

# Delivering Systematic and Comprehensive Youth SRHR Interventions

Lessons Learnt from our Work in Southern Africa

#youthcan

# Our work and working modalities

## **Info about terre des hommes schweiz:**

- Focus on youth (10-24 years)
- Run SRHR projects mainly in 4 southern Africa countries
- We work through local partners who implement projects (value add – CSO strengthening – funding, capacity strengthening, methods and approaches)
- Facilitate learning through a CoP (Knowledge Hub)

## Context

- Limited resources
- Local partners operating at sub-national/community level (specialised and often not recognised at national level esp. in policy making)
- High burden of SRHR challenges **x** intersecting issues of poverty and lack of personal development
- The role of culture and other societal factors as drivers

## Systematic and Comprehensive: Responding to the context

- Limited resources/Local partners operating at sub-national level (specialised and often not recognised at national level esp. In policy making)
  - Facilitate joint work
- High burden of SRHR challenges x intersecting issues of poverty and personal development
  - Address intersecting issues
- The role of culture, other societal factors & policy issues
  - Socio-ecological approach

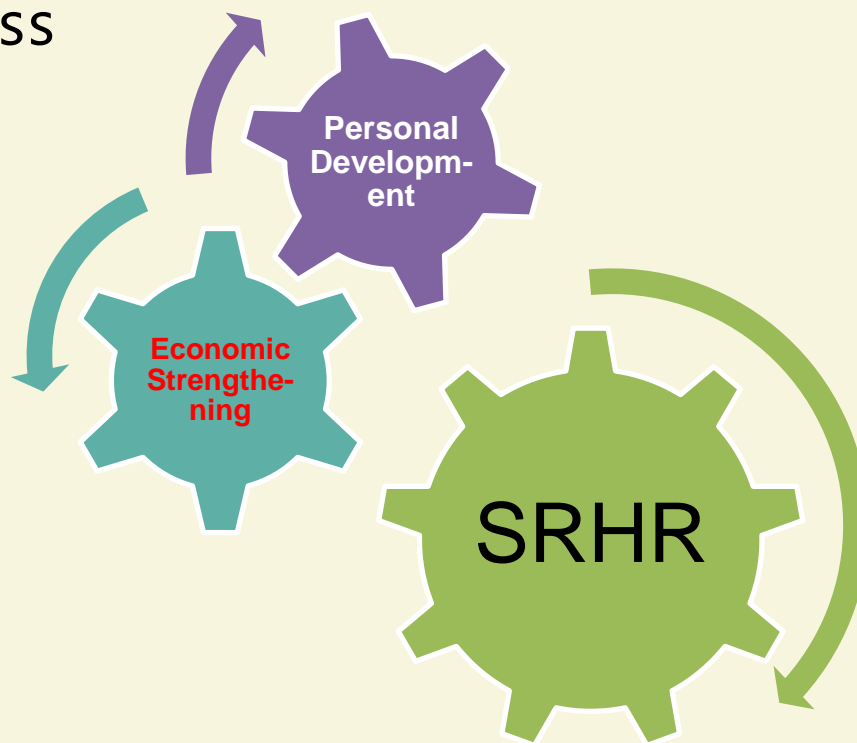
## Systematic and Comprehensive: Key Lesson Number 1

- **Ecological Model**, with youths as a primary target group, works (evidence beyond our own experience)
- All our interventions are predicated on the model – **each and every project**



## Systematic and Comprehensive: Key Lesson Number 2

It is not only important  
but doable to address  
intersecting issues



## Systematic and Comprehensive: Key Lesson Number 3

It is key to support and facilitate consolidation of efforts of small actors:

- We support joint advocacy (holding advocacy partner) – an initiative of the CoP we are building
- The approach gave voice to otherwise obscure CBOs –influencing key policy issues e.g. age of consent, child marriages, child sexual abuse, etc



## Consolidating the lessons learnt: **Results**

### **Everything - all at once?**

- Increased agency to access SRH services
- Personal development and economic are important on their own – opportunities for employment; increased income and agency in the community
- Acting together small players can make a change – policy advocacy that bears results (act local, impact nationally)
- Local partners can strengthen each other's capacity (de-colonial approach)



## How to consolidate the lessons

- Work with the youth and within their environment (youth as primary target group – secondary: families, communities and institutions)
- Layer efforts and facilitate joint work
- Trust local partners to support each other
- Fail fast, fail forward – trust the knowledge of local actors



# Thank you

