

PRB'S YOUTH FAMILY PLANNING POLICY SCORECARD

OVERVIEW OF APRIL 2021 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. PRB's April 2021 update to its *Youth Family Planning Policy Scorecard* provides new review and analysis of relevant policies documenting 28 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 May 2020 and April 2021. The April 2021 edition also introduces new analyses of policy environments for six additional countries: **Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Nepal, the Philippines, and Zambia.**

NEW COUNTRY ANALYSES

The April 2021 edition of the Scorecard introduces new analyses of youth policy environments for six additional countries: Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Nepal, the Philippines, and Zambia. In all six countries, the policy documents identified suggest gaps in the policy environment supporting youth family planning. In Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, policy documents could not be identified to support youth access to FP services without parental and spousal consent, whereas policy documents in the Philippines restrict youth access to FP by requiring parental consent for minors.

Policy documents in the newly added countries show a range of support for youth access to FP indicators by addressing age, marital, and provider restrictions; providing detail on a full range of methods; and addressing environment elements. The Scorecard analyses identified multiple policy documents in all six countries that range from partially supporting to fully supporting youth family planning by providing detail on a comprehensive sexuality curriculum and addressing service-delivery elements of youth access to FP.

ONGOING POLICYMAKING

Previous Scorecard updates identified new sexual and reproductive health policies and laws, including a recent surge of new national FP costed implementation plans that created a roadmap for countries to achieve their family planning goals. This year's Scorecard identifies policies that were new to the analysis but were published prior to 2020. The relative lack of new policy documents is likely due to the coronavirus pandemic and governments' need to reallocate funding and attention to battling it. Many countries have policies or strategies that have expired, creating a gap between the end of the existing policy and the development and passage of the new one.

The analyses benefited from identifying several new policies for Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), and Madagascar—the three Francophone countries added to the Scorecard in 2020. In Burundi, documents from 2012 and 2020 identified policy language supporting youth access to FP services without spousal consent and regardless of age. Similarly, newly identified youth-friendly service standards and a comprehensive sexuality education manual documents led CAR to be categorized as supporting provision of CSE and youth-friendly services, but with some room for improvement.

To recognize ongoing progress toward supportive policies and laws, the April 2021 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 **Bangladesh, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, 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.](#)