

# Planning for LIFE

## Reproductive Health Matters in the Context of Youth Livelihoods

### I) Organization Overview

#### **Sur Futuro Foundation**

Fundacion Sur Futuro is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to contribute to the economic, social and human development of poor communities in the Dominican Republic as well as the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources. Among its main goals are: 1) to promote the creation of spaces for bringing together public, private and community players at all levels to contribute to improving the economic, social and environmental quality of life of the target population and 2) to foster practices of sustainable use of natural resources, both of which contribute to breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and environmental degradation.

Sur Futuro Foundation has prioritized the objective of its programs to promote work preparedness education as a development tool to increase opportunities for young people. Sur Futuro's successful comprehensive program model includes internships and job placement for participants as well as self employment initiatives has placed the Foundation as a national reference in this area.

The Foundation, with support from governmental institutions, international agencies and private companies, has implemented various initiatives aimed at the development of young people preparing them to succeed in any context. To complement the capacity building of youth, the Foundation has established strategic alliances with the Dominican Governmental agencies and international organizations to jointly implement prevention programs for HIV/AIDS, STD's and teen pregnancy.

During the Planning for Life project, Sur Futuro successfully integrated reproductive health into its youth training programs. Key outcomes:

- A total of 40 young people ages 15-29 were trained in reproductive health using the Planning for Life curriculum;
- Adapted IYF's Reproductive Health Curriculum for Young people into the Dominican context and the Spanish language



## **Society for Awareness, Health, and Equal Rights**

Society for Awareness, Health and Equal Rights (SAHER) enables young people to think critically to foster respect for diversity, build perspectives around relevant socio-political issues and become active, boundary-less citizens so that peace does not merely become the absence of war.

SAHER works in Mumbai, India with young people ages 14-30 years old from lower socio-economic families with various backgrounds, including religion, caste and language. SAHER implements youth development programs focused on civic engagement, life skills, and reproductive health. In addition, SAHER conducts community interventions focused on engaging adult community members from across religions to come together and address issues around sustainable livelihood, local governance and citizenship.

The Planning for Life project was implemented at SAHER with young people ages 18-30 years. Key outcomes:

- A total of 120 youth completed the reproductive health training aimed at building an understanding of reproductive health issues and gender roles in the society.
- Participants became advocates of healthy sexual behavior, gender equality and importance of family planning within their families and communities;
- IYF's Reproductive Health Curriculum was adapted into the Indian context and published in both Hindi and English
- Integration of reproductive health into the existing framework of youth development programs

## II) Reproductive Health Resources:

*Integrating Reproductive Health into Youth Development Programs* e-toolkit, K4Health  
<http://archive.k4health.org/toolkits>

- Includes over 20 relevant resources including IYF's *A Supplemental Reproductive Health Curriculum for Young People* –available in seven languages and for six country specific contexts.

## III) Questions for Group Exercise:

1. Think about how you might integrate reproductive health into one of your existing/future youth programs. What elements would you have to consider in the local context when designing the integration?
2. How would you identify the target beneficiaries? What measures can you take to understand the RH needs of youth in your target area?
3. How would you create community buy-in? Identify youth-friendly RH services?