



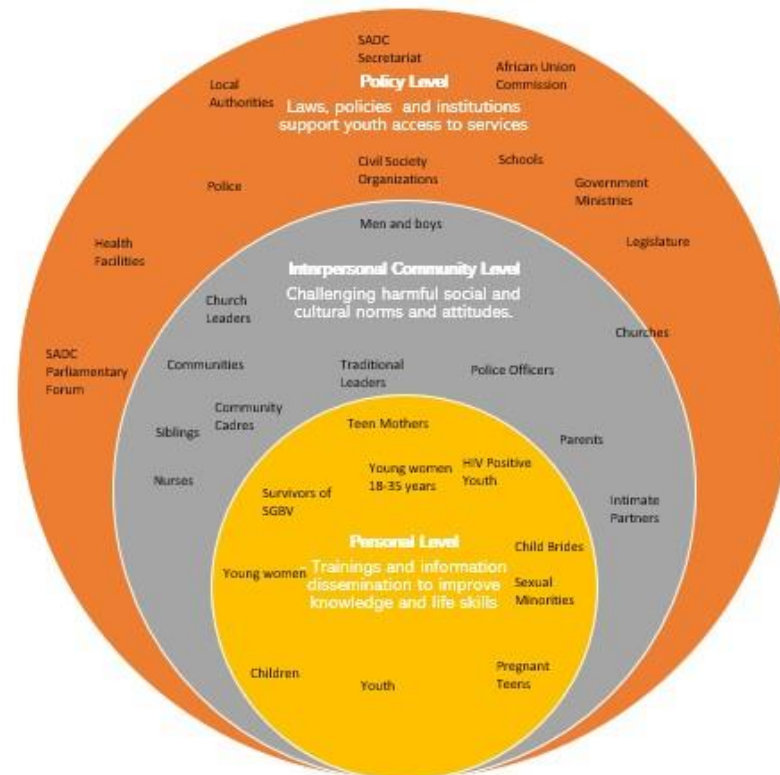
Building Collective Voices: SRHR Advocacy Experiences from Zimbabwe

Background

- Katswe Sistahood (KS): a feminist organization that pursues and promotes the rights of women and girls through community mobilization, sensitization and advocacy
- Joint planning: KS and *tdhs* are collaborating to strengthen movement building and youth-led advocacy on gender, & SRHR
- Collaboration seeks to:
 -strengthen the capacity of youth leaders and staff in *tdhs* partners to undertake advocacy
 -develop the capacity of policy makers and implementers to understand and protect the SRHR rights of young people

tdhs Partners and Advocacy

- The work of *tdhs* is premised on the ecological model
- Creating an enabling policy environment to increase access to SRHR information services for young people.



Pachoto Movement Building: Methodology



Assessment

Baseline Study to ascertain the situation of the youth



Awareness

Using the Pachoto Methodology to sensitise young women and young men on SRHR matters

Community awareness on harmful social norms and youth SRHR



Advocacy

Engaging duty bearers and service providers on emerging SRHR and GBV issues



Action and access to services

Organising in a Politically Charged Context: What works?

- **The Power of movements & Collective organising:** *tdhs* connected partners locally and facilitated collaboration
- **Localisation: Strengthening local institutions to demand basic but contested SRHR rights and services:** harness and plug into the existing work, i.e. the 5 *tdhs* partners have strong grassroots presence
- **Activate feminist solidarity:** alienability, interdependence and interconnectedness of women's rights in a context where sexual violence against girls is almost normalised and justified

Advocacy works well with public campaigning to build public support, especially considering the religious and cultural sensitivity of SRHR.

Influencing the Criminal Code

A Case Study

- **SRHR Alliance** prioritised the ‘Ending Teen Pregnancies’ agenda
- **FOCUS:** *Sexual exploitation of minors by majors drives the teen pregnancies scourge at alarming rates*
- **Teen pregnancies** linked to poverty, restrictive policy guidelines on Comprehensive sexuality education, age of consent to SRHR services, age or consent to sex, and access to safe abortion
- **Consolidated** data from projects and developed position papers
- Launched a campaign and **Petitioned** Parliament to demand *a review of the age of consent to sex laws – to prevent child sexual exploitation of minors by majors*

Lessons Learnt

- **Nothing for the youth without the youths** – building a consistent youth voice
- **Build local capacity** i.e. *tdhs has invested in national youth representation processes and methodological capacity building through local staff*
- **Alliance building critical:** requires investments: time, and resources
- **Identify and support ‘Champions’** in strategic places i.e. MPs
- **Survivors as Campaign leaders and Champions** is critical
- **Safeguarding:** survivor needs should not be neglected i.e. linkages to health, PSS, justice system
- **Building collective voices: strengthening alliances** for crosspollination, co-creation: agenda setting, consensus building, priority setting, strategy mapping, joint planning, implementation and monitoring

Conclusion

Each country, organization is unique. Although our lessons learnt may be universal, undertake own context analysis and a political economy analysis.

