



IPPF Centers of Excellence on CSE
Enabling and Empowering Young People
Through Rights-Based Sexual and
Reproductive health Service Delivery and
Comprehensive Sexuality Education

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Rutgers
ATBEF
PPAG
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Acronyms

ATBEF	Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Être Familial
CoE(s)	Center(s) of Excellence
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
IPPF CO	International Planned Parenthood Federation Central Office
IPPF ACRO	International Planned Parenthood Americas and Caribbean Region
IPPF ARO	International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Regional Office
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer
MA	IPPF Member Association
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PMF	Programme Management Framework
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPAG	Planned Parenthood Association Ghana
RO	(IPPF) Regional Office
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
TA	Technical Assistance
ToC	Theory of Change
ToT	Trainer of Trainers
YFS	Youth Friendly Services

2 Executive Summary

This annual report presents the results from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 through the project 'Enabling and Empowering Young People through Rights-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Delivery and Comprehensive Sexuality Education. The project, which runs from April 2019 to June 2022, is funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), supports the work of three regional Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in youth centred programming and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). Their objective is to spread expertise and knowledge to other stakeholders and support them in implementing quality youth centred programming and large-scale implementation. The Regional CoEs are Association Togolaise Pour Le Bien Etre Familial (ATBEF)¹ in Togo (supporting the region of Francophone Africa), Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia Colombiana (Profamilia) in Colombia (supporting the Americas and the Caribbean)² and Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) in Ghana (supporting Anglophone Africa).³

Project Oversight – In 2021, Rutgers continued its role as the Programme Management Unit (PMU), guiding and tracking the project deliverables, providing technical assistance, and facilitating knowledge exchange between the MAs, the federation, and other relevant partners. The IPPF Secretariat was involved in the overall project oversight and strategic discussions regarding extension opportunities. The new IPPF regional office in the Americas and the Caribbean (ACRO) played an essential role in connecting Profamilia to other MAs in the region, especially in the Caribbean, when establishing the Community of Practice on CSE. IPPF regional office in Africa (ARO) was closely involved in the planning and rollout of the Anglophone Africa Centre of Excellence hosted by PPAG in Ghana. The IPPF ARO team made important introductions, facilitated the formation of new partnerships, and took an active part in the regional events.

Current CoEs and their focus – In 2021, the project was implemented by the following three Member Associations (MAs) of IPPF: Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Être Familial (ATBEF) in Togo, Profamilia in Colombia, and Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) in Ghana. They are referred to as (regional) CoEs throughout this report. ATBEF has been a CoE since the project began in 2019. Profamilia and PPAG started their role as CoE in March 2021.

Gender equality is 'the golden thread' running through IPPF's CSE programming. A central element of CSE service delivery is recognising the importance of empowering adolescent girls to reduce coercive sex, one of the WHO's five recommended outcomes for gender equality. Moreover, CSE provides a powerful platform for transforming harmful gender norms by using an integrated approach to work with

¹ <https://elearningatbef.org>

² <https://profamilia.org.co>

³ <https://www.ppag-gh.org/ppag/>

girls and boys separately and together. In this project, the three GAC-funded CSE Centers of Excellence have promoted and embedded best practices by empowering women and girls, engaging men and boys, and improving gender-sensitive health service provision. By linking quality CSE to youth-friendly, gender-sensitive, stigma-free sexual and reproductive health and rights services, this project ensures that the girls and boys, young women and young men who participate in the project have access to continuity of care that is adapted to their needs.

The project's Theory of Change consists of two intermediate outcomes, which are also called pillars. Intermediate Outcome 1100 (Pillar one) supports CoEs' direct service delivery, education, and community engagement, in their own countries. PPAG and Profamilia only focus on Intermediate Outcome 1200 (Pillar two), which covers activities aimed at enabling others to implement and scale-up sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services and education to young people through the provision of technical assistance, sharing best practices and knowledge production at national and regional levels. In the previous year, ATBEF has started to shift their activities more toward pillar two to increase their external positioning as a CoE.

Reflection on expected outputs and outcomes – Looking at outputs and achievements on Intermediate Outcome 1100 of the Theory of Change, ATBEF continues doing well when comparing the forecasts and actuals in the Performance Measurement Framework (PMF). Despite the impact that COVID-19 had on their operations and activities, ATBEF offered more services than initially forecasted in all quarters of the year, reaching a total of 88.593 services to young people. Females comprise 68% of the service users in 2021, approaching the target for the year, which was 70%. This growth was also influenced due to the implementation of a new strategy based on the community-based distribution of contraceptives and the use of mobile clinics. This strategy made it possible to provide quality SRH care to more young people living in remote and underserved areas. As a result, the number of sexual and reproductive health and Rights (SRHR) services delivered to all age groups for the entire project period has been exceeded by the end of December 2021: the target was 168.000, and by the end of the year 264.423 people accessed services through ATBEF clinics. In Q3 and Q4 alone, 23.834 young people, 51% females, completed a quality-assured Gender Transformative CSE programme. This number accumulated to 36.440 for the entire year.

The forecasted outputs regarding the number of teachers and facilitators trained on sexuality education were reduced as part of ATBEF's re-planning for the cost extension period (see Annex I) because the limited funding was prioritised for pillar two activities. The effects of the pandemic and the restrictive measures affected negatively the opportunities to engage with community leaders and community members.

Intermediate Outcome 1200 (Pillar two) saw some important advancements in 2021. ATBEF engaged with the Ministries of Education and Health, as well as with local NGOs, to deliver in-school and out-of-school CSE. Profamilia CoE has been running a Community of Practice with MAs in the Americas and the Caribbean and is strengthening its e-learning portfolio with the upcoming launch of two new courses while disseminating the two produced in early 2021. PPAG initiated developing a website to host and exchange knowledge files and best practices for the regional CoE. A similar platform is being developed by Profamilia, as evidence-based tools to support successful youth programming will be an essential asset for the region. In December, PPAG organized a regional event in Tanzania with the MAs Executive Directors, Youth representatives and Youth Officers to discuss and promote a shared agenda regarding youth-centred programming and its role in scaling up CSE. The PPAG will monitor the implementation of the commitments, facilitate technical assistance and other joint capacity building activities.

ATBEF continues working closely with the Youth Action Movement⁴ (YAM) to provide support to young people in Togo. They organised a Technical Assistance session for young people in Africa on Advocacy for the domestication and implementation of continental policies on the demographic dividend and CSE at national and regional levels. In addition, Profamilia has conducted youth accountability training for Spanish speaking youth during Q4 and will launch a similar program for English speaking youth. The participants of the trainings will join the CoE youth network.

The CoEs continue to make important progress in upscaling CSE through direct support and knowledge exchange and experience sharing. ATBEF will design pedagogical interventions to train inspectors and senior staff from the Ministry of Education in CSE. This training of trainers will not only improve the quality of services but also have a pool of trainers able to ensure the youth-friendly CSE planning of training sessions. PPAG is engaging with national stakeholders to develop a national road map for the scale-up of CSE with emphasis on government agencies leading the processes towards implementation. At the same time, CSOs actors provide technical support for quality CSE delivery. Profamilia launched a Community of Practice with the MAs in the Americas and the Caribbean and is using it as a platform to share best practices, experiences and evidence-based resources regarding CSE.

CoEs' capacity strengthening – Leveraging its role as a Center of Excellence and provider of technical and strategic support as PMU, Rutgers delivered an online capacity-strengthening programme for the Regional CoEs where global experts shared insights allowing the CoEs to reflect on their experiences and future opportunities on key CSE topics.

Toolkits on best practices – In Q3, Rutgers published the report "[Scaling Up Sexuality Education: Lessons learned and considerations for civil society organizations](#)" and hosted a global webinar to launch it. Work to disseminate the report's recommendations is continuing in 2022. In addition, good progress was made on the update of "*Deliver + Enable: Scaling-up Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)*" (expected by the end of Q2 2022) and planning for the "*It's All One Curriculum*" update (expected in Q3 2022). Finally, throughout the second semester, Rutgers continued developing the platform where e-courses are hosted, the piloting of a blended-learning trajectory for the *Exploring Values* course and is currently finalizing the content adaptation of the Gender Transformative Approach to CSE e-course.



Figure 1: Cover page of the Scaling Up Sexuality Education report

⁴ IPPF established the Youth Action Movement (YAM) in Africa in 2004 as a key means of empowering young people, increasing youth participation in governance, advocacy, program management and leadership, raising awareness of youth leadership within the federation and supporting the implementation of the IPPF Africa region's youth strategy.

Looking into the future – In September 2021, the CoEs hosted a roundtable on ‘The Future of CSE’ to contribute to IPPF’s 2028 strategy. In 2022, the CoEs look for an update on the IPPF’s business planning process and are attentive to how best to play a part in helping with the new strategy’s delivery. In 2022, the Centres of Excellence will launch the updated versions of Populations Council’s and IPPF’s “*It’s All One Curriculum*” and IPPF “*Deliver + Enable: Scaling-up Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)*” toolkit and strategic disseminate them inside and beyond the federation.

In November 2021, IPPF submitted an application to GAC for a three-year project continuation (2022 - 2025), referred as GAC 2.0. This new funding will allow the CoEs to strengthen their institutional capacities further to be the go-to place for technical assistance, knowledge brokering, and best practices and increase their potential to enable others to scale up quality CSE. A face to face linking and learning meeting is planned to take place in the first semester to strengthen collaboration and shared learning amongst the CoEs. A secondary objective for this meeting is to engage in further planning and strategic alignment toward GAC 2.0.

Financial implementation in brief – The overall spending rate was 70%, and spending rates varied between 49% (Profamilia) and 84% (ATBEF). Expenditure increased throughout the funding period, reflecting the starting up time needed for the new two CoEs. We are looking forward to continuing our work in 2022 to meet our ambitions and deliverables. We will absorb the corresponding budget by the end of the project time. A forecast for 2022 is included in the financial overview.

3 Association Togolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial (ATBEF)

ATBEF has done a great job finding innovative ways to achieve the project indicators outlined in Intermediate Outcomes 1100 and 1200. ATBEF continues to offer quality sexual and reproductive health and educational services to youth through university clinics, mobile clinics, and community services. In addition, ATBEF has moved forward in positioning itself as a national and regional provider of technical assistance and support, particularly in the field of digital health, engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders and developing new tools that benefit and support the work of others. They have also undertaken innovative activities to upscale CSE in Togo and the francophone African region.

3.1 Intermediate Outcome (1100): Increased uptake of quality integrated gender and rights-based youth-centred SRH services by young people in Togo

Immediate Outcome 1110 Increased IPPF MA capacity to deliver quality integrated gender and rights-based youth centred SRH services

Quality SRH service provision – From January to December 2021, and despite the health crisis due to COVID-19, ATBEF has provided a total of 88.593 educational and health services to the Togolese youth through their kiosks located at university campuses the University of Lomé and Kara. Out of which, 63% (56.374) were offered to women, the remaining to men. From January to September 2021, the mobile clinic travelled across 13 cantons and provided a total of 19.711 SRHR services. Finally, the university kiosks have trained 19 facilitators who offer SRHR information and refer youth to partner health centres for STI and HIV screening and treatment. These kiosks also provide modern contraceptive methods. Community health workers were trained on the project to distribute community-based oral contraceptives, condoms and sayana press. In addition to the community-based distribution of contraceptives, these agents refer cases of STIs and people who choose long-term contraceptive methods to health centres for better care. To improve the quality of the services these community health workers offer, formative supervision was carried out in April 2021 to ensure compliance with the standards and protocols for the delivery of SRH services at the community level and thus raise the level of quality of the services offered. Community Health Workers also provide CSE services to young people and parents in the community.

