



Senegal



Senegal has some notable legislative support in place that is conducive for SRHR. Top of this is the country's 2005 Reproductive Health Law.⁴³⁹ The country's legislative framework also includes: provisions against FGM; a law decriminalising safe abortion in cases of rape or incest; the adaptation of the minimum age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18 years old; and a law passed in 2020 which criminalises rape.⁴⁴⁰ Yet significant challenges remain, particularly in terms of funding and implementation.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH)

Senegal's 2005 Reproductive Health Law⁴⁴¹ recognises that the right to reproductive health is a fundamental human right and universally guaranteed to all, without discrimination based on age, sex, income, religion, race, ethnicity, marital status, or any other grounds. There is also no legal restriction regarding young people's access to contraceptives and other basic health services such as pregnancy tests and STI screenings (though people must be at least 15 years old to consent to an HIV test).⁴⁴²

Senegal has also made notable efforts on SRHR via the implementation of a 2014-2018 Strategic Plan. The main goals of this plan were to contribute to the health and wellbeing of adolescents/youths from 10-24 years old; to promote adolescent/youth SRH; and to increase adolescents and young people's use of SRH services by 80%, through communication, advocacy, capacity-strengthening, sexual health education, and the provision of user-friendly services. The Ministry of Health also developed a document entitled Health Services Tailored to the Needs of Adolescents and Youth. This includes the focus areas of information; reorganising service delivery points to tailor them to the needs of adolescents and youths for friendly and quality services; and strengthening the youth-friendly skills and attitudes of service providers. The government also implemented the 2018-2022 Plan SRMNEA (Santé de la Reproduction, de la Mère, du Nouveauné, de l'Enfant et de l'Adolescent).⁴⁴³

The adolescent-youth component of this plan, however, was considerably under-funded. In effect, the government continues to not have strong or specific budget lines associated with young people's access to SRH services. This, in turn, undermines the potential impact of promising policy developments. Moreover, sufficient funds for adolescents' SRH financing continue to be unavailable at the level of



local authorities; this then contributes to insufficient dissemination and implementation of government plans and strategies at the local level.⁴⁴⁴

Data indicates that adolescent girls experience the greatest unmet need for family planning (at 23%) among all women aged 15-49. Fourteen percent of adolescent girls are mothers or pregnant.⁴⁴⁵ Findings from Senegal Power to You(th)'s baseline research also indicate low levels of knowledge regarding ASRH services among researched communities in Keur Massar, Diourbel, and Kanel. Here, an average of only 42% of respondents indicated they had sufficient knowledge (the lowest was in Keur Massar at 25%).⁴⁴⁶

Several stakeholders also confirmed that pregnancies occurring before marriage are strongly stigmatised. This makes it difficult for young women and girls to access SRH services, particularly if they are pregnant. As a result, young girls or women in this situation prefer to be examined in health centres outside of their community, opt for night consultations at health centres, or meet over the phone with health staff for more confidentiality. Others prefer to stay at home for fear of being stigmatised or ostracised by their community.⁴⁴⁷ And while the Ministry of Health has carried out several actions aimed at improving the offer of reproductive health services for adolescents, the support system for adolescent girls does not yet specifically target girl students.⁴⁴⁸

Sexual and gender - based violence

Article 13 of Senegal's 2005 Reproductive Health Law states that "all forms of violence, sexual abuse or inhuman or degrading treatment shall be punishable in accordance with the penal provisions in force." In addition, Senegal's Law No. 99-05 of 29 January 1999 supplements the Penal Code with a set of legislative and regulatory provisions specifically and heavily sanctioning violence against women. This law is considered a major achievement. It essentially made it possible to penalise paedophilia, domestic violence, FGM, and sexual harassment.

Furthermore, in January 2020, Law 2020-05 increased the penalties for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), by criminalising rape and paedophilia and toughening penalties relating to sexual harassment (Article 319 bis, 320 and 320 bis, of the Penal Code). Before Law 2020-05, rape was considered a simple offence punishable by five to ten years in prison. With the new law, perpetrators of rape and paedophile acts will now be tried by the criminal chamber and face a sentence of up to life

imprisonment. In addition, Law 2020-05 deals with indecent assault with the use of violence. Senegal has also adopted a national action plan to combat gender-based violence and to promote human rights (2017-2021).⁴⁴⁹

The devastating frequency of sexual and gender-based violence

Despite this legal headway, SGBV is very common in Senegal. This is amongst others due to a lack of information among young adolescents, a lack of denunciation of perpetrators by victims, and the taboo that surrounds the subject. The percentage of women aged 15-49 who have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 is highest among those aged 25-29 (30.6%), followed by women aged 30-39 (26.8%), and women aged 15-19 (26%).⁴⁵⁰ In Power to You(th)'s baseline research, one in four teenagers and young people surveyed knew someone who had been a victim of a sexual assault.⁴⁵¹

Research also indicates that denunciation by survivors of SGBV is often low because, in most cases, the perpetrators are family members. Additional factors limiting the full implementation of laws include: little to no awareness among communities regarding the country's legal framework, and women and girls' human rights; persistent patriarchal cultural and religious beliefs; illiteracy; lack of translation of the laws into local languages; poverty; challenges in access to information; and inadequate conflict resolution and SGBV response mechanisms.⁴⁵² Clearly, there is much work to be done before the full impact of promising legislative frameworks will be seen.

