

FP2020 Commitments at the 2017 London Summit: *How well do they address the needs of youth?*



Background

Countries, partners, and donors—with an increasingly prolific group of youth ambassadors and the Ouagadougou Partnership Coordination Unit—are cultivating an ever-growing commitment to adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (AYSRHR) in West Africa. This regional commitment to AYSRHR was evident at the most recent Family Planning Summit, in London. Ouagadougou Partnership countries, for the first time, specifically addressed the needs of youth in their Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) Commitments, and a group of youth ambassadors from West Africa—*Alliance des Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour la SR/IPF en Afrique de l’Ouest Francophone*—made their first commitment to FP2020 (see Table 2 on back page).

The commitments made at the Summit follow several key steps that built regional momentum toward improved AYSRHR:

1. Youth ambassadors’ recommendations at the Fourth Annual Ouagadougou Partnership meeting in December 2015 and the roadmap devised by youth ambassadors at the Fifth Annual Ouagadougou Partnership meeting in 2016 that is meant to accelerate young people’s access to contraception.
2. The establishment of the “Youth Think Tank” to support implementation of the roadmap for young people’s accelerated access to contraception.
3. A regional workshop held in May 2017 by the Evidence to Action (E2A) Project, Pathfinder International, and the Ouagadougou Partnership Coordination Unit, with support from the US Agency for International Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Merck.

At the regional workshop, “Examining progress and planning for further evidence-informed investments in AYSRHR”, youth ambassadors worked with country teams consisting of Ministry of Health and civil society organization representatives to examine their Costed Implementation Plans for Family Planning (CIPs). The teams analyzed how well the CIPs address AYSRHR and how they could be enhanced to better meet youth needs through the incorporation of evidence-based best practices. The youth leaders participated in a pre-meeting workshop facilitated by the Torchlight Collective. During the pre-meeting workshop, they prepared to deliberate with country teams using a methodology for CIP analysis developed by the E2A Project and Pathfinder International. Two youth leaders who attended the regional workshop—from Mali and Guinea—traveled to the London Summit, using what they learned at the workshop to formulate their FP2020 Commitments with fellow youth ambassadors.

Analysis of Country FP2020 Commitments: Addressing the Needs of Youth

In this fact sheet, the E2A CIP Analysis Methodology was used to examine Ouagadougou Partnership country FP2020 commitments and determine if and how well they directly address the needs of youth. While all commitments represent good opportunities to improve AYSRHR, only certain commitments directly express a focus on youth.

Figure 1. Proportion of Ouagadougou Partnership Country Youth-Focused FP2020 Commitments

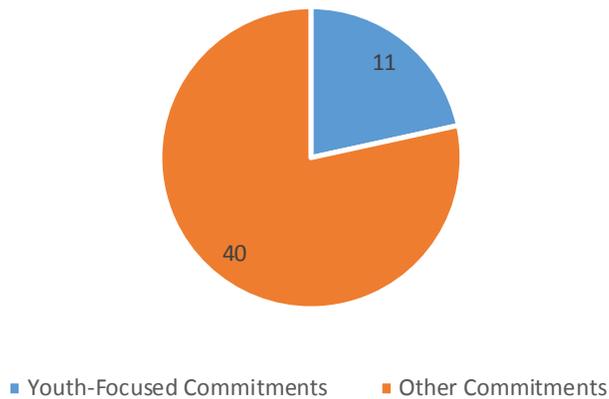


Figure 2. Proportion of Ouagadougou Partnership Country Youth-Focused FP2020 Commitments by Type

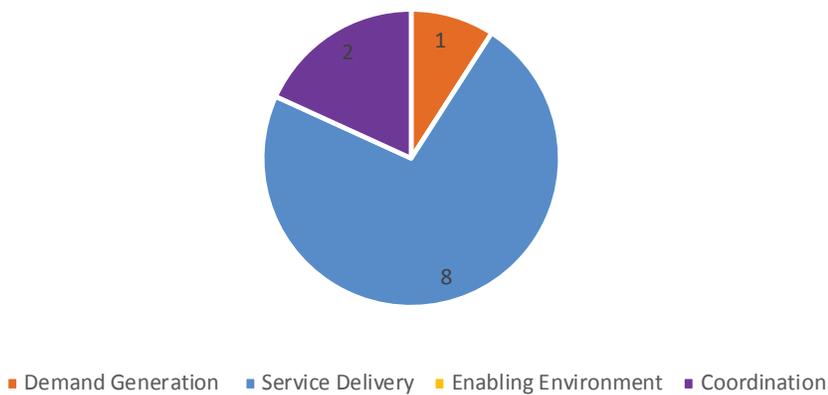


Figure 1 shows the proportion of country commitments that directly address AYSRHR against those country commitments that do not specifically mention youth. Applying E2A's analysis we have also determined in which type of activity category they fall (Figure 2). Finally, we have identified which of the eight AYSRHR evidence-based practices (Figure 3), countries have incorporated in their commitments (Table 1).

