

## Youth Advocates in Action

The Youth Advocates in Action project is a European wide project led by YouAct and WPF (The World Population Foundation) and funded by the Summit Foundation. The project is in it's final stages and has up until now seen training of youth advocates in 6 European Member countries. The training was an opportunity for the youth participants to gain a greater understanding of SRHR issues, the situation in the Global South and to lead on the design, development and implementation of an advocacy strategy. This resulted in a Joint European Youth statement on SRHR in the Global South and Development Aid that was signed by a number of organisations and young people from across Europe. Upcoming activities for the Youth Advocates in Action project include a Factsheet on ICPD +15 and meetings with MEPS. Please see the following link to read the Joint European Statement:

<http://www.yaid.org.cy/site/on-line-action-day/>

### POSITION

**YAINA stands for Youth Advocates in Action.**

It is a collection of working groups of young people from 7 European Countries, advocating for the increase of available funding within the European Development Fund in issues relating to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of youth in the Global South / Developing countries. For the goal to be achieved YAINA is contacting you as a candidate member of the European Parliament.

**MDG 1: Eradication of Poverty** - Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women is thus a prerequisite for eradicating poverty, promoting sustained economic growth, [www.yaid.org.cy/links/development](http://www.yaid.org.cy/links/development) and achieving balance between population and available resources" ICPD Chapter II.

**MDG 3: Provision of Gender equality and empowerment of women** - "Governments should promote equal participation of women and men in all areas of family and household responsibilities, including, among others, responsible parenthood, sexual and reproductive behaviour, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and shared control in and contribution to family income and children's welfare." ICPD Chapter IV.

**MDG 3: Provision of Gender equality and empowerment of women** - ICPD Chapter VII argues that the development of responsible sexuality permits relations of equity and mutual respect between genders. It should be ensured that both genders have access to information, education and services on SRHR both at childhood and adulthood. Emphasis must also be given to protection of women, youth and children from sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence.

**MDG 4: Reduction of child mortality** - "All countries should reduce mortality and morbidity and seek to make primary health care, including reproductive health care, universally available by the end of the current decade." ICPD Chapter VII.

**Y-AID? Why AID?**

- Almost 50% of world population is controlled by youth under the age of 25.
- 82 million girls aged 10-17 in developing countries will be married before they reach 18 years of age.
- 14 million girls aged 15-19 will give birth every year.
- 500,000 women die each year by complications related to pregnancy and childbirth.
- 58 per cent of them in developing countries.
- Two thirds of the global HIV/AIDS people with HIV/AIDS live in the sub-Saharan area of Africa.
- Three quarters of all AIDS deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa in 2007.

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) are vital for the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Four out of the eight goals set up as MDGs are related to SRHR, directly or indirectly. This can be further supported by the decisions of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the decisions taken by all UN member states.

**Goal 1:** Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

**Goal 2:** Achieve Universal Primary Education

**Goal 3:** Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

**Goal 4:** Reduce child mortality

**Goal 5:** Improve maternal health

**Goal 6:** Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

**Goal 7:** Ensure Environmental Sustainability

**Goal 8:** Develop a Global Partnership for Development

**MDG 4: Reduction of child mortality** - "Target the underlying socioeconomic causes of child mortality such as mothers' access to reproductive health, education and employment."

**MDGs Targets**

**MDG 5: Improvement of Maternal Health** - SRHR are directly related to this goal. ICPD in Chapter VII, calls all governments to expand the provision of maternal health services as primary health. Measures should be embarked to prevent, detect and manage high-risk pregnancies, especially those of adolescents. Measures should also be taken to ensure that women share responsibility for sexual and reproductive health.

**MDG 5: Improvement of Maternal Health** - The ICPD recognizes that abortion should in no case be promoted as a method of family planning and for this calls upon countries to develop measures of prevention of unwanted pregnancies through education, access to information and family planning. Moreover, governments should ensure abortions are safe for maternal health.

**MDG 5: Improvement of Maternal Health** - "Provide sufficient financing to strengthen health systems, particularly for maternal, obstetric and other reproductive health services" and "ensure that procurement and distribution of contraception, drugs and equipment are functioning and increase access to contraception and sexual and reproductive health counselling for both men, women and adolescents" MDGs Target 1.

**MDG 5: Improvement of Maternal Health** - "Establish dedicated national programmes to reduce maternal mortality and ensure universal access to reproductive health care, including family planning services" MDGs Target 2.

**MDG 6: Combat of HIV/AIDS and other transmissible diseases** - The ICPD recognizes that in order to combat HIV/AIDS access to information and education, are essential. Measures for prevention of the spreading of the disease must be ensured.

**We, the group YAINA call for:**

- All actors to work for the increase of funding of the European Development Fund of issues relating to SRHR of youth in the Global South.
- All actors to include SRHR as one of the priorities of the European Development Fund.
- The commitment and enforcement of all necessary actions to achieve the agreed global development targets, particularly those stated in the Cairo Programme of Action and the Millennium Development.

**YAID ?**

As a member of the European Parliament you will have the possibility and power to vote over the Official Development Aid budget allocations and lobby to ensure that a larger percentage is allocated for SRHR.