

**SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RIGHTS
AND JUSTICE FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH**

iyAFA
STRATEGIC PLAN
2021–2025



YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING DENIED THEIR **MOST BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS** AROUND THE WORLD

NICARAGUA **N**

NEWS

Nicaragua seeks to shut down country's oldest LGBTQ rights group

24 AUG 2021

T THAILAND

NEWS

Look, don't touch: Thai bars raided for trafficking child 'entertainers'

25 SEPT 2019

POLAND **P**

NEWS

Poland enforces controversial near-total abortion ban

28 JAN 2021

P PAKISTAN

NEWS

Father arrested over murder of trans daughter, 19, in Pakistan

01 JUL 2019

SOUTH AFRICA **S**

NEWS

Teen pregnancies in South Africa jump 60% during COVID-19 pandemic

23 AUG 2021



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ABOUT IYAFP

IYAFP takes the lead in advancing young people's sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice to achieve an equitable reality for all.

IYAFP is a trailblazer in the field of Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Justice (SRHRJ).

As one of few global organizations that exists for young people, entirely led by young people, we play a strategic role in elevating the voices of young people. We leverage youth energy, creativity and expertise to improve advocacy, and set a fully youth-led agenda.

Our values-driven community and geographic diversity positions us as a coordinating mechanism for global movement building in SRHRJ. The basis of our work lies in the fundamental human right of all young people to access their SRHRJ.

STATE OF THE FIELD

It is 2021 and young people across the world are still being denied access to their sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice by the perpetuation of unjust oppressive systems.

A compounding factor to this issue is that more than 20 years after the ladder of youth participation was conceptualized, our field is still yet to reach a state of authentic youth-adult partnership.

Ultimately, this means that not only are young people not accessing their SRHRJ, but leading or participating in advocacy to achieve their own SRHRJ is also not accessible.

The rights of young people are at risk and are already affected in the current global context. On the one hand, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected access to essential SRH services and rights.

On the other hand, the rising conservatism globally is putting at risk the progress already made in terms of recognition and access to SRHRJ.

Young people need to continue leading the response to ensure that human rights are fulfilled everywhere and promoting the progressive realization of human rights for all.

This scenario demands the strong and meaningful engagement of young people, an intersectional and gender-transformative approach, and an enabling environment that allows young people to exercise leadership, connect, share experiences and advocate together towards common goals.

Young people's realities do not place individual issues in siloes and IYAFP commits to working on comprehensive SRHRJ issues which encompasses everything from modern contraception to access to safe abortion and LGBTIQ+ rights. Addressing these issues together ensures that all young people are enabled to make informed choices about their bodies and lives — free of stigma, discrimination and coercion — and to have access to their essential human rights. They will be able to exercise their bodily autonomy, free from any form of sexual or reproductive oppression.

In 2020, with over half of the global population being under the age of 30, young people officially represent both the present and future of sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice for all.

Young people are taking action at the community, national, and global level to elevate the SRHRJ needs of all young people, and ensuring synergy between each level at which advocacy is conducted is the way forward.

THE TIME FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND ACTION IS NOW!



