

MOMENTUM

Country and Global Leadership



Supplemental Tool

IS YOUR HEALTH SYSTEM ADOLESCENT- AND GENDER- RESPONSIVE?

Adolescent Workshop Guide for Assessing the
Responsiveness of the Health System



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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ADOLESCENT WORKSHOP GUIDE

Purpose: This adolescent workshop guide is meant to be used as a supplemental tool to the main tool titled [Is Your Health System Adolescent- and Gender- Responsive? A Participatory Tool for Analysis and Action Planning](#). The adolescent assessment workshop aims to gather adolescents' perspectives on the features of the adolescent- and gender-responsive health system assessments. The workshop facilitator will share the adolescents' inputs with the health system managers to inform and shape their responses to the overall adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems assessment.

Selection of adolescents: The pilot of this tool found that it is best to engage adolescents who are aware of and engaged with the health system. This could include adolescents who are members of youth-led health organizations or advisory committees, and/or adolescents who are engaged in health system accountability efforts. It is essential to include diverse adolescents and group workshop participants by age, gender, and life stage, as appropriate in the context.

Please adjust the features included in the guide based on the assessment focus, as well as relevance to the age and life stage of the adolescents participating in the discussion.

Guidance and instructions for the assessment workshop with adolescents:

• *Before the workshop*

- Determine a convenient time for a 90-minute workshop with adolescents. Convenient times may differ for different gender and life stage groups.
- Arrange for a private, comfortable, and convenient space.
- Review and revise the guide below to align with the responsive system tool you are using.
- Complete the top section to document key background information. Do not write participants' names or any contact information on the forms.
- For participants under age 18 or who are not otherwise legally able to consent, arrange for their assent and parental consent prior to the discussion.

• *During the workshop*

- Explain the purpose of the workshop, and ask participants for their consent if they are 18 and older or otherwise legally able to consent, and their assent if younger than 18, by reading the consent statement.
- For each feature, ask the questions in the second column. If there are multiple questions, ask them one at a time and pause to allow responses. Use probes to clarify or request further information. Based on the informant's response, select the response option between 0 and 3 that **best aligns** with the information the informant shared. **Please do not read the answer choices to the participants.** It is possible that for some features, the response may not perfectly align with the options provided. That is okay. Just use your judgment to select the best fit, and use the last column (Notes) to document other important elements of the adolescents' responses.
- Apply best practices in facilitation, such as:
 - Prepare in advance.
 - Maintain good eye contact.
 - Monitor the dynamics in the room. Ensure all adolescents have the opportunity to speak and that no adolescents are dominating the conversation.
 - Be aware of participants' comfort and body language. Allow times for breaks and change the approach if participants are disengaged.

• *After the workshop*

- For each feature, document any notes from the discussion.
- The assessment process is fluid and should be adapted based on lessons learned about what is working and what is not.

ADOLESCENT- AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT

ADOLESCENT WORKSHOP GUIDE

Date of discussion: ____/____/____

Number and sex of participants:

__ Male

__ Female

Discussion facilitator name:

# of the feature in assessment tool	Question	Response options					Notes
		0	1	2	3	Don't know	
Building block 1: Leadership and governance							
1.1	Please describe any mechanisms in place to engage adolescents in national health policymaking, budget allocations, and accountability. Are adolescents engaged consistently? Which groups of adolescents are represented?	There are no mechanisms in place.	National health policymakers engage adolescents inconsistently.	National health policymakers engage adolescents consistently, but only some genders and subgroups of adolescents are represented.	Diverse adolescents are consistently engaged in national health policy and budget processes.		
1.2	Please describe any mechanisms in place to engage adolescents in decisions about health policymaking, budget, and accountability at the district levels. Are adolescents engaged consistently? Which groups of adolescents are represented?	There are no mechanisms in place.	Subnational health policy and budget decision-makers engage adolescents inconsistently.	Subnational policy and budget decision-makers consistently engage adolescent, but only some genders and subgroups are represented.	Diverse adolescents are consistently engaged in subnational health policy, budget, and accountability processes.		