Female genital mutilation

Law No. 99-05 explicitly criminalises female genital mutilation (FGM) in Senegal. Parents who authorise the practice may receive a prison sentence of six months to five years. Anyone who commits the practice may receive a similar sentence, and the maximum penalty of five years is applied when a member of the medical profession has committed the practice. In addition, the 2005 Reproductive Health Law specifies in Article 4 that “Reproductive health care and services cover: (...) the fight against female genital mutilations, sexual abuse and practices harmful to reproductive health”, thus reaffirming the role that the health sector must play in the fight against this harmful practice. Article 7 of the Constitution of Senegal also holds that “Every individual has the right to life, liberty, security, the free development of his personality, bodily integrity, in particular protection against all physical mutilation.”⁴⁵³

Yet FGM is still practiced widely in Senegal, with a prevalence of 22.7% among women aged 15- 49.⁴⁵⁴ About 24% of women aged 15-24 are circumcised. FGM rates vary greatly between regions: they are lower in regions such as Diourbel (0.6%), but higher in others, such as Matam (73.3%). Attitudes in favour of the practice also vary per region; for example, findings from Senegal’s Power to You(th) baseline research indicate that half of the women interviewed in Kanel said they intended to have their daughter undergo FGM, but the rate was low (3%) among women interviewed in Keur Massar and Diourbel.⁴⁵⁵

In many ways the practice has deep sociocultural roots, and continues to be practised even when people know it is illegal. Indeed, several interviewed stakeholders explained that it is difficult to know the exact prevalence of this harmful practice, as parents often practise it in secret, keeping it within the family, as they are aware of its prohibition and sanction by law.⁴⁵⁶ Cultural and economic factors also explain the persistence of FGM: these factors involve a woman’s social status, value, and chances in life being defined by her marital status, making it difficult for girls, women and communities to abandon the practice. Men’s attitudes play an important role: some men may reject a potential wife if she has not been circumcised.⁴⁵⁷

In addition, FGM represents a substantial source of financial income for women who perform circumcisions and gives them a special status in the community. It is therefore essential to undertake a holistic approach to countering FGM, involving the whole community, in order to address entrenched sociocultural norms that uphold the practice.⁴⁵⁸

Recommendations

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH)

- Revise discriminatory laws and policies to ensure young people’s effective, meaningful, and inclusive participation in all political decisions regarding their access to SRH information and services.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

- Fully implement Article 13 of the 2005 Reproductive Health Law, to address high rates of SGBV. Allocate adequate budgetary resources for legal and psychological assistance for SGBV survivors, and strengthen SGBV response and support services.

Harmful practices – Female genital mutilation (FGM)

- Ensure the effective enforcement of Senegal’s laws on FGM, rape, and paedophilia. Ensure that anti-FGM initiatives take a holistic approach, and address underlying sociocultural norms that perpetuate the harmful practice.
- Ensure the full implementation and scaling up of The New Deal, a community pact undertaken by the Ministry of Youth, UNFPA, and CSOs to unleash and realise the potential of girls and young women in Senegal.



References

Sub-Saharan Africa

235. WHO (2023) *Maternal Mortality Factsheet*, www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality
236. Joshi, K., Lessler, J., Olawore, O., Loevinsohn, G., Bushey, S., Tobian, A.A.R. and Grabowski, M.K. (2021), Declining HIV incidence in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis of empiric data. *J Int AIDS Soc.*, 24: e25818. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jia2.25818>
237. Mulikita, Jason J. (2021), *Young People's Potential, the Key to Africa's Sustainable Development*, www.un.org/ohrlls/news/young-people%E2%80%99s-potential-key-africa%E2%80%99s-sustainable-development#:~:text=Africa%20has%20the%20youngest%20population,to%20realise%20their%20best%20potential.
238. UNAIDS (2019), *Women and Hiv, A spotlight on adolescent girls and young women*, www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/2019_women-and-hiv_en.pdf
239. UNECA (2013) *Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014*, www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/addis_declaration_english_final_e1351225_1.pdf
240. African Union (2003), *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)*, au.int/en/treaties/protocol-african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights-rights-women-africa.
241. African Union Commission (n.d.), *Maputo Plan of Action (2016-2030)*, au.int/sites/default/files/documents/24099-poa_5_revised_clean.pdf.
242. African Union Commission (2017), *AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth*, wcaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/AU%202017%20DD%20ROADMAP%20Final%20-%20EN.pdf.
243. African Union Commission (2019), *AU Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment (GEWE) (2018-2028)*, au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36195-doc-au_strategy_for_gender_equality_womens_empowerment_2018-2028_report.pdf.
244. African Union Commission (2020), *APAYE: African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2019-2023*, au.int/en/documents/20200312/apaye-african-plan-action-youth-empowerment-2019-2023.
245. Ouagadougou Partnership (n.d.), *Who We Are*, partenariatouaga.org/en/
246. Southern African Development Community (SADC) (2018), *Regional Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing Gender-Based Violence (2018-2030)*, www.unodc.org/documents/southernafrica/Stories/2019/SADC_Regional_Strategy_and_Framework_for_Action_on_GBV_-_FINAL_September_2018_-_ENGLISH_VERSION.pdf.
247. Right Here Right Now (RHRN) (2019), p. 3
248. African Union Commission (2017), *AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth*, wcaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/AU%202017%20DD%20ROADMAP%20Final%20-%20EN.pdf, p. 18-21.
249. UNESCO et al (2021), p. 43; Watson, Katherine et al (2021), "The East and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment: A Review of Progress Toward Fulfilling Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2013–2018)," *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*, 29(1), pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34726585/.
250. UNESCO Chair (2023), *Endorsement Ceremony of the West and Central Africa Commitment for Educated, Healthy and Thriving Adolescents and Young People*, <https://unescochair-ghe.org/2023/04/15/endorsement-ceremony-of-the-west-and-central-africa-commitment-for-educated-healthy-and-thriving-adolescents-and-young-people/>
251. WCA Commitment (2022), "Understand the



