

FOREWORD

“My body is my body, my life is my life” - the title of this important report - is a quote from a young person living with a disability in India who, like millions of others, demands and expects to enjoy rights and equality, and to be treated with dignity.

Here in Asia and the Pacific, in 2020, we have nearly one billion young people aged 10-24 traversing the journey between childhood and adulthood. We must support each and every one of them to make informed choices on the most important, including some of the most personal, issues in their lives and to fully exercise their rights.

The report's title reflects as well UNFPA's new strategy on adolescents and youth, “My Body, My Life, My World!”, which also supports the implementation of Youth 2030, the United Nations Youth Strategy.

This publication collates the information available on the status of young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights and how well we are supporting. In many areas we still have a long way to go, particularly in meeting the needs of sexually active adolescents. This report documents the gaps in data, policy and programmes in Asia and the Pacific, but above all it underscores how adolescents' evolving capacity and their rights are simply not being realised - to the detriment of their ability to obtain crucial information, take responsible decisions and strengthen their foundation for life.

Since this report was written, we have faced the COVID-19 pandemic which has further reduced young people's access to critical sexual and reproductive health information and services. Post-pandemic we need to urgently regain the momentum we have lost, but we also need to examine our approach and do better in reaching those left behind.

Working ever more closely with young people as genuine partners together we can achieve sexual and reproductive health for all young people so that they can reach their full potential - a key vision under the global mandate of UNFPA.



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