# of the feature in assessment tool	Question	Response options					Notes
		Note to facilitator: Do not read these out loud to the adolescents. Tick the box above the answer <i>best aligned</i> with the response that adolescents give.					
		0	1	2	3	Don't know	
1.3	<p>Please describe any mechanisms that adolescents lead in holding the health system accountable for quality services at the facility level?</p> <p>Probe (if no response): For example, through committees or community advisory groups, score cards?</p> <p>For each mechanism, please describe what these efforts include and how adolescents are leading.</p>	There are no adolescents engaged in or leading accountability mechanisms at the facility level.	Adolescents are only occasionally engaged in, and are not leading, accountability mechanisms at the facility level.	Adolescents are leading accountability mechanisms, but only some gender and subgroups are represented.	Diverse adolescents are consistently leading accountability mechanisms at the facility level.		
1.6	Please describe whether adolescents are required to have any parent/guardian or spousal approval to get counseling and advice.	Health policies require parent/guardian or spousal consent for counseling and advice services.	Health policies are not clear on when parent/guardian or spousal consent is needed or not for adolescents to seek counseling and advice services.	Health policies guarantee the rights of adolescents to seek counseling and advice without parent/guardian or spousal consent. But, most adolescents and providers are not aware of and/or do not follow the policy.	Health policies guarantee the rights of adolescents of all ages to seek counseling and advice without parent/guardian or spousal consent, and most adolescents and providers are aware of and follow the policy.		
1.8	Please describe whether unmarried adolescents or adolescents without children are restricted from accessing some health services (such as certain contraceptive methods).	Law or policy restricts some services due to marital status and/or parity.	Law or policy does not mention (neither affirming nor denying) access to services based on marital status or parity.	Law or policy explicitly affirms adolescents' access to services regardless of marital status or parity, but most adolescents and providers are not aware of the policy and/or do not follow the policy.	Law or policy explicitly affirms adolescents' access to services regardless of marital status or parity, and most adolescents and providers are aware of and follow the policy.		

# of the feature in assessment tool	Question	Response options					Notes
		Note to facilitator: Do not read these out loud to the adolescents. Tick the box above the answer <i>best aligned</i> with the response that adolescents give.					
		0	1	2	3	Don't know	
Building block 2: Service delivery							
2.1	Please describe the health services available to adolescents in this area. Probes: Where are services provided? How? Which services are available? Are health services available for adolescents outside of health facilities, for example, at the community level or in schools?	Adolescent health services are not offered at service delivery points.	Adolescent health services are offered at a few facilities through adolescent-friendly corners or spaces, but not through all service delivery points.	Adolescent health services are offered through most facility-level service delivery points (either integrated or through corners/spaces), but not through community health services.	Adolescent health services are offered at most facility (either integrated or through corners/spaces) and community service delivery points.		
2.2	How do adolescents engage in decisions about how health services are designed and delivered at community and facility levels? Are adolescents engaged consistently? Which groups of adolescents are represented?	There are no mechanisms in place.	Health system actors occasionally engage adolescents in the design and delivery of health services, but it is not systematic nor consistent across facilities and over time.	Health system actors consistently engage adolescents in the design and delivery of services, but only some genders and subgroups are represented.	Health system actors consistently and systematically engage diverse adolescents in the design and delivery of health services.		
2.3	Please describe what services are available to adolescents in schools in this area. Probes: Who offers these services? What services are provided? When are they available? Which schools offer these services?	School health services are not offered in the assessment area.	School health services are offered through a few schools in the assessment area, but they are not widely available nor comprehensive in line with WHO guidelines.	School health services are offered through most schools in the assessment area, but they are not all comprehensive in line with WHO guidelines.	Comprehensive school health services in line with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines are offered through all schools in the assessment area.		