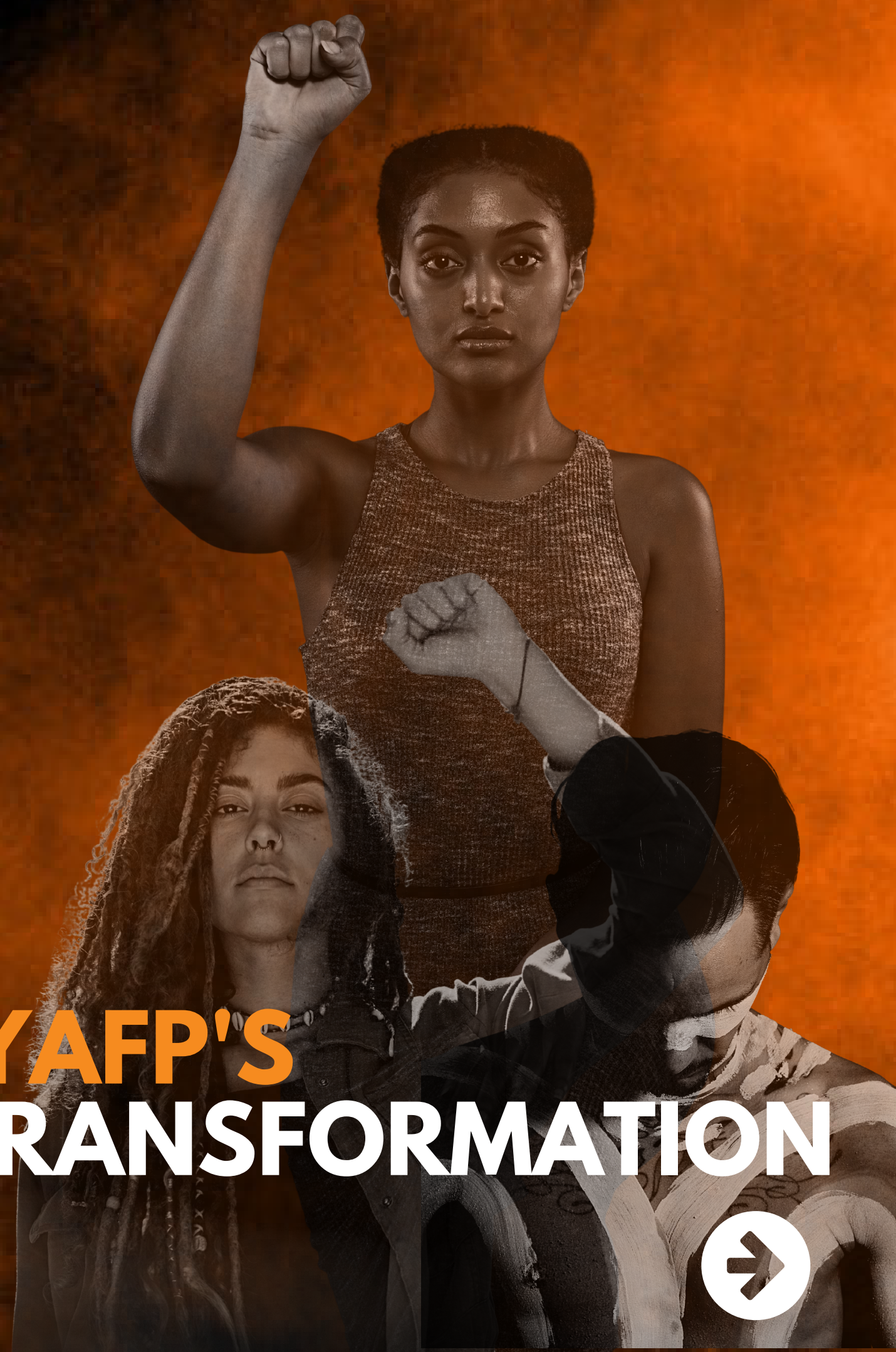
In 2020 the world witnessed the rise of a global pandemic that imposed significant challenges around the world and the re-emergence of the black liberation movement. These events have influenced all fields by transforming the ways of working of institutions, redefining priorities, and starting long-overdue conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion, and the decolonial horizon of the peoples of the Global South.

THE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR HAS BEEN NO EXCEPTION, EVEN THOUGH VERY LITTLE PRACTICAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR.

It is clear that the Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice (SRHRJ) community should not trail behind in pursuing the decolonial horizon within the SRHRJ space. For centuries, an imposed hierarchy of knowledge and power led to the dominance of Western or Westernized views and the hegemony of Eurocentrism. Decolonization is the call to human rights organizations, policymakers, implementers, donors and academics to open the space and share power, so that experience and knowledge of people from the Global South are shared, implemented, and considered to have an equal value to knowledge coming from the Western world.

Contesting dominant ideologies and practices is essential in this process, thus, rigorous spaces for debate need to be curated within our community. There is a pressing need to ensure that social movements are included in this process of advancing the decolonizing agenda.

IYAFP'S
TRANSFORMATION



This decolonial lens will help the SRHRJ community not only to change internally and the way organizations interact with and operate in the Global South. It will also help us understand the underlying causes of global issues affecting young people and communities today when it comes to gender equality and access to SRHRJ. Colonialism has had enormous influence in expanding and perpetuating patriarchy in communities in the Global South, where practices that have a colonial origin still remain.

Those ideas and reflections were the building blocks of the strategic planning process that took place at IYAAP and led us to start a transformation process as an organization that is continuously reflecting in its purpose and direction. After almost 8 years of learning by doing, working together across over 80 countries, monitoring and evaluating our impact, making connections with young advocates, establishing solid partnerships, and taking time to deeply reflect on what we achieved, our failures, and our opportunities and potential, we have decided to implement significant changes in our organization. IYAAP's transformation process just started and will extend until 2022.