- Commitment Process," commit4youngpeople.org/understand#block-wca-content
252. Watson et al (2021), p. 20; UNESCO et al (2021), p. 39.
253. Young People Today (2021), *Eastern and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment: Fulfilling our promise to education, health and well-being for adolescents and young people* (2021), p. 4.
254. UNESCO et al (2021), p. 30.
255. UNESCO et al (2021) 2021, p. 20; Watson et al (2021), p. 19; Luchsinger (2021), p. 50.
256. Young People Today (2021).
257. UNESCO et al (2021) 2021, p. 20; Watson et al (2021), p. 19; Luchsinger (2021), p. 50.
258. "If countries in demographic transition make the right human capital investments and adopt policies that expand opportunities for young people, their combined demographic dividends could be enormous. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, they would be at least US\$500 billion a year, equal to about one third of the region's current GDP, for as many as 30 years." Every Woman Every Child (2015), *The Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030): Survive, Thrive, and Transform*, globalstrategy.everywomaneverychild.org/, p. 20.
259. African Union Commission (2017), p. 19, 21.
260. Ougadougou Partnership (2011), *Family Planning: Francophone West Africa on the Move: A Call to Action*, assets.prb.org/pdf12/ouagadougou-partnership_en.pdf, p. 16-17.
261. UNESCO et al (2016), *Fulfilling Our Promise to Young People Today: 2013-2015 Progress Review: The Eastern and Southern African Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People*. Paris: UNESCO, p. 19; Young People Today (2021).
262. African Union and African Committee of Experts on the Rights & Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) (2021), Outcome Statement of the Day of General Discussion on the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Adolescent Children, www.acerwc.africa/sites/default/files/2022-10/DAG-Outcome-Statement-English.pdf, p. 2.
263. African Union Commission and ACERWC (2021), p. 2-3.
264. KPMG (2017), *Situational Analysis: Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for Young Persons with Disabilities in East and Southern Africa*, esaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Situational%20Analysis%20SRHR%20YPWD%20ESA_FINAL_0.pdf, p. 3.
265. Watson et al (2021), p. 20-21.
266. African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) et al (2021), *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Uganda*, aphrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/APHRC-COVID-Report-Final-3.pdf, pgs. v, 11, 22; Girls Not Brides and Plan International (2020), p. 4.
267. APHRC et al (2021), p. 20.
268. APHRC et al (2021), p. v.
269. African Union Commission (2019), p. 35.
270. Cullinan, Kerry (2022), "African Teen Pregnancies Skyrocketed During COVID Lockdowns – But Prevention is Possible," healthpolicy-watch.news/african-teen-pregnancies-skyrocketed-during-covid-lockdowns-but-prevention-is-possible/.
271. Cullinan (2022).
272. Watson et al (2021), p. 1.
273. Young People Today (2021), p. 5.
274. Girls Not Brides and Plan International (2020), p. 4.
275. African Union Commission and ACERWC (2021), p. 2.
276. African Union Commission (2019), p. 35; Human Rights Watch (2021 a), "Africa: Rights Progress for Pregnant Students," [www.hrw.org/news/2021/09/29/africa-rights-progress-pregnant-students#:~:text=Since%202019%2C%20at%20least%20five,in%20school%20under%20certain%20conditions;McGovern%20et%20al%20\(2022\),p.56](https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/09/29/africa-rights-progress-pregnant-students#:~:text=Since%202019%2C%20at%20least%20five,in%20school%20under%20certain%20conditions;McGovern%20et%20al%20(2022),p.56).
277. See for example Center for Reproductive Rights (2022), "ACERWC Recommends Tanzania Reform Education Policy that Violates Rights of Pregnant and Married Adolescent Girls,"



reproductiverights.org/acerwc-orders-tanzania-to-reform-education-policy-that-violates-rights-of-pregnant-and-married-adolescent-girls/

