

# GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES IN ADOLESCENTS HIV AND SUSTAINABILITY IN CURRENT FUNDING LANDSCAPE

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DRMCH - MOH





# Presentation Outline

- Background
- NAIIA
- PrEP implementation status
- Challenges on funding landscape



# Roles of Ministry of Health in adolescent health and wellbeing

The Ministry of Health plays critical roles in promoting and implementing adolescents health to ensure ARH of Adolescents are met, key roles include;

- Policy development and implementation
- Service delivery and access
- Coordination and partnership
- Health promotion and education
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Addressing key challenges



# Background

Adolescents in Tanzania face a myriad of health and social risks as they grow up, and often these risks are associated with household and community- level poverty

- These risks range from nutritional deficiencies, sexually transmitted infections (HIV), violence, early marriage e.t.c
- Sexual debut between 12% and 13% of young women and young men, respectively had sex before the age of 15 years.
- Sexual debut between 41% and 66% for both males and females, respectively, at the age of 18 years.
- Young people who initiate sex at an early age are typically at higher risk of becoming pregnant and contracting sexually transmitted infections.



# Background cont..

- Sexual activity starts early, Median age at first intercourse is 17 years for girls, 18 years' boys
- By age 18, 66% of women are already sexually active ,by age 20, 86% sexually active
- Adolescent pregnancy and childbearing -about 22% of women (15-19 years) are mothers and 45% of those aged 19 years.
- The HIV prevalence among adolescents aged 15-24 years had a 3-fold higher prevalence of HIV (2.4%) than men (0.6%) of the same age.
- New HIV infection 2022, 60,000  $\frac{3}{4}$  were adolescents

