

YOUNG ADOLESCENT PROGRAM

Adolescence is the period between the ages of 10 and 19 years that represents the transition from childhood to adulthood. As a stage of life characterized by significant physical, psychological, and social changes, as well as specific health and developmental requirements. Teenage pregnancies in Kenya stand at 15% with education levels being inversely proportional to teenage pregnancies. (38% for those with no education to 12% for those up to secondary education).

Adolescence brings with it new risks, but it also brings with it new opportunities. Pathways Policy Institute has successfully launched two CSE/MHM programs: #BetterBoyz, a program that educates young men about menstrual hygiene, fertility cycle, and SRH, (including contraceptives in out-of-school sessions) which ensures a balanced approach to the work we do with girls in schools and helps to create a balanced society as they grow. This program is currently in 5 schools and 4 counties.

PPI also runs a school transition program from primary to high school, which teaches young people life skills as well as how to navigate puberty, adolescence and sexuality, peer pressure, and set clearer goals for their high school years dubbed #tupepee2highschool project. This being an out-of-school session, that is mobilized by teachers and parents covers Comprehensive Sexuality Education and links adolescents with Providers within their community.

The two programs are fashioned in a manner to have schools and homes as the ground in which PPI interacts with the adolescent and Youth and following the building of trust with schools and students, are able to have out-of-school conversations covering Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Safe abortion. The project has seen an increase in demand for information and services within the two counties (this is more for the pastoralist community in Laikipia, Samburu, and Isiolo which has had indigenous family planning and abortion programmes that are unsafe).