

A close-up portrait of a young girl with short, dark hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark grey crew-neck shirt with a bright pink inner collar. The background is a soft-focus wooden wall.

the AFRICA *we want*

Why adolescent sexual and
reproductive health is key for
Africa's development

WHAT UNFPA STRIVES FOR:

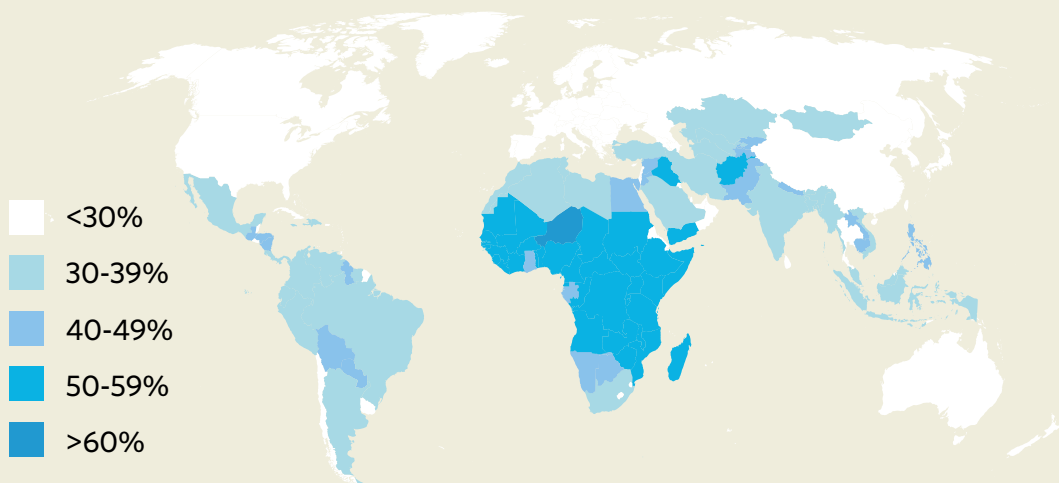
Imagine a world where all adolescents and young people are **healthy, productive and empowered**; free from sexually transmitted infections including HIV, unintended pregnancies, child marriage and sexual violence; and are **equipped with comprehensive knowledge and skills** to make **healthy decisions** about their life, relationships and future.

Together, we can achieve this. Here's how...

AFRICA'S FUTURE STARTS NOW

Young people make up the largest and fastest growing population in East and Southern Africa. Due to the sheer number of young people, their sexual behaviour will shape the course of the entire African continent. The time to seize the opportunity to renew the continent's social and economic capital is now.

33% of Africa's population is young people aged 10-24



If our youth are not invested in now, they face an uncertain future.



AIDS is still the
**leading cause of
DEATH**
among adolescents across
Africa

(UNAIDS 2016 estimates)



In sub-Saharan Africa,
more than
200 BIRTHS
per 1,000 girls
aged 15-19 occur each year

(UNICEF analysis based on 96 countries
with DHS/MICS data from 2006-2015)



If current trends continue,
1 BILLION
women and girls
will be married in
childhood by 2030

(UNICEF, 2013)

HOW WE WORK: A HOLISTIC APPROACH

At UNFPA, we believe that young people's sexual and reproductive health should be supported holistically. This is why we work in five integral areas



1. EMPOWERMENT

Enhancing leadership skills among young people – especially girls – in decision-making processes

Increasing life skills and entrepreneurial skills for greater employment and economic opportunity

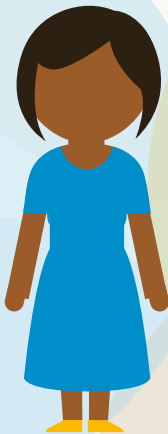


5. HEALTH

Implementing World Health Organization's standards on 'quality of care' into nation-wide policies, guidelines and strategies

Strengthening facilities to deliver youth-friendly health services

Training nurses and other health-care workers



2. EDUCATION

Increasing political and community support for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)

Integrating CSE into school curricula

Strengthening CSE delivery for out-of-school youth

Training teachers



4. EVIDENCE

Documenting and disseminating evidence, lessons learned and best practices to improve youth development interventions

