

FOCUS on Young Adults

End of Program Conference



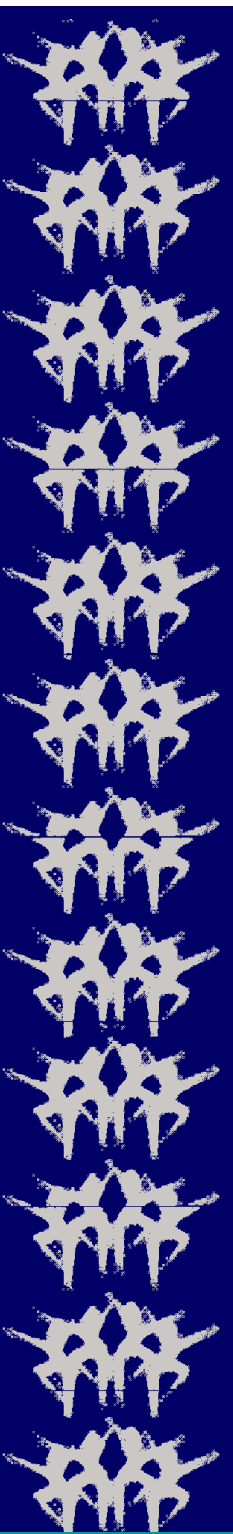
# Wrap-up and Presentation of FOCUS Recommendations

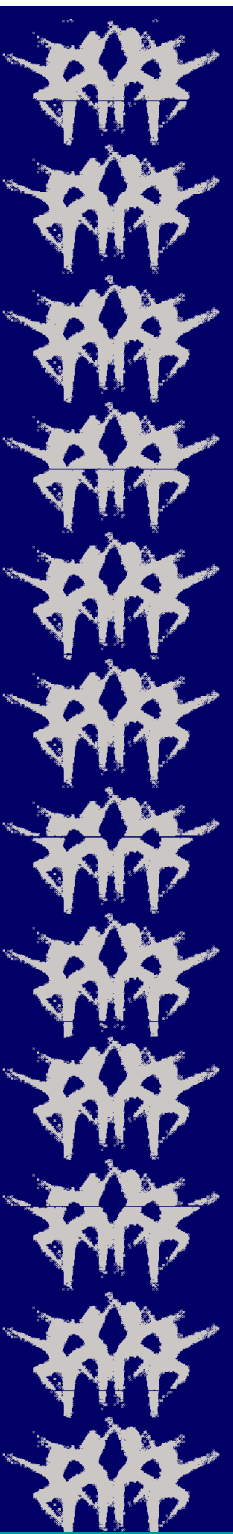
Judith Senderowitz  
FOCUS/Pathfinder



# Recommendations for Effective YARH Policies and Programs

- ❖ Carry out continuous and broad-based advocacy to support YARH efforts
  - Advocacy key to building policy support initially and continuously
  - Involving adolescents effective in desensitizing YARH issues
  - Policies must be effectively disseminated to the public as well as to officials
  - Technical assistance needed to improve evaluation of policy efforts

- 
- ❖ Carry out well-designed reproductive health education in schools
    - School-based RH education programs are effective in improving young people's knowledge of SRH
    - Some programs have improved key YARH behaviors
    - School programs can engage communities, parents and policy-makers
    - School-based programs can be scaled-up to reach significant numbers of the target audience where enrollments are high
    - Teacher training should instruct in participatory methods and effective curricula and approaches and be institutionalized in pre-service settings

- 
- ❖ Promote condom use through social marketing programs and mass media
    - Condom use is particularly well suited for the adolescent audience
    - Young people need support, motivation and information regarding condom use
    - Social marketing can promote condom use on a relatively large scale
    - Retail, recreational and entertainment outlets are good locations for condom distribution
    - Mass media can effectively reach targeted segments of the youth population



## ❖ Carry out broad-based community initiatives

- Project activity locations in a range of settings enhance effectiveness
- Community programs can reach youth at multiple levels: as individuals, peers and as members of families and the community
- Community programs are needed to reach out-of-school youth
- More study is necessary on youth development approaches



## ❖ Build on the promise of youth friendly services

- Rigorous studies showed inconclusive findings for Youth Friendly Services(YFS)
- Other studies (especially in developed countries and LAC) show potential for recruiting, serving adolescents
- YFS efforts should include building community support and acceptance
- Community-based and outreach activities must complement and co-exist with clinic-based services to reach target audiences
- Appropriate services must be available for married adolescents



## ❖ Enhance peer programs

- Efforts build on demonstrated influence of peers on YARH attitudes and behaviors
- Impacts are more significant on peer promoters than on targeted audience
- Questions remain about program design characteristics such as training, retention, mentoring, supervision, incentives and compensation
- Potential exists, but is largely unproven, in serving hard-to-reach sub-populations



# Recommended Principles for Effective Policies and Programs

- Involve young adults in meaningful ways in YARH policy dialogue and programming
- Emphasize condom use and dual protection to prevent HIV/AIDS and pregnancy
- Explicitly address gender inequality



# Recommended Principles for Effective Policies and Programs (cont.)

- Identify the policy and program mix best suited to the target population
- Design comprehensive programs that address multiple youth needs
- Design projects with expansion in mind
- Incorporate monitoring and evaluation from the start



# Recommended Future Actions

1. Pursue additional research
2. Assess programs to alter social norms
3. Document the nexus between policy and effective YARH programming
4. Through policy action, address the contextual factors that influence young adult reproductive health



# Recommended Future Actions (Cont.)

5. Identify the most important linkages between YARH programs and other youth activities, and study practical and effective strategies to achieve these linkages
6. Develop cost-benefit analysis methodology for YARH programs and use the methodology in demonstration projects
7. Leverage the private and commercial sector for greater participation in and contributions to YARH programming, including workplace programs and private health care delivery



# Recommended Future Actions (Cont.)

8. Undertake studies of the effects of scaling up proven projects
9. Set realistic goals for sustainability
10. Assess how existing public health structures can be made more youth friendly and become more effectively used by youth



# Recommended Future Actions (Cont.)

11. Establish more effective and sustainable mechanisms to provide technical assistance, training, and other capacity-building measures to organizations who are planning to reach youth with reproductive health programming
12. Conduct operations research in different national contexts to identify a minimum package of YARH interventions
13. Expand investment in young adult reproductive health