278. African Union (2003).
279. van Eerdewijk, Anouka et al (2018), *The State of African Women Report: Key Findings*, IPPF AR, www.ippfar.org/resource/newly-launched-state-african-women-report-key-findings , p. 17.
280. McGovern et al (2022), p. 63.
281. See van Eerdewijk et al (2018).
282. Munyati, Bob (2016), *For Better, for Worse? In Sickness and in Health? An Investigation Into the New MPOA and Whether It Improves Accountability on SRHR in Africa*. AIDS Accountability International, www.aidsaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/AIDS-Accountability-International-Maputo-Plan-SRHR-Bob-Munyati-Phillipa-Tucker-2.pdf , p. 9.
283. McGovern et al (2022), p. 10, 37; Ipas (2020), "In Recent Penal Code Review, Mozambique Recognises Legal Right to Abortion," www.ipas.org/news/in-recent-penal-code-review-mozambique-recognizes-legal-right-to-abortion/.
284. Guttmacher Institute (2018a), Abortion in Africa, www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/abortion-africa .
285. Guttmacher Institute (2018a).
286. Tiew et al (2022). "The impact of COVID-19 on safe abortion access in Africa: An analysis through a framework of reproductive justice and lens of structural violence." *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*, www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fgwh.2022.958710/full (2022), p. 1
287. Tiew et al (2022), p. 3.
288. Tiew et al (2022), p. 3, 5.
289. ILGA World (2020a), p. 113.
290. The title of this resolution is [Protection Against Violence and Other Human Rights Violations Against Persons on the Basis of their Real or Imputed Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity](#).
291. In this resolution, the ACHPR called on States "to end all acts of violence and abuse, whether committed by State or non-state actors, including by enacting and effectively applying appropriate laws prohibiting and punishing all forms of violence including those targeting persons on the basis of their imputed or real sexual orientation or gender identities, ensuring proper investigation and diligent prosecution of perpetrators, and establishing judicial procedures responsive to the needs of victims." Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (n.d.). *Resolution 275 – What it Means for the State and Non-State Actors in Africa*. cfnhri.org/resources/resolution-275-what-it-means-for-the-state-and-non-state-actors-in-africa/ .
292. RHRN (2019).
293. Outright International (2021).
294. ILGA World (2020a), p. 24-28.
295. Amnesty International (2018), Mapping Anti-Gay Laws in Africa, www.amnesty.org.uk/lgbti-lgbt-gay-human-rights-law-africa-uganda-kenya-nigeria-cameroon .
296. Outright International (2021).
297. Luchsinger (2021), p. 26-27.
298. Luchsinger (2021), p. 26-27.
299. Luchsinger (2021), p. 50; Frontline AIDS (2020). "New Pandemic, Same Blame Game," frontlineaids.org/new-pandemic-same-blame-game/ .
300. African Union Commission (2019), p. 10.
301. African Union Commission (2019), p. 38.
302. In 2021 the AU organised the *Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity in Leadership for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Africa, and in 2022 the Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity: "Advancing actions and promoting positive masculinity to end violence against women and girls."* See African Union (2021), *Kinshasa Declaration and Call for Action of the African Union Heads of State on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa: Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity*, au.int/sites/default/files/pressreleases/41226-pr-Declaration_Mens_Conference_English.pdf ; and African Union Commission (2022), "Positive Masculinity: Men as Champions to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa," au.int/en/pressreleases/20221109/men-champions-end



[violence-against-women-and-girls-africa](#) .

303. SADC 2018; SADC (2021), "SADC Secretariat Develop Tools to Guide the Region's Response to Gender-Based Violence," www.sadc.int/latest-news/sadc-secretariat-develop-tools-guide-regions-response-gender-based-violence .
304. African Union Commission (2019), p. 37.
305. African Union Commission (2019), p. 37.
306. Young People Today (2021), p. 4.
307. African Union Commission (2019), p. 37.
308. SADC Technical Working Group (2019), *Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the SADC Region*, hivpreventioncoalition.unaids.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SADC-SRHR-Strategy-2019-2030-for-public.pdf , p. 20.
309. Maula, Johana (2021), *Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in East and Southern Africa*, esaro.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/abridged_-_impact_of_covid-19_on_gender_equality_and_women_empowerment_in_east_and_southern_africa.pdf , p. xii.
310. Luchsinger (2021), p. 31.
311. APHRC et al (2021), p. 21.
312. African Union Commission (2019), p. 6.
313. Girls Not Brides and Plan International (2020), p. 2.
314. SADC Technical Working Group (2019), p. 21.
315. African Union Commission (2019), p. 6.
316. Girls Not Brides and Plan International (2020), p. 8.
317. Girls Not Brides and Plan International (2020), p. 2; Maula (2021), p. 32.
318. Luchsinger (2021), p. 31.
319. Muhula et al (2021), "The impact of community led alternative rite of passage on eradication of female genital mutilation/cutting in Kajiado County, Kenya: A quasi-experimental study," *PLoS ONE* 16(4), journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0249662 , p. 2.
320. Muhula et al (2021), p. 2.
321. UNFPA and UNICEF (2022), p. 17.
322. Maula (2021), p. 37.
323. This programme consists of interventions in the following 17 countries: Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Somalia, Uganda and Yemen. UNFPA and UNICEF (2023), *UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating the elimination of an extreme form of violence against girls*, www.unicef.org/protection/unfpa-unicef-joint-programme-eliminating-fgm .
324. UNFPA and UNICEF (2022), p. 27-29.
325. UNFPA and UNICEF (2022), p. 16.
326. van Eerdewijk et al (2018), p. 18.
327. "In the Abuja Declaration, already adopted by the AU in 2001, African states pledged to allocate a minimum of 15% of their annual budget to strengthening the health sector." van Eerdewijk et al (2018), p. 18.
328. Benin RHRN (2022), p. 3.
329. Benin RHRN (2022), pp. 4-5; Faye, Awa Cheikh and Rachida Houssou (2021), "Legalization of Abortion in Benin: The Debate Continues, 6 Questions to Understand," *BBC News Africa*, <https://www.bbc.com/afrique/58975006> .
330. Benin RHRN (2022), p. 5.
331. Benin RHRN (2022), p.2.
332. Benin RHRN (2022), p. 3.
333. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 20.
334. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 20-23.
335. RHRN du Burundi (2022), *Rapport Parallèle de la Plateforme Right Here, Right Now (RHRN) du Burundi, Examen Périodique Universel du Burundi, 4e Cycle de l'Examen Périodique Universel 2023*, p. 6.
336. RHRN du Burundi (2022), p. 4-5.
337. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 20-23.
338. RHRN du Burundi (2022), p. 3-4, Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 20-23.
339. RHRN du Burundi (2022), p. 1.



