Senegal’s commitments to youth family planning are bearing fruit

Senegal is a very young country—more than half of our population is under age 20.1

53% of the population is under age 20

Young people are the country’s future leaders, and many of us face barriers to accessing family planning that put our health at risk. An investment in our health is an investment in Senegal’s future.

Senegal is improving the lives of young people ages 15-24 through ambitious policy, programmatic, and financial targets in family planning.2

Despite progress, youth continue to face obstacles accessing family planning

MORE THAN HALF of young women who would like to delay or space their pregnancy ARE NOT USING A MODERN CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD.4

17 18 19 20 21 22

19.7

Median age of first sexual intercourse for women ages 25-49.5

14% Young women ages 15-19 who are pregnant or have already had a live birth.6

Young people still face barriers to accessing family planning.

LESS FREEDOM TO MAKE DECISIONS WITHIN THEIR FAMILIES.7

COMMUNITY STIGMA REGARDING SEXUALITY.3

COST OF SERVICES.9

LACK OF PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY IN ACCESSING SERVICES.10
Youth who are unable to access family planning may face other sexual and reproductive health problems.

Maternal deaths are among the leading causes of mortality for young women ages 15-19 in sub-Saharan Africa. In Senegal:

- **33%** of deaths among young women ages 20-24 are maternal deaths.
- **15%** of deaths among young women ages 15-19 are maternal deaths.

Evidence shows that these barriers can be addressed by providing youth-friendly family planning services that follow World Health Organization recommendations.

**Senegal has committed to meeting young people’s needs—now it must allocate the resources to do so.**

The new Cadre Stratégique National pour la Planification Familiale (CSNPF) is an opportunity for Senegal to respect its commitments and improve young people’s access to and use of family planning.

### How can the Direction for Maternal and Child Health ensure that the CSNPF meets young people’s needs?

- **Engage youth representatives** as mutually respected partners in each stage of the planning and activity implementation processes.
- **Include more activities that address young people’s specific needs**, such as training providers to offer youth-friendly integrated services.
- **Integrate youth-friendly family planning services with complementary interventions.**
- **Increase funding for youth-related activities to 20% of the total budget.**

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