



# The Challenge Initiative: AYSRH Office Hours Series

# TCI's AYSRH Shared Vision & Goal

Vision: TCI envisions a world where young people are empowered to live an optimal reproductive life.

Goal: To scale up effective programs leading to increased use of modern contraceptive methods among all women 15 - 49 years of age in urban poor areas, with additional emphasis on married and unmarried youth and first-time parents 15 - 24 years of age.



# Planned Webinars

2 October 2018	Effectively Involving Boys to Improve AYSRH Outcomes – <i>IRH &amp; Promundo</i>
7 February 2019	The Gendered Lives of Young Adolescents: Lessons from the Global Early Adolescent Study – <i>JHSPH/GEAS</i>
19 June 2019	Meaningful Youth Engagement in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – <i>Torchlight Collective</i>
24 Sept 2019	Leveraging Digital Health for Youth SRH, <i>World Health Organization &amp; UNFPA</i>
<b>28 January 2020 (Today!)</b>	<b>Measuring Meaningful Youth Engagement, <i>Rutgers and Kenya SRHR Alliance</i></b>



# Today's Speakers



**Anna Page**  
Rutgers



**Rosalijn Both**  
Rutgers



**Judy Amina**  
Kenya SRHR Alliance

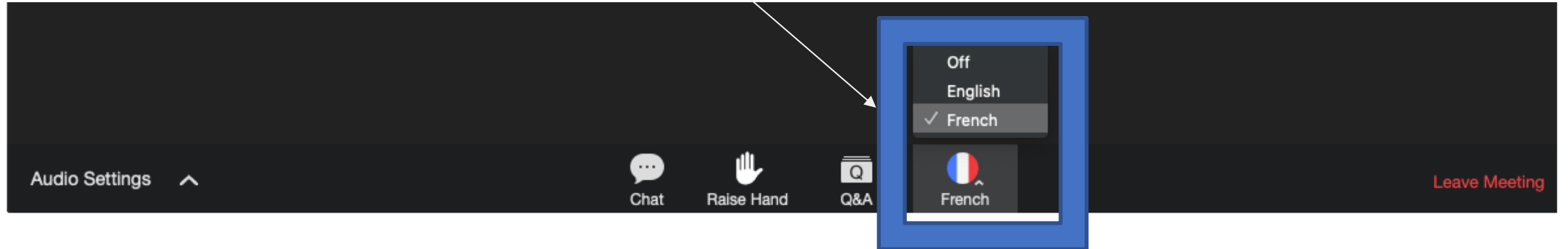
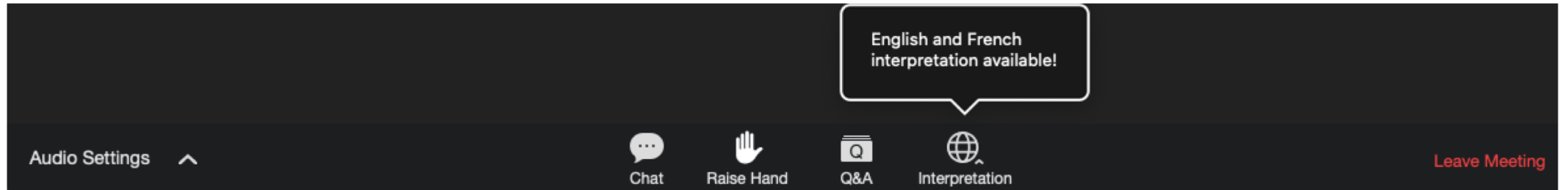


# Logistics

- Each presenter will present for 15 minutes.
- Please type any questions in the **Q&A box**.
- The moderator will collect/consolidate questions and address as many as possible before the end of the webinar.
- This webinar will be recorded and a link will be circulated to all participants.



# For Those Joining Us in French





For sexual and  
reproductive health  
and rights



# MEASURING MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Anna Page, Rutgers  
Rosaliyn Both, Rutgers  
Judy Amina, Kenya SRHR Alliance