As part of this transformation, at IYAAP we are expanding our scope of work. Starting in 2021, we will embrace, promote and advance the concept of Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice. We acknowledge that family planning and access to modern contraception remains essential, but in order to better address the needs of young people, we must adopt a holistic approach in our advocacy that encompasses the full spectrum of barriers that young people, in all their diversity, face when trying to access their SRHRJ. The intersectional identities of young people must not be overlooked and we commit to making every effort to continuously include more voices and experiences in our work, prioritizing those that are pushed behind by discriminatory, inequitable, and restrictive policies, programs, and interventions. These voices must be included in global development conversations.

We adopted new Values and Principles to guide our work everywhere. We believe in the power of building a values-driven community, a community where we are able to openly share experiences and ideas, learn from each other, collaborate and show solidarity, a community that adopts feminist ways of working, gender-transformative approaches and that allows each member to feel safe and valued.

Our values and principles will help us build a strong values-driven community of young human rights defenders that are at the forefront of the SRHRJ movement. We will promote and elevate the work of young human rights defenders and promote an enabling environment for their work.

Our community will also collaborate with other movements. We believe in cross-movement collaboration because we understand the intersections of multiple global issues.

We will work to establish collaboration with feminist movements, climate justice movements, and other social justice movements, and we will create spaces for connection and dialogue. For us, solidarity does not recognize geographic or thematic borders.

This holistic approach will allow IYAAP to better address the intersections of the multiple systems of oppression that are affecting young people everywhere. We will work with other organizations and movements to dismantle these systems of oppression. At the core of our new Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 is the idea of liberation. Young people have the right to enjoy their lives without the barriers imposed by socially constructed oppressive systems.

We adopted new strategic goals for the next five years. As a youth-led organization with limited resources, we decided to prioritize the achievement of specific goals that speak to our Theory of Change, our Mission and that are aligned with the transformation process of the organization. These goals set our priorities and will guide the investment of our resources, our partnerships, and our projects and activities. In essence, these goals include advocating for progressive international, regional, national and local commitments that promote, protect, and guarantee the rights of young people to access SRHRJ; building a strong values-driven community; building cross-movement collaboration; and strengthening IYAAP internally.

IYAAP was born in 2013 by a group of youth attendees to the International Conference on Family Planning in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with the mission of enabling youth from around the world to contribute a significant voice and lead community interventions and decisions on family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). IYAAP's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 sparks the start of a new chapter of our organization.

JOIN US IN THIS EXCITING JOURNEY, AND LET'S TOGETHER DISMANTLE THE OPPRESSIVE SYSTEMS THAT CONTINUE TO THRIVE.

**ALAN JARANDILLA NUÑEZ,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

THE STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS

IYAFP believes that when young people and their communities have power, agency, and a platform for meaningful engagement, transformative change happens.

In the latter half of 2019, IYAFP held multi-lingual focus group discussions with young people from 18 of its country chapters to document their SRHRJ priorities.

Country Coordinators facilitated each discussion by asking questions around subnational and global SRHRJ priorities, goals for 2025, their motivations as advocates, and the future of IYAFP.

We interviewed and gathered survey responses from 35 Country Coordinators to solidify data provided during the focus group discussions. A separate set of qualitative data was collected by interviewing external stakeholders from across SRHRJ landscape, including donors, INGOs, and civil society allies.

This stakeholder analysis shed light on IYAFP's perceived impact, its value as a partner, weaknesses, the role of youth in SRHRJ, and the collective vision for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice (SRHRJ) by 2025. The information gathered from our community; Country Coordinators, and external stakeholders was synthesized to produce country snapshots and a stakeholder analysis report and laid the foundation for our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

245 PARTICIPANTS

**40 STAKEHOLDER
INTERVIEWS**

**20 FOCUS GROUP
DISCUSSIONS**

40 COUNTRIES



The logo for IYAFA (International Youth Alliance for Family Planning) is displayed on a dark blue arrow-shaped sign pointing to the right. The letters 'IYAFA' are in white, with a stylized orange figure above the 'Y'.

2021-2025

A red poster with the IYAFA logo at the top. Below the logo, the text "HER BODY HER CHOICE" is written in white. At the bottom of the poster is an illustration of three women in pink clothing, one of whom is holding a baby.

