



Coordination of an ASRH program through decentralized multi-sectoral approaches: The case of Uganda

Title: Coordination of an ASRH program through a decentralized multi-sectoral approaches: The case of Uganda	
Region/Country: Africa - Uganda	Division/Branch: AYA/UNFPA Uganda
Name (last, first): Dr.Tumwebaze Lorna Makwate	
Phone #: 256 41 258816/23	E-mail: tumwebaze@aya.or.ug; aya@aya.or.ug
Date (dd-mm-yy): 12 th November 2004	
Primary Subject Area: Adolescent Reproductive Health	Additional Keywords:
<p>Lesson Learned:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building on and supporting existing defined coordination systems within the decentralization policy promotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Participation of key stakeholders including young people in the project role out, implementation and monitoring and evaluation generates local demand –Stimulates control and ownership by beneficiaries –Allows adaptation of the programme to the local context and needs –Scaling up through grafting, phased approach and planned expansion to reach large numbers & categories of YP with needed context specific ASRH information, services and skills –Some degree of accountability and transparency 2. Meaningful coordination entails adequate resources and capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It took more almost the entire first year of the AYA project on start up coordination and capacity building activities in addition to sub granting 	
<p>Description of Issue and Context:</p> <p>Africa Youth Alliance (AYA) project in Uganda goal is to contribute to the improvement of the adolescent reproductive health with a focus on HIV/AIDS of young people aged 10 – 24 years.</p> <p>Coordination within AYA project follows the defined underlying project guiding principles that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Nibble Partnerships -Scaling up utilizing documented successful practices -Multi-sectoral/holistic programs -Capacity building and coordination being central and essential to support and sustain the other four AYA program strategies namely policy and advocacy; behavioral change communication; increasing access to youth friendly services and integrating ASRH into vocational training institutions. <p>AYA is implemented within the Uganda government priorities and sectoral policies one of which is the national decentralization policy. In Uganda, the National Decentralization Policy has been operational since 1993 and there are a total of 57 administrative (decentralized)</p>	

districts at different levels of development/priorities. Each districts is subdivided into **local administrative councils (LCs)** at the district, county, sub-county and village level. AYA project works with the key four sectoral ministries of health, education, gender, labor and social development and finance and planning through the population secretariat division. The respective sectoral ministries Directorates at district level are mandated to coordinate all social services delivery through the public, private and civil society sectors. Therefore AYA project is coordinated, at national and district levels, within this existing & mandated coordination system in line with the decentralization policy.

Strategy Used:

1. Pre program proposal development consultations with the sectoral ministries to ensure the AYA program is designed to address government priorities and young peoples context needs
2. Situation analysis to document the existing coordination mechanisms at national and district levels that consequently were supported and utilized for coordination.
3. Formation of advisory national project coordination committees (NPCC) at national whose membership included the four key sectoral ministries, young people, donors, civil society, the Uganda AIDS commission and the academia. The NPCC represented the project at national, advocated for ASRH, created linkages and network for the project as well as mobilized additional resources for ASH. The NPCC
 - Worked with the project to select the project districts being cognizant of the need to increase the national district` converge by major donors supporting ASRH programs, maximize resources and avoid duplication of efforts.
 - Provided guidance on the projects work plans and work of the implementing partners
 - Participated in all the review and planning meeting of the AYA program at national and regional level
4. Participatory selection of the project coordination offices at district level that spear headed the formation of the project district advisory committee, equivalent of the NPCC at national level. The project advisory committees then worked with the project to select the start up sites. Experiences from the start up sites were utilized in expansion of the project interventions in the districts.
5. Project representation on all the major ASRH committees and activities at national and district levels
6. Building networks and linkages with other stakeholders at national and district level
7. Continuous support to the identified needs (financial, technical, equipment, materials and ASRH information) to the focal desks in the key sectoral ministries and the selected project coordination offices at district level to coordinate AYA project implementing partners/sub- grantees and other ASRH players at both national and district level as well disseminate AYA project and best practices in ASRH to inform the ASRH program.
8. Project submission of quarterly and annual reports to the key sectoral ministries at national and district levels to keep the key stakeholders and leadership apprised of the project progress and challenges

Results:

1. AYA experiences utilized in ongoing and new ASRH programs
 - Development and launching of the presidential initiative on AIDS communication to youth (PIASCY)
 - Use of AYA curricula, trainers and peer educators by other UNICEF and USAID funded projects, building on P&A implementing partners interventions by CARE International NGO, use of BCC and P&A materials by other ASRH players within and outside the country
2. AYA project interventions are integrated in all the project districts development plans hence putting ASRH agenda high on district agendas
3. AYA youth committee is represented on the newly formed Uganda AIDS Commission youth advisory committee to advise in the operationalisation of the national HIV/AIDS program strategic framework.
4. Increasing financial resource allocation by other donors (PEPFAR, Global fund-AMT) and the private sector (telecommunication companies, media houses, factories) to AYA sub grantees for continuing and expanding AYA like ASRH interventions and respective institutional capacity building. This will go a long way in sustaining AYA project interventions beyond the project lifetime.
5. The adolescent health policy has been reviewed by the major stakeholders at national level, with AYA project support, to address emerging ASRH issues in the wake of HIV/AIDS pandemic

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Coordination through a decentralised multi-sectoral approach should include:

- pre project design consultations with the governments and intended beneficiaries to ensure that government priorities and beneficiaries needs will be addressed by the funded projects
- Adequate resource allocation and defining explicit coordination indicators to ensure that the efforts are evaluated as integral components of project interventions
- Sufficient planning periods and partnership with multiple players
- Utilisation and support of existing defined and mandated coordination systems in view of sustainability.

Suggested Follow-up:

UNFPA country program to build on AYA experiences and supported systems in coordinating ASRH program

Collaborators: All AYA project sub grantees, major donors in ASRH (USAID, UNICEF), Uganda AIDS Commission, UN agencies

Links and Resources: UNFPA global program and UNDAF's