Additionally, from October 11 to 17, 2021, in Kara, ATBEF trained trainers on user-friendly services adapted to the needs of young people to clinical and non-clinical staff from ATBEF, partners, and government structures. The aim was to improve the quality of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Services (SRHS) offered to adolescents and young people. Furthermore, from December 7 to 11, 2021, in Lomé, ATBEF conducted a face-to-face training on CSE to its staff, young people from the YAM, and the staff of partner structures. Nineteen people, including nine women and ten men, were trained on different themes concerning CSE and gender. After the training, one participant reflected:

Immediate Outcome 1120 Increased awareness among youth of their sexual and reproductive rights in Togo.

Sexuality education – In this reporting period, the youth and adult population completed the CSE program and followed at least one face-to-face CSE session through the various channels put in place, which is a great accomplishment given restrictions due to COVID-19. From January to December 2021, a total of 362,212 people, including 275,180 young people and 87,032 adults, attended at least one face-to-face CSE session through the various channels put in place (raising awareness by facilitators in university kiosks, by young peer educators from partner NGOs, by teachers, by driving school instructors, by parents). Also, 49,683 people, including 36,440 young people and 13,243 adults, completed the CSE program. ATBEF has also trained young people and adolescents on CSE through its online teaching platform. To date, the e-platform, infoadjeunes,⁵ has welcomed 1.009 users, including 628 people registered in the CSE program. Additionally, ATBEF has continued providing sexuality education to secondary school students through the training of teachers from secondary schools of Kara, Lomé, and Tabligbo in 2020. These teachers integrated CSE in different sessions of the programs, benefiting students during 2021.

"Today, I understand better the root of the changes observed in a human being from puberty. As a result, I am now ready to explain these changes to my classmates adequately." (YAM participant, December 11, 2021).

Immediate Outcome 1130: Increased community willingness to support young people's access to SRH services

Services in the community and community engagement – With the support of the heads of secondary schools from the prefectures of Yoto and Kozah, ATBEF conducted two trainings of 20 participants each (1 woman and 19 men) in Tabligbo and (11 men and 9 women) in Kara to engage the community, especially parents of secondary school children, on different topics connected to Gender Transformative approaches and SRHR. These trainings focused on values clarification, STI's, the decision to terminate a pregnancy, Human rights, desire, GBV, among others. In both trainings, 95% of the participants showed an acceptable level of knowledge on the topic. Finally, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the mobility restrictions, ATBEF couldn't conduct all the activities planned and related to the services to the community and raising community awareness. However, the success recorded with the vaccination and the possibility of the state of emergency being lifted will allow resuming activities related to community services in 2022.

Religious gatekeepers – This IPPF MA has also made a significant impact by liaising with the religious leaders from the Association of Religious Confessions of Togo for Health and Development. This Association brings together leaders from the Muslim, Catholic and Protestant religions. Back in 2020, within the framework of this project, ATEBF carried out numerous trainings of trainers on youth-friendly services with young people from churches and mosques and religious leaders. Young people and religious leaders who participated in these trainings have been key stakeholders during 2021 as they have: 1. Enabled young people and adults to complete a CSE program. 2. Led CSE awareness campaigns in their communities and during religious sermons; 3. Changed cultural and religious beliefs and practices negatively affect young people's access to SRHR services; 4. Referred the youth to the Health Benefit Offices. The latter is reflected in the following except:

⁵ <https://www.infos-jeunes.com>

"With the work of community and religious leaders, we have seen an increase in attendance at our centre. Also, young people no longer hesitate to come as a couple to be treated for an STI. (...), congratulations to the ATBEF for this strategy which considerably increases our attendance and improves the community's health." (The head of a health facility in a village where religious and community leaders were trained in CSE).

3.2 Intermediate Outcome (1200): Improved quality of youth-centre programming supported by ATBEF CoE

Immediate Outcome 1210 Increased capacity of IPPF CoE (Youth) MAs to deliver technical assistance around best practices in youth-centre programming

National and Regional Technical Assistance - In its mission of strengthening the capacity of national NGOs, since January 2021, ATBEF has provided technical assistance to different national NGOs to support capacity building on CSE for young people, social workers, and peer educators. ATBEF was approached by the NGOs Amazon Association of the Republic and Petite Sœur à Sœur to support the capacity building of 21 young people. Also, at the national level, ATBEF provided technical assistance to the NGOs ADESCO and RADAR for the training of twelve (12) social agents in CSE. Subsequently, ATBEF also supported these two NGOs in two training sessions for providers of contraceptive methods and the offer of user-friendly services to young people and adolescents. Throughout the year 2021, ATBEF also provided technical assistance to the NGO AV-Jeunes to train 75 peer educators from all regions of Togo in Adolescent and Youth SRH. This training was conducted online. These trainings have been evaluated as positive since the final evaluation showed a satisfactory level of acquired knowledge among the participants. Providing National Technical Assistance has also been part of ATBEF's work in the second semester of 2021. For example, ATBEF offered technical assistance to SOS Children's Villages Togo to train community leaders in SRHR. Below is a testimonial from a participant of this workshop:

"Since I participated in the training, I gained clear information on contraceptive methods and women's rights in contraception. This training allowed me to understand things well and to be able to talk to others about them" (A 28-year-old participant during technical assistance at SOS Children's Villages Togo)

During the first semester of 2021, ATBEF organized a technical assistance session for young people from the African Union, on advocacy for the domestication and implementation of continental policies on Demographic Dividend and CSE, at national and regional levels. This semi-virtual session brought together around thirty young people aged 10 to 29 face-to-face and more than a hundred online. ATBEF has also provided Technical Assistance to the Ivory Coast MA AIBEF. From November 08 to 12, 2021, ATBEF's youth program manager and the communication and resource mobilization managers facilitated the training of trainers on CSE at AIBEF's headquarters. In total, 25 people participated, from which the majority were young people.

Furthermore, with the experience acquired in digital health within the framework of this program, ATBEF organized a regional workshop on digital access to SRHR services (November 22 to 25, 2021, in ATBEF's Youth Centre of Excellence in Agoè Anomé, Togo). Five other IPPF MAs from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin, Mali, and Burundi participated in the workshop, which aimed to strengthen their skills in digital health and initiate similar digital innovative approaches in their respective countries. There have been follow-up conversations, and the MAs are interested in replicating e-learning and InfoAdoJeunes in their countries. Finally, ATBEF participated in the 4th ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Best Practices Forum in Health (24-29 November 2021 – Cape Verde) and presented the *InfoAdoJeunes* app and e-learning platform. This was an excellent opportunity to provide technical assistance in youth-focused programming and the digitalization of CSE to senior officials from the ministries of health of the 15 ECOWAS member countries, academics working in health, and several technical and financial health partners.



Figure 2: ATBEF presentation at the 4th ECOWAS Best Practices Forum on Health

Increased capacity - ATBEF is developing a self-assessment tool to evaluate the quality of services for youth-focused programs. In May 2021, ATBEF launched a call for tenders to recruit a firm to produce this self-assessment tool. The recruitment process has been completed, and a firm experienced in this field was selected. This tool will allow youth sexual and reproductive health service providers to self-evaluate programs centred on young people, identify bottlenecks, and propose measures for improvement. Once finished, the tool will be put on the cloud so the different branches of ATBEF can easily access and make good use of it.

CoE standards – The COVID-19 restrictive measures did not allow this MA to fully exercise the planned activities as the CoE, especially the technical assistance activities abroad. Nevertheless, ATBEF reached 74% on the CoE standards evaluation. An action plan has been drawn up, and its implementation will allow them to get an assessment of at least 80% in the coming months.



Figure 3: ATBEF conducting CoE self-assessment

Youth-Led Accountability Mechanisms – Young people from the Youth Action Movement (YAM) are not only consulted but involved in the design, planning, and implementation of the various CoE activities. To ensure this, ATBEF has set up five youth-led accountability mechanisms:

First, in the Project steering committee, young people from the YAM are consulted and asked about their opinions on all subjects concerning the implementation of the various activities. Second, young people from the YAM are also represented in the National Executive Committee and participate fully in the various activities of this committee. For instance, the evaluation of staff performance at the national level, the motivation of volunteers, and the mobilization of resources. Third, at the Regional Executive Committee, young people from the YAM participate in evaluating staff performance at the regional level and discussions concerning the motivation of volunteers and the mobilization of resources. Fourth and fifth, young people of the YAM are represented in the Audit Commission at the national and regional levels. Therefore, they participate in the audit activities of the association and the branches.

Meaningful youth engagement – To create a friendly, secure, and supportive environment to allow more young people to access information on SRHR on time, ATBEF set up a media library within its youth centre of excellence. This media library was inaugurated on August 19, 2021, by the Representative of the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Access to Care of Togo. Furthermore, ATBEF's efforts to continually improve access to information to young people derived from organizing a YAM camp called Camp Gododo on the theme: "Impact of COVID 19 on Health Sexuality of Young People and Adolescents". This camp, held face-to-face and online, brought together 700 young people online and twenty-five (25) young people face-to-face (13 girls and 12 boys) from the four ATBEF branches (Grand Nord; Centrale, Plateaux and Maritime).

Immediate Outcome 1220: Increased Resources for CoE (Youth) to support dissemination and replication of best practices to others in youth centred programming.

Business plan - In May 2020, ATBEF started to develop a business plan which was suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The process was resumed in the second quarter of 2021. A firm experienced in the field was selected following a tender. The methodology workshop was conducted in June 2021, and the consultant is currently in the data collection phase. The collection phase will end on February 28, 2022.

Mobile application and e-learning – ATBEF have continued enhancing its capacity as a CoE in youth-centred programming and CSE through its mobile application *InfoAdoJeunes* and the e-learning platform. Both have been very useful to adolescents and young people, especially in this period of the COVID-19 pandemic. ATBEF also revised and included summaries of CSE online modules with the support and certification of the Ministries of Health and Education.

Tele-consulting and advice – Young people in Togo have continued benefiting from tele-consultation services and health experts' direction through the *InfoAdoJeunes* App. After the first two years of its launch, ATBEF plans to update the app, make it more user attractive, and allow for video consultation services.

Global knowledge exchange – ATBEF values the facilitation of knowledge exchange by Rutgers. It created a space for south-south learning and the transfer of knowledge and ideas that feed into the regional CoE's exchange capacity and the broader work of the MAs in the delivery of SRHR programs. The CoE workshops have been timely as the lessons learned about the MA's shift in focus from self-delivery to enabling others have been inspiring. The workshops have helped strengthen ATBEF's capacity and provide strategic guidance and directions toward the formulation of next-generation CSE programs for IPPF MAs with CoEs in the lead. A follow-up session with an expert on behavioural change science was arranged by Rutgers and had the participation of different staff members from ATBEF, who finally evaluated it as highly inspiring and helpful to their work.