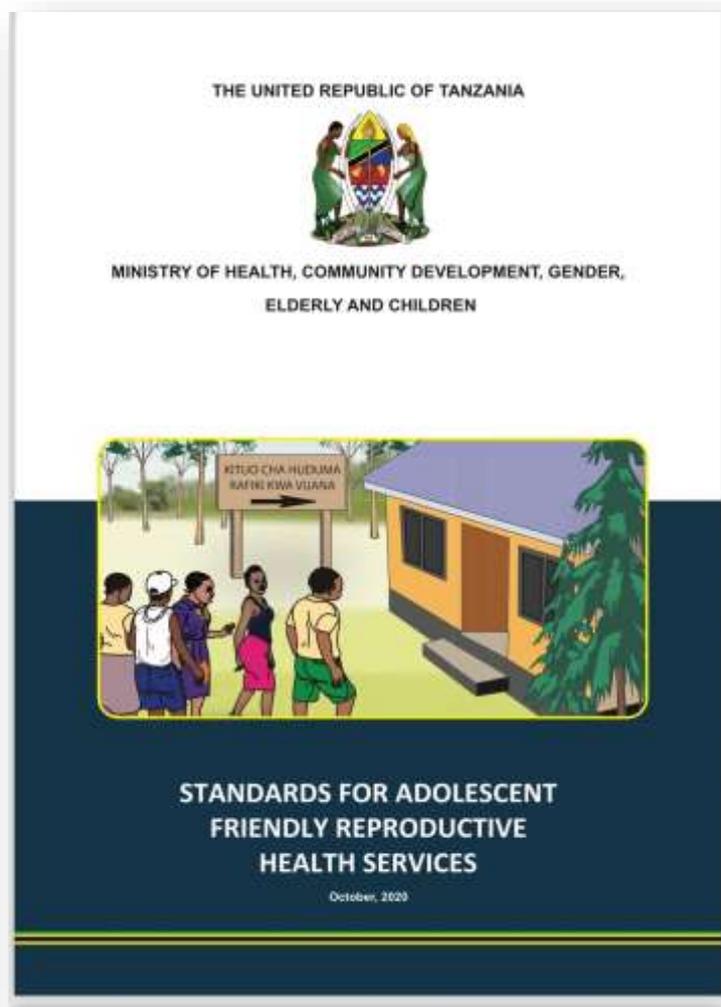


# National Initiatives and Strategies

- The National AIDS, STIs, and Hepatitis Control Programme (NASHCoP) serves as the primary policy-making body for HIV and AIDS in Tanzania.
- NASHCoP provides information on HIV, and other STI's align with global targets such as UNAIDS to prevent new infections among adolescents.
- Tanzania employs a combination of preventive services, including PMTCT, VMMC, PrEP, condom promotion, harm reduction, and cash transfer scheme to empower adolescents and young people from poor families.



# Guidance on AYSRH Services



- ❑ MOH has developed several guidance
  - HSSP V
  - One Plan III
  - National Standard for AYFHS
  - NAIA- AHW
  - ASRH SS & Standards Assessment Tool
- ❑ Other documents include produced;
  - Higher learning institutions framework
  - SBC Strategy for adolescent & youth



# International Adolescents-linked legal and policy frameworks that Tanzania has subscribed to

Framework	Ratified, Signed, or Acceded	Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989)-outlines the responsibilities of duty bearers towards children; children have a right to care and support (regardless of children's nationality, gender, social situation, economic situation, health status). The CRC General Comment No. 20 (December 2016) specifies the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence</li> </ul>	Ratified	10 Jun 1991
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The organization of African Unity Charter on the rights and Welfare of the Child</li> </ul>	Ratified	11 Nov 2004
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography</li> </ul>	Ratified	24 Apr 2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tanzania collaborates with Africa regional bodies and member states in ensuring effective implementation of the revised Maputo Plan of Action 2016-2030 on sexual and reproductive health, which is in line with Africa Agenda 2063 that calls for inclusive growth and sustainable development for prosperous Africa</li> </ul>		2016- 2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tanzania is committed to achieving Gender Equality and Equity, guided by the Global Convention on eliminating all forms of discrimination against Women and Children (CEDAW)</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Accelerated Action &amp; Investments Agenda for Adolescent Health &amp; Well being 2021/22-2025/26</li> </ul>		2021/22-2025/2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The One Plan 'RMNCAH III'(2021-2025)</li> </ul>		2021- 2025

# International Partnerships and Commitments

- Tanzania has joined 12 other Sub-Saharan African countries in launching the **Education Plus initiative**, a five year program (2021-2025) aimed at empowering adolescent girls and young women.
  - The initiative focuses on reducing new HIV infections through education and empowerment, recognizing that keeping girls in secondary school helps protect them from acquiring the diseases.
- Tanzania is also implementing **DREAMS Initiative** since 2016



# Global Alliance

- A strategy to end AIDS in children/Adolescents by 2030, achieved through a strong, strategic and action-oriented alliance of multi-sectoral stakeholders at national, regional and global levels that works with women living with HIV and their families, national governments and partners to mobilize leadership, funding and action.



# The work of global alliance is aligned to four pillars

i

**Early testing and optimized comprehensive, high quality treatment and care for infants, children, and adolescents living with and children exposed to HIV**

ii

**Closing the treatment gap for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV and optimizing continuity of treatment**  
towards the goal of elimination of vertical transmission

iii

**Preventing and detecting new HIV infections among pregnant and breastfeeding adolescents and women and**

iv

**Addressing rights, gender equality and the social and structural barriers that hinder access to services**



# NAIA Implementation Status

- Report on the implementation of the national agenda for investing in adolescent health and development for the period July 2022 – June 2024
- Considering priority interventions and investments that will enable young people to participate in productive activities and ultimately have a strong nation,
- NAIA has focused on 6 main pillars and interventions that have the potential to bring significant results within a short period of time; opportunities



# NAIA –AHW Six pillars; each is critical to adolescent health and wellbeing, defined by a specific objective

Six pillars were selected to anchor this work because they represent:

