

A Framework for Understanding What Works to Shift Gender Norms and Attitude for Very Young Adolescents



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Passages



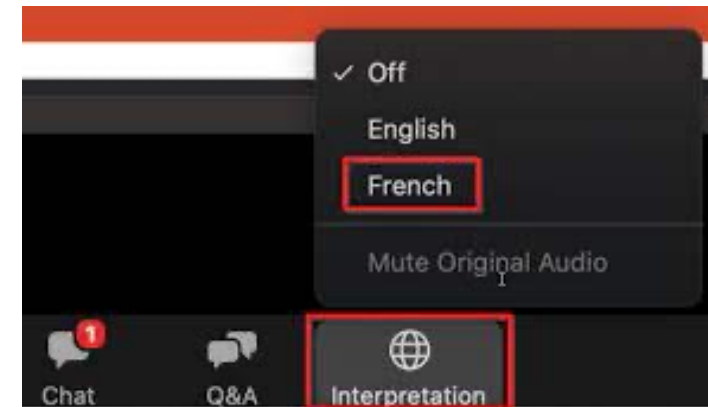
Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Housekeeping
- Importance of VYA Investments and Overview Global Early Adolescent Study
- Learning from Global Early Adolescent Study Interventions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Indonesia
- Defining the Theory of Change & Identifying a Learning Agenda
- Perspectives of Young Adolescents
- Q&A Discussion

Housekeeping

- Zoom interpretation (Interprétation)

- L'interprétation française en direct est disponible. Cliquez sur l'icône "interprétation" au bas de votre écran pour écouter le webinaire en français.



- Type your questions in the chat box throughout the webinar. We will be collecting them for the Q&A portion of this webinar
- *Tapez vos questions dans le champ de discussion tout au long du webinaire. Nous les recueillerons pour les parties questions-réponses de ce webinaire.*

Moderators



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Senior Associate and Director
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What is the Global Early Adolescent Study? (GEAS)

The Global Early Adolescent Study (GEAS) is the first multinational longitudinal study to explore **inequitable gender norms and its implications for adolescent health and well-being** with the following goals:

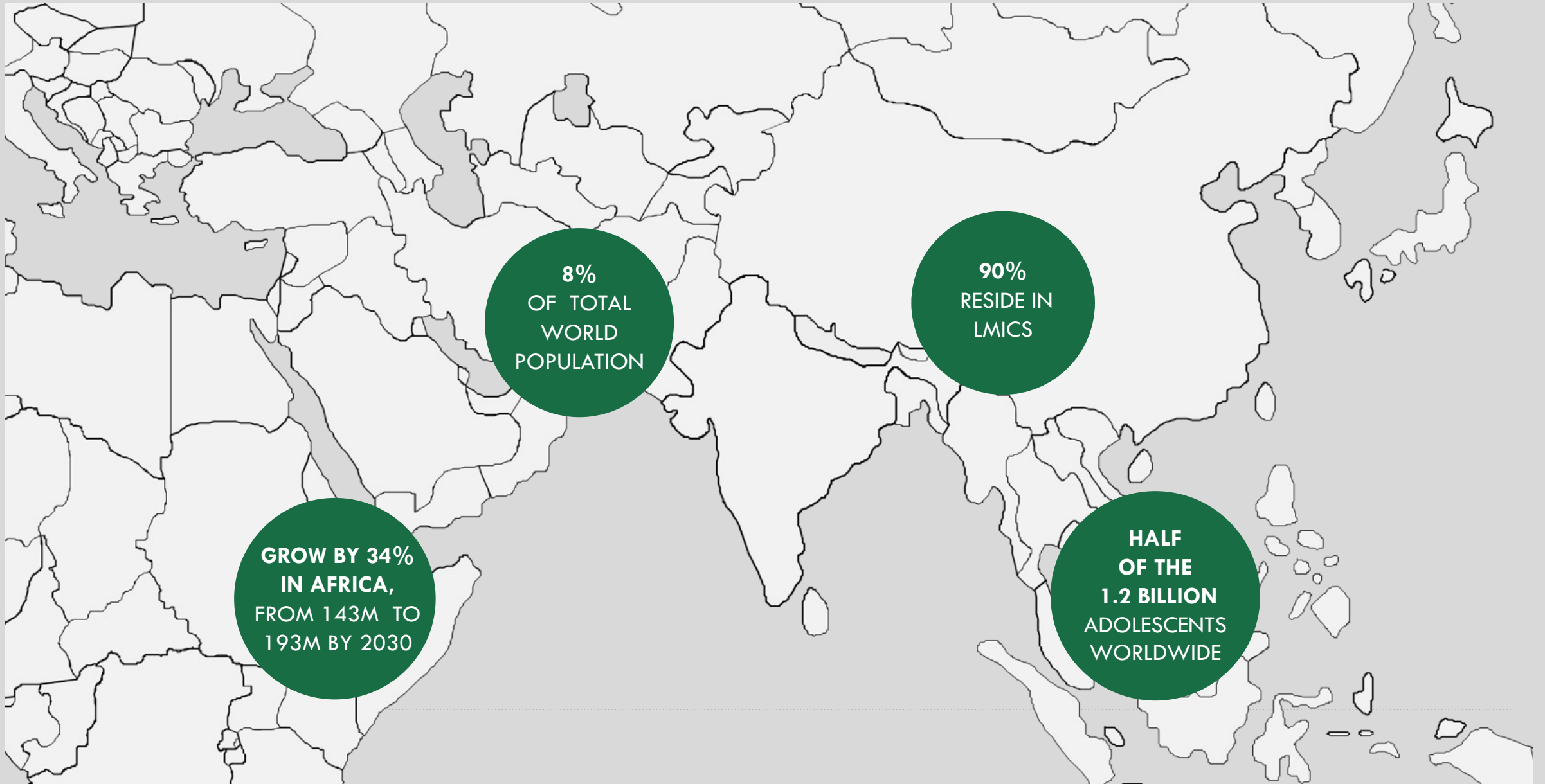
- To understand how gender as a social system informs health and wellbeing across adolescent years and how this process unfolds in different socio-cultural contexts.
- To test how gender transformative interventions in early adolescence contribute to improving adolescent health and well being



