



**FIT FOR FUTURE PROJECT: THE SRH AND DECENT WORK FOR
GIRLS WORKING IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR**

8th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development .
Making sexual and reproductive rights a reality: What does it take?
Berlin, October 5-6, 2010

PETER KARIUKI MUNENE
DSW TANZANIA COUNTRY OFFICE
Tengeru Road, Plot No. 98/3, Tengeru-Arusha
Box 14279, Arusha.
Tel: + 255 27 2555065, +255 27 2555020
Fax: + 255 27 2555064
Email: dsw-tz@habari.co.tz
Website: <http://www.dsw-online.de>

Youth in Tanzania

- Tanzania's population is estimated at 40 million with annual growth rate of 2.3% .
- About 77% of the population lives in rural areas, 23% in urban areas.
- The economy is agricultural based, accounting for half of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and employs 84% of all working Tanzanians.
- 55% of the population is under 25 years of age with adolescents aged 10-19 comprising almost 25% of the population and young people aged 10-24 over 30% (2002 Census).

Girls and Economic Activities

- Unemployment remains a serious problem among youth
 - ❖ a significant factor is limited education: only 30% of eligible young people attend secondary school; almost 10% of the population has never attended school, (*Ministry of education 2004*). Though rate has improved to with construction of secondary schools at ward level
- Most join informal sector work
- Informal employment accounts for over 56% of total urban employment in Tanzania, (*ILO's World Employment Report 1998-99*).

Informal Sector

- Not clearly defined and is mostly characterized by;
 - Ease of entry
 - Small scale of activities
 - High proportion of apprentices (inexperienced persons)
 - Small size of capital investment and equipment
 - Labour intensive technologies
 - Low skills
 - Low level access to education and training

Types of Informal Sector Work

- Work in bars, restaurants, hair salons, commercial sex, open markets, food stalls, hawking, domestic work, small scale enterprises, work in guest houses, groceries, second hand clothes, tailoring and dressmaking etc

Girls and SRH Complications – Contributing Factors

- early debut sexual activity
- unwanted pregnancies
- transactional sex
- multiple partners
- cross generational sex
- unprotected sex
- unsafe abortion
- pregnancy-related complications
- sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS

Vulnerability to SRH Complications: some causes

- lack of right information on SRH - how HIV/AIDS is spread, methods for prevention, management of AIDS victims, family planning methods and symptoms and proper management of STIs
- cultural and traditional practices like FGM, early pregnancy, early marriage, access to FP, GBV, boy preference.
- poverty – living below poverty line
- unfriendly youth SRH services – government with standards (initiatives under AYA in Tanga, Dar and Arusha)
- lack of post abortion care
- unemployment
- low education transition - low vocational skills
- poor and sometimes abusive work environments

DSW's Response: Fit for Future Project

**A Rights Based Project Addressing
SRH in Work Environments for Female
Youth Working within Informal Sector**

Partnerships and Geographical Coverage

Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga Regions in partnership between DSW, UMATI and Tanzania 4H Organisation



Project Objectives

Overall objective: To contribute to the control of the HIV/Aids pandemic (MDG 6) and to poverty alleviation among youth in Northern zone of Tanzania

Specific objective: The sexual and reproductive health situation as well as the socio-economic status of female youth working in informal sector in Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga Regions is significantly improved.

Project Contribution to national policy and strategies

- The National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction (NSGPR)
- The Tanzania Reproductive and Child Health Strategy (RCH)
- The National Youth Policy.

Project Outcomes

- 1. Increased awareness and knowledge on ASRH, incl. HIV/AIDS/STI prevention and management*
- 2. Quality youth friendly ASRH services (including referrals) provided*
- 3. Profitable IGAs and other employment opportunities for female youth workers established*
- 4. Awareness of employment and SRH policies among employers, workers and other stakeholders and advocacy for the enactment of supportive laws enhanced*

Main Results

- Support from **9** district councils
- Established and trained **90** youth clubs each with a minimum of **30** members in each operational region for a total of **2700** members
- Trained **72 health service providers** on provision of youth friendly services
- Established/strengthened ASRH youth friendly services in all **6** project clusters
- Strengthened **6** VCT centres

Main Results

- Members of Parliament and Policy makers lobbied for improved female youth work conditions
- **900** youth with SRH complications referred and assisted to get services
- **240** girls supported for vocational training and re-admission in school for education
- **24 health centres accredited** for providing youth friendly services

Lessons Leant & Recommendations

- There is need to integrate education, vocational skills training and IGAs in projects targeting youth in areas where rights are violated.
- A project targeting out of school girls should have a child care component - some girls have children due to violations of rights.
- Youth friendly services depend on training of service providers and supporting with of health facilities with equipment and supplies
- The justice system should consider violations of girls' rights speedily to ease pain and restore hope in life

Lessons Leant & Recommendations

- Fundamental principles of work are not easy to attain where unemployment is high - Advocacy for improvement of working conditions must be both participatory and decentralized
- Participation in education increases opportunity to attain psychological and physical maturity
- Life skills training - on communication and assertiveness empower girls' decision making
- Governments should be honour commitments such as universal access to education
- Government to decentralize distribution of FP contraceptives – pills to health centers through referral

Lessons Leant & Recommendations

- Work with employers is not easy. Suspicion of intention of working with youth as covert way towards agitation for better salaries or unionisation. You address working conditions on periphery and concentrate on SRH before you can build adequate confidence to address working conditions and terms.
- Community participation leads to acceptance, contribution to and sustainability of projects
- Conditions to access credit are not youth friendly – there should be youth led microfinance institutions with technical support and guidance from experts
- Commitments to poverty eradication must be matched with resources – shifting of donors