28th January 2020

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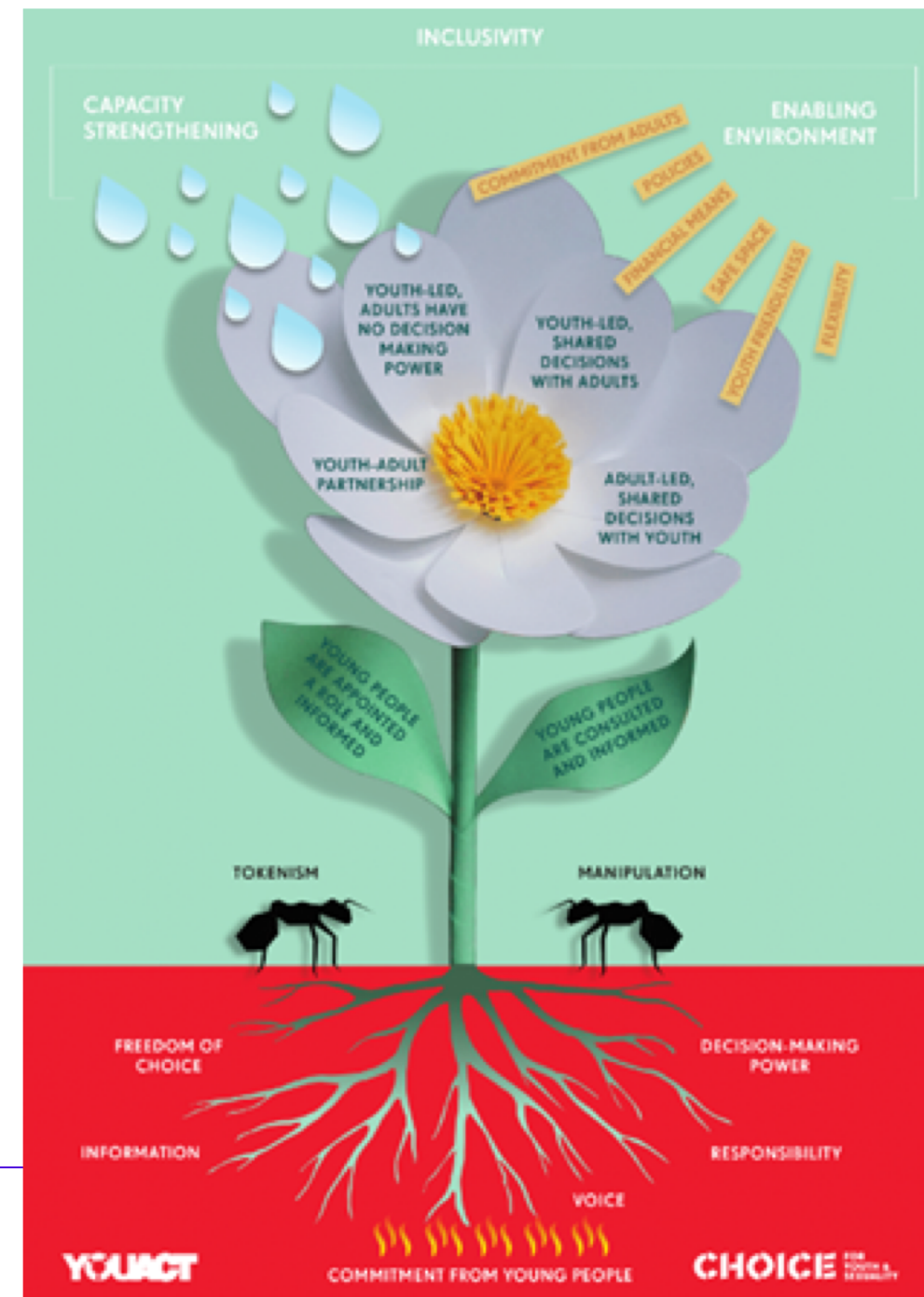
# Outline

- Why meaningful youth engagement and why measure it?
- How Rutgers measures MYE
- Case study: GUSO programme

# WHAT IS MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT?

- When young people are empowered to take an active role in decision-making affecting their lives.
- Can take many forms and can be realized at various levels within an organization and within different stages of a programme.

