



Building Local Capacity to Engage in Advocacy



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Activity



Participants should get into 3 or 4 groups



Write down the policies that you know from your respective countries or region- including HIV or SRH-related policies



Present your notes!

Definitions

What is a Policy?

Defining a Policy

- A policy is a set of coherent decisions with a common long-term purpose
- A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual
- **Important to note:**
- A policy outlines what a government hopes to achieve and the methods and principles it will use to achieve them?
- Policies are usually explicit written documents, and they could also be implicit unwritten documents

What is a public policy?

Defining public policy



Public policy refers to actions taken by the government in a bid to solve problems and improve quality of life



It is basically what an institution be it a government, chooses to do or not to do

What is policy advocacy?

Defining Policy Advocacy



Policy advocacy refers to organized initiatives that seek to change official policy or legislation or the way these regulations are applied



Policy advocacy efforts typically try to establish new policies, improve existing policies or challenge the development of policies.



What is local level advocacy?

Defining Local level Advocacy



Local-level advocacy (also known as community-led advocacy) is advocacy driven by **communities**



It involves engaging and influencing policymakers and decision-makers, stakeholders, and relevant audiences in communities, such as local politicians, civil society groups, local authorities, community leaders, school boards



Approaches to Policy Advocacy

Approaches



01

Persuasion-
Confidential dialogue
with policymakers with
the intention of
changing their
behaviour

02

Mobilisation- Rallying
key stakeholders who
can influence
policymakers to
change their behaviour

03

Denunciation- Publicly
condemning a policy,
hoping that public
pressure will influence
policymakers to act on
the issue



Principles to Policy Advocacy

Principles



Meaningful involvement and leadership of the groups of people affected by the policy



Clarity of purpose- understand exactly how the policy is affecting the population and what exactly needs to be changed



Flexibility- the process is not always linear

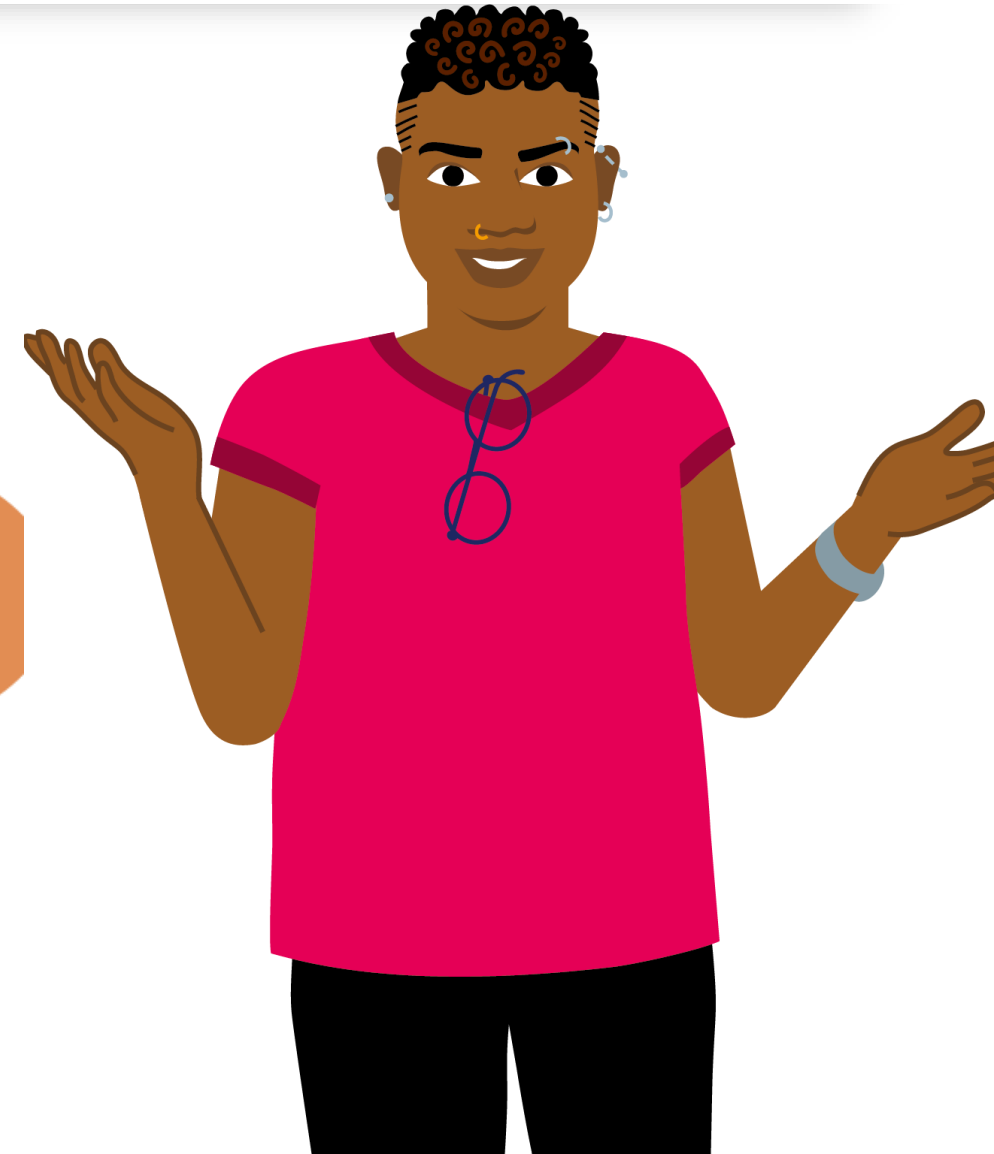


Accountability to the advocacy cause itself and the people being represented



Evidence-based in order to inform/ influence the decision makers and the communities to mobilise more support

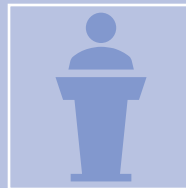
Questions



Activity group work



Participants to go back in the same groups as before



Participants to come up with actions they believe young people can take to influence local policy or decision-making in their community- as many as they can



Time: 5 minutes