# of the feature in assessment tool	Question	Response options					Notes
		Note to facilitator: Do not read these out loud to the adolescents. Tick the box above the answer <i>best aligned</i> with the response that adolescents give.					
		0	1	2	3	Don't know	
2.4	<p>Think about the places where adolescents might access health services in this area (facilities, community services, schools, pharmacies, workplaces). Do any of these services offer services during nontraditional hours to be convenient for adolescents?</p> <p>Probes: What hours or days do they offer services? Do they always offer services on those days/hours? How many places offer services during nontraditional hours?</p>	No service delivery points are open during nontraditional hours.	At least one service delivery point is open per catchment area during nontraditional hours, but only occasionally.	At least one service delivery point per catchment area is open during nontraditional hours, but only on certain days.	At least one service delivery point per catchment area is open during nontraditional hours every day.		
2.5	<p>Think about health facilities in this area where adolescents might access health services. What protections are in place to ensure that no one else can see adolescents when they are meeting with a provider? What protections are in place to make sure that no one else can hear what adolescents discuss with a provider?</p> <p>Of the facilities you are aware of, would you say that none, some, most, or all ensure privacy for youth?</p>	Visual and auditory privacy are not ensured in most service delivery points.	Approximately 75% of facilities in the assessment area ensure a minimum of visual privacy (through use of curtains or private spaces).	Approximately 75% of facilities in the assessment area ensure audio and visual privacy.	Nearly all facilities in the assessment area ensure audio and visual privacy.		
2.10	<p>Are you aware of any facility or community-based services that intentionally reach adolescents who are vulnerable, such as adolescents with disabilities?</p> <p>If yes, please describe.</p>	Facility- and community-based health services are not designed to intentionally reach any adolescents.	Facility- and community-based health services are designed to reach adolescents, but lack specific strategies to reach diverse and vulnerable adolescents, including adolescents with disabilities.	Some facility- and community-based health services are designed to reach diverse adolescents, including adolescents with disabilities.	Facility- and community-based health services systematically reach diverse and vulnerable adolescents, including adolescents with disabilities.		

# of the feature in assessment tool	Question	Response options					Notes
		Note to facilitator: Do not read these out loud to the adolescents. Tick the box above the answer <i>best aligned</i> with the response that adolescents give.					
		0	1	2	3	Don't know	
Building block 3: Health workforce							
3.8	<p>Have you seen any efforts to encourage adolescents like you to become health workers when you grow up?</p> <p>If so, what efforts have you seen?</p>	No systems or structures are in place.	Ad hoc steps are taken to encourage adolescents, particularly young women, to enter the health workforce.	Systems are in place to support adolescents, particularly young women, to enter the health workforce, including in nontraditional roles, but have not yet demonstrated success.	Systems are in place to support adolescents, particularly young women, to enter the health workforce, including in nontraditional roles, and are demonstrating success.		
Building block 4: Health information							
4.6	<p>When adolescents access health services, do providers explain what measures are in place to ensure that information will be kept confidential? Please describe.</p> <p>Do adolescents have reason to believe that the information shared during a facility visit might not be kept confidential or shared with anyone else, including parents or other family? Do adolescents know when their information might need to be shared with others for legal reasons?</p>	Adolescents perceive that data is not maintained with any confidentiality.	Adolescents perceive data is sometimes maintained with confidentiality, but it is not clear to adolescents or providers when confidentiality might be breached.	Adolescents perceive that there are clear standard operating procedures for situations when confidentiality might be breached due to legal requirements, and providers are aware of these procedures.	Adolescents perceive that there are clear standard operating procedures for situations when confidentiality might be breached due to legal requirements, and both providers and adolescents are aware of these procedures.		