*(Rutgers, Essential Packages Manual, 2016)*



## Why engage young people?

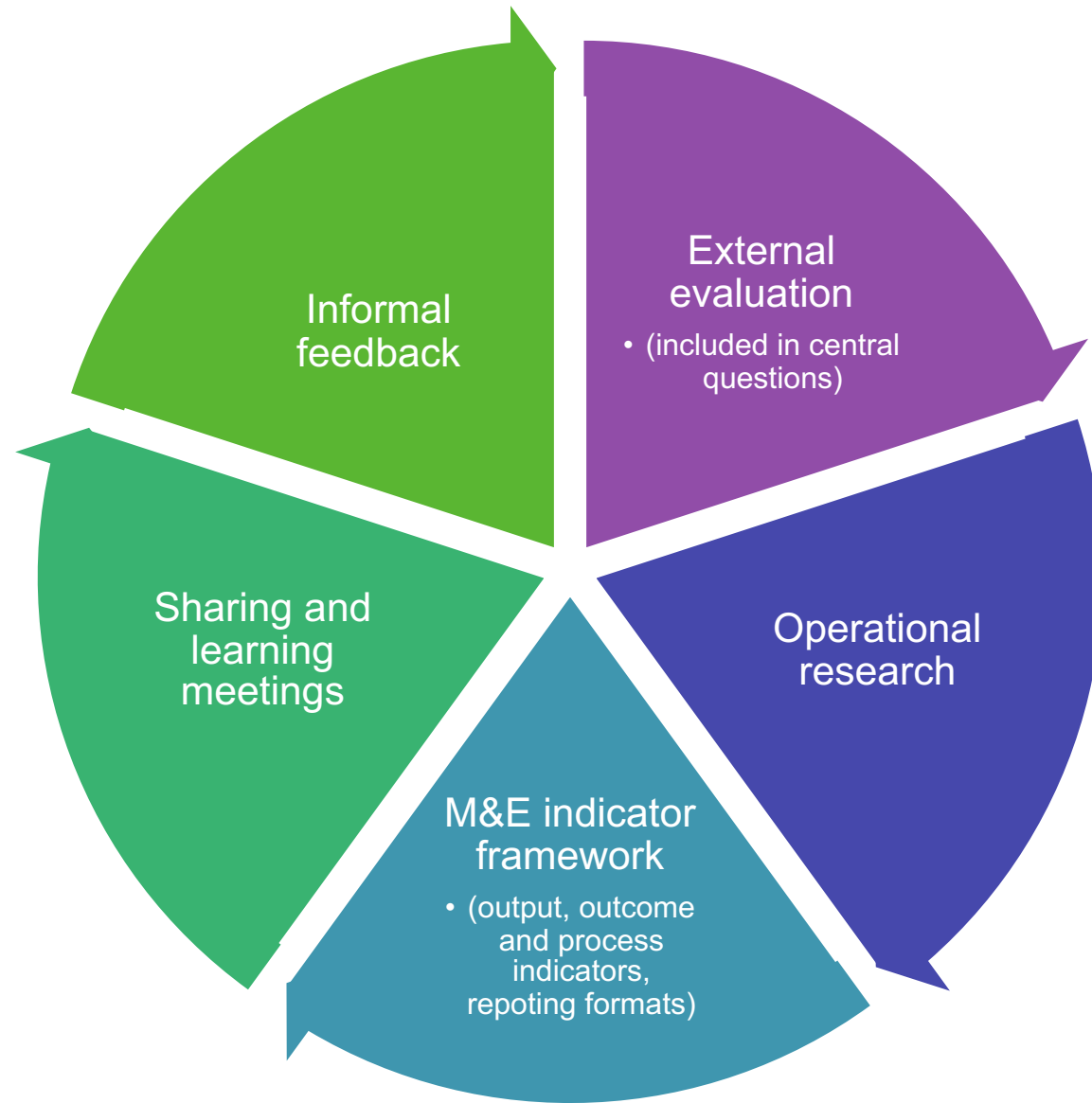
- Children's right to participate in matters that concern them (UN CRC) -> central to Rights Based Approaches
- YP are experts on their own needs and lives
- **Empowering** effect on YP
- Increases programme **reach & effectiveness**
- Growing recognition and supportive environment

## Why measure MYE?

- To understand what works, barriers and solutions -> evidence based programming for Rutgers and broader
- To inform capacity strengthening
- Accountability to donor



# How we measure, learn about and improve MYE



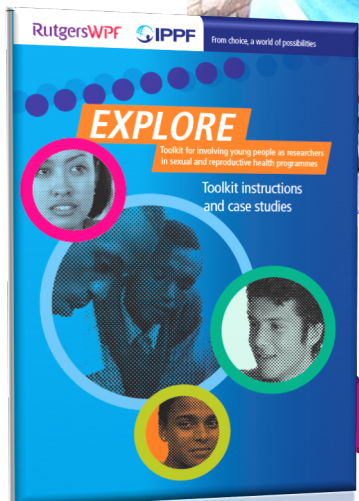
# OPERATIONAL RESEARCH ON MYP IN ASK PROGRAMME



- 5 Countries - 26 Partner organisations

## Research questions:

- *How are young people (structurally) involved?*
- *What makes it meaningful for them?*
- *Effects on YP; adults; partner organisations; programme?*
- *Factors that influence MYP?*
- *How to support partner organisations to strengthen their MYP*



# Measuring MYE in the Get Up Speak Out (GUSO) Programme (2016-2020)

We drew on previous learning to integrate MYE more systematically throughout the GUSO programme, and measured it through:

1. Dedicated outcome area in theory of change
2. Indicators in M&E framework
3. Baseline and endline evaluation
4. Operational research

Young people were systematically involved in the measurement of MYE throughout the programme, e.g. YCCs provided reporting data and led evaluation data collection.

Ethiopia

Ghana

Kenya

Malawi

Uganda

Indonesia

Pakistan

**GET UP  
SPEAK  
OUT** for youth rights



52 partners

All young people, especially girls and young women, are empowered to realise their sexual health and reproductive rights in societies that are positive towards young people's sexuality.

Alliance strengthening  
[Outcome 1]

