

ADVANCING YOUTH-RESPONSIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES

The Evidence to Action (E2A) Project is USAID’s global flagship for strengthening family planning and reproductive health service delivery. For seven years, and across 17 countries, we have addressed adolescent and youth reproductive health needs by advancing what works—sharing global evidence and insights on youth leadership and reproductive health care for the largest generation of young people in history.

URGENT NEEDS IN WEST AFRICA

26 million young people in West Africa between the ages of 15-24¹

3 out of 5 women in West Africa are married before the age of 20²

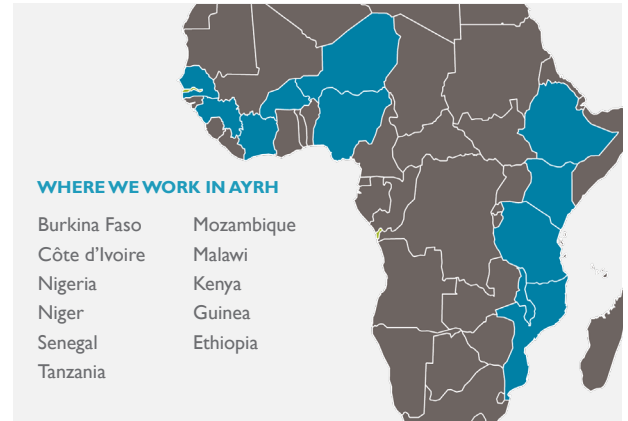
At nearly 30%, young married women (ages 15-24) in West and Central Africa have the highest rate of unmet contraceptive need in the world³

SOURCES

1,3 OUAGADOUGOU PARTNERSHIP

2 UN WORLD FAMILY PLANNING 2017-HIGHLIGHTS

Spotlight on E2A’s Youth Programming



Evidence. Leadership. Scale.

These three interconnected pillars are at the heart of E2A’s work to address young people’s reproductive health needs.

E2A works **with youth and for youth** to build young people’s knowledge and self-confidence, so they can use their seat at the table to more effectively advocate with their governments. Our **Not Without Us! A Tool for AYRH-Responsive Planning (TARP)** helps youth advocates of any age analyze family planning and reproductive health plans to determine how well these plans address the needs of young people—from both technical and financial perspectives. TARP provides advocates with information—data and recommendations—to help them make a compelling arguments for change.

We chose to launch this tool in West Africa, orienting Ouagadougou Partnership youth ambassadors on how TARP can help them assess their countries’ reproductive health focused national plans, including costed implementation plans. We are currently developing TARP curriculum and training videos. In the coming months, we will host a series of webinars (in English and French), as well as several in-person regional trainings in West Africa, to advance the use of this ground-breaking tool. Finally, we are forming strategic partnerships with stakeholders, including FP2020, to make the tool and training available to young people across the region and globe.

TOOL SPOTLIGHT

Not Without Us! A Tool for AYRH-Responsive Planning:
tarp.e2aproject.org

Promoting Youth Resiliency and Advocacy



“More than ever, I am convinced this tool prepares us to discuss our needs—as equals partners, using factual arguments—with those in a position to make decisions that affect our lives.”
— N’GADI Kotchi Yvan, Ouagadougou Partnership Youth Ambassador

Young first-time parents face uncertainty and rapid change in nearly every aspect of their lives. This makes them uniquely receptive to information for planning their futures with intention. **E2A's First-Time Parent (FTP) Framework** applies a life-course and socio-ecological lens to highlight the diverse characteristics and social and cultural contexts of young parents, as well as their evolving health needs throughout and beyond the FTP lifecycle.

Through our **peer approach**, we seek to educate young FTPs on positive reproductive health outcomes by creating a comfortable space for them, as well as their families and social networks, to discuss, share, and learn. What we do today can affect FTPs' subsequent health choices and actions for years to come, thereby improving the overall wellbeing of three generations—youth, their parents, and their children.

RESEARCH & PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Formative Assessment—Cross River State, Nigeria:

www.e2aproject.org/crs-ftp

FTP Snapshot—Burkina Faso:

e2aproject.org/ftp-snapshot-burkina-faso

Breaking Ground with First-Time Parents



We believe the meaningful participation of young people is essential in championing youth-responsive health and services.

Engaging Youth as Leaders



In Niger, E2A reached **8,000 young people** in university and community settings through our comprehensive behavior-change and reproductive health project. This **University Leadership for Change project** supported peer leaders at Niamey's Abdou Maimouni University to examine social and gender norms and improve reproductive health knowledge and attitudes among students. The program also expanded access to youth-friendly services at the university health center and in the surrounding community health facilities.

Building off the success of this project, peer leaders established an independent student-led association to ensure the sustainability of the program's approach. This youth-led association continues to support behavior change activities in university and community settings in Niamey and Zinder.

PROGRAM & RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Films for Behavior Change:

<https://youtu.be/IgUWB9EYVLQ>

ULC in Niger:

e2aproject.org/publication/ulc