



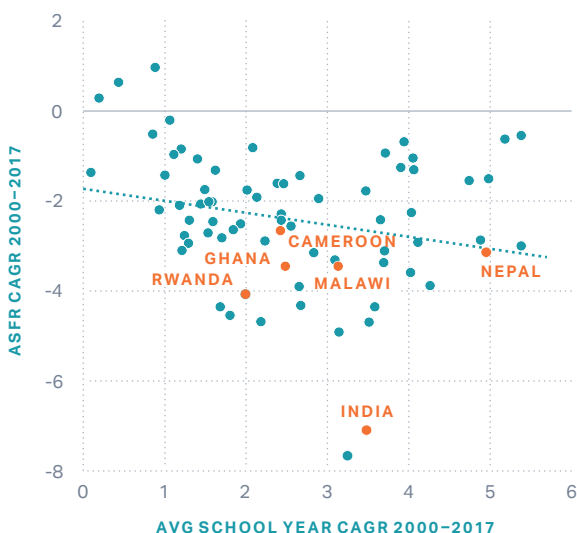
# ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

## ABOUT EXEMPLARS IN GLOBAL HEALTH

The Exemplars in Global Health (EGH) program is a global coalition of partners including researchers, academics, experts, funders, country stakeholders, and implementers. Our mission is to identify positive global health outliers, analyze what makes countries successful, and disseminate core lessons so they can be adapted in comparable settings. We aim to help country-level decision makers, global partners, and funders make strategic decisions, allocate resources, and craft evidence-based policies. A small, core team supporting EGH is based at Gates Ventures, the private office of Bill Gates, and closely collaborates with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## COUNTRY SELECTION PROCESS

We identified positive outliers by assessing the annual change in countries' age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) of 15–19-year-olds relative to mean years of education from 2000 to 2017. From these outliers, we selected Exemplars by considering data availability, heterogeneity, and potential transferability of findings, selecting one positive outlier country per region of Sub-Saharan Africa and two countries in South/Southeast Asia.



Data Source: IHME modeled estimates  
CAGR: Compound Annual Growth Rate



## TOPIC OVERVIEW

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR) is the ability for adolescents aged 10–19 to have access to comprehensive sexuality education, essential sexual and reproductive health services, and autonomous decision-making power needed to protect their health. When supported, it can improve overall well-being and expand future educational and economic opportunities.

Investments in improving ASRHR have grown globally, but progress remains slow and uneven. Over 20 million pregnancies were recorded among adolescents aged 15–19 in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in 2019; nearly half of these pregnancies were unintended, and of these, 55% ended in abortions, which are often unsafe. Research has shown that early sexual activity and child marriages are often associated with early childbearing, intimate partner violence, and low educational attainment. There is a lower risk of complications that can result in maternal mortality and morbidity when pregnancy is delayed until after adolescence.

The ASRHR research project aims to examine the policies and programs that have been successful in select LMICs to reduce these high levels of pregnancies, including prevention and management of unintended pregnancy, and to advance ASRHR. The research also seeks to determine how the lessons learned and best practices can be applied to improve ASRHR outcomes across geographies. In addition, we will engage two youth advisors in each Exemplar country to help guide the work.

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Research for every Exemplars in Global Health topic is guided by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), consisting of a diverse range of topic-specific experts.

**Caroline Kabiru** (Head of Population Dynamics and Reproductive Health and Rights, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)), **Abdoulaye Ousseini** (Research Manager, Ouagadougou Partnership), **Anju Malhotra** (Senior Gender & M&E Advisor, Global Financing Facility), **Asha George** (Professor, University of the Western Cape), **Brenda Formin** (Co-Founder, Kusing'a Organisation), **Catherine Lane** (Independent Consultant), **Foster Mafiala** (SRHR Youth Officer, SRHR Africa Trust), **Hayathe Ayevea** (Youth Action Movement (YAM) of the Togolese Association for Family Welfare (ATBEF) - the Member Association of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)), **Iqbal Shah** (Principal Research Scientist, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health), **Julia Greenland** (Director, Girl Capital SRHR, Children's Investment Fund Foundation), **Quamrum Nahar** (Acting Director of the Centre for Population, Urbanization and Climate Change (CPUCC), icddr,b), **Shireen Jejeebhoy** (Director, Aksha Centre for Equity and Wellbeing), **Susheela Singh** (Distinguished Scholar and Vice President for Global Science and Policy Integration, Guttmacher Institute), **Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli** (Scientist, Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health, Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health & Research, World Health Organization (WHO))

## RESEARCH PARTNERS

Our consortium of research partners includes researchers from the African Institute for Policy Development (AFIDEP), the University of Southampton (UK), the University of Portsmouth (UK), Kwame Nkrumah University, Evidence for Sustainable Human Development Systems in Africa (EVIHDAF), University of Rwanda School of Public Health, and Center for Research on Environment, Health, and Population Activities (CREHPA). We will also select an in-country research partner in India.