# of the feature in assessment tool	Question	Response options					Notes
		0	1	2	3	Don't know	
Building block 6: Financing							
6.1	<p>Do adolescents in your area pay for health services or supplies/other requirements for health services? If so, which ones? How much? How often?</p> <p>Have you heard of cases where adolescents in your area are asked to pay bribes or other informal payments for health services?</p>	Adolescents have to make informal and/or formal out-of-pocket payments for all health services at public and private facilities.	Adolescents do not have to make formal or informal out-of-pocket payments for some key services in the public and private sectors, but other services require informal or formal out-of-pocket payments (e.g., to purchase medical supplies before receiving care, bribes).	Adolescents do not have to make formal or informal out-of-pocket payments for any services in the public sector, and services are offered on a slide scale in the private sector.	Adolescents do not have to make any formal or informal out-of-pocket payments for any services in either the public or private sector (all services for adolescents are free).		
Building block 7: Community							
7.1	<p>Are there any partnerships between staff at the local health facility and community-based interventions to improve adolescents' knowledge, skills, and awareness of health services or community support for adolescent health and gender equality?</p> <p>If yes, what do these partnerships entail? Are adolescents actually engaged? Are referral mechanisms between the program and health facility clear?</p>	There are no partnerships.	There are ad hoc partnerships that are not consistent.	There are systematic partnerships, but health system actors are not engaged in the programming.	There are systematic partnerships. Health system actors engage in the programs, and referral mechanisms between the program and health facility are clear.		

# of the feature in assessment tool	Question	Response options					Notes
		Note to facilitator: Do not read these out loud to the adolescents. Tick the box above the answer <i>best aligned</i> with the response that adolescents give.					
		0	1	2	3	Don't know	
7.2	<p>Please describe any partnerships you are aware of between primary and secondary schools in your areas and the health system.</p> <p>Probes: What do they partner on? Do they collaborate on things like referrals? Comprehensive sexuality education? Health services on school campus? Do these partnerships happen consistently or only every once in a while?</p>	There are no partnerships between the health system and primary and secondary schools.	The health system has occasional, but not systematic, partnerships with primary and secondary schools.	The health system has systematic partnerships with primary and secondary schools for one purpose (e.g., only referrals), but not other purposes.	The health system and primary and secondary schools have systematic partnerships for referrals and at least one other activity, which may include health promoting schools, on-campus provision of health services, routine health checks, and comprehensive sexuality education.		
7.3	<p>Please describe any partnerships you are aware of between tertiary schools and/or technical and vocational educational institutions in your areas and the health system.</p> <p>Probes: What do they partner on? Do they collaborate on things like referrals? Comprehensive sexuality education? Health services on school campus? Do these partnerships happen consistently or every once in a while?</p>	There are no partnerships between the health system and tertiary and other educational institutions.	The health system has occasional, but not systematic, partnerships with tertiary and other educational institutions.	The health system has systematic partnerships with tertiary and other educational institutions for one purpose (e.g., only referrals), but not others.	The health system and tertiary and other educational institutions have systematic partnerships for referrals and at least one other activity, which may include health promoting schools, on-campus provision of health services, routine health checks, and comprehensive sexuality education.		

TEMPLATES FOR CONSENT AND ASSENT FOR ADOLESCENT ENGAGEMENT IN ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

WRITTEN CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN ADOLESCENT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP FOR ADOLESCENTS AGE 18 AND OVER

This form is for adolescents age 18 and over and emancipated minors.

Study title: Strengthening adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems

Principal investigator: _____

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITY

To be read aloud by the assessment team member:

Your engagement in this assessment is voluntary. I will tell you important information about this assessment and what to expect if you decide to participate. Please consider the information carefully. Feel free to ask questions before deciding whether or not to participate.

Hi, my name is <Name> and I'm part of an assessment team from _____. We are here for an assessment called: "Strengthening adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems." We are talking to you because you are an adolescent, and we are interested in learning more about what adolescents think of the health system. You can be in the assessment if you want to. You do not have to talk to us if you do not want to.

You should know:

- Whether you take part is your decision.
- You can change your mind about participating in the assessment at any time.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- Your decision about whether or not to participate will not impact your ability to continue to serve in the project advisory committee or any other group. We will not inform anyone about which adolescents and youth participated in this discussion.
- If you agree, you will be asked to take part in a group discussion with me, ## other adolescents from your community, and a note taker.
- We will follow COVID-19 prevention precautions, including requiring all participants, the facilitator, and note taker to wear a mask and maintain distance from each other.
- Your participation in the group discussion will take about 90 minutes.
- You will not benefit directly from taking part but we hope to be able to help others in the future.
- There are no known harms due to your participation. However, questions asked of participants pertain to health topics (including services), which may lead some participants to feel discomfort. You are free to not answer any question and/or stop participation in the discussion at any time.