1 Issues where adolescents are disproportionately affected



2 Areas where interventions are limited in their specific targeting of adolescents, and/or are not at scale



# PILLAR 1 (HIV Prevention)

- Community HIV education has been achieved in 14 out of 52 councils, equivalent to 27%
- HIV testing services 2,637,674 out of 2% were diagnosed with infection and 98 percent were linked to treatment and care services
- Behavior change communication; Jikubali, Timiza malengo, health bonanza, na furaha yangu
- Community Health workers 8,589 (113%) were capacitated for community-level service providers Cross-cutting HIV prevention services



# Pillar no 2; Preventing Teenage Pregnancies

- Early pregnancy is associated with a significantly increased risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as increased neonatal mortality.
- However, national statistics show that the prevalence of pregnancy among adolescents (10-15 years) is 22 percent, with rural residents being more affected (25%) than urban areas.
- Parental education continued to influence the increase in pregnancy, with girls with no education being more affected (53%) than those with secondary education or higher (9%).



# Preventing teenage pregnancies

Youth Friendly Reproductive Health Services: Towards the goal of strengthening youth friendly services, the Government and stakeholders have continued to focus on the goal of achieving 80% of facilities providing AYFSRH by 2025, Activities implemented;

- Increased number of AYSRH facilities
- Increased no of Health care providers trained on AYSRH
- Strengthened collaboration among stakeholders of Adolescents
- Development of orientation package for higher learning institutions and tertiary colleges



# PrEP Status

- The GoT through MoH ( NASHcop) is implementing the 2021 framework of Oral PrEP, available at the Health facilities, the program is intended for the population at high risks of acquiring HIV, including adolescents who meets the eligibility criteria.
- Carbotegravir (injectable PrEP) formative research is going on to get comments from stakeholders on the best way of implementing, the results will determine mode of implementation
- The Lenacapavir (Injectable PrEP), as conducted in Uganda and SA the result of the clinical trial is promising, as no participants received lenacapavir who acquired HIV infection



# PrEP cont..

- Lenacapavir is not licensed for use in Tanzania yet, as country there is an opportunity for considering implementation science prior to their approval, the same way we introduced oral PrEP
- The national HIV prevention roadmap speaks to creating an environment for swift introduction of these evident driven options



- ❑ Digital Health Tools: Ethical considerations in using technology for HIV prevention and care for adolescents
- ❑ Specific policies on digital health ethics are still developing, the integration of these tools is being approached with consideration for ethical standards, data privacy, and user confidentiality
- ❑ Collaborations with stakeholders aim to build capacity and infrastructure to support the ethical implementation of digital health solutions



# Key Challenges Issues / Gaps in Adolescents Programming in Tanzania

- Inadequate budget allocations and health insurance coverage negatively affect funding for adolescent health services
- Fragmented service delivery
- Diverse needs of Adolescents are not adequately addressed
- Inadequate program and M&E capacity at the regional and council levels
- Inadequate coverage of adolescent issues in policies.
- Inadequate coordination of adolescent health issues
- Limited access to Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health services
- Gender inequality in education is still prevalent, characterized by challenges including early pregnancies, gender-based violence (GBV), and harmful gender norms such as overbearing domestic responsibilities for girls
- Re-entry program for students who drop out is not well adopted as its implementation is still hindered by self stigma, infrastructure, and attitude barriers



# Challenges and Funding Landscape

- Despite these efforts, challenges remains, still adolescents are reported to acquire HIV infections , in 2022/2023 (THIS) reported 20,000 new HIV infections among individuals aged 15- 24, with women being disproportionately affected.
- The prevalence is high we in urban areas (7.5%) compared to rural areas (4.5%). With region like Njombe (12.7%) and Iringa (11.1%) experiencing the highest rates.



