

Status of meaningful adolescent and youth engagement (MAYE)

Summary report of the results of an accountability survey submitted by signatories of the Global Consensus Statement on MAYE



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> Credits

Spearheading organizations

- International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (www.iyafp.org)
- Family Planning 2030 (<https://www.familyplanning2020.org/>)
- The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (<https://www.who.int/pmnch>)

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>> Foreword

The year 2020 saw the re-emergence of the black liberation movement, political transition and the COVID-19 pandemic. These events have sparked conversations at all levels on systemic inequalities affecting people globally, and on how existing development paradigms and ways of working help to perpetuate them.

In this context, the meaningful engagement of young people becomes even more critical. Young people are disproportionately affected by existing inequalities, and ensuring their engagement is a matter of social justice. At the same time, they are a fantastic source of innovation and action for the changes we all want to see.

The Global Consensus Statement on Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement (MAYE) sets out an agreed definition of MAYE that has been endorsed by approximately 250 organizations working in global health and development worldwide. The Global Consensus Statement is a starting point for promoting and enhancing MAYE to achieve equity, dismantle power dynamics, address the inequitable access to financial resources, professional opportunities, build trust and promote the inclusion of perspectives from young people across the world. The 250 endorsing organizations are working together to enhance MAYE, and are committed to sharing their learnings and experiences in the process.

The idea for this report stems from numerous conversations about translating the definition and principles introduced by the Global Consensus Statement into actions, and finding ways of sharing progress with our community.

This report is based on analysis of over 90 responses to a survey of organizations which have endorsed the Global Consensus Statement. Of the organizations that agreed to share their efforts to enhance MAYE, approximately half of them completed the survey in full. We hope that future exercises will achieve broader participation.

The data and analysis presented in the following pages present the responses of endorsing organizations that responded to the survey, and are not intended to reflect the general status of MAYE around the world. It is instead a snapshot of a portion of those working with and for young people.

This Summary Report is part of the accountability system of the Global Consensus Statement. It serves as an initial building block for other efforts to implement the Statement in the following months. It describes the progress achieved, challenges and the needs of those working with and for young people.

We remain open to feedback or comments about this reporting process and ideas on how to improve this initiative in the future. We invite those organizations that have not yet done so to sign the Global Consensus Statement and to join this community striving to improve meaningful adolescent and youth engagement around the world.

FP2030, IYAFP and PMNCH



> Abbreviations

COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
FP2030:	Family Planning 2030
GCS:	Global Consensus Statement
ICFP:	International Conference on Family Planning
IYAFP:	International Youth Alliance for Family Planning
LGBTQI+:	lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex individuals
MAYE:	meaningful adolescent and youth engagement
MoU:	memorandum of understanding
NGO:	nongovernmental organization
PMNCH:	The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health
ToRs:	terms of reference
SRH:	sexual and reproductive health
SRHR:	sexual and reproductive health and rights



As for identified barriers preventing young people's access to decision-making bodies, the commonest response was that unrealistic requirements for qualifications was the main reason preventing young people's access to those spaces.

Findings from the survey suggest that organizational mandates and internal advocacy were the main enablers of financial support for work done by young people, while restrictive internal financing policies and lack of donor requirements/encouragement were found to act as barriers.

This implies that, if those determining financial systems and policies worked closely with internal advocates and enablers, that would produce significant opportunities for progress. The organizations responding to the survey also commented on the support they would need to advance MAYE. Among the needs reported were: more case studies and good guidelines / policy practices to help organizations operationalize meaningful adolescent and youth engagement, greater exposure to youth-led initiatives, and more evidence on the effectiveness of ongoing MAYE processes.



The way forward: conclusions and recommendations

Many organizations reported that they expect to increase their MAYE commitments in the near future. This would be achieved by internalizing MAYE guidance documents, including but not limited to seeking ways to financially compensate adolescents and young people, or by developing accountability mechanisms. However, a few organizations referred to the uncertainty caused by limited resources in light of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of advancing MAYE within their organizations.

Despite the strong progress being made and the ongoing work, barriers, gaps and needs remain to be addressed. Future evaluations must take these into account in order to find solutions to overcome them.

With these factors in mind, the following groups of recommendations for signatories of the GCS and organisations that want to develop, implement and strengthen MAYE are the following:

Organisational setting

- Develop and implement internal policies and mechanisms that ensure the **protection within the organization of both young people** under age 18 and young people over age 18.