Why is this assessment being done? The purpose of this assessment is to understand how the health system addresses the needs of adolescents, including related to gender equality. To do this, we will talk to health system officials. We will also talk to you and other adolescents in small groups.

What will happen if I take part in this assessment? If you agree to take part in this assessment, we will ask you to participate in a group discussion about how different aspects of the health system address the needs of adolescents. We will talk in private with ## other adolescents of the same sex.

How long will I be in the discussion? The group discussion will be about 90 minutes, but you can leave whenever you want to. **Can I stop being in the group discussion?**

You do not need to participate in this assessment. If you decide to take part in the assessment, you may choose to not answer any question and/or leave the discussion at any time. No matter what decision you make, there will be no penalty to you and you will not lose any of your usual benefits including access to services. Your decision will not affect your future relationship with _____ or your community's relationship with _____.

What risks or benefits can I expect from being in the assessment? We ask that you do not state your name, the names of others, or other information that would make it easy for someone to identify you during the discussion. We also ask that you do not tell anyone outside the group who else is in the group and what they say.

You will not benefit directly from your taking part in this assessment. We hope what we learn will be used to improve aspects of the health system for adolescents.

Will I be paid for participating in the assessment or experience any costs? We will not pay you for taking part in this assessment.

Will the information I provide be kept confidential? We will not record this session. We do have a note taker who will record notes from our discussion, but will not include any names or other information that could identify you in the notes. The information you provide in the assessment will be handled confidentially.

The assessment team will use the information you provide in the group discussion along with information from other adolescents and health system officials to summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the health system in relation to adolescents. Your community and facility will not be identified in the assessment. We will not identify you in anything we write about the assessment. You do not have to tell anyone you are taking part in the assessment if you don't want to.

Will my assessment-related information be used for future research? Information collected from you will not be used or shared for future research studies.

Who can answer my questions about the study? If you have any questions about the study at any time, you may contact _____. For questions about your rights as a participant in this study or to discuss other study-related concerns or complaints with someone who is not part of the program team, you may contact _____.

Do you have any questions? YES NO

CONSENT FORM

I, _____, confirm that I have read or have had read to me the above information regarding this evaluation before consenting to participate in this data collection. My consent is provided either by signing this form directly or by providing my verbal consent to the interviewer, who will sign on my behalf. I have been offered the opportunity to ask questions and have received answers that fully satisfy those questions. If I do not participate or if I discontinue my participation in this interview, I will not be penalized and will not give up any of my legal rights. I hereby volunteer to take part in this discussion. I have received a copy of contact information.

Check here once if verbal consent has been given in lieu of written consent.

Please let me know if you would like to keep a copy of this form so that you can review at a later date, contact someone about the assessment, or keep it for your records.

Participant's signature _____ **Date:** _____

Interviewer's signature _____ **Date:** _____

**VERBAL ASSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN ADOLESCENT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP
FOR ADOLESCENTS 17 AND UNDER**

This form is for adolescents 17 and under who are not emancipated minors.

Study title: Strengthening adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems

Principal investigator: _____

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITY

To be read aloud by the assessment team member:

Your engagement in this assessment is voluntary. I will tell you important information about this assessment and what to expect if you decide to participate. Please consider the information carefully. Feel free to ask questions before deciding whether or not to participate.

Hi, my name is <Name> and I'm part of an assessment team from _____. We are here for an assessment called: "Strengthening adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems." We are talking to you because you are an adolescent, and we are interested in learning more what adolescents like you think of the health system. You can be in the assessment if you want to. You do not have to talk to us if you do not want to.

You should know:

- Whether you take part is your decision.
- You can change your mind about participating in the discussion at any time.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- Your decision about whether or not to participate will not impact your ability to continue to serve in the project advisory committee or any other group you serve in. We will not inform anyone about which adolescents and youth participated in this discussion.
- If you agree, you will be asked to take part in a group discussion with me, ## other adolescents from your community, and a note taker.
- We will follow COVID-19 prevention precautions, including requiring all participants, the facilitator, and note taker to wear a mask and maintain distance from each other.
- Your participation in the group discussion will take about 90 minutes.
- You will not benefit directly from taking part but we hope to be able to help others in the future.
- There are no known harms due to your participation. However, questions asked of participants pertain to health topics (including services), which may lead some participants to feel discomfort. You are free to not answer any question and/or stop participation in the focus group discussion at any time.

