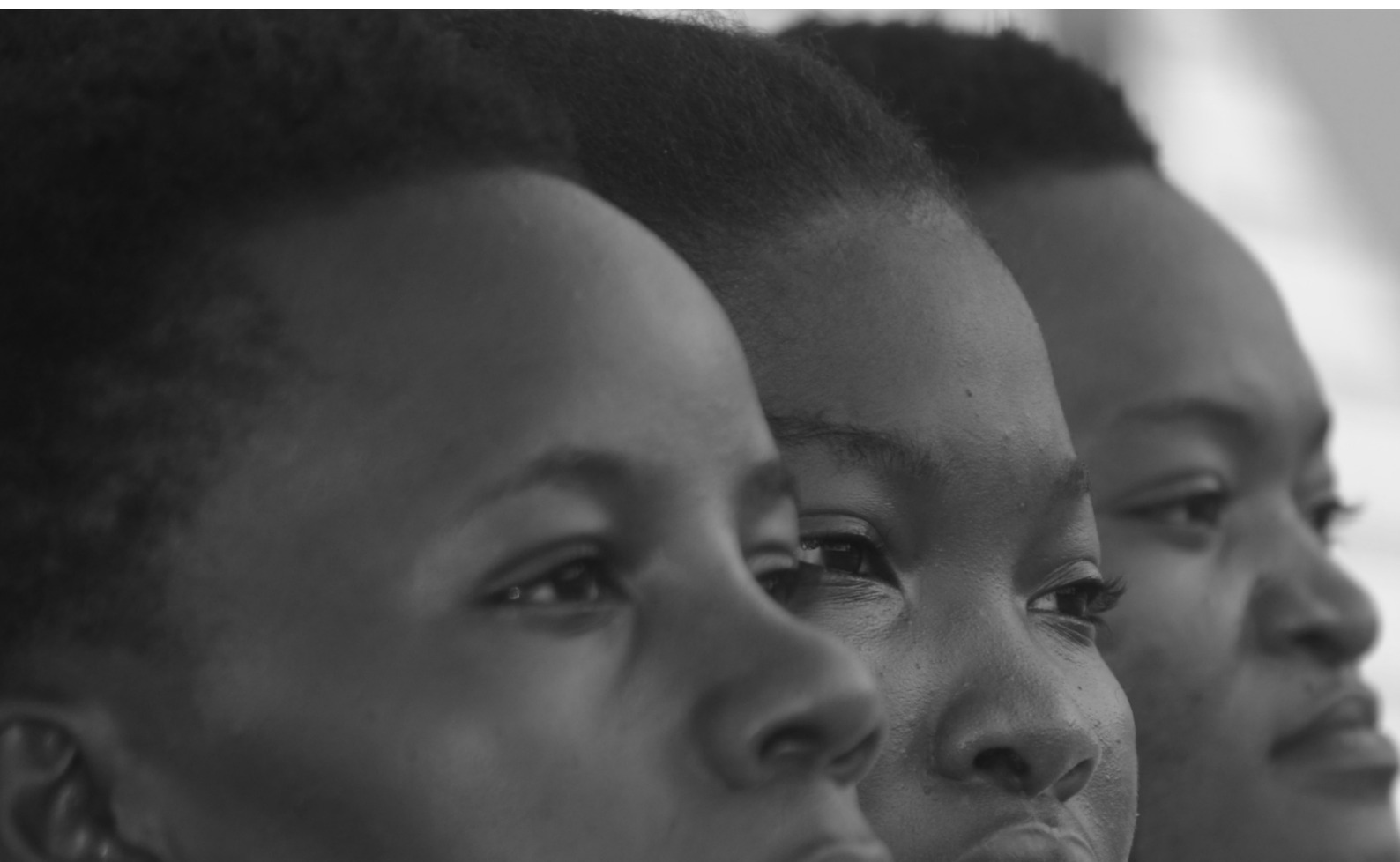




#WeBelongAfrica
The Southern Africa Young Key
Populations Inclusion Initiative



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The Southern Africa Young Key Populations Inclusion Initiative seeks to boost the accountability and responsiveness of state institutions in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to the perspectives, rights and needs of young key populations on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

DONOR: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mozambique (EKN)

IMPLEMENTER: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) HIV, Health and Development Team

PERIOD: July 2021 – December 2026

TARGET GROUPS: LGBTI people, other young men who have sex with men and young people who sell sex, aged 10-29 years

COUNTRIES COVERED: Angola, Eswatini, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe and Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional level

Context:

National legal, policy and strategy environment assessments carried out by the UNDP-led Linking Policy to Programming project (LPP) have shown that in much of Southern Africa, significant progress has been made in promoting the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of vulnerable communities, including young key populations. Despite the encouraging signs of progress, however, significant challenges remain in removing legal and policy barriers for the equitable sexual and reproductive health and rights of vulnerable young people in the SADC region. Fear of stigma, and the experience of discrimination in health care settings reduces demand for and use of SRHR services among young key populations, not just for HIV but also for contraceptives, sexually transmitted infection (STI) management and antenatal care. Age of consent related policies on marriage, sex or access to services also continue to be major barriers for young key populations. Unless significant change occurs from the political to the community levels, the SRH related rights of young key populations will continue to be compromised and progress towards the global goal of ending AIDS by 2030 will be impeded.

Objectives:

Strengthening capacities of national and regional politicians, decision-makers, influencers and NGOs, networks and community organizations representing the needs and rights of young key populations for equitable access to SRHR.

Strategies:

Based on the results of the LPP project, #WeBelongAfrica supports:

- Inclusion of young key populations in relevant governance, planning and oversight processes.
- Increased engagement of decision makers across sectors on SRHR of young key populations.
- Development and implementation of young key population-led digital advocacy for policy and legal change.
- Integration of young people's SRHR policy-related agenda in the UN development system and the EKN Regional Programme.

Main activities:

- Conduct meetings for decision-makers and influencers on integrating needs of young key populations in the core sectors (justice, gender, youth and health).
- Produce guidance (handbooks/briefs) on sexual and gender-based violence, access to services and access to justice to support capacity-strengthening of decision makers
- Develop, implement and monitor young key populations-led safe digital advocacy strategies for SRHR.
- Conduct regular rapid scans of laws, policies and strategies under development or review in the justice, health, gender and youth sectors.
- Produce and regularly update an inventory of key social movement actors, identifying their strategic priorities and opportunities for links with young key populations.
- Organize meetings for young key populations and other movements (gender, youth, people living with HIV).
- Conduct young key populations-led digital campaigns to advocate for young key populations-sensitive SRHR policies and laws at national and regional level.
- Lead and co-convene with other EKN regional programme partners and regional SADC bodies a series of discussions and dialogues on young key population issues.

About UNDP

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