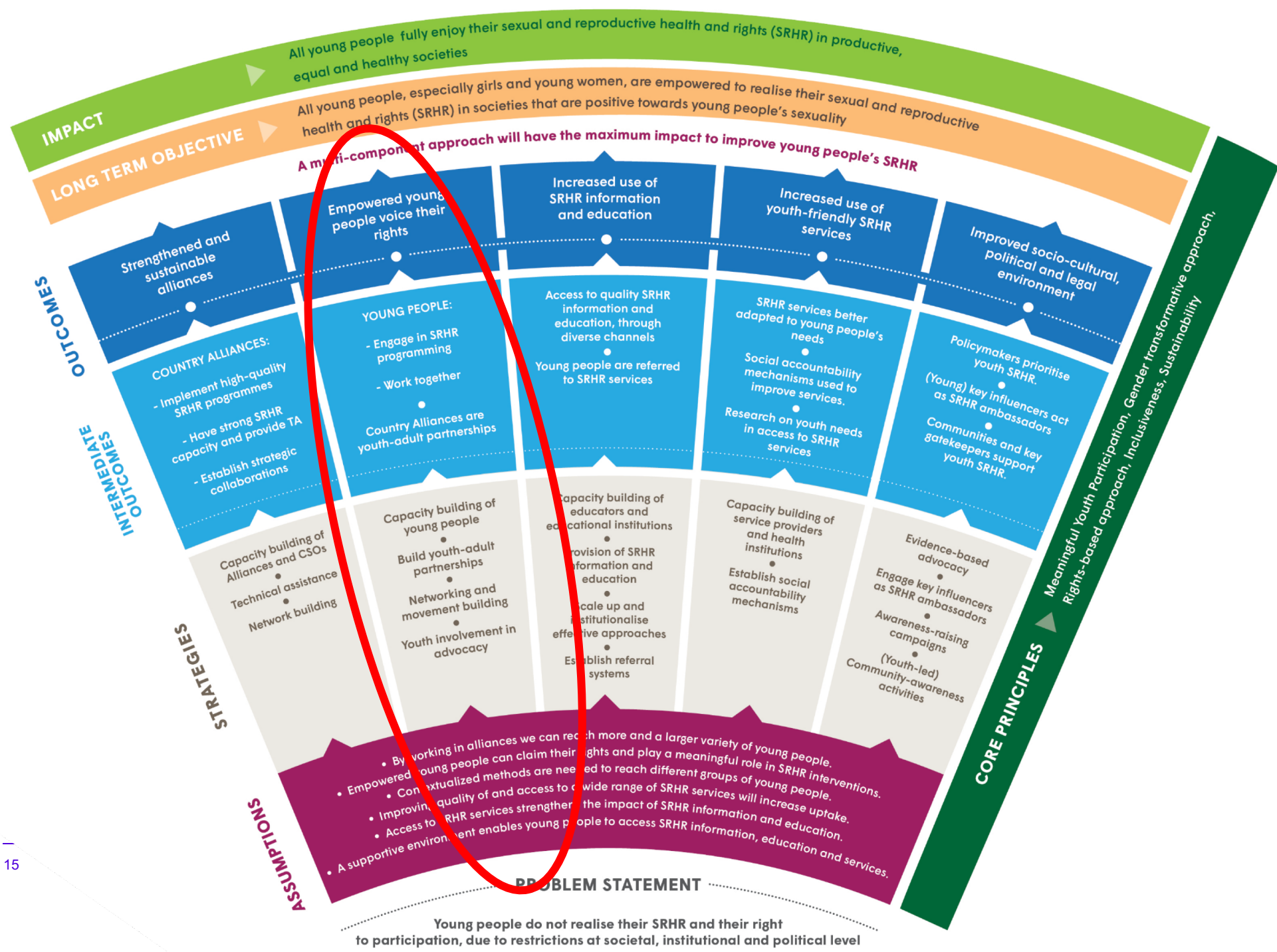
Meaningful Youth Participation  
[Outcome 2]

SRHR Information & Education  
[Outcome 3]

Youth-friendly SRH services  
[Outcome 4]

Enabling Environment  
[Outcome 5]





## OUTCOME 2 YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASINGLY VOICE THEIR RIGHTS

Output indicators	Outcome indicators	Process questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of <b>youth representation</b> in the SRHR alliance and partner organizations' <b>structures and decision making processes</b></li> <li>• Nr. of <b>collaborations between young people</b> from different alliance related organizations /networks who represent the youth constituency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people increasingly feel <b>supported by adults</b> in their organizations / the country alliance.</li> <li>• Young people increasingly feel <b>empowered to contribute to changes</b> for the target group and in the social-political environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe 1 or 2 strategies that are in place to ensure a <b>constant flow</b> of young people trained and engaged in decision making processes.</li> <li>• Describe 1-3 important strategies implemented by the alliance, to foster and strengthen <b>youth movements /networks</b> and/or help young people to organize themselves to work together.</li> <li>• Describe 1 or 2 strategies that are in place to ensure a <b>variety of young people</b>, representing different groups, is involved and engaged.</li> </ul>

# GUSO 2018 Annual Report

Partners set own targets at start of programme

Table 1 Overall programme performance

	OUTPUT INDICATOR	TOTAL TARGETS 2018	TOTAL REALISED 2018	AHEAD/ON TRACK/BEHIND	CUMULATIVE TARGETS	CUMULATIVE REALISED	SRHR Result Chain MoFA
<b>OUTCOME AREA 1</b>							
Strong and sustainable alliances							
1a.	Number of people from the alliance (related) organisations that have received training from the country alliance	754	1,478	Ahead	1,141	2,219	
<b>OUTCOME AREA 2</b>							
Young people increasingly voice their rights							
2a1.	% of young people (under 25) representation in the partner organisations' structures and decision making processes	26%	33%	Ahead	26%	34%	RESULT AREA 1 objective A
2a2.	% of young adults (aged 25-30) representation in the partner organisations' structures and decision making processes	25%	21%	Behind	25%	21%	RESULT AREA 1 objective A
2b.	Number of collaborations among young people from different alliance related organisations/ networks that represent the youth constituency	113	235	Ahead	308	389	RESULT AREA 1 objective A

