

# PROPEL Youth & Gender

Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers  
**Youth and Gender (PROPEL Youth and Gender) is a five-year USAID-funded project. PROPEL Youth and Gender uses policy, advocacy, health financing and governance approaches to improve family planning and gender equality outcomes and advances sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for women, men, and gender diverse individuals at all life stages.**



## PROPELLING Youth Empowerment:

Over one-third of the world's population, and more than two-thirds in sub-Saharan Africa, is under the age of 30. With the largest youth population ever, and amidst emerging challenges and opportunities—such as the urgent threat of climate change and the transformative potential of digital innovation—our focus must extend to meeting the health needs and ensuring the well-being of youth.

It is essential to collaborate with governments, civil society and communities to transform discriminatory systems and entrenched gender norms that hinder youth and gender-responsive health systems. These barriers systematically impede access to essential SRHR services for women and girls, men and boys, couples, and gender-diverse individuals. Addressing these inequalities demands the use of gender transformative<sup>1</sup> and positive youth development (PYD)<sup>2</sup> strategies that span multiple sectors while acknowledging the full diversity of individuals.



## PROPELLING Gender Equity & Equality:

Women, men, and gender-diverse individual throughout their lives should have the agency, social support, and supportive systems needed for their health and overall well-being to flourish. Central to this notion is the importance of bodily autonomy, policies and healthcare that prioritize client needs and gender awareness, and advocacy for SRHR alongside equitable health practices.



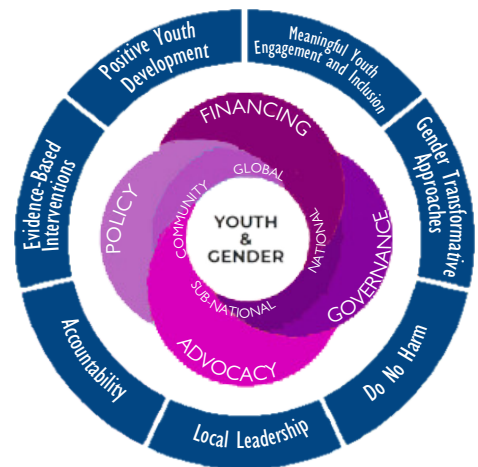
## PROPEL Youth and Gender's Approach:

PROPEL Youth and Gender aims to dismantle the root causes of gender inequity—by addressing policies, financing, institutions, and systems that perpetuate an unjust distribution of power, resources, and opportunities—and increase access to health information, services, and supplies.

PROPEL Youth and Gender takes an inclusive systems approach, engaging women, men and gender diverse individual at all life stages as active partners in contributing to and leading solutions.

PROPEL Youth and Gender provides technical assistance for policies, financing, governance and advocacy aimed to advance FP/RH and gender equality outcomes for improved SRHR outcomes and integration of other health areas. To strengthen the enabling environment, the project facilitates multi-sectoral linkages to address social, economic, and political determinants that impact health access and use.

The approach to technical assistance is grounded in seven key principles: 1) PYD; 2) meaningful youth engagement and inclusion; 3) gender transformative approaches; 4) do no harm; 5) local leadership; 6) accountability; 7) and evidence-based interventions. These principles underpin all the activities and interactions across the global program.



<sup>1</sup> Source: IGWG; Also see [2023 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, USAID](#).

<sup>2</sup> Source: [Youth in Development Policy, USAID](#)

# PROPEL *Youth & Gender*

**PROPEL Youth and Gender uses innovative, context-specific approaches to achieve results in four intermediate results areas:**



## **Gender transformative and youth-responsive policy development and implementation:**

- Catalyze locally-led policy solutions, ownership and action by fostering partnerships—including those with groups that are youth-led, women-led, and focused on gender equality—to advance policies.
- Support the development and implementation of SRHR policies that address gender and youth priorities, barriers, and other social determinants of health.
- Facilitate policy engagement among youth, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people living with HIV (PLHIV), people with disabilities (PWD), and other marginalized or stigmatized groups.



