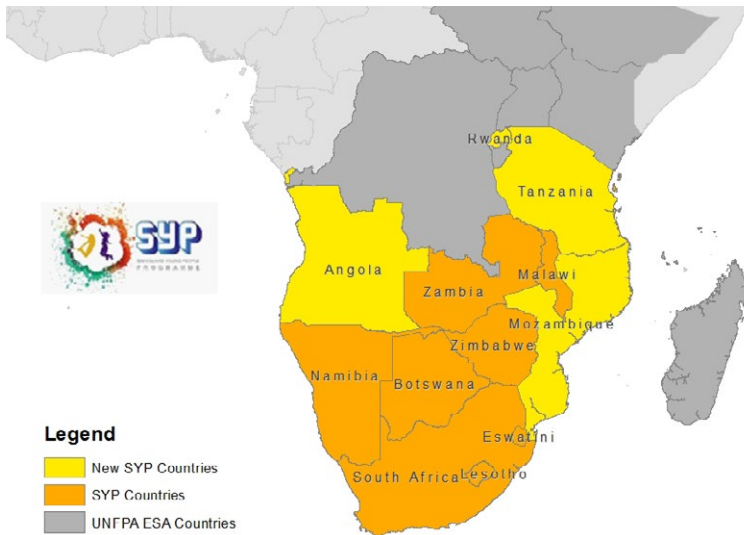


FACTSHEET

November 2021

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE FACTSHEET SDC



Map showing the geographical locations of the programme implementation (Source: UNFPA).

Target Groups

The project primarily targets adolescents and young people aged 10-24 with special focus on adolescent girls and boys, 15-19 years old. Young women living in hotspots with a high prevalence of HIV, pregnant teenagers and teenagers at risk of pregnancy, Gender Based Violence (GBV), female genital mutilation and child marriage are specific key targets of the project. In addition, change agents implementing youth programmes – teachers, youth workers, service providers, health service providers, young peer educators, traditional leaders, policy-makers, law enforcement agents, and parents are also targeted.

How the SYP project is changing lives

SYP addresses young people's needs by:

- › Improving policy, legal and programming environments.
- › Increasing young people's knowledge and skills towards adoption of protective sexual behaviours.
- › Increasing access to and quality of youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services.
- › Promoting youth empowerment and meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

Expansion

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has supported the SYP programme since its inception in 2013 and is extending it in 2021 to its partner countries Rwanda, Tanzania and Mozambique. The latter also benefits from the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which covers SYP in Angola as well.

In the four countries, the programme will enhance and scale up existing interventions for adolescents and young people using a human rights and gender equality approach across multiple sectors.

The Safeguard Young People (SYP) programme is the flagship youth programme of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) East and Southern Africa Regional Office.

It pursues the vision of an East and Southern Africa where all adolescents and young people aged 10-24 are healthy, productive and empowered; free from sexually transmitted infections including HIV, unintended pregnancies, child marriages and gender-based violence and equipped with comprehensive knowledge and skills regarding their sexuality, rights, and health seeking behaviours.

At the heart of the project is the belief that young people need to be supported holistically in their own diverse and often complex environments so they can realize their full potential.

It has been successfully implemented since 2013 by UNFPA and its regional and national partners, under the leadership of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat in eight Southern African countries and, in 2021, it is spreading its reach to four more countries in the East and Southern Africa region: Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola.



Young women discussing reproductive health. (© UNFPA)

This means building an enabling policy and legal environment for adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights, expanding the access to quality adolescent and youth-friendly, integrated HIV and SRHR services, delivering comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in and outside formal classroom settings, and strengthening youth leadership, participation and empowerment. The four additional countries mean an expanded SYP footprint of 12 countries in East and Southern Africa.



Boys discussing gender norms (© UNFPA)

In 2019, 12.6 million people were estimated to live in Rwanda, 58 million in the United Republic of Tanzania and 30.4 million in Mozambique. In all three countries, adolescents and young people aged 10 to 24 years represent roughly 32% of the population. Addressing a complex set of risk and vulnerabilities faced by adolescents and young people, particularly around sexual and reproductive health and rights, is essential for their well-being and it empowers them to realize their full potential. Increasing the number of educated, health and empowered working age or soon to be working age population is a key ingredient for attaining the Demographic Dividend.



Young people using the TuneMe mobile site. (© UNFPA)

Project Results

The SYP Programme has consistently shown excellent results at regional and national levels as assessed by independent evaluations conducted by SDC Southern Africa at the end of Phase I and Phase II. Evidence from the project shows that it is changing the lives of many young people. From its contribution to the development of historic laws and policy amendments, to its captivating digital and traditional communication approaches; from foundational relationships built with parents and traditional leaders, to tireless efforts in improving health and education standards.

The programme implements proven interventions in addressing adolescent and young people sexual and reproductive health (SRH) challenges and brings to the table a wealth of knowledge and expertise drawing from almost seven years of strategically and

effectively deploying catalytic resources to make youth friendly SRH policy and delivery improvements at scale.

- › Over 21 million adolescents and young people have been reached with programmes in comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school as well as social and behavioural change communication.
- › Over 2.3 million young people have adopted protective sexual behaviours thanks to increased knowledge and skills.
- › More than 8 million adolescents and young people have benefitted from integrated HIV and sexual and reproductive health services.
- › 13 thousand youth network members were trained in advocacy to strengthen the capacity of adolescents and youth networks to advocate and meaningfully participate in international, regional and national decision making platforms.
- › The project has seen SADC Member States domesticating policies related to young people adopted at a regional level. Example: SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage.

Reaching thousands of young people through innovative approaches

The SYP project has supported the development and launch of a youth engagement mobisite called **“TuneMe” that has the potential to reach more than 3 million young people in the region.** The platform supports young people in accessing relevant health related information including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

For example, **“TuneMe” features a ‘youth friendly clinic finder,’** with embedded GPS capabilities, as well as a feedback mechanism to report on the quality of services. In April 2020, a **“Coronavirus and You”** content was added to the TuneMe menu with information relating to COVID-19. The user numbers of the platform were three times the average during the hard lockdown phase of the pandemic. Recently, A TuneMe App has been developed to complement the mobisite and reach a larger number of young people who own smartphones.

Project Information

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Implementing Partner | UNFPA | UNFPA |
| Geographical Coverage | Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe | Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique |
| Donor | SDC | SDC, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (for Mozambique) |
| Current Phase Duration | Final phase: 2020-2023 | Phase 1: 2021 – 2024 |
| Current Phase Budget | CHF 9'743'505* | CHF 8'350'000 |
| Start of the First Phase | 2013 | 2021 |

* Estimated SDC budget for the duration of the whole intervention: CHF 26'461'520

IMPRESSUM

Eidgenössisches Departement für auswärtige Angelegenheiten EDA
 Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit DEZA
 Abteilung Ost und Südliches Africa
 Freiburgstrasse 130, 3003 Bern
 deza-dao@eda.admin.ch

Foto: © UNFPA

www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home