# GUSO 2018 Annual Report

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018 GET UP SPEAK OUT PROGRAMME

The MYP agenda is becoming very visible within the alliances. In line with Uganda, the alliances of Kenya and Ghana prompted the formation of youth councils with representation of all alliance partners with an aim to improve meaningful involvement of young people and take a lead in monitoring of MYP in their organisations. In Kenya and Uganda, the chair and vice chair of the youth council are expected to sit in the alliance's national steering committee. In Ghana they will be involved in daily decision making. Steps have also been taken in individual partner organisations within country alliances to further incorporate the principle of MYP into their organisations. For example, after being exposed to training on MYP, one of the partners in Ghana shortlisted of three proactive young people to serve on their organisational board. In Malawi, a special radio programme called Danga Langa (My Chance) was initiated to give an opportunity to young people to point out challenges and successes in how they are being meaningfully involved in development issues that affect them.

# Baseline and endline evaluation

## Goal of the measurement:

- To help shape and support **improvement processes** related to MYE
- To understand where / when / how to invest and what benefits result from that investment: to **make programmatic choices**
- To **share beyond GUSO** and to contribute to current discussions about MYE (practice and science)



# Mixed methods: Survey and Focus Group Discussions

**Survey:** (458 young people from seven countries participated, completed online & offline)

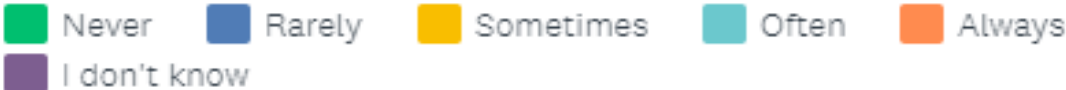
22 questions focusing on experiences and opinions of:

- **Support from adults** (safe space to speak out, adults taking yp seriously, choice over participation)
- **Relationship between adults and young people** (adults providing yp with information on SRHR, yp reaching out to adults with questions, respect, fair treatment)
- **How young people participate** (tasks yp are involved in, space for yp's initiatives)

