



Session 73 Vulnerable youth and SRHR

NWO-WOTRO sponsored Policy Roundtable at the 8th African Population Conference

November 19th, Tuesday 2019 17:30-19:00

Draft Concept Note

Background

25 years after Cairo, the African continent's youthful population (about 41% of the continent's population was under age 15 in 2017) is one of the key agents for sustainable development. The roundtable specifically focuses on the vulnerable youths and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

The SRHR Research Programme of NWO-WOTRO manages calls for proposals on identified thematic areas and knowledge gaps by the Knowledge Platform for SRHR, which is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The first call for proposals for the [SRHR research programme](#) was launched in November 2014. The programme has invested 6 million euros in SRHR research in Bangladesh, Burundi and Jordan collectively, funding twelve projects, three of which are in Burundi.

The SRHR research programme aims to generate insights in, and a better understanding of, processes that determine and strengthen the sexual and reproductive health of people, as well as their ability to claim their sexual and reproductive rights. The programme strives to contribute to improving and innovating SRHR policies and practices, with a special focus on empowering young people and key populations as specified by the calls.

Objectives of the roundtable

The purpose of the roundtable is to bring together the various stakeholders involved in addressing vulnerable youth and SRHR and to have an open and frank conversation on the main challenges that are affecting this target group and to identify synergies and opportunities of collaboration. The stakeholders include policymakers, civil society organisations, practitioners, and researchers. The vulnerable youth includes youth with disability, school-based youth, refugee youth, and at-risk female youth. The roundtable discussion is also designed to allow an exchange of good practices and experiences in the field of SRHR, based on regional perspectives. It will result in the development of policy recommendations that can guide in setting common agendas and jointly tackle the main challenges related to addressing vulnerable youths and SRHR in Africa.

Guiding questions

The overarching questions of the roundtable discussion are as follows:

How can sexual and reproductive health and rights programs better target vulnerable youth populations? How can research help?

Format

Total duration : 1 hour 30 minutes

Welcome remarks (5 minutes): Gerrie Tuitert (NWO-WOTRO Secretariat)

Co-chair: Introductory remarks (5 minutes): Rolla Khadduri (NWO-WOTRO Knowledge Facilitator Quality Advisor, [AmplifyChange](#) Fund Director)

Co-chair: Main speaker to introduce the theme (10 minutes): Safia Nalule Juuko ([Parliament of Uganda](#))

Panel discussion (30 minutes)

NWO project team representative will be paired with a representative from a CSO/implementing agency working with a common target group and hold a discussion

- **Youth with disability** (10 minutes): Gervais Beninguisse (IFORD, [NWO project coordinator](#)) AND Connie Kekihembo ([Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation Uganda](#))
- **Refugee youth** (10 minutes): Stella Neema (Makerere University, [NWO project member](#)) AND TBC
- **At-risk female youth** (10 minutes): Esther Leah Achandi (University of Dar es Salaam, [NWO project member](#)) AND Harris Namutebi ([Network for Community Development](#))

Open discussion from the floor (30 minutes)

Closing remarks (5 minutes) Safia Nalule Juuko and Rolla Khadduri

[NWO](#) : NWO is The Dutch Research Council. As a national research organisation with an active contribution to various parts of the national science and innovation policies, NWO plays different roles: financing, programming, bringing together, supporting and influencing.

[NWO-WOTRO](#) : NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development, which is one of the NWO Programmes domains, funds and monitors innovative research on global issues, with a focus on sustainable development and poverty reduction. NWO-WOTRO's research projects are realised by interdisciplinary teams of researchers from the North and South and in close collaboration with non-academic stakeholders. These partnerships yield solutions for development challenges and strengthen the bridge between research, policy and practice.