



Planned
Parenthood
Association of Sierra Leone

Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone

A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION

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IPPF International
Planned Parenthood
Federation

Sierra Leone at the 38th Session of the UPR

The Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone (PPASL), a Member Association of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), is a leading Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRH&R) Service provider in Sierra Leone.

Current Context on Adolescent SRH in Sierra Leone.

Adolescent and Youth constitute 55% of the total population of 7.1 Million with 25% women of reproductive age. Adolescents are confronted with many SRH challenges, including Early and Unsafe Sex, Unsafe Abortion, STIs and Teenage Pregnancy which account for 20 % of maternal mortality: WHO Report, 2017).

According to the 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 23.3% of women aged 15-19 years had already given birth or were pregnant with their first child; and 30.6% of women aged 20-24 years had given a live birth before age 18¹. The age-related rates of fathering a child for boys and men differ: only 1.5% of boys aged 15-19 years have fathered a live birth and only 3.8% of men aged 20-24 years had fathered a live birth before age 18. Most adolescent girls were impregnated, by a man at least 10 years older.² 26% of women

¹ UNICEF and Statistics Sierra Leone, 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey; 2018

² Coinco, Emily: A Glimpse into the World of Teenage Pregnancy in Sierra Leone; UNICEF 2010.

aged 15-24 years reported having sex with a man at least 10 years older.³ Teenage pregnancy often leads to early marriage. 29.9% of women aged 20-24 were married before age 18; and 15.3% of women aged 15-19 are currently married or in union or in co-habitation.⁴

The Covid-19 restrictions keep adolescents and young people at home, prone to would be perpetrators. Illiteracy, Harmful Traditional Practices, low accessibility to SRH services and information increase vulnerability. although CSE sessions are useful for in and out of school adolescents and youth, women under 18 lack easy access to FP/SRH services. The development of the National Comprehensive Sexuality Education Manual is still in progress. Integration into school curriculum is lagging.

CSE Manual: is a Participatory Learning Tool that enhance Peer Education in Life Skills, and limit challenges faced by young people.

CSE Manual is also an Advocacy tool to promote integrated SRH&R information and education; it is adapted into National School Curriculum for learning institutions.

CSE programmes are based on Human Rights principles with age appropriate messages to delay sexual debut until adolescent develop into adulthood. It is used in School Health

³ UNICEF and Statistics Sierra Leone, 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey; 2018

⁴ UNICEF and Statistics Sierra Leone, 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey; 2018

Clubs to empower adolescents, reduce the rate of Teenage Pregnancy and boosting school retention.

Delays in the introduction of the CSE Manual will increase the vulnerability of children and youth.

We therefore request that Member States make the following recommendations to the government of Sierra Leone during the 3rd Cycle of their Universal Periodic Review.

Recommendations:

1. In order to address adolescent pregnancy and prevent child sexual abuse, finalize the development and implement the National CSE Manual in all schools, especially Junior Secondary Schools, mobilize internal and external donor support to promote CSE in learning institutions, and fully implement the National Strategy for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy and Child Marriage.
2. Raise awareness and popularise knowledge of the Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Offences Act and fully resource the implementation of both.