

# PRB'S YOUTH FAMILY PLANNING POLICY SCORECARD

## OVERVIEW OF 2020 UPDATES

Governments around the world have made great strides in creating formal laws and policies that support young people's health and human rights, including access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH). PRB's 2020 update to its *Youth Family Planning Policy Scorecard* provides new review and analysis of relevant policies documenting 22 countries' commitments across eight indicators of youth-friendly family planning (FP) services. Several countries have received updated analyses in one or more policy environment indicators based on documents newly developed or discovered between June 2019 and May 2020, but only in one country did this result in an updated indicator rating. The 2020 edition also introduces new analyses of policy environments for six additional francophone countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Haiti, and Madagascar.

## IMPROVED POLICY ENVIRONMENTS

Many countries have passed new legislation that affect youth access to family planning. In the case of Mali, the "Plan d'Action National Budgétisé de Planification Familiale du Mali, 2019-2023" significantly changed the policy environment to be more favorable to youth. **Mali's** new costed implementation plan (CIP) lays out activities to train providers and the staff training them to be more youth-friendly to reduce the stigma and discrimination young people face. The CIP also addresses activities to create youth-friendly spaces with a focus on confidentiality and steps to take to support the president's declaration to initiate free FP services.

In addition to improving the youth FP services environment, Mali's CIP recognizes the importance of an enabling environment in access to family planning. The CIP lays out strategic priorities to create demand for youth family planning through strategic partnerships with local, community, and religious leaders, and spread awareness and build support for youth access to family planning within the broader community through dialogue and action. In addition to building community support, the CIP details a male engagement strategy while committing to focus on strengthening the decisionmaking power of adolescent girls and young women in the choice and use of family planning.

By addressing all three service-delivery elements and the two enabling social environment elements of the High Impact Practices (HIPs) recommendations for adolescent-friendly contraceptive services, the provisions in Mali's CIP create a new policy environment that tailors SRH services to meet the specific needs of youth while addressing demand-side factors to make youth access to and use of contraceptive methods more acceptable and appropriate in their communities.

## NEW FRANCOPHONE ANALYSES

The 2020 edition of the Scorecard introduces new analyses of youth family planning policy environments for six new countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Haiti, and Madagascar. The Scorecard analyzes multiple policy documents in all six countries that range from partially supporting to fully supporting youth family planning by addressing age and marital status restrictions, providing detail on access to a full range of FP methods, and addressing service-delivery and environment elements of youth access to family planning. In all six new countries except for Chad, policy documents could not be identified to support youth access to FP services without parental or spousal consent, and provider authorization.

## CONTINUING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This year's Scorecard update identifies new SRH policies and laws in 13 of the 16 countries from the 2019 edition, as well as a new list of policies and laws for six new countries. New national family planning costed implementation plans were identified in **Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, and Tanzania**, creating a roadmap for countries to achieve their FP goals.

Often, new policy documents include wording that reinforces positive language contained in other policy documents, such as in **Benin** and **Mali**, where new policies confirm free family planning. In other cases, new policies contradict previous documents, introducing an inconsistency in application of the law that can inhibit youth access to family planning. In **Nigeria**, the “Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint (Scale-Up Plan)” specifies that the adolescent and youth service package includes counseling and provision of long-acting reversible methods, while the “National Training Manual for the Health and Development of Adolescent and Young People in Nigeria, 2011” discourages that provision.

To recognize ongoing progress toward supportive policies and laws, the 2020 Scorecard identifies policy documents that are in development but not reviewed in PRB's analysis because they are not yet final, and takes note of policy documents that have been identified in name but not located. Draft policies and laws have been identified in **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Sindh (Pakistan), Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda**, and provide a promising outlook for youth FP policy environments in the coming years.

[Explore the Scorecard.](#)