Disseminating the results
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MAIN OBJECTIVE

Examine comprehensive understanding of adolescents and young people’s perspectives and roles on PtY 3 Key issues in Ghana
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (SO)

1. To understand adolescents’ and young people’s perspectives and actions.

2. To assess the (meaningful) engagement of adolescents and young people.

3. To explore the norms and attitudes of community members towards the rights of young people.

4. To examine the development and implementation of laws and policies.

5. To assess the civic space available to influence decision-making.
METHODOLOGY (SETTINGS)

Upper East region:
- Builsa south
- Kassena Nankana

Northern Region:
- Tamale metropolis
- Kpandai district

Greater Accra Region:
- Kaya business areas
METHODOLOGY (PARTICIPANTS)

Quantitative
Survey
503 Adolescent & Young People (15 – 24 years)
30 CSO & Youth Advocates

Qualitative
77 Focus group discussions, In-depth interviews (adolescent and young people)
and Semi-structured interview (social & state actors)
18 Photovoice Session (young people activities)
SO 1: Perspectives and Actions of Adolescent and Youth

- Comparatively, Northern region felt more informed and knowledgeable about SRHR topics. But widespread misconception on contraception.
- In northern region, young people are reported to be more informed than adolescent on many SRHR topics.
- Unlike NR, UER has more male knowledgeable in SRHR topics than female counterparts.
SO 1: PERSPECTIVES AND ACTIONS OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH

41% of AYP preferred mothers as main source of SRHR information

- Mothers: 41
- Fathers: 21
- Friends: 18
- Sisters: 18
- Teachers: 13
- Health Care Workers/Media: 5

No gendered digital divide was indicated among male and female adolescent and young people.
SO 1: PERSPECTIVES ON CHILD MARRIAGE

30% of Young People have knowledge on the minimum legal marriage for girls

- Northern Region: 22
- Greater Accra: 35
- Upper East: 36
- Overall: 30

“I cannot refuse my parents [if they insist I marry] because they gave birth to me, so I have to follow whatever they tell me.”
(Adolescent female, Accra)
“For FGM, [...]. Currently, in 2021, something that I hardly hear often, even though I still hear some communities still practise it, but around here I have not heard of FGM.”

(Health Care Worker, Tamale, NR)
SO 1: PERSPECTIVES ON KAYAYEI

59%

Low or no savings from income

19%

Save half or more of income

68%

No skills beside kayayei
SO 2: KNOWLEDGE AND OPINIONS ON SGBV

25% of young people know at least an SGBV Survivor
10% of young people accept at least one form of SGBV

Northern
Know a Survivor: 34
Accept a SGBV: 4

Upper East
Know a Survivor: 19
Accept a SGBV: 13

Greater Accra
Know a Survivor: 13
Accept a SGBV: 28

Overall
Know a Survivor: 25
Accept a SGBV: 10
Interviewer: What happened when they went to the chief’s palace?

Response: “They informed the chief, and the boy was asked how they met. And he said they met somewhere and became lovers. That is what I heard.”

Interviewer: What happened at the chief’s palace?

Response: “The chief said, ‘They are lovers, so no crime has been committed.’”

(A social welfare officer, NR)
### SO 1: PERSPECTIVE ON UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES

65% of young people have knowledge of modern methods of contraceptive to prevent pregnancy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Accra</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper East</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
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SO 2: (MEANINGFUL) ENGAGEMENT OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE

One in five adolescents and youth respondents engage with CSOs, but the quality of their participation was rated as low.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engagement with CSOs</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UER</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Participation’ meant primarily ‘being informed’ in most cases
SO 2: (MEANINGFUL) ENGAGEMENT OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE

(Meaningful) Engagement of young people in CSO specific lobby and advocacy activities

- Development and/or implementation of by-laws: 14%
- Influencing national legal frameworks: 29%
- Holding health facilities accountable: 43%
- Participation in public debates: 57%
- Providing training/sensitisation workshops: 82%
- Influencing policy making and implementation: 50%
- Campaigning using media: 79%
- Community awareness raising: 93%
- Organising direct action: 54%
- Holding governments accountable on their commitments: 50%
- Collaborating with governments (e.g. through working groups): 46%
- Other: 0%
SO 2: (MEANINGFUL) ENGAGEMENT OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE (WITH STATE ACTORS)

Challenges of Youth to play a role in
- Lack of voice/agency
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of functioning institutional structures
- Accountability

“I have participated in forums [...] you listen to the representatives of various youth groups, and you ask yourself whether we came or we went because the arguments simply do not make sense. Look, when you begin to argue intellectually and convincingly, people will begin to respect you.”
(MP, Parliament House, Accra)

“But if the Ministry of Youth and Sport doesn’t involve, the Ministry of Health doesn’t involve, the Ministry of Employment doesn’t involve, the Ministry of Education [doesn’t involve], that policy may be very beautiful, but implementation will be defective.”
(SSI, Member of Parliament, Parliament House, Accra)
S0 2: (MEANINGFUL) ENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE (PtY KEY ISSUES) – Social Actors

Low participation (15%) in community activities to prevent SGBV, with education seen as the main prevention strategy.