340. RHRN du Burundi (2022), p. 3.
341. RHRN du Burundi (2022), p. 3.
342. These include the [National Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health Strategy \(2006-2015\)](#); the [Health Sector Transformation Plan \(HSTP I\)](#); the [Health Sector Transformation Plan II \(HSTP II\) 2020/21-2024/25](#); the [National Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy \(2016-2020\)](#); the [Adolescent and Youth Engagement Guideline 2018-2025](#); and the [National Guideline for Family Planning Services in Ethiopia \(2019\)](#). Seme, Assefa et al (2021), *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health In Ethiopia*, Guttmacher Institute, www.guttmacher.org/report/impact-covid-19-on-adolescent-srh-ethiopia , p. 2; Ministry of Health Ethiopia (2020), *Adolescent Youth and Engagement Guideline (2018-2025)* , www.moh.gov.et/site/sites/default/files/2021-06/youth_engagment_guidline_MoH_Final.pdf ; Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDNA) and RHRN Ethiopia (2022), *Factsheets and Policy Briefs on SRHR laws and Policies*, p. 12-13, p. 17-18.
343. Ministry of Health Ethiopia (2021b), *National Adolescents and Youth Health Strategy (2021-2025)*, [api.corhaethiopia.org.et/media/41/National-AYH-Strategy-Final--\(1\).pdf](http://api.corhaethiopia.org.et/media/41/National-AYH-Strategy-Final--(1).pdf) .
344. Seme et al (2021), p. 2, Ministry of Health Ethiopia (2020), p. 7.
345. EWDNA and RHRN Ethiopia (2022), p. 12-13.
346. Ministry of Health Ethiopia (2021b), p. 7.
347. Ministry of Health Ethiopia (2021b), p. 7.
348. Organization for the Development of Women and Children-Ethiopia (ODWaCE) (2021). *Policy Brief Strengthening Adolescent and Youth SRH Services in Ethiopia*, p. 1-2.
349. ODWaCE (2021), p. 1-2.
350. Ministry of Ethiopia (2021a), Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP-II) 2020/21-2024/25, www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC208376/ , p. 25-26.
351. ODWaCE (2021), p. 2-3.
352. Age of Consent (2023), *Age of Consent in Ethiopia*, www.ageofconsent.net/world/ethiopia .
353. ODWaCE (2021), p. 2-5.
354. RHRN Ethiopia youth consultation.
355. RHRN Ethiopia youth consultation.
356. ODWaCE (2021), p. 2.
357. EWDNA and RHRN Ethiopia (2022), p. 10; Seme et al (2021), p. 2.
358. EWDNA and RHRN Ethiopia (2022), p. 10.
359. ODWaCE (2022). *Fact Sheet on Incidence of Gender Based Violence, Teenage Pregnancy and Family planning in Ethiopia*, p. 2.
360. RHRN Ethiopia youth consultation.
361. Ministry of Health Ethiopia (2020), p. 9.
362. Ministry of Health Ethiopia, [Adolescent and Youth Engagement Guideline 2018-2025](#).
363. "A stakeholder's consultation workshop was held, and brought in participants from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, youth-focused organisations, young people from universities, and youth leaders from youth led and youth serving organisations in the regions. [...] Adolescents and youth were actively involved in the overall development of this guideline as data gatherers, data analysts and interpreters, key informants in the FGD, active participants of key informant interviews and the consultation workshop." Ministry of Health Ethiopia (2020), p. 13.
364. Ministry of Health Ethiopia (2020), p. 16.
365. Ethiopia youth consultation.
366. Power to You(th) Ghana (2022b), *Power to You(th) Ghana Shadow Report, Universal Periodic Review of Ghana, Fourth Cycle 2023*, p. 1.
367. Republic of Ghana National, Population Council (2020), [Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy](#).
368. Republic of Ghana, [National HIV and AIDS, STI Policy](#) (2013).
369. Power to You(th) Ghana (2022b), p. 5-6.
370. Power to You(th) Ghana (2022b), p. 1; Power to You(th) Ghana (2022a), *Advocacy Strategy*, p. 2-3.
371. UNESCO (2021), p. 38.
372. Power to You(th) Ghana (2022b), p. 1., 5-6, Power to You(th) Ghana (2022a), p. 2-3.
373. Power to You(th) Ghana (2022b), p. 3-4.



