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## Addressing pregnancy prevention needs of adolescents in East and Southern Africa through education and health sector partnerships

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# Addressing Pregnancy Prevention Needs of Adolescents in East and Southern Africa through Education and Health Sector Partnerships



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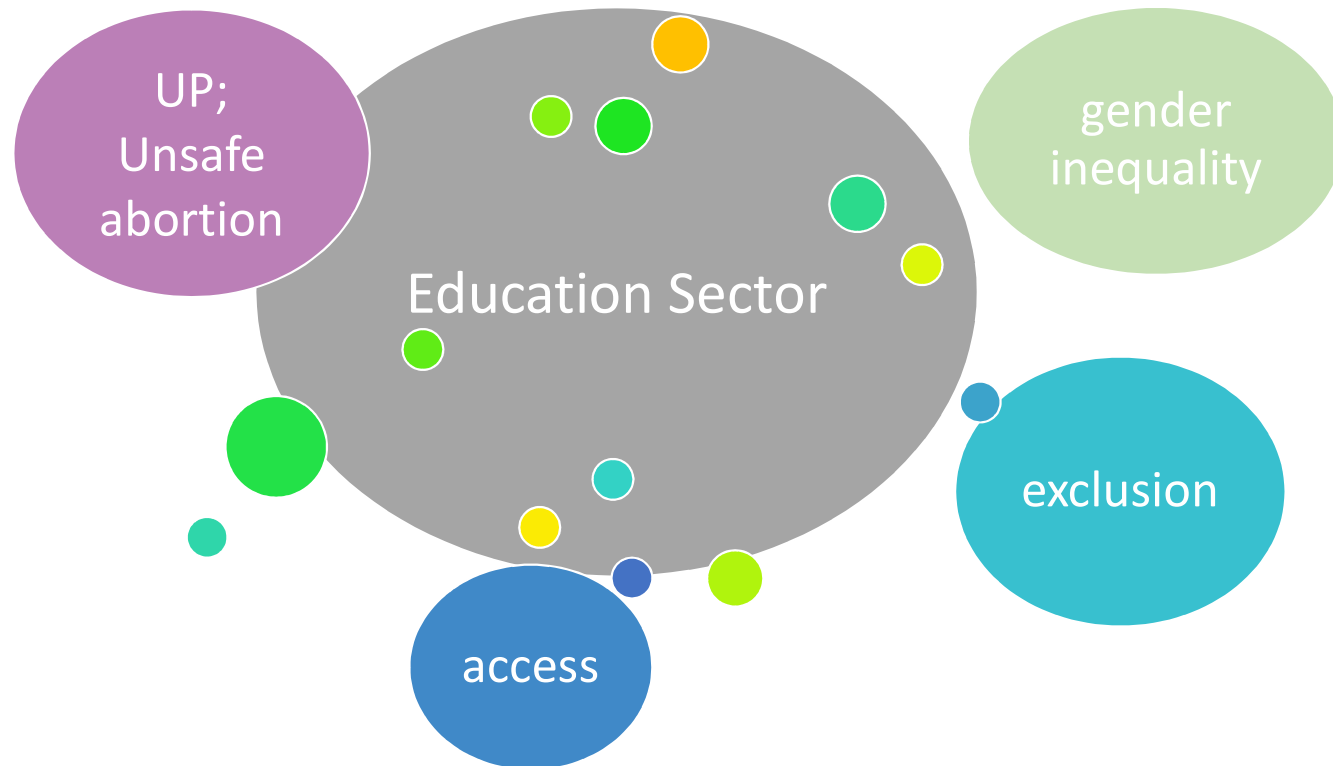
African Population and Health Research Center



# What's so special about the education sector?

- It's where the adolescents are (or should be!)
  - Policies of Universal Primary Education in the region
- It's where we begin to lose many adolescent girls
- It's a place of opportunities
  - Links between education and health
  - Upholding of rights ('Education For All')
  - Sustained behaviors, interventions, etc.
  - It's important for SDG 4 & 5

# Education sector response to UP – the current picture



# We are seeing a regional crisis in ESA-- High unintended pregnancy rates (40-60%) among girls 15-19 years

Country	Unintended Pregnancy (%)
Kenya	59
Malawi	44
Tanzania	39
Uganda	47
Zambia	58

Source: Demographic and Health Survey;

## A LARGE PROPORTION OF CLIENTS SEEKING POST-ABORTION SERVICES AT HEALTH FACILITIES ARE BELOW 20 YEARS Y

**17% (Kenya),**

**21% (Malawi),**

**49%-58% (Tanzania),**

**60% (Zambia),**

**68% (Uganda)**

*(Source Guttmacher Institute 2009; Levandowski et al. 2009; Mirembe 1996; Rasch and Kipingili 2009; Republic of Kenya 2013).*

## KENYA: 47% STUDENTS EXPERIENCE SEVERE UNSAFE ABORTION COMPLICATIONS

*(Source: MOH. 2013 Incidence and complications of Unsafe abortion in Kenya)*

How is the education sector responding?

