

PROOF OF CONCEPT STATEMENT

Adolescent girls and young women in Zambia who choose to terminate a pregnancy often face significant barriers, including stigma stemming from social norms and cultural beliefs and lack of youth-friendly services.

Though there is no legislation specifically providing for the Age of Consent to access safe abortion or medical treatment generally, reality is that service providers tend to use the age of consent for sex even during service provision. Adolescents therefore do not easily access safe abortion services, as service providers often would require parental consent for those aged below 16 years. This is notwithstanding the policy not being clear on the age of consent.

The Frontline Actors Initiative (FAI) innovation will raise knowledge and awareness of safe abortion services among 1500 adolescent girls and young women aged 14 – 19 years in 10 schools in rural Livingstone. In addition, teachers (frontline actors) will be trained to provide information on dangers of unsafe abortion, identify students in schools that are pregnant and support them to access safe abortion and counseling services. CTYA will recruit and train 50 teachers from 10 schools to identify early pregnancy cases and link them to the CTYA helpline and public and private comprehensive abortion care service providers. CTYA will also build the capacity of 20 pharmacists and 15 health care providers to provide adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services in health centres and pharmacies.

Proof of concept will be demonstrated by:

- 95% of at least 162 adolescent girls referred by their teachers to seek safe abortion services successfully terminating their pregnancies, as evidenced by the referral forms obtained from teachers and used at participating health facilities.
- 75% of the 1500 adolescent girls (in school) reached demonstrating a 75% increase in knowledge on safer abortion methods and where to access medical abortion services, as evidenced by baseline and end line assessments.
- 75% of the 50 teachers trained demonstrating a 75% increase in their capacity to provide adolescent counselling and referrals to safe abortion services, as evidenced by baseline and end line assessments.
- 75% of the 20 pharmacists and 15 health care providers demonstrating their capacity to provide adolescent-friendly safe abortion services in their pharmacies and health facilities respectively, as evidenced by a minimum client satisfaction rate of 75% obtained from completed client satisfaction questionnaires.