

292. Supporting Youth-Led Feminist Actors and Organizations across West and Central Africa (WCA) to Improve Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

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Introduction

- ❁ Harmful traditional norms, including gender-based violence, child marriage, genital mutilation & trafficking are rampant in WCA.
- ❁ EngenderHealth's Advance Advocacy on Comprehensive Abortion Care in West Africa project aimed to reduce maternal mortality & morbidity related to unsafe abortion.

Activities & Results

- ❁ In partnership with influential adolescent activists & social media experts, EngenderHealth increased awareness of GBV as part of overall SRHR in the region by amplifying voices of young activists & feminist organizations to share stories of GBV survivors.
- ❁ EngenderHealth organized dialogues with adolescents & feminist leaders in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire & Mali, reaching 144 people aged 15–18 (108 female, 36 male).
- ❁ Project-supported dialogues resulted in the creation of new communities of feminists & activist organizations collaborating (via in-person & virtual platforms) & developing country-level action plans for advancing SRHR.

Summary & Conclusions

- ❁ Supporting work of young activists & feminist organizations can enhance impact & deliver effective programming for adolescents & youth.
- ❁ Future initiatives should focus on mobilizing influential young women & feminist organizations to use their collective power & to collaborate with healthcare systems to ensure SRHR & GBV policy advocacy efforts reflect lived experiences.



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