BACKGROUND

Why invest in very young adolescents?

PUTTING EARLY ADOLESCENTS ON THE GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT MAP



Very young adolescence is an optimal window for promoting positive youth development, SRH, and other health and development outcomes.

- **Rapid brain development** second only to the first 1,000 days (Dahl, 2018)
- Significant **physical and socio-emotional development** – opportunity to catalyze healthy development (Igras et al, 2014; McCarthy et al, 2016; Patton & Viner, 2007; WHO, 2011; Woog & Kågesten, 2017)
- Increasingly gendered experience and expectations – **opportunity to foster more gender-equitable attitudes, behaviors and norms** before firmly entrenched (Blum et al., 2017; Chandra-Mouli et al., 2017; Igras et al., 2014; Gupta & Santhya, 2020)
- The attitudes, behaviors, and developmental assets put in place during this time **shape lifelong reproductive trajectories** (Chandra-Mouli et al., 2017; Patton et al., 2016; Punzi & Hekster, 2019; Sawyer et al, 2012)
- Improving VYA outcomes contributes to **multiple SDGs**



A Bridge from **Puberty** to **Contraceptive Use**



INTERNAL ASSETS

- ✓ Fertility awareness, body literacy
- ✓ Gender equitable attitudes & roles
- ✓ Health service seeking capacity
- ✓ Self-efficacy to advocate for themselves
- ✓ Capacity for critical reflection



STRUCTURAL

- ✓ Youth friendly health services
- ✓ Quality, safe education
- ✓ Economic opportunities
- ✓ Legal/policy protections
- ✓ Resources



FAMILY & COMMUNITY

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Intergenerational dialogue
- ✓ Equitable gender norms
- ✓ Strong economic and social support networks

State of the VYA field



2010 VYA landscape found **only 18 curriculum-based studies with specific strategies to reach VYA** to improve SRH outcomes.



Last decade seen concerted efforts to grow evidence base.

- My Changing Body, GREAT, Choices, Voices, Promises, GEAS, GAGE/Act with Her, AGEP, NISITU, AGI-K, Setara
- Seminal publications on VYA SRH from Guttmacher Institute, Population Council, GEAS, IRH



Recent landscape found **60 programs and 5 cross-country research initiatives.** (*Callie Simon, Very Young Adolescent SRH Landscape*)

Contributions to the evidence-base: Intervention Working Group



Build knowledge on effective strategies to improve VYA SRH and gender outcomes:

- Transportability of programs
- Youth engagement



Understand longer-term effects of VYA interventions on gender and indicators related to SRH



Develop a common theory of change and identify conditions of success



Generate insight on scale-up of VYA programs: How? When? Through which pathways? Costs?