374. UNICEF Ghana (n.d.), *Ending Child Marriage*, <https://www.unicef.org/ghana/ending-child-marriage>.
375. Power to You(th) Ghana (2022b), p. 1-3.
376. Power to You(th) Ghana (2022b), p. 1-3.
377. Power to You(th) Ghana (2022b), p. 4.
378. Among these policies are the 2003 *Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy*; the 2005 *National Guideline for the Provision of Youth-Friendly Services*; 2009 *National School Health Policy*; and the 2015 *National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy*, among others. Kenya's Nairobi Commitments, in turn, include Commitment 1 to "employ innovation and technology to ensure adolescents and youth attain the highest possible standard of health and eliminate teenage pregnancies by 2030;" Commitment 3, "to progressively increase health sector financing to 15 percent of the country's budget by 2030 in line with the Abuja Declaration;" Commitment 13, "to end FGM by 2022;" and Commitment 16, to "to ensure universal access to quality reproductive health services, including prevention and management of GBV, in humanitarian and fragile contexts." Republic of Kenya and National Council for Population and Development (2021), 2nd Annual National Report on Nairobi Commitments (2020-2021), ncpd.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2020-2021-Annual-Report-on-Implementation-of-ICPD25-Kenya-Commitments.pdf, p. X, XIII, XIV.
379. RHRN Kenya et al (2020), *Something Needs to Change: Right Here Right Now, Shadow report for the Universal Periodic Review of Kenya, 35th Session*, p. 8-9.
380. Republic of Kenya and National Council for Population and Development (2021), pgs. 2-4, 8.
381. Republic of Kenya and National Council for Population and Development (2021), pgs. 2-4, 8.
382. National and County Health Budget Analysis, Financial Year 2020/2021, http://guidelines.health.go.ke:8000/media/National_and_County_Budget_Analysis_FY_2020-21_April_2022.pdf
383. Republic of Kenya and National Council for Population and Development (2021), p. 4, 8.
384. Network for Adolescents and Youth of Africa (NAYA Kenya) et al (2017), *Supplementary information on the Kenya State Report for Consideration by the Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women at the 68th session*, https://tbinetnet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2F-NGO%2FKEN%2F28991&Lang=en
385. Network for Adolescents and Youth of Africa (NAYA Kenya) et al (2017), *Supplementary Information on the Kenya State Report for Consideration by the Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women at the 68th session*, nayakenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CEDAW-Book-Final.pdf.
386. RHRN Kenya et al (2020), p. 8-9.
387. APHRC et al (2021), p. 8-9.
388. RHRN Kenya et al (2020), p. 8-9.
389. Republic of Kenya (2022), *Kenya Demographic and Health Survey*, dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/PR143/PR143.pdf, p. 15.
390. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 27.
391. RHRN Kenya Youth Consultation Kenya.
392. Reid, Graeme (2022), "Progress and Setbacks on LGBTI Rights in Africa – an Overview of the Last Year," *Human Rights Watch*, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/22/progress-and-setbacks-lgbt-rights-africa-overview-last-year>
393. Kenya Law (2022), Children Act, kenyalaw.org:8181/exist/kenyalex/actview.xql?actid=No.%2029%20of%202022 paras. 21, 23.
394. Republic of Kenya (2018), *Report of Taskforce on Policy, Legal, Institutional and Administrative Reforms Regarding Intersex Persons in Kenya*, www.klrc.go.ke/images/TASKFORCE-REPORT-on-INTERSEX-PERSONS-IN-KENYA.pdf, p. 15-17.
395. Omondi, Ferdinand and Alex Binley (2023), "Kenya Wrong to Ban LGBT Rights Groups from Registering – Supreme Court," *BBC News*, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-64491276.
396. Network for Adolescents and Youth of Africa (NAYA Kenya) et al (2017).
397. See for example Amunga, Victoria (2022), "Kenyan LGBT Students Protest Suggestion They Be Banned from Boarding Schools," *VOA*, www.voanews.com/a/kenyan-lgbt-students-protest-suggestion-they-be-banned-from-boarding-



schools/6395390.html .