**Focus group discussions:** (50+ FGDs, facilitated by YCCs)

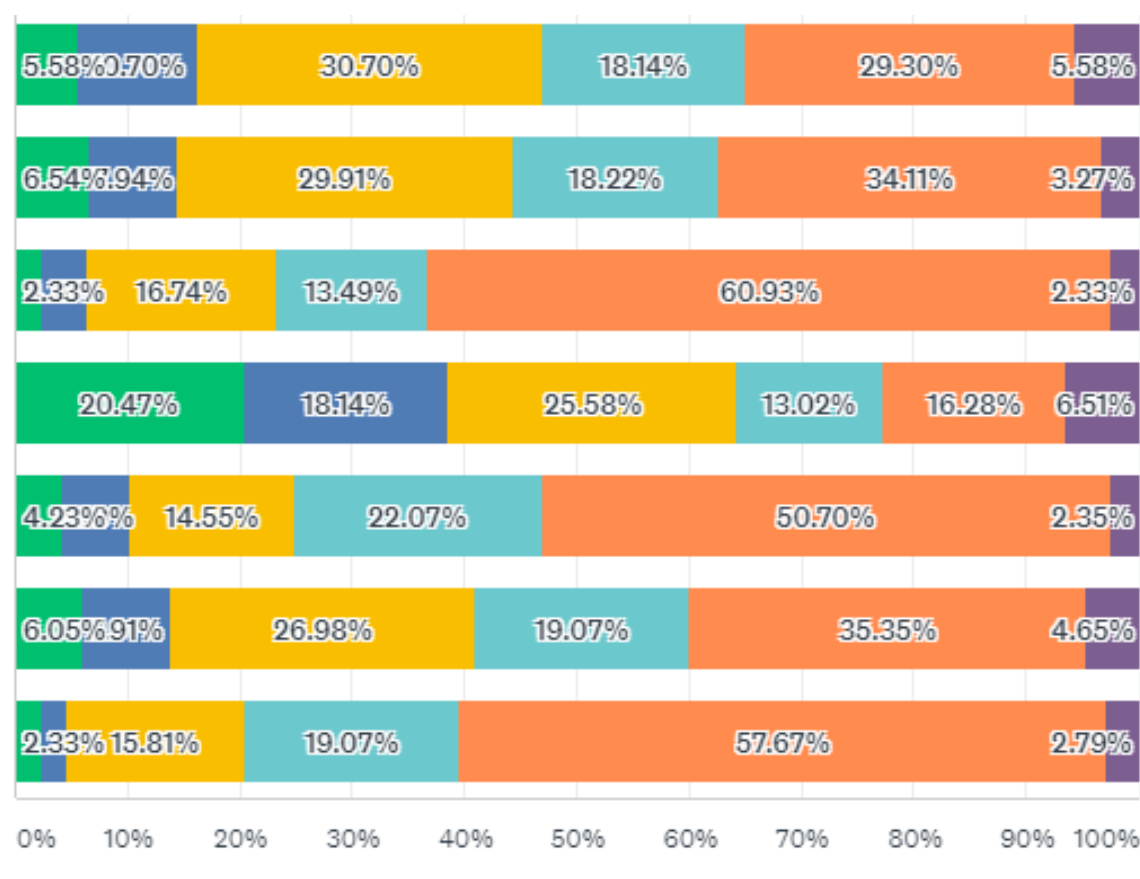
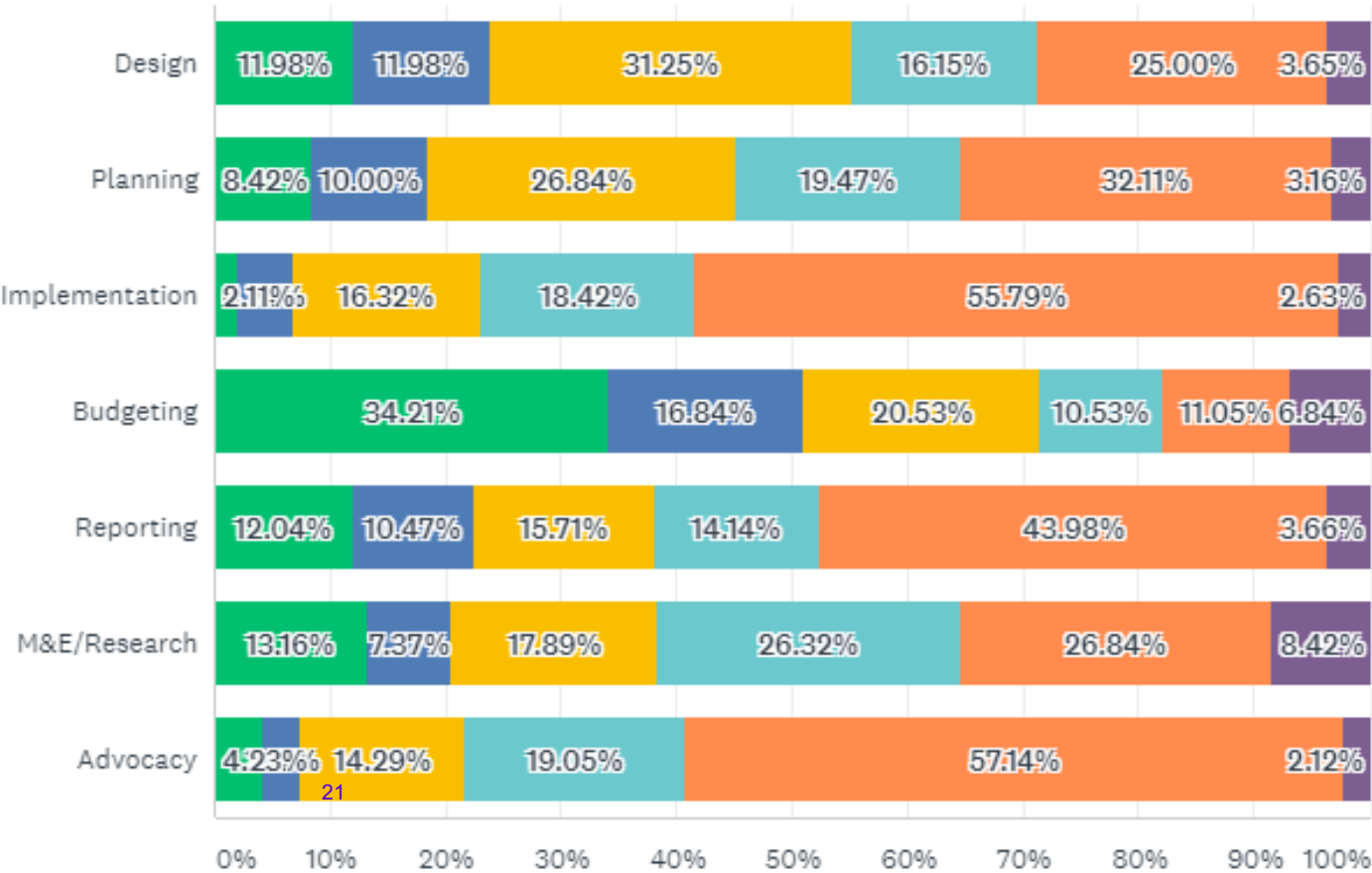


