
LESSONS LEARNED FROM NATIONAL GOVERNMENT-LED EFFORTS TO REDUCE ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY IN CHILE, ENGLAND & ETHIOPIA

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Adolescent pregnancy is a global public health problem.
- Most adolescents live in low- & middle-income countries. 95% of adolescent pregnancies occur in these settings.
- Adolescent pregnancy & childbearing often have negative health, social & economic consequences. Progress in reducing adolescent childbearing has been slow & uneven.
- There is considerable evidence of successful approaches to reduce adolescent pregnancy & childbearing from research studies and small-scale/time-limited projects.
- A small but growing number of countries – in different contexts - have put in place successful large scale and sustained national programmes to reduce adolescent pregnancy and childbearing.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION



- ❖ **THEY PUT SCALE UP ON THE AGENDA:** Well-connected groups of internal & external change agents created momentum for scaling- up adolescent pregnancy prevention.
- ❖ **THEY PLANNED SCALE UP METICULOUSLY:** All three countries developed evidence-based strategies grounded in supportive national policies. They simplified the package of interventions to only the essential elements, & communicated clearly what needed to be done, where, how & by whom.
- ❖ **THEY PUT MONEY ON THE TABLE AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGED SCALE UP:** All three countries committed adequate resources & managed implementation by engaging & sustaining relevant government departments at different levels, NGOs and professional associations. They used findings of assessments & reviews to reshape implementation.
- ❖ **THEY BUILT SUPPORT; AND ANTICIPATED & ADDRESSED RESISTANCE:** England & Chile anticipated resistance to providing contraception to unmarried adolescents & worked strategically to address it. Ethiopia focused on young married women whose needs were acknowledged.
- ❖ **THEY WORKED STRATEGICALLY TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY:** All three countries used data creatively to communicate the progress being made. They advocated for integrating elements of the scale-up effort into wider national policies, strategies & indicator frameworks.