

CCP'S LIFE PLANNING FOR ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH (LPAY) IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Overview

Initiated by the Johns Hopkins Centre for Communication Programs, Life Planning for Adolescents and Youth (LPAY) is an integrated, high-impact reproductive health program which targets young people (older adolescents – 15-19 years and youth – 20-24 years) at a time they begin to make potentially life-changing decisions that affect their sexual behaviour and reproductive health. A key LPAY strategy is to work with young people to build the knowledge and skills they need to make responsible life choices and healthy decisions about their reproductive health through life planning education. LPAY is currently being implemented in seven states in Nigeria through the Nigerian Urban Reproductive Health Initiative (NURHI 2) and The Challenge Initiative (TCI).

The broad objective of LPAY is to foster meaningful participation of young people in issues regarding their sexual and reproductive health expand their access to reproductive health information and services as well as basic life skills. Other objectives include to; delay age of first birth among young women, increase intention to use modern contraception among young people aged 15 – 24 years and increase healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy among adolescents and youth.

Approach

The overall approach is to work with governments at all levels and with youth-focused/youth-led organizations to scale up proven-to-work Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health (AYRH) approaches which lead to increased demand for reproductive health knowledge and services among young people. The LPAY strategy builds on current national and global best practices in youth programming, adaptations from CCP's global

AYSRH toolkit, and research findings, including recommendations from the Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) project, an independent organization which outlined NURHI 's impact on adolescents and youth.

Essentially, the LPAY approach is unique as it integrates vertically into the existing NURHI/TCI program areas of **Advocacy**, **Demand Generation** and **Service delivery** – while also building the agency of young people to make positive life choices through **Youth Development**.



Figure 1: The LPAY Approach: Advocacy(A), Demand Generation(D) and Service Delivery (S) are integrated into the NURHI ADS interlocking design

Advocacy: Create a supportive environment for meaningful participation of Adolescents and Youth in their health and well-being by ensuring that their needs and views are fully considered in all life planning issues.

Demand Generation: Increase demand for Life Planning information and services among adolescents and youth using an integrated communication strategy comprising social mobilization, media campaigns and entertainment education.

Service delivery: Remove barriers to young people's access to quality and youth-friendly services, including counselling.

Youth Development: Equip young people with basic life skills such as goal setting, assertiveness, communication, etc. while also building their confidence to aspire to their full desired potential through mentorship, entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

Research, Monitoring and Evaluation: Data collected (including key indicators such as life aspirations and life skills) is disaggregated to clearly explain the changes happening within the target group. Through an effective feedback mechanism, LPAY supports states to use data to refine AYRH/LPAY programs to meet targets and satisfy the life planning needs of young people while ensuring management systems are in place to improve/sustain the quality of health services provided to young people by service delivery points.

Step-by-Step Implementation

Formative Research: To better understand the AYRH landscape in the country, developing the LPAY strategy required reviewing existing data and conducting secondary analysis to determine the baseline for AYRH in Nigeria.

LPAY supported States to conduct desk and/or literature review of AYRH policies, a net-mapping of key factors and people who influence AYRH outcomes and, learning visits to youth focused/led organizations and institutions. This includes the mapping of youth clusters in states that signify interest in the AYRH Program. Informal focused group discussions are also conducted to ascertain activities that appeal to the various cadres of young people in the states as well as current supporters and funders of such activities.

Data from formative research is used to understand the policy environment on AYRH in implementing states, to inform the design of evidence-based interventions and advocate for scale up of high-impact practices and approaches.

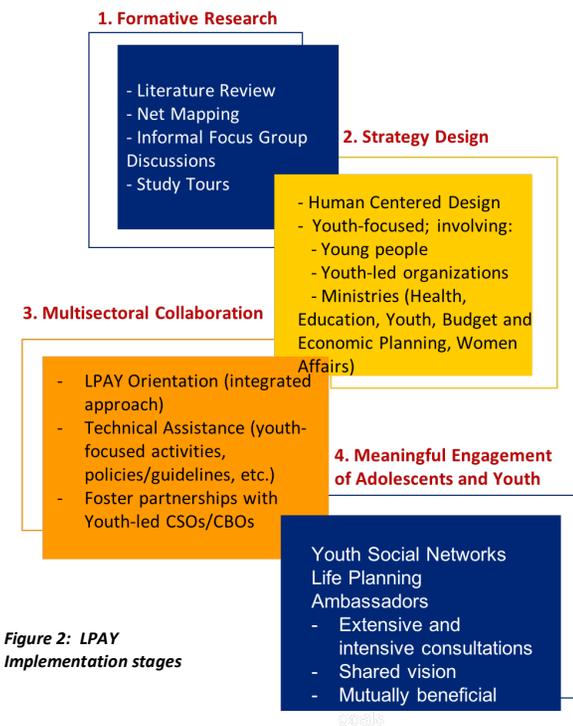


Figure 2: LPAY Implementation stages

Strategy Design: Designing an effective strategy requires co-creation with stakeholders, including those for which the program is being designed. The CCP LPAY strategy was developed using a Human Centered Design approach which involved young persons, representatives of youth led/focused organization/networks, the Federal ministries of Health, Education, Women Affairs & Social Development, Youth and Sports and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

Multisectoral Collaboration: Engagement with key line ministries and agencies in supported states to provide technical assistance on the integrated approach to AYRH programming is key to fostering collaboration between relevant line Ministries - Health, Education, Youths & Sports, Women & Social Development, Information and Budget & Economic Planning. The State Technical Working Group on Adolescent Health and Development (STWGAHD) serves as a viable platform for integration and ensuring ownership. Facilitating partnership between the State and Youth led/focused Civil Society Organizations in the implementation of AYRH activities also ensures that these activities are youth-focused, driven and led.