398. Muhula et al (2021), p. 5.
399. Kenya Law (2022); Republic of Kenya and National Council for Population and Development (2021), p. 45.
400. UNFPA and UNICEF (2022), p. 23.
401. Republic of Kenya (2022), p. 93.
402. Republic of Kenya and National Council for Population and Development (2021), p. 45.
403. Republic of Kenya and National Council for Population and Development (2021), p. 48; Muhula et al (2021), pgs. 18-19.
404. Republic of Kenya and National Council for Population and Development (2021), p. 48; Muhula et al (2021), pgs. 18-19.
405. Muhula et al (2021), p. 5
406. These are initiatives geared towards allowing "girls to celebrate their initiation to womanhood with respect to culture and traditions without necessarily undergoing the cut." These initiatives, while centering young women and girls, also involve and engage community stakeholders including cultural leaders, young men, traditional birth attendants (TBAs), county governments, religious and cultural leaders. Muhula et al (2021), pgs. 5-6, 23.
407. Muhula et al (2021), p. 13.
408. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 11-12.
409. Munthali A. et al (2021), *Young people's perspectives and role in decision making regarding harmful practices, sexual and gender-based violence and unintended pregnancy. Results of baseline study (2021), conducted in Dedza and Machinga, Malawi.*, p.83.
410. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022) *Country Context Analysis & Workplans*. Internal Document
411. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022) *Country Context Analysis & Workplans*. Internal Document
412. Munthali A. et al (2021), p. 12, 95.
413. Munthali A. et al (2021), p. 32-34, p. 80, 95.
414. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 11-12.
415. Munthali A. et al (2021), p. 12-13..
416. Munthali A. et al (2021), p. 12-13..
417. Munthali A. et al (2021), 27-29, p. 95, p. 99.
418. Munthali A. et al (2021), 27-29, p. 95, p. 99.
419. Government of Malawi (2022), Malawi 2022 Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report, [npc.mw/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Malawi-SDG-VNR-2022-final-copy.pdf](https://www.mw/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Malawi-SDG-VNR-2022-final-copy.pdf), p. 29-30.
420. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 11-12; Munthali A. et al (2021), p. 11.
421. Munthali A. et al (2021), p. 11 .
422. Munthali A. et al (2021), p. 11, p. 26, p. 95.
423. Munthali A. et al (2021), p. 11, p. 26, p. 95.
424. HDI (2020a), *Policy Brief: Addressing the Legal and Policy Challenges to Adolescents' Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Information and Services in Rwanda*, https://hdirwanda.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Final-HDI-ASRHR-Policy-Brief-Oct_05_20.pdf , p. 3.
425. APHRC and HDI (2022), *Examination of LGBT people's lived experiences and public perceptions of sexual and gender minorities in Rwanda*, aphrc.org/publication/examination-of-lgbt-peoples-lived-experiences-and-public-perceptions-of-sexual-and-gender-minorities-in-rwanda/ , p. 3, 5; Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Health et al, (2022), *Gaps and Challenges in the Legal, Policy and Strategic Frameworks on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Rwanda*, pgs. 2, 72-75.
426. HDI (2023), *Shadow Report to the Fifth Periodic Report of Rwanda to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Report Submitted by the Coalition of Community Based Organizations and Civil Society Organizations Working on the Rights of Female Sex Workers and LGBTI Persons in Rwanda*, tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCESCR%2FICO%2FRWA%2F51865&Lang=en , p. 4, 6-7; HDI (2020b), *Situation of Female Sex Workers and LGBTI Persons in Rwanda: Report Submitted by the Coalition of Community Based Organizations and Civil Society Organizations Working on the Rights of Female Sex Workers and LGBTI Persons in Rwanda to the Human Rights Council at the 37th Session of the Universal Periodic Report*, p. 3. www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-03/js5_upr37_rwa_e_main.pdf



427. HDI (2020b), p. 11.
428. Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Health et al, (2022), p. 74-75; APHRC and HDI (2022), p. 38.
429. APHRC and HDI (2022), p. 3.
430. APHRC and HDI (2022), p. 38.
431. Promundo et al (2021), *Strengthening the Protection of the Rights of LGBT in Rwanda: A Policy Brief*, p. 9.
432. Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Health et al, (n.d.), p. 32-36.
433. Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Health et al, (n.d.), p. 32-36.
434. Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Health et al, (n.d.), p. 36.
435. HDI (2020b), p. 7.
436. Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Health et al, (n.d.), p. 43-44.
437. Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Health et al, (n.d.), p. 48.
438. Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Health et al, (n.d.), p. 49-50.
439. "Law No. 2005-18 of 5 August 2005 on Reproductive Health Care and Services, Reproductive Health Personnel, Reproductive Health Rights, Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy and Voluntary Transmission of HIV/AIDS." RHRN du Sénégal (2018), *Rapport Parallèle de la Plateforme Right Here, Right Now (RHRN) du Sénégal, Examen Périodique Universel du Sénégal, 31e Session*. www.sexualrightsinitiative.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2019-05/RAPPORT-PARALLELE-EPU-RHRN-SENEGAL-2018-FINAL.pdf , p. 6.
440. El Hadji Ndiaye et al (2021), *Power to You(th) – Sénégal : Point de Vue et la Prise de Décisions des Jeunes Concernant les Pratiques Néfastes, les Violences Sexuelles et Basées sur le Genre, et les Grossesses Non-Désirées : Étude de base (2021), dans Dakar, Diourbel et Matam, Sénégal*, p. 69.
441. RHRN du Sénégal (2018), p. 6.
442. RHRN du Sénégal (2018), p. 7.
443. RHRN du Sénégal (2018), p. 7.
444. RHRN du Sénégal (2018), p. 6-8.
445. Ndiaye et al (2021), p. 8.
446. Ndiaye et al (2021), p. 21, p. 66.
447. Ndiaye et al (2021), p. 21, p. 66.
448. Mamadou Ndiaye (2021), *Revue des Politiques Pertinentes à la Lutte Contre les Mutilations Génitales Féminines (MGF), Grossesses Précoces/Non-Désirées, Mariage d'Enfant et Violences Faites aux Femmes et aux Filles au Sénégal dans le Cadre de la Mise en Œuvre due Project « Power to You »*, p. 16.
449. Ndiaye (2021), p. 19 ; UN Women (n.d), "Law Criminalizing Rape – Senegal," *Global Database on Violence Against Women*, evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/senegal/2020/law-criminalizing-rape#:~:text=The%20law%20n%C2%B0%202020,to%20ten%20years%20in%20prison.
450. Ndiaye (2021), p. 20, p. 44.
451. Ndiaye et al (2021), p. 23, p. 44, p. 70.
452. Ndiaye et al (2021), p. 23, p. 44, p. 70.
453. Ndiaye (2021), p. 17-18.
454. Ndiaye (2021), p. 17.
455. Ndiaye et al (2021), p. 8, p. 22, p. 63.
456. Ndiaye et al (2021), p. 8, p. 22, p. 63.
457. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 11.
458. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 11.
459. This is in addition to other instruments including CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol.
460. Gouws, Amanda (2022), "Rape is Endemic in South Africa. Why the ANC Government Keeps Missing the Mark," *The Conversation*, theconversation.com/rape-is-endemic-in-south-africa-why-the-anc-government-keeps-missing-the-mark-188235 .
461. Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA) and Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) (2022). *Joint CSO submission to the United Human Rights Council's fourth South African Universal Periodic Review*, p. 3-4.
462. Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA) and Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) (2022). *Joint CSO*