HER BODY
HER CHOICE

"I want to see a country where sexual rights are part of human rights. And I want to see a country where people should converse about family planning and sexual health freely, just as any other [...] issue."
- IYAFA Ethiopia Volunteer

IYAFA's PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

- We are committed to the power of youth leadership, youth-led accountability and full agency for all youth and adolescents.
- We are compassionate and progressive young leaders who are unashamedly pro-choice, feminist and pro-LGBTIQ+.
- We strive for continuous evaluating, learning and evolving.



LEARN ABOUT OUR VALUES AND PRINCIPLES & HOW THEY GUIDE US IN JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING WE DO

OUR CORE VALUES

- We care about centering the perspectives of marginalized and oppressed individuals and groups and dismantling stigma, discrimination, and hatred.
- We courageously challenge social norms.
- We believe in decolonized models of work, equitable collaboration and participatory decision-making whilst ensuring transparency and inclusivity.

TRANSPARENCY

INTEGRITY

OWNERSHIP

INCLUSIVITY

JUSTICE

COLLABORATION

OUR MISSION

IYAFP takes the lead in advancing young people's sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice to achieve an equitable reality for all.

OUR VISION

A world where every single young person has their sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice realized.



STRATEGIC GOALS 2021 - 2025

*Sexual
Reproductive Health
Rights
Justice*

The logo for IYAFA (International Young Adults Forum for Africa) is located in a white circle on the right side of the graphic. It consists of the letters 'IYAFA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with two orange dots above the 'Y'.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1

ADVOCACY

Young human rights defenders influence policies to advance, protect and defend Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Justice at all levels.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

COMMUNITY

A values-driven community of connected young human rights defenders that are at the forefront of SRHRJ decision-making in policy settings.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3

MOVEMENT BUILDING

A united set of young human rights defenders commits to fighting systems of oppression and spur a global movement.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4

SUSTAINABILITY

IYAFA is a fully sustainable and resilient organization with predictable funding and maintains an open and actively decolonial and anti-racist culture guided by the organizational values.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1

ADVOCACY

Young human rights defenders influence policies to advance, protect and defend Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Justice at all levels.

IYAFP will work tirelessly to defend and protect SRHRJ from the global backlash from conservative governments and anti-rights groups that aim to undermine historical gains in access to fundamental human rights. We will continue to condemn the rampant disregard of the needs and access to sexual reproductive health services and commodities for young people in varying parts of the world, and through our network of young human rights defenders, we will continue to advance the Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Justice of young people locally, nationally, regionally and globally.

We will focus our efforts further in: (1) working to abolish laws that actively deny access to SRHRJ for young people, (2) holding governments accountable to international commitments that have been made, both recently and in the past, (3) advocating for the incorporation of progressive and inclusive language that leaves no one behind in policies, laws, and international instruments, (4) influencing local and national policies that expand equitable and universal access to SRHRJ for young people through meaningful adolescent and youth engagement, and finally, (5) centering the needs and expertise from young people from the Global South and promoting decolonial approaches in the development field.





STRATEGIC GOAL 2

COMMUNITY

A values-driven community of connected young human rights defenders that are at the forefront of SRHRJ decision-making in policy settings.

IYAFA commits to continuing the strengthening of its values-driven community of young human rights defenders. The intersectional identities of young people make it essential to create a safe and welcoming space that embraces feminist ways of working. We will make efforts to include as part of our community young people in all their diversity, especially young people from the Global South, and those from traditionally marginalized communities.

We will foster a community that feels the true ownership of the SRHRJ agenda, and one that participates in decision making spaces related to SRHRJ, through continued facilitated engagement and conversations, that connects and fosters collaboration, knowledge sharing and that ingrains a stronger sense of solidarity within young people that transcends through borders, identities, abilities and disabilities.

IYAFA will elevate the work of young human rights defenders in the SRHRJ field and beyond. We will fight against the barriers and threats that aim to limit their ability to defend basic human rights, and place them at risk.

A united set of young human rights defenders commits to fighting systems of oppression and spur a global movement.

IYAFP with our existing network and reach, is well positioned to convene a global SRHRJ movement to dismantle sexual and reproductive oppression.

By working with other youth-led organizations, international non-governmental organizations, donors, and other institutions, IYAFP can create opportunities for collaboration, coordination, alignment, and can amplify global efforts to fight for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice.

