Collaborating on research-based animations for adolescent safer abortion: A conversation between researchers, creative artists, and non-governmental program staff

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ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Integrating child rights standards in contraceptive and abortion care for minors in Africa

A research project: To compare how adolescent abortionrelated care-seeking differs across a range of socio-legal national contexts: Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia

- ✓ Academic articles
- ✓ Policy briefs
- ✓ Graphics
- ✓ Presentations



"I made up my mind to abort, so I was ready to risk it all whether it meant dying." [Malawi, 18y]

"I was sure that either it would terminate the pregnancy or it would kill me and I preferred dying than my family hearing what happened and get angry with me." [Ethiopia, 19y]

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"I feel like a weight has been lifted off me" [Malawi, 19y]

"I want to go to school, I don't want to play with my life" [Zambia, 17y]

"I was scared and lost hope. But now thanks to God I'm happy" [Ethiopia, 19y]

"After hundreds of hours reading transcripts of adolescents' fears, hopes, and dreams, we felt the weight of something unique in size and scope. We also felt the weight of our failure to consider our responsibility to them."

(Researcher)

### We needed:

+ Funding
+ Expertise in internet-based visual communications
+ Approach involving adolescents











"I wanted to be involved in this work because as someone who identifies as feminist and female, access to safe abortions is a subject that is key to both my politics and my personhood. Being able to contribute to the conversation by crafting a story that captures the lived realities of the young women and girls in my country was an important opportunity to shed light on what more can be done."

(Creative artist and advocate)

# What were you most disappointed about in this process?

"Not being able to offer more in the way of solutions for young women and girls because of the country context and how the subject of abortion is approached. Until our policy makers enable women to access safe abortions easily, there is only so much we can do to change the narrative."

(Creative artist/advocate)

### We needed:

### + Funding

- + Skills and expertise in social media
- + Skills and expertise in developing training materials

#### INTRODUCTION

This guide is designed to support the facilitation of a session focused on increasing provider knowledge around youth friendly abortion and contraception service provision. This guide is meant to be used in conjunction with the corresponding country specific Power Point presentation. The Power Point presentation draws from a 2020 study on adolescent access to safe abortion and contraception. The quotes in the presentation come directly from young people and reflect their actual experiences with the health system and providers in the specified country.

The Power Point presentation can be used and shared separately, or it can be utilized in conjunction with this facilitation guide to create a more interactive session utilizing adult participatory methodologies.

#### SESSION OVERVIEW

The purpose of this session is to provide information on some of the key barriers young people face when trying to access abortion or contraceptive care. Participants will identify a range of barriers that young people might face when trying to access care in their country and then actively identify ways to address and minimize those barriers.

#### OBJECTIVES

By the end of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Identify barriers that prevent young people from accessing safe abortion and contraception care in their country.
- Articulate solutions for addressing those barriers.
- Understand the role providers have in supporting young people to access safe abortion and contraceptive care.



#### **Delays in Abortion-Related Care-Seeking**



"That is when I delayed for like 4 days, then I think it became 11 weeks. I came here and they told me to go for or a scan. I never had money, the money for a scan, so I just took the medicine the man gave me."

[oge 17, Zombio]



+ Piecemeal
+ Learning
+ Cumulative
+ Constellations

### Our team













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## Thank you

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