Resource development – In 2021, ATBEF produced a scientific publication titled “Les TIC pour la promotion de la SDSR au sein des adolescents et jeunes au Togo” [ICTs for the promotion of SRHR among adolescents and young people in Togo], where the authors explain the tools that best meet the needs of the new generation of adolescents and young people in the provision SRHR services. The target audience of this publication is mainly politicians, SRHR service providers, technical and financial partners working in SRHR, researchers, adolescents, and young people. Finally, this IPPF MA is developing a business plan of the Centre of Excellence, thought of as a tool for mobilizing resources for the financial sustainability of the Centres of Excellence.

3.3 Challenges and mitigation strategies

COVID-19 – In Togo, large gatherings have been banned to prevent the spread of the virus. In addition, a ministerial decree prohibited all non-pedagogical activities in schools. Nevertheless, thanks to advocacy, a special exemption was granted to ATBEF. This, however, required some logistical adjustments and coordination with regional educational entities, school principals, teaching inspectors. In addition, ATBEF has reduced its attendees to small groups of a maximum of 15 people to continue providing in-person CSE activities and compliance with the national regulations. The government's vaccination program started in April 2021 and is bringing hope about lifting these restrictions and allowing in-person meetings. In the meantime, ATBEF has also designed a combination of online and offline activities. Yet, there are concerns about the growing tiredness that many people are experiencing with regard to online events.

Furthermore, the persistence of international travel restrictions prevented Technical Assistance to MAs and other Organizations at the international level, especially during the first semester of 2021. However, there was more travelling flexibility for the second half of 2021. Yet, ATBEF staff is still waiting for the Togolese government's lift of the state of a health emergency, and hopefully, international travel will have no restrictions by 2022. Finally, the national mobility restriction because of COVID-19 also made it hard for the Togolese population to access SR health and educational services. However, the e-learning platform and the *InfoAdoJeunes* application, together with their community-based education and distribution activities, ensured that young people's needs were cared for.

3.4 Best practices and lessons learned

Gender Equality – Gender equality holds an essential place within the ATBEF. This MA has a gender equality unit that monitors the implementation of its gender equality policy. ATBEF has adopted procedures for positive discrimination when recruiting staff. In addition, every year, the staff is trained on gender equality, user-friendly services, and comprehensive sex education. The trainers can be from ATBEF, the Togolese government or IPPF depending on the theme.

Additionally, ATBEF's gender policy guides the design of their interventions, promoting gender equality outside the institution. ATBEF has made efforts to help women and girls overcome socio-economic barriers that prevent them from accessing SRHR services. Togolese socio-economic norms favour men, while disfavours women. This prevents them from enjoying their fundamental rights, especially SRHR. For example, "*Women do not have the right to go to a health centre or participate in a meeting without the prior agreement of their husband.*" Therefore, ATBEF opts for permanent involvement and mentoring on gender equality with men in its various SRHR community development projects and programs (including husband clubs). Simultaneously, ATBEF also encourages the participation of women and girls in its programs. For example, in the terms of reference for their trainings, ATBEF tries to ensure that the number of women exceeds the number of men. In addition, ATBEF entrusts the sustainability of its actions to organized groups of women. Gender equality also guides service provision. For example, out of the 88,593 Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights services offered to adolescents and young people with funding from the GAC project during the year 2021, 64% were offered to women and 36% to men. ATBEF's commitment to gender equality also extends to their work with their partner organizations working on the SRHR field. Therefore, this IPPF MA has focused on strengthening gender mainstreaming with partners such as the ROSCI/SR-PF (Network of Civil Society Organizations involved in Reproductive Health and Family Planning).

E-Health - ATBEF's digital resources have strengthened their capacity to provide technical assistance and disseminate best practices on e-health.⁶ For example, ATBEF participated in the 4th ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Best Practices Forum in Health (24-29 November 2021 – Cape Verde) and presented the *InfoAdoJeunes* app and e-learning platform. This was an excellent opportunity to provide technical assistance on best practices in youth-focused programming and the digitalization of CSE to senior officials from the ministries of health of the 15 ECOWAS member countries, academics working in health, and several technical and financial health partners.

⁶ <https://elearningatbef.org>

4 Profamilia

Profamilia’s joined the programme in 2021, and their workplan is focused on intermediate outcome 1200, Improved quality of youth-centred programming supported by the Centers of Excellence in selected countries. The first months focused on staff recruitment and inductions, followed by a period of action planning such as regional needs assessment in CSE and Youth-Centred Programming. Their work benefits from the re-structuring of the IPPF regional office in the ACRO region. Among the ten MAs currently in ACRO, six are Anglophone, and four are Hispanic. Profamilia itself is one of the ‘beneficiaries’ of the CoE’s processes, with the CoE team engaging colleagues across Colombia’s four sub-regional offices (including over 40 clinics) to improve programme delivery.

4.1 Intermediate Outcome (1200): Improved quality of youth-centre programming supported by Profamilia CoE

One of the first activities conducted by Profamilia when they joined the program in Q1 was to map and identify the needs and opportunities regarding CSE and Youth-Centred Programming in the region. That allowed the newly formed CoE team within Profamilia to have a better overview of their potential added value to the organizations in the region and the multiple contexts their work in.

Mapeo Inppares

- Gracias al interés de INPPARES por garantizar una prestación adecuada de los Servicios de Salud Amigables para Adolescentes y Jóvenes, la organización cuenta con espacios para la atención que protege su intimidad y privacidad.
- INPPARES ha trabajado en diversas ocasiones en la construcción de un currículo para organizar los contenidos de la EIS. Este proceso, debido a las dinámicas de mejora y actualización, se encuentra siempre en permanente construcción.
- INPPARES ha venido adelantando procesos de caracterización de la juventud para formular los programas y proyectos contrados en ella. Este proceso se desarrolla mínimo una vez cada dos años.
- En INPPARES las personas jóvenes participan como receptores de acciones, aunque también y cada vez con más fuerza, en la formulación, diseño y ejecución de las propuestas. Además de ello, la organización reconoce la importancia de seguir fortaleciendo la participación de estas en la rendición de cuentas.
- La oferta de servicios de salud a adolescentes y jóvenes en INPPARES incluye mayoritariamente el acceso a servicios de asesoría en regulación de anticoncepción, ITS y medicina, y reconoce su potencial para seguir fortaleciéndose en servicios de enfermería y asesoría en IVE.

The CoE team conducted a process to update two IPPF tools: Provide, which is a self-assessment that looks at youth friendliness of SRH services to young people; and Inside and Out, which assess the quality and comprehensiveness of CSE programmes. Multiple meetings with over 50 staff, service users and young people in Colombia, El Salvador and Peru have taken place between April and December 2021.

The adjustments in the tools were systematized and will be presented to IPPF ACRO and the Secretariat to be approved in order to improve the quality of youth-centre programming across the federation.

Figure 4: Overview of Youth Friendly Programming at INPPARES

Immediate Outcome 1210 Increased capacity of IPPF CoE (Youth) MAs to deliver technical assistance around best practices in youth-centre programming

Starting in April 2021, Profamilia CoE team has offered technical assistance to two IPPF MAs, the Instituto Peruano de Paternidad Responsable (Inppares) in Peru and Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña/Pro-Familia (ADS) in El Salvador, as well as to different programmatic areas within Profamilia itself.

A series of technical workshops has taken place between July and August to strengthen the MAs knowledge, awareness of key tools and concepts to design and implement CSE programmes. Multiple staff from different areas of the organizations have attended these sessions, and the materials developed and used during these workshops have been systematized and can be used for future Technical Assistance provision to other MAs and partners in the region.

The final area is focused on sustainability and resource mobilization and started in August. Twelve technical sessions covering the main tools used for fundraising and project proposal development, such as creating a Theory of Change, developing of indicators and budget, have been conducted and a final consolidated plan has been developed for each MA. To further support this institutional strengthening process, improvements on the three MAs websites are planned for Q1 of 2022.

CoE Standards – In April, Profamilia CoE developed a draft proposal and a guiding tool for CoE standards, and later further developed by the PMU, and then shared with the remaining CoEs. They organized two in person cross departmental meetings in order to conduct the assessments in July and August. And a follow up application of the revised tool in November in which the organization scored 80% of it. A following step was taken by organizing self-assessment meetings in each one of the four regional headquarters. These important steps also in order to position the CoE program within Profamilia, considering the size of organization and the different programs and services they offer. A report of the process and the action plan derived from it have been developed, which is due to be implemented until March 2022.

Action Plans – Profamilia CoE developed two action plans, one targeting the national actions in Colombia, and a second one looking at international actions implemented through the Community of Practice (see item below).

The national action plan was developed with different departments at Profamilia and had the objective to identify evidence-based interventions developed and implemented by Profamilia programmes in the past three years. The final product was a booklet of the most relevant and successful experiences to be disseminate inside and outside the organization. In addition, the national action plan involves the dissemination of Profamilia's educational actions to strategic stakeholders such as decision makers; university groups; rectors, coordinators, and teachers of public and private schools; among others. Two additional meetings, including one national congress are planned to take place in 2022.

Community of Practice and Regional Engagement – Conforming the Community of Practice (CoP) was a slow process that involved many meetings of the course of Q2. Historically the language barrier undermined the engagement between the Spanish speaking MAs and the MAs that have another main working language. IPPF ACRO facilitated some conversations in order to overcome this issue and to involve organizations from the Caribbean. The MA in Mexico, Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar (Mexfam), has been a crucial partner supporting the establishment of the CoP and sharing experiences regarding CSE and Youth Centred Programming with Profamilia. Collaboration around advocating and identifying opportunities for funding for the region remains.

The CoP has met six times since July 2021, and the participants have been: ADS/Profamilia, Inppares, Mexfam, Familia Planea Aruba (AFP), Jamaica Family planning association, The Family Planning

Asociation of Trinidad y Tobago (FPATT), Sticing Lobi, Asociación de la familia de Dominica (DPPA). Exchanges are based on practical experiences and evidence-based information. As an example, the meeting in December focused on the role of social norms and their impact achieving gender equality, where a document from UNFPA guided the conversation. A platform containing a resources and best practices database is under development and should be live in quarter 1. The members of the CoP have already started to identify relevant regional and global materials to be included there. An initial selection of over 100 resources (articles, manuals, cases, toolkits) from global, regional and national organizations have been made.

Youth-Led Accountability Mechanism – Between August and October, Profamilia CoE conducted Youth Accountability training for 21 youth representatives from Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, and Peru, out of which 13 concluded the program. Aligned with the GAC framework the data collected from the participants showed that 70% of the youth were females, one participant identified as queer, one participant had a visual disability, and four self-identify as indigenous. Despite a small size, the group was very diverse. The training, which had over 50 hours in total and ran from August to October, also resulted in a jointly built youth accountability mechanism for the CoE and a developed set of tools and materials to be used for the engagement with youth. Throughout the training process, spaces for participation were created and supported in which young people proposed their agendas to raise questions and topics according to their expectations, interests and needs and establish a two-way dialogue with the CoE team. Building from this experience, similar training is currently being developed for youth from the Caribbean.

Youth Participation - In August and September, members of Profamilia Youth Network participated in three regional events organized by ACRO and IPPF Secretariat. In addition, they presented their experiences around Digital CSE, reproductive health, and even the right to CSE in a conversation joined by a representative of Canada’s Ministry of International Cooperation.

Immediate Outcome 1220: Increased Resources for CoE (Youth) to support dissemination and replication of best practices to others in youth centred programming.