# YP are involved in:



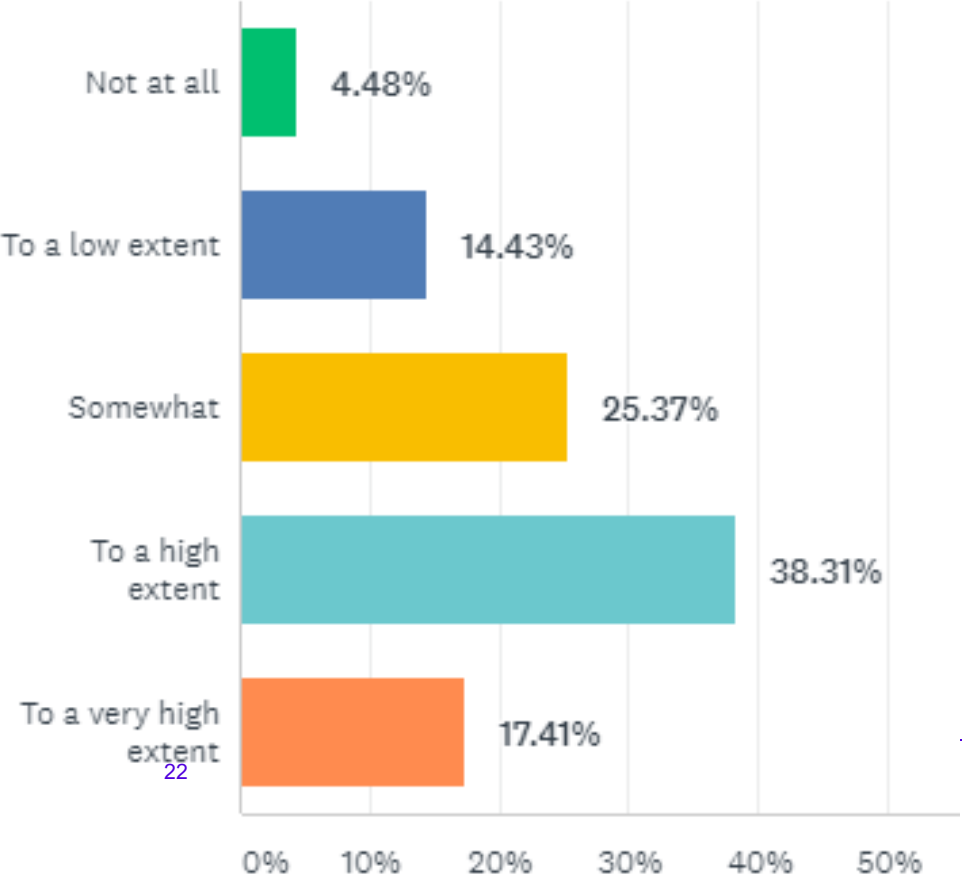
2017

2019

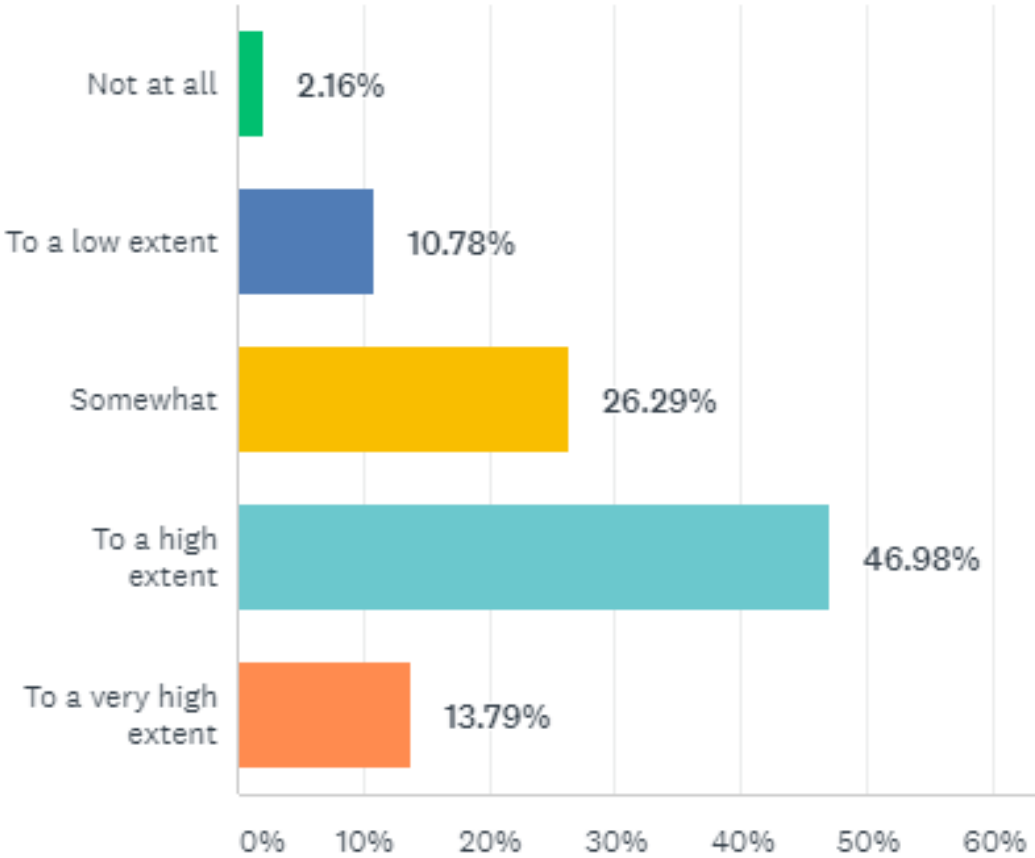


# How much can you decide within the programme, activity or organization that you participate in?

2017  $\mu = 3,50$



2019  $\mu = 3,59$



# Survey tool

- Successful in:
  - Reaching a wide range of young people in more remote GUSO implementation areas, providing them with a platform to voice opinions
  - Concrete numbers on MYE areas that need further improvement/ attention
- Less successful in:
  - Unpacking the broader issues behind some survey findings
  - Explaining differences between baseline and endline findings