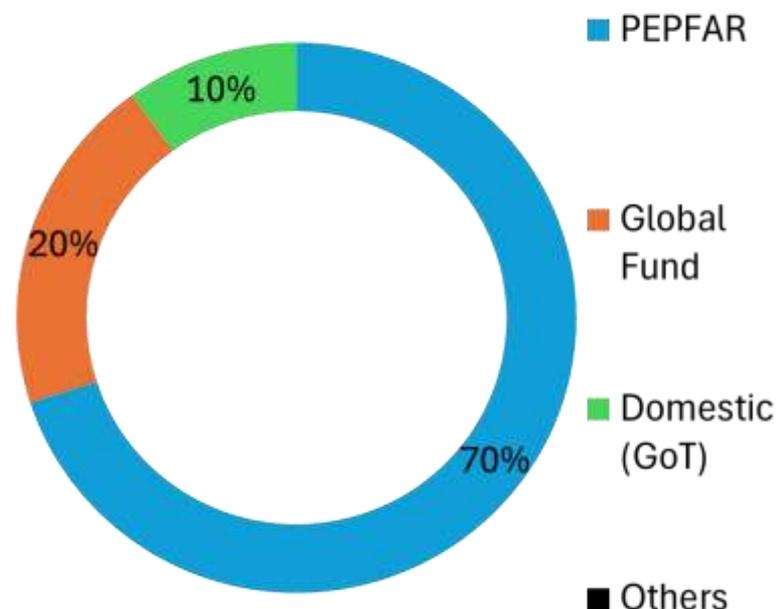
# Challenges and Funding landscape

- Sustainable funding remains a critical concern. While international partnerships and initiatives provide essential support,
- Ensuring consistent and adequate funding is vital for the continued success of HIV prevention and treatment programs targeting adolescents including domestic investments.
- Collaborations with organizations which uses sports and digital innovation to promote education, health, and gender equality among Tanzanian youth, exemplify community-based efforts to address these challenges.



# Financing Landscape - Tanzania

- Adolescents interventions are significantly supported by HIV programs
- >90% of HIV Financing is External (2 largest sources are PEPFAR & Global Fund)
  - PEPFAR provides the biggest support
  - Global Fund is the second contributor
  - GoT finances >10%
- Understanding the current allocations of funding, The Go has developed the National sustainability framework which is having the clear roadmap towards sustainability of services



Source: \* RADAR, 2023;

\*\*UNAIDS, 2023

# Mitigating Changes in the Funding landscape

The Government of Tanzania through Ministry of Health has integrated HIV services with ASRH;

- National Operation Guide for Integration (NOGI) of RMNCAH and HIV revised in 2023
- The ASRH supportive supervision tool has been reviewed and updated to integrate HIV services to ensure PrEP and other preventive services are available at the ASRH services center and every adolescent has access to it, this also includes; nutrition, mental health.
- Assessments conducted in 700 health facilities, and performance improvement plans developed



# Conclusion

- Tanzania's government, in collaboration with international partners, is actively prioritizing HIV prevention and treatment among adolescents.
- Efforts focus on education, empowerment, and accessible healthcare services.
- However, sustained funding and targeted interventions are essential to overcome existing challenges and achieve long-term success in reducing HIV infections among Tanzanian adolescents.



# Thank you



# Why Strengthen SRH/HIV Integration in the Current ASRH SS and Std Assx Tool



- Teenage Pregnancies & HIV Infections Among AGYW Share Common Risk Factors/ Drivers
  - › Untoward social and gender norms
  - › Gender-based violence/ IPV
  - › Poverty
  - › Transactional sex
  - › Exploitation/ trafficking



- AGYW and ABYM seeking SRH services (ANC, PNC, PAC, FP, VMMC, etc.) **MUST** be provided with HIV education and prevention services



- AGYW and ABYM seeking HIV services (HTS, Care & Treatment) **MUST** be provided with SRH education and services
- Integration of SRH & HIV Prevention (Policy, Health Systems & Service Delivery) is Paramount