E-learning⁷ – Around 65 professionals have taken the e-learning courses on CSE and YFS, which were developed under the previous reporting cycle by CIES with the technical support of Profamilia. Looking at disseminating them in the Caribbean and perhaps even beyond, these courses are being translated to English and will be ready by Q1 2022. Each course has an average duration of 20 hours and includes CSE analysts tutoring the participants as well as a learning evaluation.

Two new e-learning courses are being developed and should be finalized by Q1. The first targets peer educators, and it is called “Youth to enjoy and transform”; and the second targets adults involved in CSE delivery and it is called “Youth accompaniment: being close and supportive”. The themes of these new e-learning courses were identified through consultations with MAs in the region based on their needs regarding CSE.

Profamilia’s track record of developing and running e-learnings will leverage even more the role the CoEs have in the federation. The CoEs shared capability statement and Rutgers international e-learning platform will allow exchange, adaptation, and replication of the courses and further disseminate the knowledge between the CoEs and inside and out IPPF globally.

⁷ <https://profamilia.org.co/educa/>

Materials Development – Profamilia CoE is finalizing diagramming a series of documents that systematize the activities and processes developed and led by the CoE throughout 2022. That also included the updated versions of Inside and Out and Provide tools in Spanish. Using the CoE brand guide, the new materials strengthen Profamilia CoE's internal capacity and are essential building blocks to systematic knowledge brokering and technical assistance. Furthermore, aiming at using innovative approaches to engage with CSE, they are also finalizing a kit with three games to be used by peer educators, communities and young people. These games will be available to the IPPFs MAs in the region as a powerful complementary tool for their activities.⁸



Figure 5: Flyer for social media campaign on HIV

Communication Hub – The international dissemination plan also incorporates a strategy called "Hub of Excellence", which seeks to position, through communication campaigns, different topics related to the CSE in the region. Each campaign has multimedia materials to be used by the MAs in their social networks using their logos, making the CoE a provider of strategic and media pieces for the positioning of the CSE. The first campaign, related to HIV, was launched in December, and materials have been produced in Spanish, French and English.

Mobile Apps – A mapping of free mobile applications available for and in the Americas and the Caribbean region was conducted. Information about abortion and anticontraceptive seem to be the most prevalent topics, followed by apps developed or ran by social movements with the goal to provide additional support in cases of gender-based violence. Based on the relevance of the content and its presentation, nine applications were selected. An infographic has been developed and shared with the regional partners to create awareness of what

are best practices in the region and inspire further action to be taken.

4.2 Challenges and mitigation strategies

Collaboration - Establishing agreements for joint work and opportunities for collaboration was time-consuming and required many efforts, for example, between three and five meetings per MA were necessary to develop the agreements. It was important to count with the support of mediators or promoters of these engagements, which was the case of ACRO in order to establish the engagement with the Caribbean MAs and of Rutgers PMU to promote the exchange of best practices regarding running a youth movement.

In engaging with the MAs in the region, Profamilia has noted that the Latin American organizations seem to provide more support and have a stronger commitment to work with young people than the Caribbean. This, despite being a challenge when sharing best practices within and for the region, can also be perceived as an opportunity for Profamilia to support these MAs in order to strengthen their Youth Centred Programming. Some of the deliverables were delayed due to internal processes within the partner MAs, which Profamilia CoE had no control over.

⁸ <https://healtheducationresources.unesco.org/organizations/profamilia>

Cross CoE opportunities - The geographical focus of the CoE being the Americas and the Caribbean, and not limited to Latin America as it was framed initially, covers a set of diverse countries that speak multiple languages, not only Spanish. Profamilia has hired an interpreter in order to facilitate the regional engagement and has incorporated in their workplans the translation of materials. That also allows further collaboration and cross-regional exchange with the other CoEs, as some of these materials will be translated to French and English.

COVID and social unrest - COVID has shift the work dynamics, and for the majority of the year the CoE team has been working from home and has had few possibilities of meeting in person. COVID affects the processes, Colombia in the reporting months, had very serious situations of violence,, especially against young people who were mobilizing against COVID related measurements and the impacts of the pandemic in the social and economic situation of the country.

4.3 Best practices and lessons learned

Gender Equality – Through different strategies gender equality has been an important foundation for CoE and a core component of many of the work conducted by Profamilia in different areas. These are, for example, i) positioning the gender approach as a cross-cutting commitment to all products and services developed by the CoE; ii.) providing Technical Assistance on gender approach; iii.) positioning the gender approach in the workspaces with other MAs, for example, in the Community of Practice, or in the workshops offered to ADS/Pro-familia or Inppares.

When the CoE staff was hired in Q2 they also attended two gender related training, which mixed technical and conceptual content as well as more practical applicable tools.

5 Planned Parenthood Association Ghana (PPAG)

PPAG joined the Centres of Excellence as the Anglophone Africa CoE in March 2021 and is fully dedicated to provide support to others on youth-centred programming in Anglophone Africa, the second intermediate outcome of ToC. Over the year, PPAG organized a number of technical workshops and exchange opportunities for relevant stakeholders in the region, culminating in a signed commitment statement to jointly work together to advance the SRHR agenda. PPAG used its leverage as a credible national CSO and development partner in Ghana to engage and support key government authorities to develop new guidelines for the delivery of CSE. To support these initiatives, PPAG is developing/revising several resources that will help in its provision of technical assistance and a platform is now online for partners to access these.

5.1 Intermediate Outcome (I200): Improved quality of youth-centre programming supported by PPAG CoE

Immediate outcome (I210): Increased capacity of the CoE to deliver technical assistance around best practices in youth-centred programming

Increased capacity – PPAG reports to not yet meet 80% of the CoE standards but is actively working towards meeting these requirements as collaboratively defined in the 2021 CoE Standards Assessment Tool and the 2020 Regional CoE Vision Paper. PPAG hired additional staff, including a communications manager and a graphics designer. The CoE initiative has also highlighted the need to strengthen the knowledge brokering capacity especially in the area of research and documentation with respect to best practices and promising stories documentation.

Stakeholder engagement and assessment –PPAG carried out a stakeholder analysis to identify key stakeholders to engage with while also tracking and understanding the possible or expected impact to be made through knowledge brokering role of the CoE programme. At inception, six (6) IPPF MAs (MA of Sierra Leone, Uganda, Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania and Liberia) were engaged and introduced to the CoE initiative. Each of the MAs conducted self-assessments to identify specific areas of strength and youth programme expertise that can be documented and shared as best practices opportunities for other MAs and civil society organizations to learn and replicate. The MAs also, through the self-assessment exercise, identified specific TA needs. While some direct TA has already been provided (see below), this still needs to be documented in practical action plans to systematically work towards meeting quality standards for SRHR programmes for youth. Therefore PPAG reports to have not yet achieved the development of 9 action plans or MAs that meet the standards as per the PMF target. Within Ghana efforts were made to assure and firm up trust with key government stakeholders. The PPAG director and the CoE Team have adopted several strategies including conducting friendly curtesy calls with key leaders and managers to further deepen relationships and establish closer working relations which started to yield results towards the end of the year.

Technical assistance and workshops - Of the forecasted 8 technical support activities under this project until July 2022, PPAG so far organized 5 workshops and exchange events and provided

additional direct technical assistance to its partners. A capacity building session on Human Centred Design for youth-centred programming was organized for youth officers from seven CoE Anglo-phone MAs as well as a youth-led CSO from Ghana to ensure these organizations are able to take their youth programmes to scale while remaining contextually relevant in their country. A total of 6 MAs reported using the acquired Human Centred Design knowledge in a funding proposal. Similarly, participating MAs introduced HCD as part of their core youth programmes in their recent business plan development. A second major event organized by PPAG was the Youth Forum in December 2021 which brought together the Executive Directors of the participating MAs, youth officers, youth volunteers, youth-led CSOs, IPPF Africa Regional Staff and experts from partner agencies such as UNFPA, WHO and UNESCO. The participants agreed to and signed a commitment statement to jointly work together regionally to advance the SRHR agenda as well as working in partnership with government partners to scale up SRH programs. In addition to hosting these knowledge exchange opportunities, PPAG initiated its first direct technical assistance as part of this programme to the Zambian MA to learn about the processes, policies, logistics and financial requirements necessary to facilitate the setting up of a national youth sexual reproductive health call-centre.

"The Tanzania Forum transformed my understanding, changing my work practices and bringing my team and myself to the next level of regional relevance. For the first time, the directors of the MA's had the rare chance to meet young people and youth officers from other MAs doing amazing work and sharing amazing but challenging stories from their experiences. This may not come across as a big lesson but in the words of the Director of Botswana, she had her eyes opened to a broader picture of meaningful youth participation and will make practical changes in the management and resource allocation for youth programmes in the MA." (Youth Programmes Manager - PPAG)



Figure 6: PPAG Regional Forum

Scaling up sexuality education - Following the 2019 withdrawal of public policies and guidelines on CSE by the government, the various government agencies have become latent and inactive, resulting in limited delivery and access to quality CSE in most schools and communities. As part of the CoE programme, PPAG used its leverage as a credible national CSO and development partner in Ghana to engage and support key government authorities to resolve the national controversy and develop new guidelines for the delivery of CSE. Initial consultative meetings were held towards the end of the year

with several national level actors attending and concluding on the need for improving sexuality education delivery.

Youth-centred CSE course - As per the PMF, PPAG aims to develop one youth centred CSE course, to further strengthen the national CSE scale-up process. In 2021, PPAG approached The Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration as trustworthy and respected partner to deliver an executive course for civil servants, government decision-makers, influential social actors and traditional leaders who influence public opinion and policy. PPAG is developing the training content and the institution is expected to start the delivery of the programme in the first half of 2022.

Meaningful youth engagement - PPAG involved young people in all critical decision making including the development of the Youth Programme Framework and the development of and signing of the MA Commitment Statement. PPAG ensured that young people were meaningfully involved, enabled to participate effectively and provided a platform to critically question or contribute to the outcomes and outputs of these processes. In reference to the PMF indicator on youth led accountability mechanisms, PPAG indicates to have achieved double the target, 4 instead of 2, and is currently documenting its approach to ensure meaningful youth participation in programming design, implementation and reporting for other MAs in the programme to learn from. Going forward, an online platform will be created to connect the leadership of the youth movements from the seven MAs to further enhance their demand for accountability.

Immediate outcome (I220) Increased resources for the CoE to support dissemination and replication of best practices to others in youth-centred programming

Resource development for replication –PPAG is developing several tools that will help in its provision of technical assistance and support to IPPF MAs and partners to comply with quality standards for SRHR programmes for youth (as per the PMF). PPAG had set a target to develop/revise 1 tool during the runtime of this program but reports to be already very advanced in finishing 3 products including the revision of the IPPF Inside Out Toolkit.⁹ In addition, a Youth Programme Framework will be used as technical guidance for other MAs on quality standards for youth programme development, implementation and meaningful youth participation. Also, following the lessons learnt from a pilot to deliver CSE through WhatsApp, PPAG developed a practical guide for others to replicate the intervention. So far, 7 participating organizations of a target of 10 for the entire runtime until July 2022, reported using resources generated through the CoE to improve their youth programmes.¹⁰

Costing research - Still in the pipeline is the development and publication of a technical paper on the costs and economic/societal benefit of sexuality education for youth. The results will be used as a business case, addressing concerns of government and political decision makers in Ghana on the need for structural high quality delivery through the education system.

