



## FINAL EVALUATION

### YOUTH ON THE LOOKOUT - FROM SOCIAL AUDIT TO HEALTH RIGHTS FOR ALL ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN ACTION!

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EVALUATION DATES: NOVEMBER 2023 - MAY 2024



**COUNTRY:**  
SÉNÉGAL,  
BURKINA FASO



**BUDGET:**  
€1,701,000



**LEAD  
ORGANIZATION:**  
Equipop

**PARTNERS:**  
Conseil Burkinabé  
des Organisations  
de Développement  
Communautaire  
(BURCASO),  
SOS/Jeunesse et Défis  
(SOS/JD), Jeunesse et  
développement (JED),  
RAES



**START DATE:**  
09/01/2020

**END DATE:**  
07/03/2024

## THE PROJECT

### Background

In Burkina Faso and Senegal, the current situation for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and related indicators (which are rarely disaggregated by sex and age) are particularly worrying in terms of access to quality health services and sexual and reproductive rights and health (SRHR). However, many Burkinabe and Senegalese AGYW start their reproductive lives early, which impacts not only mother-to-child HIV transmission, but also maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality. In addition, health workers are poorly sensitized and trained on tailored youth SRHR approaches. The majority of young people (including those in school) also have very low, incorrect or incomplete knowledge about sexuality and often experience a kind of moral panic fueled by the lack of intergenerational communication and the impact of religious morals.

### Project operating model

Equipop and their partners work in consortium. There are defined roles for each partner in terms of ownership and design of activities: (1) Equipop has a general coordination and technical support role; (2) local CSOs play a central role in project implementation. RAES plays a technical support role around media training and creating communication materials.

## OBJECTIVES

### Overall objective

Strengthen access to quality health services for adolescent girls and young women, which are integrated and tailored to their specific needs and challenges they face and that respect their rights.

### Specific objectives

- ▶ Facilitate the empowerment of AGYW and strengthen their capacity to bring about change in terms of access to information and health care.
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of health personnel to provide quality information and care for the prevention and management of the three pandemics adapted to AGYW.
- ▶ Contribute to changing social norms and policies conducive to the SRHR of adolescents and young people through social and political mobilization actions led by young people and adolescents.
- ▶ Generate new knowledge around tools and methodologies to strengthen the capacity of AGYW and health providers to improve the provision of care to young people.

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## EVALUATION RESULTS

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### Relevance

The project is strongly aligned to the context of the two countries and the target regions/districts. To address these constraints and to support AGYW awareness of their power to take action, the project attempts to combine two approaches relating to transformative power: empowering the AGYW «auditors» and leveraging social accountability tools, such as social auditing.

### Effectiveness

Project effectiveness was positive overall. The project has made a significant contribution to the empowerment of AGYW. It has also contributed to strengthening the capacity of health personnel, including breaking down certain misconceptions related to sexual and reproductive health. The project helped to support changes in social norms and policies, especially at the local level in the six health districts. However, the scope of advocacy work at the national level remains very limited in both countries. Finally, the project produced three learning and sharing deliverables (workbook, guide on health democracy and feedback videos).

### Efficiency

Project efficiency was considered average. Delays at the start of the project (mainly administrative), impacted by both the length of the co-creation process for training tools and the social audit and by difficulties relating to the consultant in charge of data analysis, which resulted in significant delays in implementing activities.

### Impact

Many changes can be noted in terms of empowerment of the «auditors»: in terms of sharing information (to their peers), orientation (focal point), inner power (confidence), leadership, solidarity, awareness, ability to make decisions. Other impact areas have also been observed: (1) young people have increased awareness of their fundamental rights, in particular the right to consult and seek treatment in health facilities; (2) strengthening of collaboration and discussions between health providers and young people.

### Sustainability

Some of the strengths: empowerment of the AGYW «auditors»; strengthening of provider skills. The fact that they were also then involved in the various social and political mobilization interventions undoubtedly contributed to their ownership of the challenges the project was tackling.

Some of the constraints: the «citizen monitoring system» component of the project needs greater ownership by the various stakeholders (including partner organizations and «auditors»); the political context in both countries (in particular the growing insecurity in Burkina Faso) could impact the sustainability of the project's achievements.



## Conclusions and recommendations

Many changes in behavior were observed among the "auditors" by the end of the project, which demonstrates robust empowerment and constitutes a clear strength in terms of pursuing longer-term objectives (particularly in terms of the social accountability/citizen monitoring component). These changes are the result of both the various training courses undertaken by the «auditors» and the social audit exercise, which provided a tremendous opportunity for the practical application of the learning outcomes.

Moreover, the change-oriented approach adopted by Equipop has undoubtedly made it possible to strengthen empowerment.

Delays in project implementation impacted advocacy outcomes. Indeed, although the social and political mobilization interventions were key moments, they were carried out in too limited a period of time, with ultimately unsuccessful advocacy actions.

### Key recommendations for Equipop as the project lead include:

- (1) Foster collective reflection around the sustainability of the monitoring system.
- (2) Foster collective reflection around the status of the «auditors».
- (3) Strengthen the multi-stakeholder approach (by integrating national authorities from the outset, establishing links with other actors).
- (4) Maintain the right balance between accountability and learning: having results indicators that are sufficiently rigorous (qualitative and quantitative) as well as providing them with comprehensive and regular information.

### As part of a potential Phase 2, Equipop should:

- (1) Develop a sustainable mechanism for consultation between young people and service providers to improve services. In this sense, encourage the authorities to increase the number and renovate youth spaces in health centers and, in general, strengthen their youth approach.
- (2) Ensure that commitments made by the authorities are followed up. This primarily involves strengthening the advocacy capacity of partners and then developing a more structured and sustained long-term advocacy plan.

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