

## Promoting Adolescent Sexual Knowledge and Responsible Behaviour

November 14, 2005  
KfW House

# Recommendations

This recommendations are the results of the critical reflections by the participants of the Youth Board at the 4th International Dialogue Population and Development. The Youth Board - 36 young people - was represented by members of "You act", "We Are Church Youth", "German Green Party", "International Planned Parenthood Federation" and the students of masters studies run by the Humboldt University, Berlin.

### Future Objectives – Investing in Young People and Health Programmes

#### Recommendation 1:

The international community must encourage tolerance and overcome taboos in the context of adolescent sexuality. We have to hold on to democratic rules in the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) against the rising influence of various religious groups. We have to show that young people need sexual education and it is not an instruction for "early sex", but a legitimate requirement.

#### Recommendation 2:

There is a strong need for commitment in order to establish national programmes and provide reasonable fundings.

#### Recommendation 3:

The Sexual Reproductive Health Community has to be more effective in fighting for youth topics. These should be more strategic, more sustainable

and achieving access for the poorest. Policy makers have to be informed with local data, there have to be feasible approaches in the public, peer groups must be engaged in implementation and adequate programmes for youth have to be designed and have to be provided where youth "hangs out" (railway stations, cinemas, youth clubs).

#### **Recommendation 4:**

The SRH activists have to prioritize key sectors in implementation by sequencing activities for the greatest impact. Adequate youth programmes have to be set up, they have to be produced on a long term bases and should not only be pilot studies. The effectiveness has to be improved and cross-sectoral cooperation should be aimed at.

#### **Recommendation 5:**

There are big differences in "free choice in sexuality" within countries. The SRH community has to act on local and regional levels. Youth programmes have to be organized on a very basic level because peoples realities are very different. Violence against women and girls in some regions is a major issue.

#### **Recommendation 6:**

Official Donors for youth programmes should also deal directly with young people. Answers given to adults and answers given to peer groups have to be differentiated. Dialogue between adults and peer groups have to be initiated and change agents need to be sought. They should bridge the gap between the role of youth plays at home and their real life among themselves. The programmes have to target also male youth, who very often are totally neglected.