Supporting dissemination - A beta version is now online of a website to host and exchange tools and best practices for the regional CoE network. PPAG has developed a policy guideline for the setting up and functioning of an editorial body which'll be constituted with representatives from the participating MAs, CSO groups, Young People and some subject matter experts to provide technical and professional guidance on the functioning of the shared portal and approval of content to be published based on content policy.

⁹ <https://www.ippf.org/resource/inside-and-out-comprehensive-sexuality-education-cse-assessment-tool>

¹⁰ <https://www.ppag-gh.org/ppag/ppag-learning-centre-initiative/>

5.2 Challenges and mitigation strategies

Covid restrictions on travel - A major challenge encountered during the period was the impact of COVID on travel. Each country has its own regulations and requirements for travel within the region. This made travel for programme related activities challenging both in terms of organizational burden and cost. Efforts were made to ensure participants had enough time to prepare ahead of travel and acquired the needed tests and supporting documents. Meetings with Rutgers and fellow CoEs for Latin-America and Francophone Africa were held online. While these engagements were enhancing the competencies of the staff of PPAG and provided excellent learning spaces, where possible, PPAG recommends future exchanges to be held in-person to support practical peer to peer learning from on the ground examples.

Building trust – When PPAG reached out to potential partner stakeholders at the inception phase, many were slow at first in responding to the expressed interest to provide assistance or to collaborate. It took some time for these relationships to mature resulting in delays in the implementation of some activities. Efforts were made to assure and firm up trust through conducting friendly curtesy calls with key partners to further deepen relationships and establish closer working relationships which started to yield results towards the end of the year.

“We from the smaller youth-led NGOs are struggling and looking for support. In many instances, the big NGOs are hesitant to support and pull us along. They push us around with their resources and make us feel inferior. If the CoE can change this narrative, it will be a real game changer for us and this is what I look forward to. It has started very well and I am happy with the level of engagement and open spaces. I look forward to further and deeper engagement”. (Emmanuel Ametepe – Executive Director of Youth Advocates Ghana and Convener for African Youth SDGs Summit)

Sustainability – The Anglophone Africa Centre of Excellence as a platform and mechanism for learning and exchange is a major success that will remain in place and have an impact beyond the horizon of this programme. The participating partners produced a strong commitment statement with objectives until 2030 in addition to committing themselves to various working groups. Yet, noting that PPAG is worried that the second phase of the programme is less focused on the regional engagement, MAs benefiting and participating in CoE activities should be able to access funding to undertake actions to apply the lessons and best practices following training and capacity building. In addition, PPAG would like to raise the need for a resource mobilization strategy to ensure the continuity of the regional level engagement. As a first step, PPAG will be co-organizing a capacity strengthening workshop with IPPF ARO, Rutgers and other external experts on resource mobilization for the Anglophone Africa CoE network.

5.3 Best practices and lessons learned

Lead societal change from behind - PPAGs approach in working with government agencies to build consensus and redevelop national guidelines for CSE delivery is being documented to be shared for replication. A technical team was set up at PPAG to make sure government agencies take ownership and lead the implementation and scale up of CSE, with PPAG and other CSOs providing technical and facilitative support without taking a visible role or the credit for it.

“The concept of leading from behind is quite new and yet very effective and result oriented. If mastered by many MAs, it will become a strong tool for SRHR policy advocacy.” (Youth Programmes Manager - PPAG)

Youth weekend events – PPAG aims to identify best practices amongst the Anglophone network to document and disseminate for others to take up and apply in their work. One in particular is the Youth Weekend Clinic Initiative, identified through a field visit during the Youth Forum. The Youth Weekend Clinic Initiative by UMATI in Tanzania. During the Youth Weekend Clinic Initiative implemented by

UMATI in Tanzania, activities are organized over the weekend that attract young people including music and dance, livelihoods skills sessions and indoor games, while nurses at the facility take the opportunity to educate the young people and provide them with services including contraceptives. The team in Tanzania has been requested to document this and share for proper documentation and sharing as an innovation for youth friendly service delivery.

Digital CSE delivery - As a COVID19 response mechanism, PPAG initiated online CSE delivery via Facebook and WhatsApp. Through documenting the lessons learnt, PPAG developed a practical tool for others to replicate the intervention. Currently, CSE facilitators on various projects are using the tool to guide their delivery of online CSE to young people. The tool was developed using the lessons from the Human Centred Design training conducted by Y-LABS under the CoE programme with high level youth participation and leadership. In 2021, a total of 718 young people were reached with complete CSE sessions via the online digital platform (WhatsApp).

Gender policy - PPAG has a strict policy on gender equality for the constitution of the board and the recruitment of staff. The organization is led by two females and as part of recruitment processes PPAG is consistent in providing preference for females to ensure a gender balance. This is also transferred into programme implementation strategies ensuring the recruitment and engagement of young people in the communities are also reflective of gender equality.

Equal access to services – Access to and utilization of sexual and reproductive health services is tilted towards women and girls as compared to men and boys. About 95% of all SRHR services delivered by PPAG apart from condom distribution, were delivered to women and girls. This is a result of socio-cultural belief systems, but also programme design and implementation approaches. As a response, PPAG is critically focusing efforts on reaching more men and boys with SRHR services whilst ensuring that women and girls access continue to be high.

Child marriage free communities– Through the Child Marriage Free Community Campaign, PPAG collaborates with community leaders to ensure young and adolescent girls safety and to prevent child marriage. In addition to spreading information and consciousness, community leaders mount leaflets at visible locations such as the Chief Palaces, community schools, main roads, discouraging any attempt to marry off girls by anyone in the community before they attain age 18 or consent to any marital arrangements. Many of these communities were very opposed to SRHR service delivery to women and girls, but as a result of the programme have now become pro-SRHR services including allowing for CSE education for young people.



6.1 Project management

Rutgers Programme Management Unit – In 2021, Rutgers continued its role as Programme Management Unit for the Global Affairs Canada-funded IPPF project to support the establishment and roll-out of three Centres of Excellence in youth-centred programming and Comprehensive Sexuality Education. The year started with the onboarding of the two new CoE regional hosts in the Americas, Profamilia in Colombia, and for Anglophone Africa, PPAG in Ghana. Rutgers organised multi-language cross-MA induction meetings with the new CoE hosts and coordinated the development of new work plans and budgets to drive their successful entry onto the programme. As a result, these partners have successfully integrated into the programme and have made important contributions to work developed in 2021.

"The onboarding process was as effective and empowering to ensure the PPAG team's swift appreciation of the programme and eventual assimilation and progress towards developing a well thought out programme with appropriate budget and PMF." (PPAG)

Within the PMU, country-specific project leads engage with the regional CoEs teams to monitor the implementation of activities and strategic support planning and regional positioning. We continued hosting periodic cross-MA meetings, which remain an opportunity to discuss shared agendas, foresee opportunities, and exchange experiences between the regional CoEs. One significant achievement of this year was the development and approval, of the CoE standards and an assessment tool to monitor the actions and impact of becoming and acting as a Center of Excellence.

In the last quarter of the year, Rutgers, under the guidance of the IPPF Secretariat, led the process of drafting a new proposal for a costed extension from GAC. An additional funding cycle allow the CoEs to benefit from a longer-term investment to solidify their position, expand their track record and credibility, and maintain their effectiveness. With additional funding and an extension of the project duration, the centres can fully flourish and bring sustainable impact on the different aspects of young people's lives.

Direct technical assistance – Frequent coordination and technical assistance meetings were conducted throughout the year between the team and the MAs' project focal points, reviewing and supporting their activities and materials being developed in a collaborative way and establishing the trust between the partners for the duration of the project. Direct technical assistance was also provided through one-on-one coaching sessions with the regional CoEs from externally invited experts on contextualizing CSE scale up approaches and the application of behavioural science to design cost-effective interventions.

"The establishment of ATBEF as a center of excellence, with the technical assistance of Rutgers, has strengthened the leadership of the MA nationally and internationally." (ATBEF)

Cross-MA exchange platforms – The Executive Directors Steering Group has met three times in 2021 to agree on the programme direction and sign off on important project milestones. There have been three project coordinators exchange sessions throughout the year, aimed at peer-learning and support on the day-to-day implementation of the project. However, the core platform for the engagement between the regional CoEs were the six capacity strengthening workshops held virtually between April and October 2021.

“The Rutgers coordination role and facilitation of experience sharing, and positive peer monitoring and coaching has so far been very well undertaken and resulting in the effective interactions between the CoE implementing MAs and the IPPF secretariat. These engagements with Rutgers are further enhancing the competencies of the staff of PPAG. The bi-monthly engagements and sharing as well as the CSE workshops have provided excellent learning spaces to aid south-south transfer of knowledge. To further technical guidance and mentoring remains critical for success.” (PPAG)

The PMU organised a meeting on 7th July 2021 to help Profamilia’s CoE team learn from the Youth Action Movement (YAM Africa) and YSAFE (Europe)¹¹ Youth Networks’ experience in terms of their structures, funding, and coordination, as they planned to form a regional youth group in the Americas and the Caribbean. In addition to the regional networks, PPAG shared how their national network is structured. This was an opportunity to collaborate as a global movement and inspire and engage with each other.

PPAG Regional MAs Youth Forum Programmes forum in Tanzania in December was also an opportunity for the other two regional CoEs to share their experiences. ATBEF Executive Director was present at the opening session, along with the Executive Director of PPAG and Rutgers Programme Manager. Profamilia CoE shared their experience updating IPPF “Inside and Out” and “Provide” tools. Youth, who participated in Profamilia regional youth accountability training, presented their experience, allowing youth programme focal managers and youth representatives from African Anglophone MAs to learn from what was held in the Americas. During the Forum, the Rutgers CoE staff provided technical guidance and facilitated a workshop on “Scaling Up Sexuality Education.” In this session, the scale-up framework was presented including key lessons learned from the Scale-up report. Because of COVID-19 travel restrictions, participation was online. Nevertheless, this did not prevent having an active discussion with the Forum participants.



Figure 7: PPAG Regional Forum

¹¹ YSAFE is a non-governmental network run by and for young activists in Europe and Central Asia, working for sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Immediate Outcome 1210 Increased capacity of IPPF CoE (Youth) MAs to deliver technical assistance around best practices in youth-centre programming

Digital tailored capacity strengthening programme – Considering the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainties around international in-person meetings, Rutgers developed a tailored online capacity-strengthening programme for the Regional CoEs that builds and expands on the IPPF Deliver + Enable toolkit. The programme consisted of a series of workshops followed by coached activities aimed at converting the theoretical knowledge into applied action, while addressing the key knowledge, skills and institutional adaptation needed to establish the regional CoEs. The session themes were based on a needs assessment. At the workshops, the insights provided by experts were linked to knowledge exchange among the CoEs. Table 1 shows the overview of the workshops.