Chapter 1

Background and introduction



Chapter 2

Walking the talk: collective progress towards
MAYE



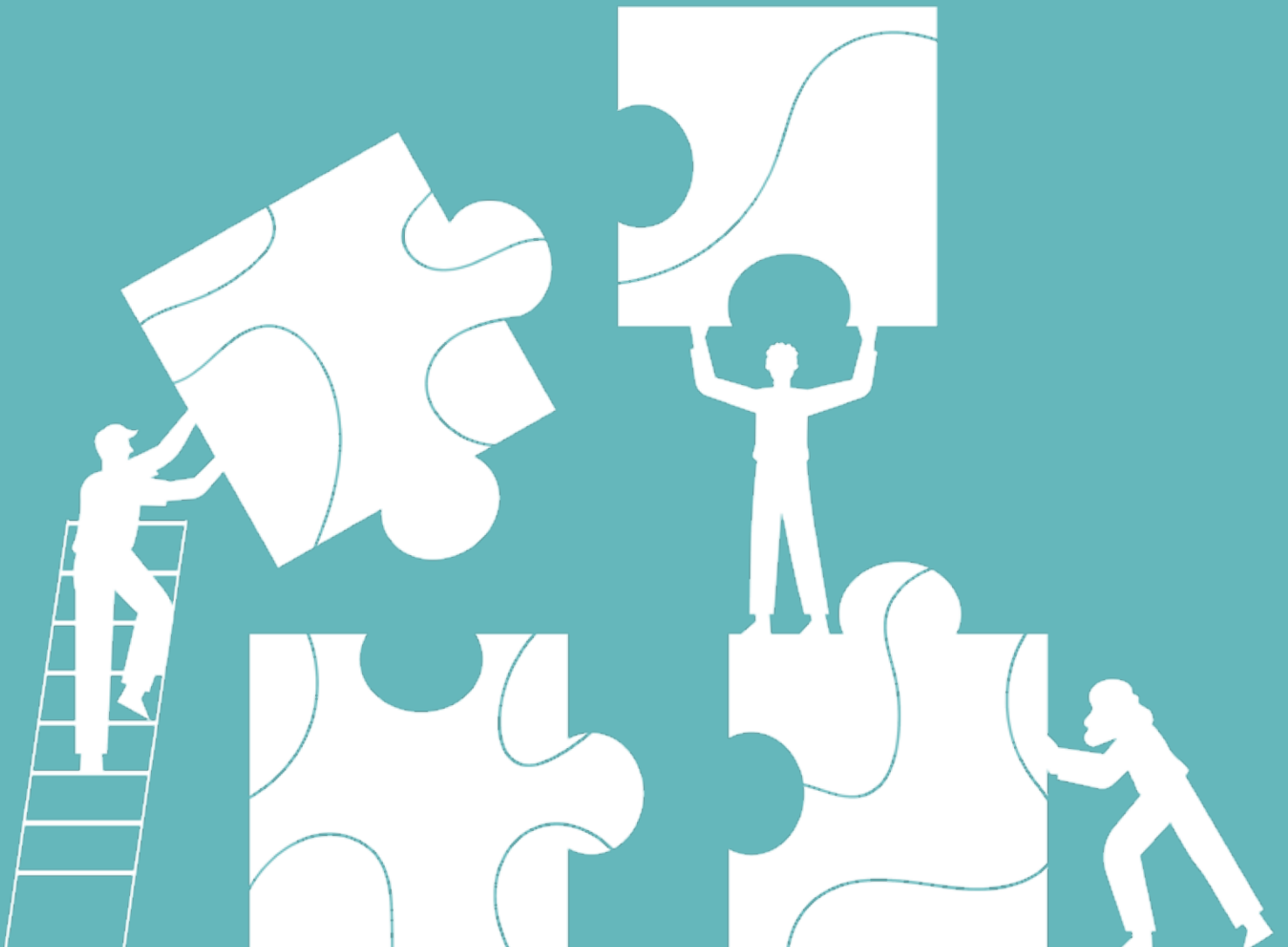
Chapter 3

Bridging the gap: identified barriers and needs to be overcome



Chapter 4

The way forward: conclusions and recommendations for relevant organizations



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