IYAFP aims to promote cross-movement efforts by creating spaces for open dialogue and cooperation, and showing solidarity with other movements as it is critical to address the multiple systems of oppression that affect young people globally. By working together with feminist, climate justice, and other organizations, IYAFP will be able to spur radical collective action to dismantle systems of oppression through a holistic approach.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3

MOVEMENT BUILDING



STRATEGIC GOAL 4

SUSTAINABILITY

IYAFP is a fully sustainable and resilient organization with predictable funding and maintains an open and actively decolonial and anti-racist culture guided by the organizational values.

As a youth-led organization, IYAFP needs and intends to keep strengthening our internal culture, systems and achieve financial sustainability, which will allow for our work to continue to thrive with an anti-racist, and a decolonized approach within the field of Sexual Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice.

We will continue to collaborate with partners and donors to ensure the sustainability of our operations and projects, and to allow them to be planned based on long-term predictable funding.

We will continue to enhance our financial systems to ensure compliance with legal and donor requirements.





**SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RIGHTS
AND JUSTICE FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH**

IYAFA
STRATEGIC PLAN
2021–2025

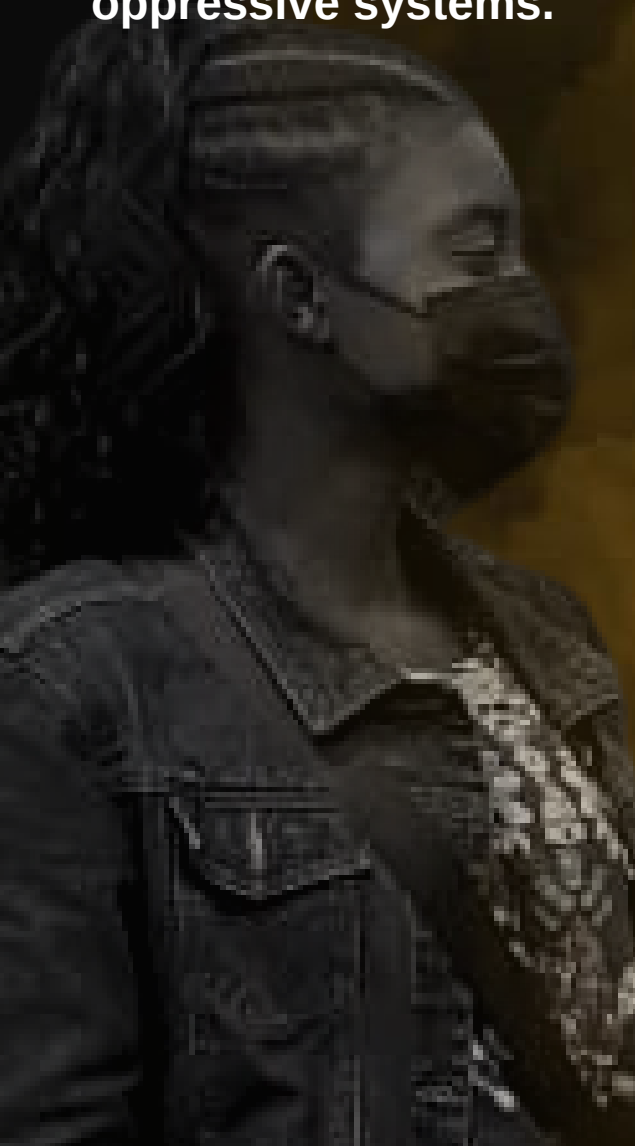
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IYAFA

THEORY OF CHANGE

THE PROBLEM

Young people across the world are denied access to their sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice by the perpetuation of unjust oppressive systems.



HOW WILL WE TRANSFORM OPPRESSIVE SYSTEMS AND ADVANCE SRHRJ?



Building a strong values-driven community



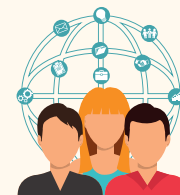
Elevating the voice and expertise of young people in SRHRJ



Global movement building in SRHRJ



Fully youth-led agenda setting



Local-Global Synergy in our advocacy



OUTCOME

THE TRANSFORMATION OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT OBSTRUCT ACCESS TO SRHRJ FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH YOUTH-LED ACTION.



VISION

A WORLD WHERE EVERY SINGLE YOUNG PERSON HAS THEIR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RIGHTS AND JUSTICE REALIZED.