Theme	Date
1. Quality CSE delivery: whole school approach and multi-component approach	28 April 2021
2. Scaling Up Sexuality Education: roles and opportunities for civil society organisations	17 June 2021
3. Engaging with government on the CSE scaling journey	06 July 2021
4. How Behavioural Science can enhance Sexuality Education impact, scale, and sustainability	23 August 2021
5. Building support and addressing resistance for sexuality education	27 September 2021
6. Delivery of digital CSE - experience to date, recommendations, and questions to tackle	11 October 2021

Table 1: Capacity-strengthening programme for IPPF CoEs 2021

"The CoE workshops have been timely as the lessons shared towards facilitating MA's shift in focus from delivery to enabling have so far been instructive. The workshops and the lessons being learnt are therefore not only building capacity, but also providing strategic guidance and directions towards the formulation next generation CSE programmes for MAs with CoEs in the lead." (PPAG)

Roundtable 'The Future of CSE' – In the process to define IPPF's Strategy for 2023-2028, Rutgers and the regional CoEs organised an online roundtable on the future of CSE and the role of IPPF and its Member Associations in it. The purpose of the Strategy 2028 Roundtables was to infuse the strategic design process with input and ideas from members, partners, sector stakeholders and clients.

The CSE Roundtable took place on 7th September 2021 and had over 400 participants from all over the world. The panel was composed by, amongst others, the Executive Directors of ATBEF, PPAG, Profamilia and Rutgers; experts from UNESCO, UNFPA, WHO, Rutgers WPF Indonesia and PPAZ Zambia, as well as youth leaders. Drawing from concrete experiences the multidisciplinary panel presented three different strategies to scale up CSE:

1. Scaling Up through institutionalizing CSE, where the experience of the CSE program Setara in Indonesia was presented.
2. Scaling CSE through digitalization, where the ATBEF's InfoAdoJeunes app was presented.
3. Addressing resistance to and building support for CSE, where PPAZ strategy with dealing with opposition in Zambia was shared and where PPAG reflected upon opposition in their context.

These strategies are an important focus of the current and future work of the regional Centres of Excellence and Rutgers, including a fourth strategy of quality implementation of CSE.

The recording, with interpretation to French and Spanish, can be found at the [IPPF MA Forum website](#).



Figure 8: A still from the webinar showcasing panellists from PPAG, UNESCO, WHO and PPAZ

"NGO's need to increase their skills and capacities to play the role of consultant for the government based on their practical experience and lessons learned. NGO's role is to convince the government and start implementation together. Doing program planning, co-implementation, co-monitoring and co-evaluation is essential to build ownership and create responsibility by the government" (Amala Rahmah, Executive Director of Rutgers WFP Indonesia).

CoE Standards – Building upon the previous processes of defining indicators upon which the CoEs can be assessed and accountable for, in 2021 a set of CoE standards were discussed and piloted among the CoEs. The proposed standards are planned for the medium-longer term and should be assessed annually. They should provoke reflections and inspire the actions of the CoE teams, helping them remain proactive and effective in progressing towards their ambitions of external impact and positioning. In the second half of 2021, each CoE made their initial measurement, to understand the process, the indicators and to provide feedback on next steps.

"The evaluation of the standards has enabled ATBEF to take stock of its strengths and weaknesses and above all to have an overview of what must be done in accordance with the standards of a center of excellence" (ATBEF)

"The indicators are straight forward to collect or conduct the assessment and they actually do point a CoE to priority areas or issues to focus action on and this is really good." (PPAG)

"I found it interesting... I have not had a space (like this) for a while, to be able to know what has happened in our areas." (Profamilia)

3. Created and published at least one knowledge product on CSE and/or youth-centred programming in the previous year ⁽¹⁾

'Knowledge Product' would include: reports, manuals, guides, toolkits, videos (focused on knowledge), good practice or policy briefing, apps, online courses, podcasts. This indicator is specifically about knowledge products produced by you (not adapted from others, which is monitored through indicator 7).

'Published' means online, or printing more than 50 copies

To get ideas for your discussion, look for the links to published products online.

If this is your second year as a CoE you can refer back to the previous year's project report (and select those that are now published or launched).



Checks

3.1. Was the document created by your organisation (not adapted from another source)?

3.2. Is it publicly available?

3.3. Has it been disseminated by the CoE? (desirable not essential)

Record the key points of your progress on the table below

Product name	Purpose (max 50 words)	Audience Reached*	Language(s)	Link

*Description: MAs, CSOs, Teachers, Service Providers, Youth, etc.

Figure 9: Indicator Number 3 – from 2021 CoE Standards' Assessment tool

After their self-assessment, each CoE made an action plan on areas for improvement which shall guide the revision of their workplans. The Rutgers team will follow up on the action plans implementation and review their alignment with the planning for 2022. In November 2021, the PMU worked to adapt the standards to mainstream their assessment process onto the GAC 2.0 proposal project monitoring and reporting cycle (See Annex IV for reference on the initial analysis made). This means the targets proposed to GAC 2.0 will include the CoE Standards and estimated targets.

The proposed CoE standards were discussed and approved at the CoE Steering Committee in December 2021. Recommendations for follow up in 2022 include: transferring the existing word tool into an excel file that facilitates analysis, relooking at some indicators' wording to make it as objective as possible and hosting an orientation with the CoE about the tools proposed to gather and record evidence about progress towards the indicators (as part of GAC 2.0 inception phase).

IPPF is requested to consider the sustainability of the CoE Standards measurement process beyond the GAC funding.

Immediate Outcome 1220: Increased Resources for CoE (Youth) to support dissemination and replication of best practices to others in youth centred programming.

CSE scale up framework (Documentation of Best Practices) – The report *“Scaling Up Sexuality Education: Lessons learned and considerations for civil society organizations”* was launched in November through a webinar attended by more than 150 people from dozens of countries. The webinar recording has been shared with over 300 people who registered to attend.

This shows the importance of the topic and motivates us to develop further tools to support scaling up quality CSE. In 2022, the scale up framework will be embedded in the updated Deliver & Enable toolkit and will be disseminated across the IPPF federation and beyond.

Digitalization lessons (Documentation of Best Practices) – The case study focused on the Digitalization of CSE in the Global South is currently being edited and launched in the first quarter of 2022. The editing process took longer than planned as Rutgers wanted to have approval from the study participants before its launch. Therefore, feedback on the near-finished product was solicited, and it is being incorporated. The case studies are linked to other knowledge products such as the Capacity Strengthening Programme (see earlier) and the update of the IPPF “*Deliver + Enable*” toolkit. Moreover, they will also create visibility for the CoEs within and outside the federation; and contribute to our mission as incubator for ideas and research on CSE and a leading voice for evidence-based practice of CSE.

Youth Tech health Conference – Rutgers and the PPAG and ATBEF CoEs, held a panel in the “Youth tech health Conference,” which took place from the 4th to the 6th of October 2021. In their panel, titled: “Opportunities and challenges of scaling digital comprehensive sexuality education: Lessons from practice”, their digital strategies to sustain and support the delivery and improvement of CSE were presented. Almost 80 people joined the session and contributed to an exciting discussion.

Deliver + Enable: Scaling-up Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Toolkit Updating – The toolkit is being updated, and it is expected to be ready by the end of Q2 2022. An external advisory group was established to help increase the quality, and potential contribution of the updated *Deliver + Enable* toolkit to our sector. This group has met twice throughout 2021 to discuss the newly proposed content direction. Members of the advisory group represent UNESCO, WHO and IPPF European Network, and the consultant leading the development of the first version of the toolkit. In late 2021, a gap analysis was developed including an ambitious plan for the new content, which resulted in additional work in the ‘deliver’ part of the toolkit (our initial focus was on expanding the ‘enable’ section). This new version will expand the roles MAs and other key organizations can play in order to enable others to deliver and support CSE. An important addition will also be a costing tool, including the drivers of a CSE intervention, supporting partners to implement and/or scale them. A structured reflection and analysis of the elements that comprise a CSE programme is a valuable tool, as many organizations start or run interventions which are not feasible to continue over time.

E-learning – Rutgers and the regional CoEs are developing various online tools and e-learning courses, and more are planned for 2022. A shared capability statement on online-learning is currently in development to exchange these (online) tools and disseminate them across the federation. It will provide an overview of e-learning opportunities offered by the CoEs to IPPF MAs, such as the topics, target audience, duration, language, etc.

The Rutgers [e-learning platform](#) is live and will host different e-learning courses. Anyone with an e-mail address can log in and follow the available courses. CSO professionals and IPPF MAs working on SRHR and Gender Justice are the target audiences. It uses Moodle – an open-access learning management system – which allows the easy replication of the e-learning courses. This functionality for easy replication and adaptation is key considering the regional CoEs, and their trusted partners’ ambitions in adapting courses for their context. Other courses developed by the regional CoEs can also be contextualised for an international audience and uploaded onto our platform.

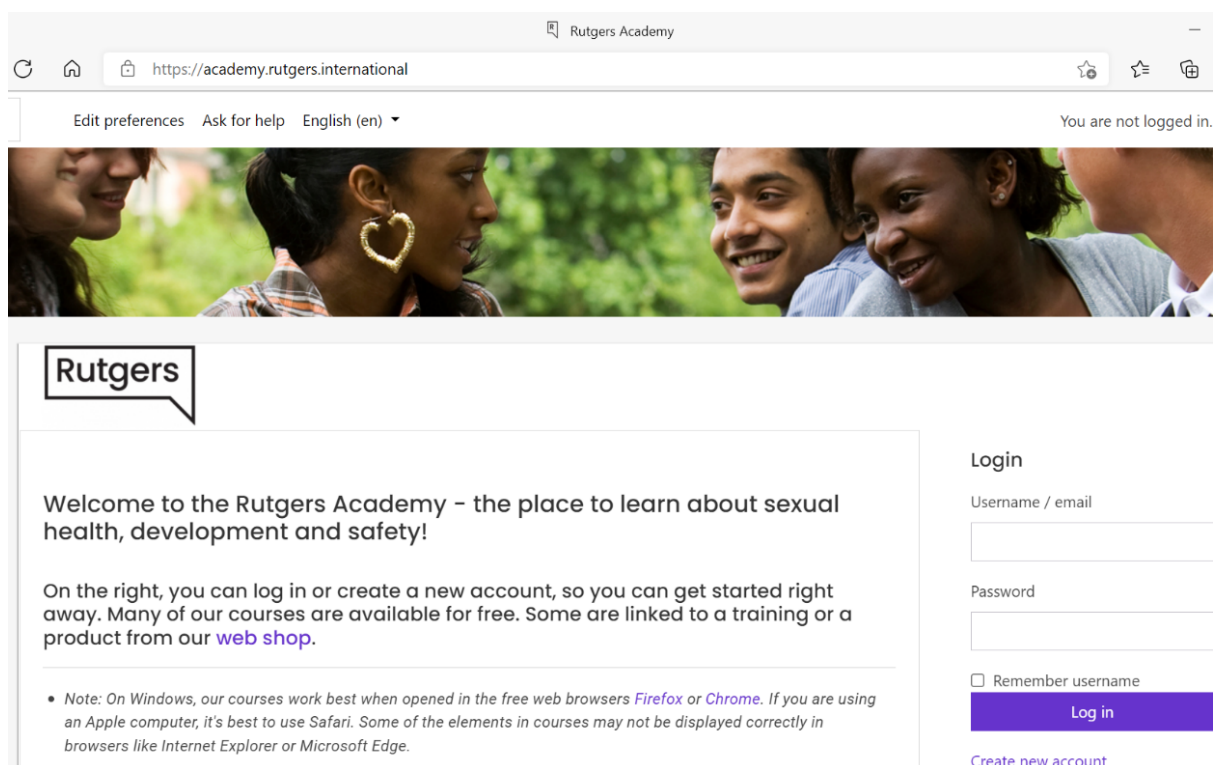


Figure 10: Rutgers Academy

The first e-learning module developed by Rutgers for the regional CoEs, the IPPF Federation and a broader international audience, agents, and stakeholders in the field of SRHR, “*Exploring Values*,” was launched in Q4 2021. In September 2021, it was piloted using a sample audience of second language English speakers who are professionals working on SRHR and gender justice programmes.

