



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

### Introduction and objectives

The active participation of young individuals in the development and execution of programs and policies directed towards youth, particularly in matters of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), is key for the effectiveness of such initiatives. Meaningful involvement of youth in advocacy entails their engagement across all stages of advocacy, encompassing issue selection, strategy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Given the scarcity of data on youth advocacy concerning SRHR, along with its achievements and obstacles in Mozambique, this study seeks to examine the approaches employed by young people in advocating for SRHR at both provincial and national levels, and to draw insights from these experiences to inform advocacy efforts in Mozambique. The research, conducted by KIT Royal Tropical Institute under the Break Free! Programme, which strives to enhance adolescents' access to SRHR information, education, and services across nine African nations by providing support to civil society organizations.

### Methodology

This study combined three qualitative methodologies. First, a mapping of youth-led or youth-focused organizations working on SRHR in Mozambique. Secondly, a desk review was carried out to provide insights into how young people advocate for SRHR at district and/or national level in Mozambique and broadly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Finally, two focus group discussions with young people aged 18 to 24 and 5 key informant interviews with people aged 25 to 32 were conducted to understand the landscape of youth SRHR advocacy in Mozambique, the challenges, successes, and motivations of young people. Interviews and Focus group discussions were conducted in Maputo City, Nampula City and Mogovolas District. Data analysis was carried out using Nvivo software.

## Results

Youth-led advocacy was defined by youth participants as an approach where youth take a central role in activities and initiatives aimed at shaping policies and programmes that directly impact young people. In Mozambique, youth advocacy on SRHR can manifest in various forms. When discussing the types and modalities of youth advocacy, study participants mentioned that those range from social media campaigns on international days to organized marches, active participation in debates, public talks, and peer-to-peer support, among other methods. The main areas of intervention identified by participants are gender and sexual based violence and accessibility of youth-friendly services.

Several key elements contributing to a successful youth advocacy initiative were identified, such as utilizing reliable evidence, fostering youth-adult partnerships, partnering with allies who can facilitate access to decision-making spaces, enhancing youth skills such as leadership and public speaking, and providing access to resources and youth-friendly environments. Additionally, the study pointed out the importance of community support as an essential foundation for effective youth-led advocacy.

In Mozambique the main actors working on SRHR advocacy for youth are non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs). Most of these organisations work directly with informal youth groups. Those groups are based on volunteers and supported by NGOs and CSOs financially. There are also three youth-led structures financed by the national government which are linked to the informal youth structures working at local, district and provincial level.

## Conclusion

In Mozambique, youth-led advocacy on SRHR is limited in Mozambique, where youth have a participatory role in most SRHR advocacy activities. While actors are increasingly intending to involve young people to be actors for their own well-being, this is not always meaningfully done or inclusive. Youth in Mozambique organise themselves in youth structures which are mainly supported by NGOs and CSOs. There is a shared recognition of the ongoing challenges that demand a collaboration of efforts between youth, NGOs, and government actors, an increased availability of resources, and broader societal support to empower and appreciate the younger generation in shaping a more informed, supportive, and inclusive SRHR environment.



FAWE Forum for African Women Educationalists  
Forum des éducatrices africaines



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



KIT Royal Tropical Institute