



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The world has more young people than at any time in history. Understanding that youth voices must be at the center of decision-making for their own health and well-being, IntraHealth collaborates with youth leaders and networks in program design and implementation and helps equip and inspire young people to be savvy health care users, strong advocates, and skilled health workers.

Here's how we deliver results:

- Strengthening services and training programs that support the most pressing needs of youth
- Tailoring interventions to young people's contexts, focusing particularly on sexual and reproductive health, girls' education, and gender equity
- Training youth to be ambassadors for family planning and healthy behaviors among their peers and to advocate to policymakers
- Addressing attitudes and biases that can prevent youth from accessing services
- Promoting behaviors to establish long-lasting healthy practices at an early age
- Partnering with local stakeholders to foster pathways for young people to enter the health and social services sectors

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Because Health Workers Save Lives.



Students from a high school in Abomey-Calavi, Benin. Photo by Trevor Snapp for IntraHealth International.

OUR APPROACHES IN ACTION

Increasing Access to Health Care and Information

As a key implementer in South Sudan, IntraHealth is working through the **Advancing HIV & AIDS Epidemic Control Activity** to ensure youth who are living with HIV receive tailored services for HIV care and treatment and are connected to peer support networks. Through the **Coordinating Comprehensive Care for Children (4Children) project**, we strengthened the ability of the Government of South Sudan and local partners to provide essential health care, economic, psychosocial, and education assistance to orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers in Juba.

In Rwanda, our **Ingobyi project** helped local partners develop youth counseling services accessible during the weekend when in-school adolescents can visit. After the start of weekend service provision, the number of young people received in youth corners in project districts increased by 228%, from 97,082 to 318,297.

As part of the **Senegal Integrated Service Delivery-Healthy Behaviors (Neema) project**, we worked with youth to design a system of "wellness checks" involving health workers visiting youth groups and schools to share information about preventative care, nutrition, contraception, and future planning. Neema also partnered with the Ministry of Education to train mediators in middle schools in seven regions to start after-school sessions to give teens and tweens a space to talk about issues that are important to them such as puberty, sex ed, family planning, managing the menstrual cycle at school, and gender-based violence.

Enhancing Life Skills for Adolescent Girls and Young Women

In Mali, IntraHealth worked through the **Girls Leadership and Empowerment Through Education (USAID GLEE) project** to increase adoption of healthy behaviors among adolescent

girls so they can remain in school. A life skills program focused on protecting against HIV and gender-based violence, safely using social media, improving hygiene practices, and human rights. Through the program, we trained 8,864 girls on how to produce their own reusable menstrual pads and rehabilitated the latrines in 662 schools. We also trained 538 peer educators in Mali's Bandiagara region to conduct communication and outreach activities with students to improve their knowledge of reproductive health and menstrual hygiene.

Through our **Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Eastern Uganda (RHITES-E) project**, IntraHealth used the **Stepping Stones model** to empower adolescent girls and young women by engaging them in income-generation activities, HIV and gender-based violence prevention, and life skills training.

Improving Family Planning & Reproductive Health Outcomes

Through **The Challenge Initiative (TCI) Next Gen**, youth leaders reached more than 213,000 youth with family planning messages through digital media campaigns in 2022. Additionally, more than 1,400 health providers participated in Bias Reduction Training to promote adolescent-responsive services in TCI cities. In Benin, these trainings resulted in a 19% increase in health facilities considered to be adolescent-centered.

IntraHealth's **Civil Society for Family Planning in West Africa** project partnered with 364 family planning youth ambassadors and youth leaders from five countries in West Africa by training them to serve as conversation-starters and family planning advocates to their peers and policymakers. As a result of the youth ambassadors' work, more than 100,000 adolescents were reached through youth-led sexual and reproductive health campaigns.

As a major partner on the **Evidence to Action (E2A) project**, IntraHealth developed a life skills course for young first-time mothers and their male partners. Through using this model and equipping local partners to improve service delivery practices for youth, 40% of youth clients in Togo accepted a family planning method compared to zero at baseline.

Advancing Adolescent & Youth Centered Leadership

In partnership with 12 private schools in Mali, Senegal, and Niger, IntraHealth is creating pathways for nursing students from underserved areas to gain enhanced training and dedicated job placement. Through the **Classroom to Care program**, we are helping the next generation of young professionals attain the skills they need to be leaders in providing high-quality health care in rural communities that face a critical shortage of health workers.

Through **TCI Next Gen**, IntraHealth trains young leaders to advocate for better service quality. In Burkina Faso, youth champions advocated that confidential suggestion boxes be placed in facilities to provide feedback on reproductive health services. As a result of the feedback and corresponding service improvements, the Koudougou Urban Medical Center saw a 6% increase in patient volume between 2021-2022.

**"Everyone is a dreamer
But I dream of a Malawi
that provides cheaper
drone delivery services
to the 80% of Malawians
living in rural areas**



facing difficulties in accessing health care."

– Debora Duwa Mtambalika, Malawian drone pilot for Wingcopter and Future League Class of 2022

Our **SwitchPoint Future League** brings together young leaders from diverse backgrounds to raise awareness among their peers and world leaders about the importance of prioritizing health. A partnership with IntraHealth, The Global Fund, and ONE Campaign Africa, the SwitchPoint Future League has provided a platform for young people from six African countries to help lead their generation toward a healthier future.

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