The launch of the international e-learning website will take place in the first semester of 2022 with two courses: *Exploring Values* in English and French; and the Gender Transformative Approach Toolkit [Module 2: GTA and Comprehensive Sexuality Education \(CSE\)](#) in English and French. Regarding the latter, the content production phase has been completed, and the course is currently in the design and build phase. Rutgers PMU will disseminate the e-learning modules across the IPPF federation and facilitate blended learning *Exploring Values* courses with the regional CoEs.

It’s All One Curriculum update – IPPF is coordinating a process to update *It’s All One Curriculum*¹². The preparation started in 2021. A steering committee with members from the Population Council, IPPF and Rutgers oversee this project. In addition, we have formed an international ‘advisory panel’ with 30 members [including six young people (3 of them linked to IPPF)] who will prepare the update. The regional CoEs Profamilia and PPAG are members of the advisory panel and several organisations external to IPPF. This will be reviewed by a ‘technical review panel’ conformed of over 15 experts worldwide (e.g., UNESCO, UNFPA, IPPF, etc.).

The project aims to produce an updated copy - in English - by September 2022, with a view to publishing the revised version in Q4 2021. It will provide key messages and suggested activities, based on recent evidence on CSE, with a focus on 15-to-18-year-olds. The update needs were drawn from a survey to IPPF MAs (including young people) conducted in Q4 2021 and interviews with key stakeholders. This

¹² https://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/2011PGY_ItsAllOneGuidelines_en.pdf

is being followed up (as of February 2022) by a more detailed review by the advisory panel. We aim to publish updates on progress in March and May 2022, to keep IPPF and members informed in priorities and progress.

CoE Branding – A joint Brand Manual has been developed in the three languages (English, French and Spanish) and it has been used by the CoEs. The logo design is based on work initiated by Profamilia’s communications team and comes from the fusion of two basic shapes: the circle and the spiral, the circle conveys the message of union and community between centres, continuity as the processes of transmission of knowledge, organisation, and perfection. The spiral represents excellence and leadership in the sector, quality, transcendence, and growth.



Figure 11: Logo for Centers of Excellence

CoE animation – In April 2021, an [animation that explains how others can benefit from the activities and support provided by the CoEs](#) was launched as part of the communication on the onboarding of the new regional CoEs, Profamilia and PPAG. The animation is available in English, [Spanish](#), and [French](#) and has been used by the CoEs in their activities.

7 Progress towards expected outputs and outcomes

As is evident on Annex I (PMF), in both Intermediate Outcomes (1100 and 1200) ATBEF is ahead of or making progress towards achieving most of their targets. They have provided more SRH services than initially forecasted (to any age group). In 2021, for youth only, they had a forecast of 57.000 services, whilst their actuals were over 88.000, an increase of 35%. Over 67% of users were females, getting close to the target of 70%.

As per Immediate Outcome 1110, over 91% of clients would recommend their services. The Immediate Outcome 1120 tackling the increased awareness of their SRHR by the youth, showed important results. Post-evaluation on their CSE provision indicates great results both, in terms of knowledge, and in awareness of service providers. The number of young people who completed a quality-assured Gender Transformative CSE programme has tripled, from a target of 10.000 to an actual of 36.440. As part of the extension planning and aligned with the focus of the other regional CoEs, ATBEF has reduced the resources devoted to direct CSE provision and training of community leaders and is strengthening the actions of Intermediate Outcome 1200, which is related to improved quality of the youth-centred programming supported by ATBEF in the region. No activities with community leaders were organized in 2021, which links with Immediate Outcome 1130 Increased community willingness to support young people's access to SRH services. This was due to two factors, overoptimistic forecasts that underestimated the costs to implement, and the impact of COVID-19 and the feasibility of engaging with these leaders.

During the first months after the transfer of the programme to the two new centers, PPAG and Profamilia focused on planning, mapping and engagement activities. Since then, important, progress towards expected outputs has been made by PPAG and Profamilia and both are on track to meet their targets. For example, Profamilia CoE supported the application of *Inside and Out* and *Provide* to two other MAs in the Latin American region; while PPAG is developing a Youth Programmes Conceptualization Framework to share evidential and practical guidance to MAs towards the development of youth centred SRHR programmes after a successful regional in person event in December. Addressing both capacity (Immediate Outcome 1100) and resources available (Immediate Outcome 1200) for the regions they work.

Linked with the Immediate Outcome 1200, Increased capacity of IPPF CoEs, the regional CoEs have supported the development of 14 funding proposals for MAs in their respective regions, with Ghana having reported that six MAs used the learnings from a Human Centred Design training they have organized in an application for a grant. ATBEF has provided support to five MAs with their youth funding proposals (when the initial target was three). In 2021, Profamilia supported the development of the 3 targeted funding proposals included in the PMF, as a result of institutional capacity strengthening conducted over the course of a few months in Colombia, El Salvador and Peru.

All regional CoEs have developed and are implementing Actions Plans to disseminate evidence-based solutions for delivery of youth-centred programming. PPAG for instance, is developing a national road map for the delivery of reproductive health education in and out of school. While Profamilia consolidated under two different action plans, their national and regional strategies to scale up CSE and leverage the work being done by key stakeholders.

Youth led accountability mechanisms are on track, as all CoEs are implementing such actions within the regional scope of their work. For example, Profamilia is establishing a group of over 20 diverse

young people from different countries in the Americas and the Caribbean to be part of CoE youth network.

Immediate Outcome 1220, Increased resources for CoE (Youth) to support dissemination and replication of best practices to other youth-centre programming, has seen also important results. Profamilia is disseminating the two courses developed earlier on through this programme, and finalizing two additional ones. PPAG has an online beta version of a website to host and exchange tools and best practices for the regional CoE network.

ATBEF is developing a media library for young people to have access to a range of tools, while PPAG and Profamilia are developing several tools based on their experience offering technical assistance and workshops to help future engagement with partners and overall knowledge dissemination. ATBEF mobile application *InfoAdoJeunes* and the e-learning platform are running successfully and have benefitted adolescents and young people in Togo during the pandemic and the restrictions around in person activities.

One lesson to learn from PPAG's and Profamilia's efforts over the last year is that activities linked with increasing capacity and resources for youth-centred programming are time-consuming and strategies tend to have a slow pace, despite all the planning and interest of key partners. This was an important lesson shared with ATBEF, as their focus is each day more on Pillar 2, the Intermediate Outcome 1200. However, all CoE are in the right track, strengthening their organizations while, at the same time, nurturing and establishing relevant relationships with actors in their respective regions.



Progress towards Improving Gender Equality

Harmful gender norms are still an unfortunate reality in the countries this project works, however the regional CoEs have a long track record of commitment to change those and include that as an important element when providing sexual and reproductive health.

Gender equality is the golden thread running through IPPF's CSE programming. A central element of CSE service delivery is to recognize the importance of empowering adolescent girls to reduce coercive sex, one of the WHO's five recommended outcomes for gender equality. Moreover, CSE provides a powerful platform for transforming harmful gender norms by using an integrated approach to work with girls and boys both separately and together. In this project, the three GAC-funded CSE Centers of Excellence have been promoting and embedding best practices through empowering women and girls, engaging men and boys, and improving gender-sensitive health service provision. By linking quality CSE to youth-friendly, gender-sensitive, stigma free services SRH services, this project ensures that the girls and boys, young women and young men who participate in the project have access to continuity of care that is adapted to their needs.

On an organisational policy level, policies and documents guiding, supporting and promoting gender equality exist in all CoEs, and are a component of many of knowledge materials developed by them. The youth movements supported by the MAs also offer opportunities to reflect and potentially change many attitudes, behaviours and roles that perpetuate gender inequalities. In these movements teenager and young men are also part and play an important role as allies and change makers in order to bring about change.

PPAG has a strict policy on gender equality for the constitution of the board and the recruitment of staff. The organization is led by two females and as part of recruitment processes PPAG is consistent in providing preference for females to ensure a gender balance. This is also transferred into programme implementation strategies ensuring the recruitment and engagement of young people in the communities are also reflective of gender equality.

Profamilia is aware of and committed to the importance of including a gender focus throughout its activities and actions. For this reason, it constantly carries out qualification and updating processes on these issues. Every person who joins the organization receives a training process that involves the gender-based approach. In addition, there is an internal guiding document titled "We are the differences we recognize: Strengthening the human rights approach and intersectionality in Profamilia", which explains some elements of their commitment. Although this has varied over time, on average 80% of Profamilia's CoE team has been composed by women. And overall in the organization, according to recent figures, 72% of the leadership positions are held by women, including the Executive Director.

Rutgers PMU is also composed in its majority by women, which come from three continents and from different educational and professional backgrounds. Rutgers has qualified gender equality specialists in its team, and the launch of the Gender Transformative Toolkit in recent years was a milestone that once more positioned the commitment of the organization towards gender equality. In most of Rutgers national and international programmes, gender equality is treated as an objective in and of itself.

The decision of converting one of the modules from this GTA toolkit shows Rutgers CoE commitment and interest in pushing for inclusion of gender into tangible comprehensive sexuality education practice and programmes. The Exploring Values course has also has one module focused on gender, out of the four modules that comprise the course.

9 Compliance briefing

9.1 Project support by IPPF Secretariat

IPPF Secretariat has continued to provide contractual management on the CoE project. In 2021, IPPF has supported the Rutgers team on the development of the inception report and extensions of contracts for the participating Member Associations as well as the disbursement of funds in line with the MAs funding agreements. To both support the Rutgers team and ensure overall accountability for the project, the CO team have continued to have regular monthly catch-up meetings with the Rutgers PMU team, supporting them wherever required. The GAC Project officer from ARO has attended all the CoEs' workshops. Both IPPF regional offices, ACRO and ARO office have facilitated and promoted connections between the CoEs and their regional counterparts, including Togo's introduction of their *InfoAdoJeunes* App (funded through this programme) to young people from over 20 MAs, in late June, at a Regional Youth Forum. ARO also coordinated a participatory process to dub to AMAZE videos into French. Moreover, ARO was closely involved in the planning and roll out of the Anglophone Africa Centre of Excellence hosted by PPAG in Ghana. The IPPF ARO team made important introductions; facilitated the formation of new partnerships; and took active part in the regional events.

9.2 CoEs sustainability

Reporting cycles have been used as an opportunity for the CoEs to reflect on the sustainability of project outputs and the CoEs' role. A key specific recommendation from the MAs for IPPF remains: CoE financing should become part of IPPF's core-funding mechanisms with earmarked funding allocated towards implementation of CoE activities. Regional CoEs are fearful of the potential lack of funding from 2022 onwards and remain eager to continue the conversations and processes to secure funding (including from other sources), to safeguard their progress to date and their reputation as CoEs. In Q4 important steps were taken, such as resume the conversations with GAC regarding the next funding cycle and the update of the proposal submitted in 2020. Another important step taken by the IPPF Secretariat was the approval of a small amount as additional stream 2 funding allocation for the regional CoEs. In addition, the need to clarify the roles and parameters for CoEs to operate within the federation and how to better align their regional ambitions with the work developed by the Regional Offices, remains. Considering their potential contribution to the federation and the scaling up of CSE globally opportunities to leverage the CoEs roles and products should be created.