Why is this assessment being done? The purpose of this assessment is to understand how the health system, including the health clinics near you, addresses the needs of adolescents including related to gender inequality. To do this, we will talk to health system officials. We will also talk to you and other adolescents in small groups.

What will happen if I take part in this assessment? If you agree to take part in this assessment, we will ask you to take part in a group discussion about how different aspects of the health system address the needs of adolescents. We will talk in private with ## other adolescents of the same sex.

How long will I be in the discussion? The group discussion will be about 90 minutes, but you can leave whenever you want to.

Can I stop being in the group discussion? You do not need to participate in this assessment. If you decide to take part in the assessment, you may choose to not answer any question and/or leave the discussion at any time. No matter what decision you make, there will be no penalty to you and you will not lose any of your usual benefits, including access to services. Your decision will not affect your future relationship with _____ or your community's relationship with _____.

What risks or benefits can I expect from being in the assessment? We ask that you do not state your name, the names of others, or other information that would make it easy for someone to identify you during the discussion. We also ask that you do not tell anyone outside the group who else is in the group or what they say.

You will not benefit directly from taking part in this assessment. We hope what we learn will be used to improve aspects of the health system for adolescents.

Will I be paid for participating in the assessment or experience any costs? We will not pay you for taking part in this assessment.

Will the information I provide be kept confidential? We will not record this session. We do have a note taker who will record notes from our discussion, but will not include any names or other information that could identify you in the notes. The information that you provide in the assessment will be handled confidentially.

The assessment team will use the information you provide in the group discussion along with information from other adolescents and health system officials to summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the health system in relation to adolescents. Your individual community and facility will not be identified in the assessment. We will not identify you in anything we write about the assessment. You do not have to tell anyone you are taking part in the assessment if you don't want to.

Will my assessment-related information be used for future research? Information collected from you will not be used or shared for future research studies.

Who can answer my questions about the study? If you have any questions about the study at any time, you may contact _____. For questions about your rights as a participant in this study or to discuss other study-related concerns or complaints with someone who is not part of the program team, you may contact _____.

Do you have any questions? YES NO

ASSENT FORM

Do you have any questions? YES NO

Have all of your questions about this assessment been answered satisfactorily? YES NO

Please let me know if you would like to keep a copy of this form so you can review it at a later date, contact someone about the assessment, or keep it for your records.

Interviewer's signature _____ **Date:** _____

**RECRUITMENT SCRIPT AND WRITTEN PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT FOR CHILD’S PARTICIPATION IN
ADOLESCENT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP**

This is for parents of adolescents age 17 and under (and are not emancipated minors).

Study title: Strengthening adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems

Principal investigator: _____

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITY:

To be read aloud by the assessment team member:

Hi, my name is <name> and I’m a member of an assessment team from _____.
We are leading an assessment of the public health system called “Strengthening adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems.” We are recruiting adolescents to participate in our assessment so that we can learn more about what they think about the health system. For those adolescents who are under age 18, we are engaging their parents to see if they would be willing to permit their child to participate in a discussion about their thoughts on the health services and the health system.

If you consent and your child chooses to participate, s/he will be in a discussion with up to ## other adolescents of the same sex for approximately 90 minutes. The discussion will be led by an assessment team member and a note taker. We will ask the group about their perceptions and experiences interacting with the health system. The information your child will provide during this discussion will be used to help improve the adolescent- and gender-responsiveness of the health system. We will take notes during the discussion, but they will not include any personal information about your child. We will not include his/her name or any other details.

Your child will not receive any payment or compensation for her/his participation. S/he will also not incur any cost or debt as part of her/his participation.

