

FLOURISH

A Toolbox for Girls and Young Women Leaders on the Frontlines of Gender Justice in Health

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

FLOURISH is a collection of programming, advocacy, leadership, and mentorship resources and information that inform the collective action of emerging girls and young women leaders pursuing gender justice in health. It captures in one document the rich depth of girls and young women's leadership and advocacy while addressing some of the key challenges they face.

At the heart of this toolbox is the belief that the substantive leadership of girls and young women must be encouraged at all levels, if we are to achieve gender justice locally, nationally, and globally. Making significant progress toward this goal requires increasing and supporting their opportunities to shape policies and practices related to the health and rights of themselves, their peers and communities – including by holding governments, multilateral agencies, policy makers, programme leads, and other decision-makers to account. This type and scope of direct engagement is essential to ensure that gender equality commitments are translated into sustained and meaningful change in areas such as HIV prevention and treatment, human rights, and sexual and reproductive health.

The toolbox is part of an important effort to build a strong community of adolescent girls and young women leaders empowering and supporting each other to promote real and sustainable change. In addition to helping build and support their capacities and skills, it also aims to raise awareness about the need for substantial investments in community-led organizations, groups and networks of girls and young women in all their diversities. All local and global development partners should recognize and respond to the fact that such investments are essential for real change in all aspects of gender justice.

THE COLLABORATION

FLOURISH is written and inspired by young women leaders all over the world, with leadership from partners including Positive Young Women Voices (PYWW), The Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+ Global) and the African Youth and Adolescent Network (AfriYAN).

AUDIENCE

FLOURISH is intended to be used by adolescent girls and young women leaders, leadership development programmes and mentorship schemes. It is mainly focused on current or potential future leaders aged 18–35 whose work involves one or more of these roles: implementer, advocate on the national stage, advocate on the global stage, advocate on social media, accountability leader, mentor, and human rights defender and activist.



HOW TO USE THIS TOOLBOX

This toolbox can be used to design, implement, expand, and strengthen programmes and activities of girls and young women leaders. It offers tools to help both grassroots and national groups learn from and integrate 'best practices' into all parts of their operations.

The resources and tools have been designed for young leaders in specific settings. However, they can also be used by individuals for self-instruction to promote their own participation and leadership. In other words, the content helps enable practical, meaningful, and impactful advocacy and leadership work across a wide variety of settings.

Part I provides an overview of key acronyms, terminologies, concepts, and conventions that shape the global advocacy landscape in which girl and young women leaders operate.

Part II provides the context of the toolbox, discussing the content, audience, core principles, and intended goals.

Part III offers a range of tools along with brief summaries explaining the sources, how they are used, and considerations for implementation and adaptation.

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