

## **Module 4**

### **Teenage Pregnancy, Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS**

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*"He who has health has hope. He who has hope has everything".*

*Arabic Proverb*

#### **Introduction**

Teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS are all important issues during adolescence. Adolescence is the time of experimentation and curiosity. It is important to address these issues because they are intrinsically linked with unsafe behavior and practices. Listed below are some points that will help you prepare for this session.

- Young people are especially vulnerable to STIs and HIV/AIDS. Adolescence and youth are times of discovery, emerging feelings and exploration of new behavior and relationships. Sexual behavior is an important part of this process and may involve risk. The same is true of experimentation with drugs, legal and illegal.
- Some young people will be infected with STIs or become pregnant. The same behavior that causes teenage pregnancies and STIs also causes HIV/AIDS.
- Young people think of themselves as invincible. The general attitude is that "AIDS cannot happen to me".
- STIs and HIV/AIDS are no longer restricted to certain groups. It is the behavior that puts people at risk. It is not who you are but what you do that matters.
- Around 60 per cent of the new HIV infections worldwide occur in young people.