# Focus Group Discussions: adding depth to survey findings

- Survey finds high increase in young people feeling they have decision-making power in Malawi (from 57% at baseline to 77% at endline).
- FGDs show that different levels of activities correspond with different levels of decision-making power.
- While young people sometimes have a high level of decision-making power (for example in activities of youth clubs)
- At other occasions their decision-making power is limited: *“When it’s time for an activity (...) we are just called to attend and never have to decide whether we should be there. Sometimes they call us when we are busy, but we do attend because we have to.” A young female from Chikwawa explained.*



# Meaningful Youth Engagement

EMPOWERED YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASINGLY VOICE  
THEIR RIGHTS

Judy Amina

# Youth Country Coordinators (YCC's)



- The GUSO Programme works with 7 YCC's from the 7 implementing Countries.
- The YCC's ensure that effective and efficient MYE is observed and implemented within the programme and generally in their country Alliances.
- The YCC'S as well learn and adopt best practices from each other based on the different country experiences and successes.
- In Kenya the YCC provides guidance to 17 Alliance members on achieving MYE with support from the Youth Council which was set up after recommendations from young people during the GUSO baseline research for MYE.
- The YCC together with 2 research assistants took lead in conducting an end-line research for MYE in GUSO.



# GUSO Outcome Area 2 Measurement on MYE



- To investigate how empowered young people feel to contribute to changes on the target group and social environment in which GUSO operates

# Background of Respondents

- A total of 74 Young people took part in the end-line exercise with 38 male and 36 female respondents between the ages 18-26 years
- Survey; 38 respondents (20-F, 18-M)
- 4 FGD's; 36 respondents (16-F and 20-M)
- Both the survey and FGDs aimed at YP actively involved in GUSO



# What did we measure?

- Involvement in the Programme
- Freedom of Choice
- Empowerment at both societal and individual levels
- Decision making power
- Interactions with adults in their organizations

# Involvement of Young People in the End-line Research

- More young people were willing to participate in the end-line measurement for GUSO OA2
- More young people were able to interact with different aspects of the GUSO programme and expressed interest in learning more from each other.



# Experiences gathering Data from Young People



- Young people who were part of the research shared their opinions, stories and experiences with openness mainly because those collecting data were their peers.
- Half of the respondents for the research had a good grasp of information from their organizations and communities regarding SRHR thus giving quality data.
- The respondents were more open in finding opportunities amongst themselves for collaborations and building movements of young people to improve their SRHR.
- From the data given by the young people, it was evident that they were more willing to speak about Reproductive health issues in the community and amongst their peers.

# Next Steps

- Findings of the research were presented to the members of the Kenya SRHR Alliance and the recommendations proposed by the young people were discussed and included in the 2020 GUSO work-plan.

Some the recommendations taken up included;

- Refresher trainings on Meaningful youth participation, which were included for the young people for the year 2020 to cater for young people who had not received the training aimed to improve youth adult partnership in the various alliance partner organizations
- Partners committed to creating exit plans for young people tailored to fit the different organizational cultures so as to reduce the high attrition rates of young people and to maintain realistic expectations for both the young people and the organizations.

# RESOURCES

- Van Reeuwijk, M & Singh, A, (2018) 'Meaningful Youth Participation as a way to achieving success: Results from operational research on meaningful youth participation in a large-scale youth SRHR program in Africa and Asia', *Canadian Journal of Children's Rights*, Vol 5 No 1 - Open access, available at: <https://ojs.library.carleton.ca/index.php/cjcr/article/view/1301>
- Jennings, L.B., Parra-Medina, D.M, Hilfinger-Messias, D.K. & McLoughlin, K. (2006) Toward a Critical Social Theory of Youth Empowerment, *Journal of Community Practice*, 14:1-2, 31-55 [https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1300/J125v14n01\\_03](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1300/J125v14n01_03)
- Villa-Torres, L., Svanemyr, J. (2015). Ensuring youth's right to participation and promotion of youth leadership in the development of sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 56, S51-S57. – Open access <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1054139X14003310>
- Rutgers (2013) *Explore Toolkit for involving young people as researchers in sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes* <https://www.rutgers.international/our-products/tools/explore>
- Rutgers (2016). *Essential packages manual: Sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes for young people. What young people want, what young people need.* [https://www.rutgers.international/sites/rutgersorg/files/PDF/Essential%20Packages%20Manual\\_SRHR%20programmes%20for%20young%20people\\_%202016.pdf](https://www.rutgers.international/sites/rutgersorg/files/PDF/Essential%20Packages%20Manual_SRHR%20programmes%20for%20young%20people_%202016.pdf) (includes section on meaningful youth participation)
- Rutgers operational research on meaningful youth participation <https://www.rutgers.international/how-we-work/research/operational-research/meaningful-youth-participation>
- CHOICE *Flower of Participation* <https://www.youthdoit.org/themes/meaningful-youth-participation/flower-of-participation/>
- IPPF: *Participate: The voice of young people in programmes and policies* [https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/inspire\\_participate.pdf](https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/inspire_participate.pdf) (includes self assessment of participation)



[www.rutgers.nl](http://www.rutgers.nl)



# Thank you! Any Questions?

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