## **Optimized and sustainable health financing for improved youth and gender related outcomes:**

- Engage national actors to optimize, prioritize, expand, and sustain domestic resources for improved youth and gender related SRHR outcomes.
- Leverage social protection systems to accelerate inclusive, equitable, and gender transformative approaches.
- Surface private sector, digital health, and other local solutions to optimize financing systems.
- Develop models and estimate economic impacts of key youth and gender outcomes including child and early forced marriage and other forms of gender-based violence to increase domestic financing.



## **Enhanced and locally informed government stewardship, accountability, and transparency with engaging women, men, and gender diverse individuals of all life stages:**

- Strengthen systems that promote accountability and transparency related to SRHR for women, men, and gender diverse individuals all life stages.
- Support public and private institutions to employ effective, inclusive and equitable leadership with meaningful engagement of marginalized groups and youth.
- Build the capacity of youth and women-led and gender equality focused civil society organizations to strengthen transparency and accountability mechanisms.



## **Evidence-based advocacy approaches, including:**

- Assist advocates and governments at the global, national, and local levels in advancing their initiatives by providing technical assistance for leveraging data driven evidence and digital tools.
- Mobilize diverse opinion leaders, social influencers, and networks to strengthen data generation and synthesis to advance non-discrimination, inclusion, agency, and gender equality in decision-making.
- Scale up evidence-based advocacy approaches to transform youth and adolescent health and well-being through application of gender transformative and positive youth development approaches in all stages of policy process.

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## KEY FACTS

### Duration

September 2023 – 2028

### Total Budget

\$20M (Open to funds from all offices, bureaus, and missions)

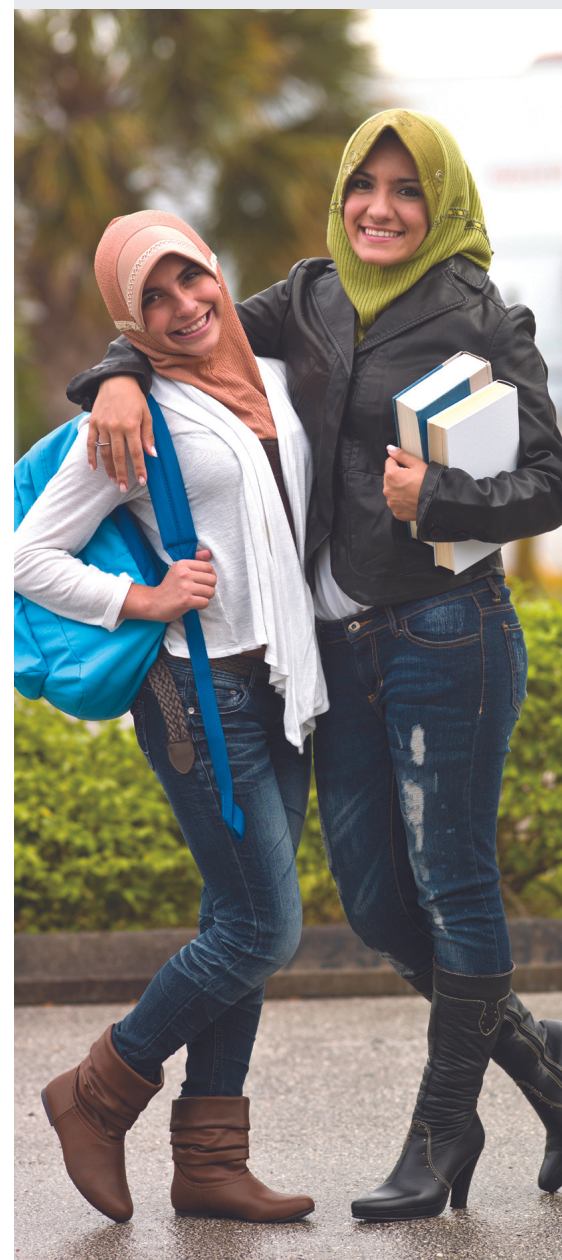
### Consortium Partners

International Youth Foundation

Palladium

Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs

CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality



Engage with  
**PROPEL Youth & Gender**

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