



Youth Friendly Service for Ethnic Young people in Yunnan



YHDRA

云南省健康与发展研究会
YUNNAN HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (YHDRA)

Put Youth Friendly Service for Ethnic Young people into Population Development Agenda

Young people (from 14 to 25 years old) occupy 43% of the world's population currently, and the number is rising fastest in those parts of the world with the lowest economic growth. Both the ICPD Programme of Action and MDGs recognize the needs of youth a priority and yet in all countries of the world, progress on youth issues is lagging.¹ Young people would develop their potential with rights and fulfilled investment and concerns. They are assigned to transform the social and economic fortunes of their communities as the new generation. However, their participation and their skills has not been responded as part of the mainstream development debate.

China is the one has been operating the healthcare service within the framework of MDGs agreed with UN member states in the past over a decade. By the spot of reviewing process towards 2015, young people's sexual and reproductive

health (Goal 5b) is emphasized globally, and develop relevant index to enhance their accessibility to healthcare, education and information, pre and post counseling. From 2008, many UN and international organizations, such as UNFPA, IPPF, advocacy for youth developed conception notes, practical guideline or funding allocation on Youth-friendly SRH service.



¹ Global Youth Forum Clarification, Bali, Indonesia, 2012.

Located in the southwest of China, Yunnan Province is home of multi-nationalities and ethnicities, having 26 of the 56 ethnic groups in China. Most of these ethnic groups live along the frontier of the Sino-Burmese, Sino-Lao and Sino-Vietnamese border areas of Yunnan. Ethnic groups have evolved differently due to geographic restrictions and have been outside the mainstream social development process in China. They have historically been left alone, economically deprived and educationally disadvantaged. This has resulted in gaps and inequality in comprehensive development in the country. They are exactly the one who need the youth-friendly service most in China.

As part of the groups marginalized and hard to reach, ethnic young people has their traditional awareness on seeking healthcare service, and social supportive system. And because of their specific characters, it is essential to focus on affordability, sustainability as well as gender sensitivity of YFS

for ethnic young people living in developing areas.

Yunnan Health and Development Research Association – YHDRA (formerly known as Yunnan Reproductive Health Research Association) was established in March of 1994. It was the first reproductive health related Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered in China. Its current name, YHDRA, was established in 2007 to reflect a broadened scope and mission. YHDRA is officially registered with Yunnan Civil Affairs Department as the level one institute. YHDRA is under the administration of Yunnan Science and Technology Association.



YHDRA is the World Health Organization cooperative center in reproductive health; national migrant reproductive health resource center; consulting institute for a number of national demonstrative projects, including the project entitled Quality of Care in Family Planning in Central and West China; and the project entitled Health Promotion Project in Sichuan/Yunnan/Tibet; the project for Healthy Babies in Tibet and Qinghai/Gansu/Sichuan/Yunnan.

From 2010, YHDRA has been engaging into the Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) programme, the regional initiated programme targeting on addressing young people's (especially marginalized from local communities) sexual and reproductive health and rights from seven countries including Burma, Cambodia, China, Philippine, Laos, Indonesia, and Vietnam local communities. Through the implementation over three years, we established country partners, and also built a regional advocacy partnership in order to make the civil

society movement stronger at national, regional and international levels of advocacy. The recently up-scaled WHRAP programme in South East Asia (WHRAP-SEA) brings together national partners, young people-led networks, and regional organizations to address the issues of young people's SRHR, especially youth friendly SRH service provision. We try to promote ethnical minority young people's health, and appeal the response from policy making session, and eventually reach to better sexual and reproductive health and rights.





- ***TREAT YOUTH WITH RESPECT***

Set ethnic young people to access healthcare investment and resource as other majority groups equally, and respect their traditional customs and belief during the process of service provision.

All healthcare services and providers should work with ethnic adolescents and young people competently, sensitively and respectfully, and meet their sexual and reproductive health needs.

- ***MAINTAIN ADOLESCENT CONFIDENTIALTY***

All services must be confidential, non-judgmental and private even in the local healthcare center or points of ethnic communities.

- ***ACCESSIBILITY FOR HEALTHCARE***

Based on the laboring and studying regulation, clinic opening hours should be convenient for ethnic adolescents and young people in and out of school, and all adolescents and young people regardless of their age, marital status, sexual orientation/preference, ethnicity or ability to pay would access healthcare.



• **REFERAL SYSTEM**

An effective referral system should be established and operated among different agencies and parts.

Particularly in ethnic community, balance the medical healthcare seeking channel among local herbalist, private clinics, governmental hospital, and enhance the prevention and pre/post counseling service provided by YFS agents.

• **SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

Regard of the influence in ethnic communities, services would not only concern about health factors, but also fundamental aspects impact daily lives of young people; build the supportive environment in the local community, such as partners, parents/guardians and schools.

• **MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION**

Opportunities should be available for adolescents and young people to be involved in designing, implementing and evaluating the programme.





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