Your child’s participation is voluntary and everything discussed will remain confidential. Discussions will take place in a private space, away from any bystanders or outside observers. S/he can choose not to respond to any question and/or may choose to end participation at any point, without penalty.

You do not have to allow your child to participate and your decision will not affect your or your child’s ability to receive health services or any other benefit. If you consent for your child to participate in the study, I will ask your child if s/he assents to participating.

Although I am unable to provide specific details about the discussion topics, I am happy to answer any questions you may have about this assessment and your child’s potential participation.

Would you be interested in permitting your child to participate in the study?

If yes: Great, the next step is for you to provide your written consent for your child to participate. I will read you the consent form and provide you a copy to read/sign. Once you have provided your written consent, I will ask your child if s/he is still interested and will provide her/his assent to participating.

Read the consent form and have parent provide written consent. Speak with the adolescent and ask if s/he will provide her assent (using the Adolescent <18 Assent Form).

If no: Thank you for your time.

**WRITTEN CONSENT FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN
ADOLESCENT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP**

This is for parents of adolescents under age 17.

Study title: Strengthening adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems

Principal investigator: _____

SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITY

_____ is partnering with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and district health authorities to conduct an assessment called “Strengthening adolescent- and gender-responsive health systems.” The purpose of this assessment is to understand how the health system, including the health clinics near you, addresses the needs of adolescents and consider gender inequality. To do this, we are speaking with health officials and adolescents. The results of this assessment will generate evidence that will help the MOH and other partners make key improvements. We are interested in learning more about what adolescents think about the health system.

Your child has expressed interest in participating in the assessment, and we are seeking your consent for this. His/her participation is voluntary. You have the right to refuse your child’s participation, and your child has the right to refuse or end her/his participation at any time. Doing so will not in any way affect your or your child’s ability to receive health services or other benefits. Participation is free. Your consent for your child to participate is confirmed by signing this consent form after receiving the explanation of the assessment and agreeing to allow your child to participate.

If you consent for your child and s/he assents to participate, your child will be invited to a group discussion with up to ## other adolescents of the same sex and similar age group. One assessment team members will lead the discussion and will ask the group a series of questions about what adolescents think of the health system. Another assessment team member will take notes. This discussion will take approximately 90 minutes, but your child can leave whenever s/he wants. After completing this discussion, your child’s participation in the assessment is complete.

Data collection location: The group discussion will take place at _____, a private setting away from other people.

Benefits: There are no direct benefits of your child’s participation in this assessment. However, the evidence collected as part of the assessment may be used to improve the adolescent- and gender-responsiveness of the health system.

Risks: There are no known harms or risks due to participation in this assessment. However, questions asked of participants include health topics, which may lead some participants to feel discomfort. Participants are free to not answer any question and/or stop participation during data collection at any time.

Compensation/costs: You and your child will receive no payment if you agree to participate. You will not incur any costs other than your child’s time if you and s/he agree to participate.

Confidentiality: We will not record this session. We do have a note taker who will record notes from our discussion, but will not include any names or other information that could identify your child in the notes. The information that your adolescent provides in the assessment will be handled confidentially.

Rights of the participant: Participation in this assessment is completely voluntary. You and your child have the right to decline participation before or withdraw it at any time during the group discussion without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Questions about the assessment: If you have any questions about the study at any time, you may contact _____ . For questions about your or your child’s rights as a participant in this study or to discuss other study-related concerns or complaints with someone who is not part of the program’s team, you may contact _____ .

Do you have any questions at this time?

CONSENT FOR YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE:

I, _____, confirm that I have read or have had read to me the above information regarding this assessment before consenting for my child to participate in this focus group discussion. My consent is provided either by signing this form directly or by providing my verbal consent to the interviewer, who will sign on my behalf. I have been offered the opportunity to ask questions and have received answers that fully satisfy those questions. If I do not consent for my child to participate or if my child discontinues her/his participation in this discussion, we will not be penalized and will not give up any of our legal rights. I hereby consent to permit my child to participate in this discussion. I have received a copy of contact information.

Check here once if verbal consent has been given in lieu of written consent.

Signature of parent _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of assessment team member _____ **Date:** _____



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