Figure 3. AYSRHR Evidence-Based Practices



Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for youth



Meeting the SRH needs of vulnerable groups



Youth leadership and participation in SRH programs



Support of families and communities for AYSRHR



Expansion of contraceptive method mix for youth



Multisectoral coordination for AYSRHR



Complete sexuality education



Gender equity

Table 1. AYSRHR Evidence-Based Practices Incorporated into Country Commitments

COMMITMENT TYPES >

 Demand Generation

 Service Delivery

 Coordination

 Enabling Environment

Country	Practice	Commitment Type
Benin		Increase the contraceptive prevalence rate from 17% in 2017 to 22% in 2020 (from 5.4% to 10% for adolescents and young people aged 15 to 24).
		Provide free family planning services at public health centers to the whole population in Benin, including adolescents and youth, by the end of 2019.
Burkina Faso	<i>Although none of Burkina Faso's FP2020 commitments specifically focus on youth, the country's new Costed Implementation Plan (2017-2020) makes clear commitments to AYSRHR.</i>	
Côte D'Ivoire		Strengthen the provision of family planning services in 100 health facilities to meet the needs of adolescents and young people by 2020.
Guinea	 	Integrate family planning services into 100% of school, university, and youth area health centers (Blue Zones), youth counseling and guidance centers, and non-traditional settings, including 140 hairdressing salons and 70 seam workshops, by the end of 2018.
Mali		Implement specific sexual and reproductive health programs for youth and adolescents at the operational level by 2020.
		Strengthen the supply chain to reduce stock-outs and ensure access for all to contraceptives (including adolescents/youth, vulnerable and displaced populations).
Mauritania		Strengthen the provision of family planning services through the introduction of new methods and postpartum family planning to women, adolescents, and newlyweds in 100% of targeted health facilities by 2020.
Niger		By the end of 2017, special emphasis will be placed on adolescents and young people and at least 15% of the revised CIP budget will be allocated to interventions targeting sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people.
Senegal	 	Take into account vulnerable adolescents and young people in sexual and reproductive health vulnerability strategies including family planning by increasing the rate of use of sexual and reproductive health services from 10% to 70% by 2020 with impact on reducing the fertility rate of 15- to 19-year-olds from 80 to 70 per 1,000 by 2020.
		Operationalize a multi-sectoral coordinating body on issues related to the demographic dividend and involving other ministerial sectors (women, family, youth, education, economy, finance and plan), the private sector, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, local authorities, etc.
Togo		Ensure the implementation of Comprehensive Sexual Education for adolescents and young people in all schools by 2022.

Youth Voices

The CIP analysis methodology was also used to analyze the following FP2020 commitments made by the Ouagadougou Partnership youth ambassadors.

Table 2. Commitments Made by Young Ambassadors at London Summit	
COMMITMENT TYPES >  Demand Generation  Service Delivery  Coordination  Enabling Environment 	
Practice	Commitment Type
	Organize a roundtable to mobilize internal and external resources for better funding of AYSRH and HIV/AIDS (December 2017).
	Organize four national advocacy sessions for community leaders to scale up age-appropriate and sociocultural-sensitive comprehensive sexuality education to prevent all forms of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, early and/or forced marriage, and complications and challenges associated with unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (first quarter, 2018).
	Organize the first Regional Youth Ambassadors Camp (November 2018).
	Organize 18 national sessions (three days each) to work on a “participatory budget” for AYSRH and HIV/AIDS with 300 elected representatives (mid-2018 to mid-2019).
	Organize two national advocacy sessions for parliamentarians, ministers of health, and budget and finance decision-makers to increase the budget allocated to AYSRH and HIV/AIDS in Ouagadougou Partnership countries (first quarter, 2019 and first quarter, 2020).
	Organize four awareness- and information-sharing campaigns for 10,000 adolescents and young people on sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and family planning for teens and youth by May 2020 through radio, television, and social networks.

Conclusion

This analysis of the new FP2020 commitments shows that Ouagadougou Partnership countries are more deliberately focusing on AYSRHR to forge a path toward improved health and development. Countries must follow through with their commitments by ensuring incorporation of evidence-based AYSRHR practices in national policies and programs that encourage young people’s use of contraception. Technical and financial partners must work with governments to scale up these evidence-based practices to reach young people—especially in hard-to-reach and rural areas—with contraceptive information and services. Young people themselves must be involved in these efforts, including planning for, budgeting, implementing, and evaluating sexual and reproductive health programs. The youth ambassadors who attended the London Summit and their fellow youth leaders in Ouagadougou Partnership countries must continue to advocate for activities that aim to increase the provision of quality youth-friendly family planning services to adolescents and young people, and formalize mechanisms for meaningful youth participation in AYSRHR budgeting and planning.

This fact sheet was prepared by the Ouagadougou Partnership Youth Think Tank with support from the following partners: Pathfinder’s USAID-funded Evidence to Action Project, Equilibres & Populations, and PAI.

This publication was made possible through support from the Office of Population and Reproductive Health, Bureau of Global Health, US Agency for International Development, under the terms of award number AID-OAA-A-11-00024. The opinions expressed herein are of the authors and do not directly reflect the views of the US Agency for International Development.