- submission to the United Human Rights Council's fourth South African Universal Periodic Review, p. 3-4.
463. HURISA and CVSR (2022), p. 3-4.
464. HURISA and CVSR (2022), p. 5-6.
465. Sonke Gender Justice and MenEngage Africa, (2020) Emerging effects of COVID-19 pandemic on gender-based violence in Africa, A multi-country study: Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon and South Africa, p.21, 31, available at genderjustice.org.za/publication/emerging-effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-gender-based-violence-in-africa/
466. HURISA and CVSR (2022), p. 3-4.
467. Government Gazette (2009), National Youth Development Agency Act, 2008, www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/3178013.pdf .
468. Republic of South Africa (n.d.), *Our Future – Make it Work: National Development Plan 2030*, https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/ndp-2030-our-future-make-it-workr.pdf
469. Republic of South Africa (2021), *National Youth Policy: A Decade to Accelerate Positive Youth Outcomes*, www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202103/nationalyouthpolicy.pdf .
470. National Youth Development Agency (2022), *Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS) 2022-2025*, www.nyda.gov.za/Portals/0/downloads/IYDS202225.pdf .
471. National Youth Development Agency (n.d.), What is NYDA? www.nyda.gov.za/About-Us/What-is-NYDA.html .
472. Chidoori, Rumbie Elizabeth and Bafana Khumalo (2021), "Lack of GBV Interventions are Costing Women's Lives." *Sonke Gender Justice*, <https://genderjustice.org.za/article/bafana-khumalo-rumbie-elizabeth-chidoori-lack-of-gbv-interventions-are-costing-womens-lives/> .
473. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022). *Country Context Analysis & Workplans*, p. 14-15.
474. Fallon, Amy (2017), "NGOs Turn to Courts to Unravel Uganda's Ban on Sexual Education," *Devex*, www.devex.com/news/ngos-turn-to-courts-to-unravel-uganda-s-ban-on-sexual-education-89979 ; UNESCO et al (2021), p. 44.
475. Fallon, Amy (2017), "NGOs Turn to Courts to Unravel Uganda's Ban on Sexual Education," *Devex*, www.devex.com/news/ngos-turn-to-courts-to-unravel-uganda-s-ban-on-sexual-education-89979 ; UNESCO et al (2021), p. 44.
476. Power to You(th) and RHRN (2022), p. 14.
477. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2017), *Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2016*, <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR333/FR333.pdf>, p. 85.
478. UNFPA Uganda (2017), Family Planning Investment Case for Uganda, uganda.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA%20Family%20Planning%20Investment%20Case%20Sept%2026%202017.pdf .
479. Uganda RHRN Youth Consultations, 2022, p. 1.
480. Uganda RHRN Youth Consultations, 2022, p. 1.
481. APHRC et al (2021), p. 9.
482. APHRC et al (2021), pgs. 11, 14.
483. Uganda RHRN Youth Consultations, 2022, p. 1.
484. RHRN Uganda (2022). Case Study Interview, p. 2-3.
485. RHRN Uganda (2022). Case Study Interview, p. 2-3.
486. RHRN Uganda (2022), p. 1.
487. UN Women (n.d.), "National Policy and Action Plan on Elimination of Gender-Based Violence," *Global Database on Violence Against Women*, evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/uganda/2016/national-policy-and-action-plan-on-elimination-of-gender-based-violence .
488. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (2022), "Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women commend Uganda on phenomenal progress made in the education sector, ask about the cost of political campaigns for women and the education of refugees," www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/02/experts-committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women-commend-uganda .
489. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (2022), "Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against



Women commend Uganda on phenomenal progress made in the education sector, ask about the cost of political campaigns for women and the education of refugees,” www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/02/experts-committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women-commend-uganda .

490. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (2022), “Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women commend Uganda on phenomenal progress made in the education sector, ask about the cost of political campaigns for women and the education of refugees,” www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/02/experts-committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women-commend-uganda .
491. RHRN Uganda (2022), p. 3.
492. RHRN Uganda (2022), p.1-3.
493. RHRN Uganda (2022), p.1-3.



THE
HEART OF THE
MATTER