Meaningful Engagement of Adolescents and Youth: LPAY ensures that AYRH programs/activities are designed and implemented by young people, for young people. The team engages in extensive and intensive consultation with adolescents and youth in all stages of the program - from the formative research, design and implementation, to research, monitoring and evaluation processes.

In each implementation state, LPAY engages with the Adolescent Health Desk Officer (AHDO) who then serves as the interface between the program and the government. Through this partnership, the team supports the state government to engage vibrant, young people as life planning ambassadors (young people [male and female] between 15 and 35 years (putting into consideration country nuance) residing in the Intervention State and able to speak boldly on the priorities of young people in the State they represent. 30 Life Planning Ambassadors are selected per state to spotlight on the unique life planning needs of young people and bridge the gap between the state and their peers.

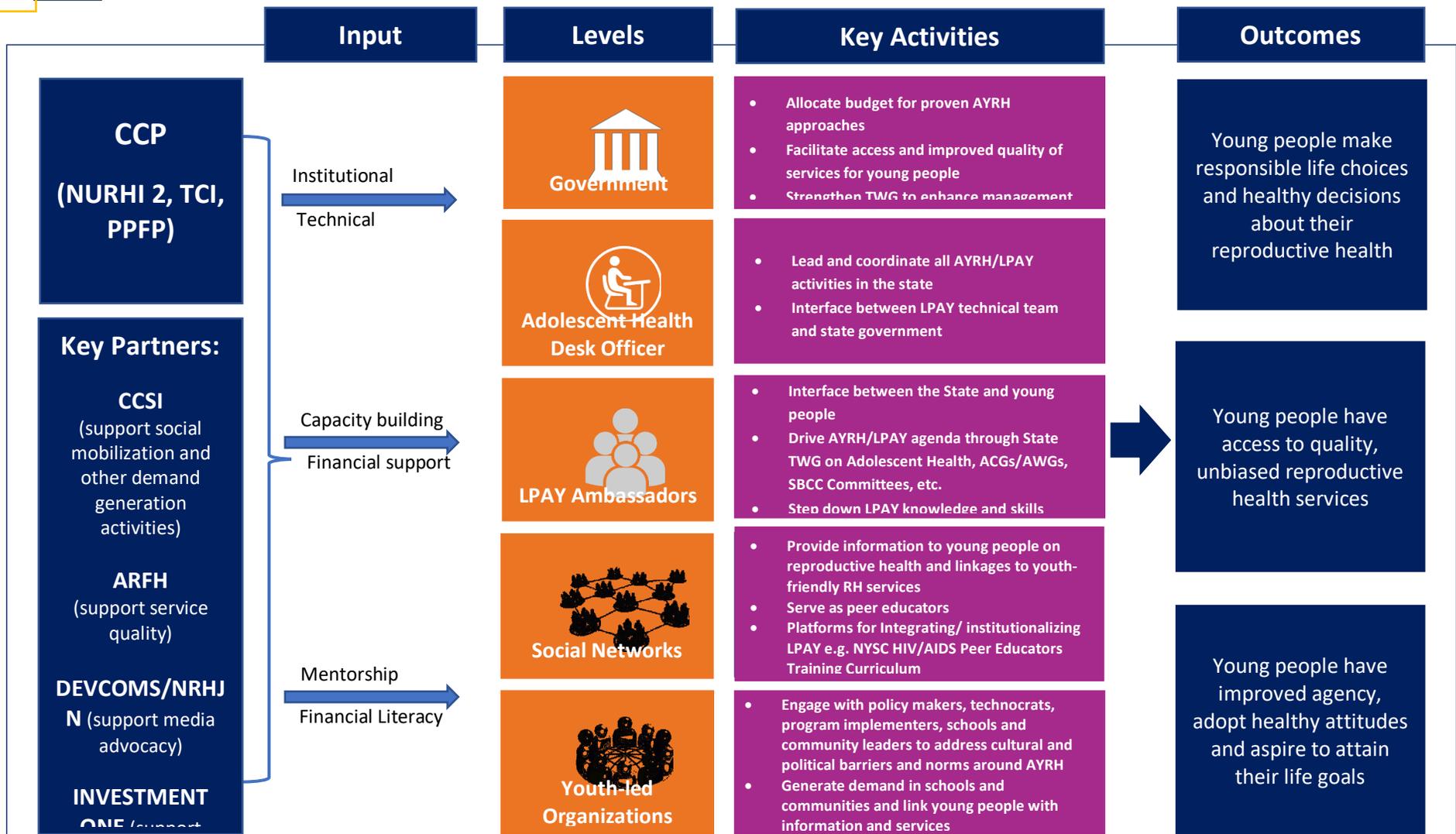
The team also partners with social networks as a platform to reach both in- and out-of-school young persons through the associations they belong to. Working with these networks helps to reach young people with correct information on reproductive, providing referral to youth-friendly RH services and also promoting social networks skills. Examples of such networks include:

-  Student Associations
-  National Youth Service Corps
-  Community Groups
-  Youth Groups
-  AYRH focused youth networks e.g. International Youth Alliance on Family Planning (IYAFF), African Youth and Adolescent Network on Population and Development (AfriYAN), Society for Adolescents and Young Persons in Nigeria (SAYPIN), etc.



THE LIFE PLANNING FOR ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH (LPAY) BUSINESS MODEL

Target Audience: Adolescents and Youth (15 to 24 years)



Use data to iterate, learn and adapt

Value Proposition:
 An integrated, innovative, evidence-based approach to AYSRH programming that actually meets the reproductive, developmental and social needs of young people. Strategies are co-created with young people and implemented by the government with technical support from CCP.