9.3 Safeguarding

IPPF's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures. IPPF's Safeguarding Framework comprises of a suite of policies that were approved in May 2019. The framework policies are: Code of Conduct; Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults; Respect at Work; Raising a Concern; Confidentiality and Information Sharing; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Employment Principles. IPPF Secretariat, MAs and partners must adhere to IPPF's Safeguarding Standards. This includes a commitment to cascading these standards to any of their downstream partners, for example associate clinics.

IPPF's SafeReport is a multi-lingual helpline, which is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week and has been in place across the entire Federation since March 2019. The confidential service is available for anyone who wants to make a complaint about IPPF or any service provided through partnerships. This includes volunteers, staff, clients, beneficiaries or other members of the public. Operated by Expolink, an external company, this system ensures that all concerns related to safeguarding, bullying, harassment and fraud are raised safely, logged centrally for oversight and learning, and responded to

in a timely manner with the relevant expertise and support. SafeReport ensures background information is adequately captured to allow swifter investigations and reporting of all allegations to regulators and funders. Confidentiality for all employees and volunteers is guaranteed through this new system.

All the CoEs have reported having **safeguarding policies** that align with IPPF's. To protect clients, staff, young people, and vulnerable persons, PPAG referred to, amongst others, their child and vulnerable adults' protection policy, gender policy, and their no discrimination policy. Profamilia referred to their ethics and good governance manual, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and anticorruption policies. These policies also apply for the staff, service providers and partners. ATBEF referred to their policies regarding the protection of children, youth, vulnerable people, and victims of forced labour; fraud and other corrupt practices; report and processing of complaints.

Rutgers refers to its Code of Conduct; Child (Adolescent and Vulnerable Adult) Protection Policy; Gender Policy; Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Bribery Policy; Complaints Procedure; Reporting Procedure; and Whistle-blowers Policy. In the second half of 2021, Rutgers started to review its integrity framework, which includes safeguarding and is expected to address reporting channels and elements of Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment. In 2020, Rutgers decided to embrace a 'holistic approach to safety & security' and that commitment is getting incorporated in our programmes. A training session is currently being developed and will be discussed with the regional CoEs in order to exchange best practices and identify how to best incorporate it in their operations.

PPAG also has **reporting channels** enshrined in the Child and Vulnerable Adults protection policy that allows aggrieved or abused persons to submit their complaints and seek redress. Profamilia uses their own reporting channel. They commented that most of the reports received are genuine and their staff induction plan includes at least on module on safeguarding. Rutgers is due to review its reporting channels in the latter half of 2021. Rutgers' framework foresees reporting via the complaints' procedure, reporting procedure and in its programming arrangements with partners.

Any organization or person who works with ATBEF must abide by the ATBEF General Conditions, which contain specific provisions on child labour, sexual exploitation, and fundamental workers' rights. The ATBEF General Conditions form an integral part of any agreement between ATBEF and a partner. Partners who sign an agreement with ATBEF undertake to comply with these provisions. In addition, ATBEF is committed to doing business only with partners who share its values of respect for fundamental human rights, social justice, human dignity, and the equal rights of men and women, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

9.4 Acknowledgment of funding

Examples of how this has been done in 2021 include:

- In Colombia in May and August, a representative of the Canadian Embassy participated in events along with CoE representatives and members of their Youth Network.
- Profamilia CoE, through its Technical Assistance plan with the MAs in El Salvador and Peru, as well as the activities of the regional Community of Practice and the Piense E-learning platform have been disseminating relevant information and actions performed under GAC funding.
- In Ghana in May, the Canadian Embassy attended the launch of PPAG's Digital Health Contact Centre. The Embassy representative was briefed about the DHI intervention and the onboarding of PPAG onto the CoE programme. They were briefed on the planned activities and how the Government of Canada was supporting PPAG and IPPF to advance SRHR for young people in Ghana, in Africa and around the globe.
- In Togo, ATBEF always acknowledges GAC's support, including by printing GAC's logo on T-shirts, banners, brochures; and the activities concerning the advertisements of their CSE courses offered on their e-learning platform. For the launch of the media library, ATBEF prepared an invitation for

the Canadian Embassy to come and inaugurate the centre. But unfortunately, with the worsening of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on closing borders, ATBEF did not send the correspondence.

- ATBEF mentions the financial support received from Global Affairs Canada to participants during project activities. Additionally, ATBEF acknowledges the support of IPPF and GAC by placing their logos outside of their university kiosks, where they provide SRHR services and CSE training, as indicated in the photo.



Figure 12: CSE training at the kiosk of the University of Kara, Togo

9.5 Environmental Assessments

ATBEF encourages environmentally sustainable practices by choosing sustainable suppliers. At the workplace, ATBEF tracks paper usage and has established paperless communication. Furthermore, ATBEF has also taken steps to become more energy efficient by switching to green office lighting. Within these in-house practices, they have also established protocols for the use/disposal of hazardous waste/materials.

Profamilia has an environmental management policy that defines the guidelines to prevent, control and mitigate the environmental impacts generated in the development of Profamilia's social purpose. Compliance with legal regulations and the rational use of the resources necessary for the execution of the organisation's processes and services, bearing in mind the internal and external aspects of the provision of sexual and reproductive health services are standard. The policy is part of the induction process for each of the organisation's employees.

Profamilia prints on recyclable materials, though this has also significantly reduced due to staff working from home since the pandemic has started. Resources for national and international travel were reduced and a face-to-face meeting with the regional MAs was eliminated, which has had a positive impact in the environmental footprint of their project.

PPAG has not yet initiated this assessment.

10 Financial results 2021

Below we present an overview of expenditure over the full implementation period, with specific analysis of the expenditure rate in 2021. Please see further details in Annex II. The overview presents the consolidated expenditures of IPPF Central Office, IPPF ARO, WHR and the other six IPPF MAs involved in the project so far. The overall spending rate so far was 70%. The total variance is 2.005.427 USD (30%).

	Total Budget (1 Apr 19 - 31 Mar 21)		Costed extension		Total Rev. Budget (Apr 19 - Jun 22)		Year 3 Budget (Jan 21 - Mar 22)		YEAR 3 Actuals (1 Jan 21 - 31 Dec 21)		Year 3 variance (1 Jan 21-March 22)		Total Actuals (1 Apr 19 - 31 Dec 21)		Total Variance		Spending rate
	Total USD	Total CAD	USD	CAD	USD	CAD	USD	CAD	USD	CAD	USD	CAD	USD	CAD	USD	CAD	Total
Remuneration - organisation's	877.274,77	1.180.284,94	200.681	269.997	1.077.956	1.450.282	660.030	888.003	334975	450675	325055	437329	752.901	1.012.953	325.055	437.329	70%
Fees - subcontractors	44.994,70	60.535,87	-	-	44.995	60.536	44.995	60.536	56820	76445	-11825	-15910	56.820	76.445	(11.825)	(15.910)	126%
Travel and Meetings costs	214.566,58	288.677,88	22.142	29.790	236.709	318.468	209.643	282.054	40548	54554	169095	227501	67.613	90.967	169.095	227.501	29%
Other direct project costs	63.629,92	85.607,69	-	-	63.630	85.608	63.630	85.608			63.630	85.608	-	-	63.630	85.608	0%
Sub-grants to Member Associations and Partners	4.356.718,54	5.861.529,13	445.965	600.000	4.802.684	6.461.529	2.320.817	3.122.426	939028	1261973	1381789	1860453	3.420.895	4.601.076	1.381.789	1.860.453	71%
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	5.557.184,52	7.476.635,52	668.788	899.787	6.225.973	8.376.422	3.299.115	4.438.628	1371371	1843647	1927744	2594980	4.298.229	5.781.442	1.927.744	2.594.980	69%
Allowance for overhead costs	389.002,92	523.364,49	28.400	38.210	417.403	561.574	236.406	318.061	158723	213546	77683	104515	339.720	457.059	77.683	104.515	81%

Table 2: CoE Financial Expenditure 2021 Analysis

Spending rates over the project period (April 2019-Dec 2021) vary between 48% for Profamilia, 50% for PPAG, 57% for Rutgers, 59% for IPPF CO/ARO and 84% for ATBEF. There are different reasons for this. PPAG and Profamilia only started project implementation at the end of March 2021 and have absorbed after 9 months implementation, around half of the budget with still 6 months to go (until end of June 2022). Spending rates have increased over time, meaning as programme has picked up pace, with higher spending rates in Q4 compared to Q2 and Q3. Variance is 260,846 USD for PPAG and 345,642 USD for Profamilia. The total variance of IPPF CO/ARO is 184,503 USD.

For ATBEF, the spending rate from the start of the project until the end of 2021 was 84%, the variance is 167,684 USD. This indicates that project implementation is on track. In 2021, ATBEF has continued to build upon the foundations of previous years as CoE. The extension of the project until June 2022 allowed for a shift from direct CSE implementation and service provision to a stronger focus on supporting *other* organisations and the government in quality implementation. This will include new activities such as providing technical assistance to international and national organisations, training secondary school teachers for the integration of CSE in the classroom, training inspectors and senior staff from the Ministry of Education in CSE, making their existing online CSE course available without internet connection and updating the existing App.

Rutgers' spending rate during the project period was on average 57%, with an increasing spending rate over time. In 2021, Rutgers absorbed 73% of the CoE Annual Budget, increasing from 99.396 USD in Q1 to 207.739 USD in Q4. Rutgers' variance is 749,833 USD. The ongoing pandemic has left financial impacts on the expenditure rate of the coordination of the programme: Despite continuous efforts to catch up on spending, this was only possible in the second phase of the year, due to several reasons such as staff turnover at the start of the year and management restructuring. Since mid-April, the team is on full speed and in July an e-learning specialist has joined the team to drive our e-learning ambitions. Moreover, travel and physical meetings were still not possible in 2021, therefore we coordinated an online tailored capacity strengthening programme that started at the end of April 2021. We have seen an increasing trend in spending over the months and are confident that by the time the results are delivered, the budget will be absorbed.

For the remaining part of the project until June 2022 (implementation), the project will continue with the planned activities by all three MAs, support them in their transition towards becoming a regional platform for knowledge exchange, and an increasingly remote / digital way of working. In 2022, there will be a stronger focus on exchange and learning, aiming to organise a Linking & Learning meeting in

Q2. Moreover, we look forward to continued collaboration after June 2022 with a project extension. This will allow the CoEs to further strengthen their institutional capacities to be the go-to place for technical assistance, knowledge brokering and best practices; as well as to increase the potential to sustain the scale up of quality CSE.

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Annexes

Annex I Jan – December 2021 Results against Performance Measurement Framework
Please see Excel attached.

Annex II CoEs' Financial Report (versus GAC budget)
Please see Excel attached.

Annex III Tool to assess CoE Standards
Please see PDF attached.

Annex IV Analysis – Proposed CoE Standards against GAC 2.0 PMF
Please see PDF attached.



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