Slightly more youth (23%) participate in activities to prevent unintended pregnancy, primarily focused on education about rights and awareness-raising about family planning.

Hardly any participation in activities to prevent FGM/C, which is also not commonly practiced.

Few (11%) surveyed young people had participated in activities to prevent child marriage.

Kayayeis feel little involved in or helped by activities that should support them.

15% felt their participations were meaningful.
CAREER ASPIRATIONS
Youth believe in the future and have dreams and aspirations, but have little agency in achieving them, mainly because of a lack of financial support and related consequences.

EXPRESSION OF OPINIONS
About half of the youth surveyed felt they could express their opinion about relationships, love, puberty and pregnancy in the community. UER more than in other regions.

ROLES OF YOUNG PEOPLE
Despite multiple time-consuming roles and responsibilities at home, in school or in the community, a majority felt they had a say in deciding what to do in their free time.

VOICE AND AGENCY
Youth feel uncomfortable expressing their opinions. Have little space to discuss these issues and hardly involved in decision-making around these issues.
Deeply rooted cultural and religious norms define traditional roles and behaviour and continue to shape young people’s responses to harmful practices.

**Gendered Roles**

“Ok, as a girl in the family my role is to sweep the house, wash the dishes, clean, cook and then as a family too I have to make sure I respect everyone and as the community too I have to give service to my community so that they can also benefit from me.”

(Adolescent female, NR)

**Non-gendered Roles**

“Ok the norms that are being changed first it was that guys don’t fetch water, they don’t pound fufu. It is the women or the young girls who do all those things. But now you see guys fetching water, they cook themselves in the house, then they help in the house chores too.”

(Queen Mother, UER).
Traditional authorities are seen as important stakeholders in the prevention of harmful practices.

However, survivors rarely get justice through the informal reporting mechanisms.

**Access to Justice**

“When [rape] happens it is only in the chief’s palace it is sent to for settlement. But if there is an involvement of state authorities, then punishment may be meted out to culprits to serve as deterrence for those who might be nursing the same intentions. But the case will only go to the chief.”

(Young man, UER)
Traditional leaders are slow to respond harmful practices due to perception as cultural practices; low capacity or influence to address issues through “restrictive” by-laws

**Biasness**

“The thing is if they hear of it, they will be saying that you this girl you can even do it, you are telling lies in order to get something to cover up something. Mostly when they hear their stories that is what they normally say. The man cannot force a girl to have sex with her if the girl doesn’t go to the man that cannot happen.”

(Young woman, UER)

**Responding to SGBV**

“It will make the women free to express things that bother them, as well as the children can also express themselves. There are children who have issues that they need the opportunity to air but are not getting, some need moral encouragement to speak out their worries.”

(Queen Mother, UER)
National Policies and Laws available for implementation by central and local government

But most with implementation gaps affecting effectiveness and efficiency

Community-level by-laws were more respected than national laws, and that some abandoned by-laws needed to be re-instituted.
S0 4: LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Challenges

- Policy illiteracy
- Poor use of modern communication channels
- Resources constraints
- Cultural norms that discourage reporting of PtY key issues

Private actors and external funding are seen as instrumental in the public education on government policies and policy reviews.

Non-prioritization of harmful practices
Non-operationalization of international treaties
Weak political will to protect youth rights
Civic actors recognize Ghana as an open space that protect human rights and fundamental freedoms (with notable exceptions), with notable exceptions.
“You send your letter; they say see my boss. You see the boss, he says for us we are the district level, go to the regional level. You go to the regional level. They say ok, get clearance from national level [headquarters].”

(NGO representative, Bolgatanga, UER)

“GES doesn’t allow family planning. We want abstinence. We want our children to abstain till they get to the age where they can do whatever they want. Because we all feel that it is license, when you introduce them to that we are giving them license to continue. Family planning that one is only to prevent pregnancy, but they can contract other diseases.”

(GES official, KNW, UER)
Civic space available to influence decision-making

Civic actors believe they are actively engaged by the government for meaningful consultation on policies relating to Power to You(th) key issues.

“We like the collaboration because they can support some of the activities financially, as we all know the government cannot actually get funds as we need for government to carry out some of the activities. But the NGOs that we collaborate with, sometimes they provide funds for us to carry out.” (Male District Education official, UER)
Adolescent and Young People are ready to engage for progressive change

Civil Society are ready to amplify voices of adolescent and young people, and influence policy.

Social Actors should position themselves to create or improve their communities as safe spaces.

State actors should believe in youth and create more responsive policy and legal structures to prevent or reform issues.
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