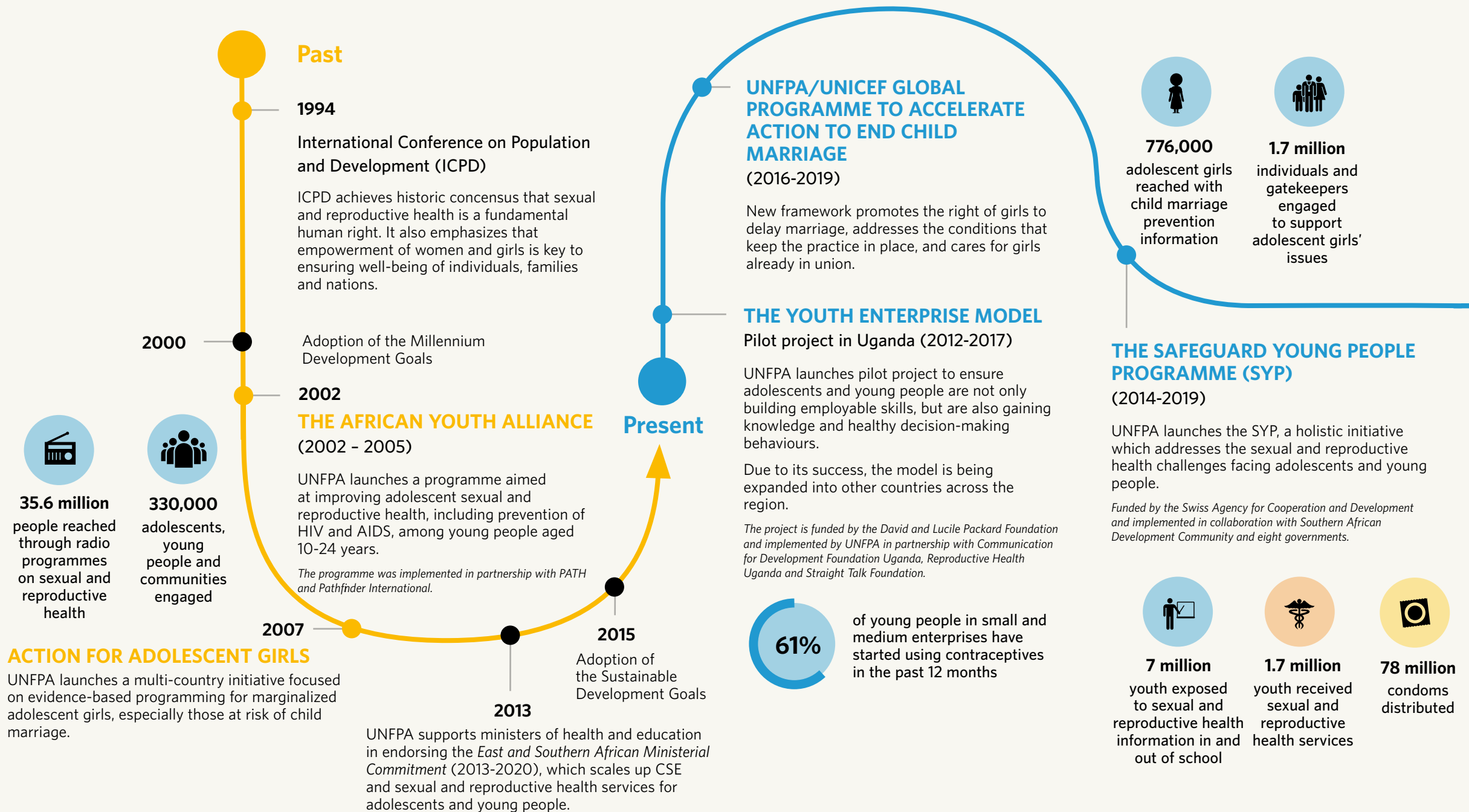


3. LAWS & POLICIES

Advocating for laws and policies that positively impact young people

Engaging traditional and faith-based leaders

CHAMPIONING ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S RIGHTS FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS





Future

WE ARE AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN AFRICA'S HISTORY

Investments now in young people's education, health and empowerment will open a window of opportunity known as a demographic dividend for economic and social development and prosperity.

UNFPA advocates for and work with young people to help them achieve their full potential. This is the future we want for all young Africans:

“ I am equipped with life skills, I am able to say no to sex without protection, I am able to go for family planning services, I am able to speak openly about myself. I encourage other young people to take responsibility so that we have a generation of young people who are knowledgeable, who are informed and who have the services they need available to them. ”

- Lucetta, 23, Zimbabwe