# Life Skills Education (LSE) is inadequate

A six country review (Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia) shows that LSE:

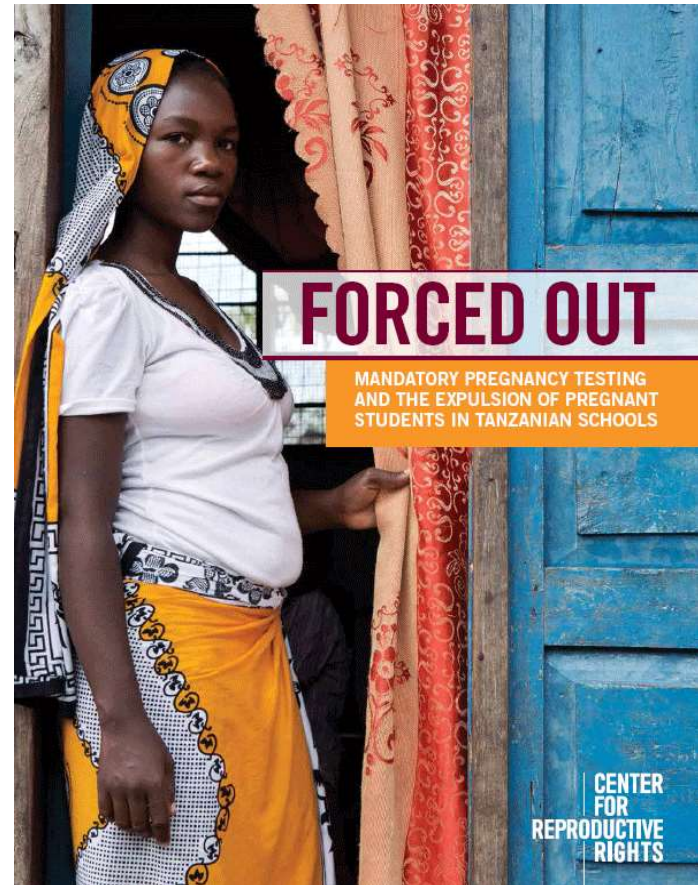
- Lacks basic aspects of sexual health and gender issues
- Pregnancy prevention (including condoms & contraceptives) not a central feature of the content
  - Condoms taught in Botswana, Malawi & Uganda
  - LSE content on contraceptives
    - Included in Zambia (new), No information on contraceptives (Kenya, Malawi).
    - Unclear whether LSE includes contraceptives (Botswana, Tanzania)
    - Included in Uganda (only in Islamic Religious curriculum)
- When offered at all, pregnancy prevention happens when its too late – at secondary school level alone
- Pregnancy prevention information poorly or not delivered at all in most schools



# A six country review of policies and practices .....

- None of the countries utilizes a continuation policy for school re-entry for pregnant girls
- Countries have re-entry policies, but with varying degrees of implementation and adherence
- Mandatory pregnancy screening happens in all countries, without clear links to schooling continuation or pregnancy prevention
- None of the countries keeps track of girls who drop out of school

*Kenya, Botswana, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia*



# No surprise, then, that.....

Country	Ever pregnant (%) 15-19 YEARS	% out of school among ever pregnant
Kenya	18	98
Malawi	26	97
Tanzania	23	99
Uganda	24	98
Zambia	28	95

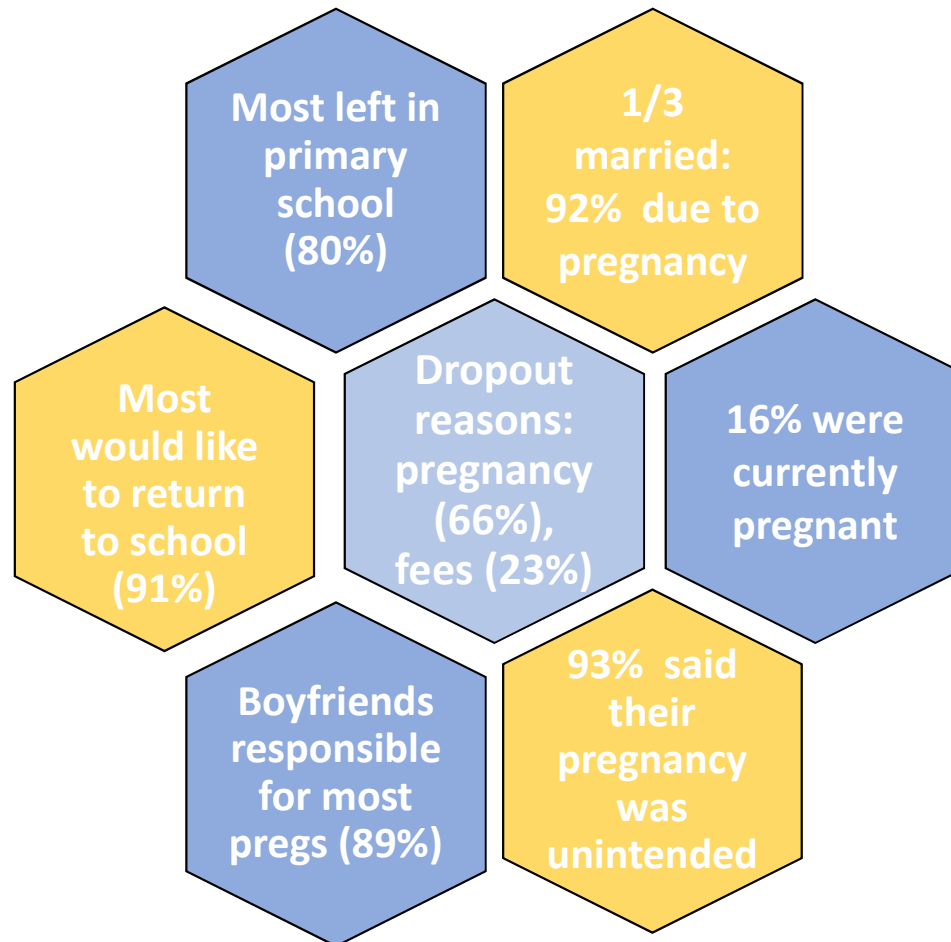
Source: Demographic and Health Survey;

**EARLY PREGNANCY MEANS END OF SCHOOLING**

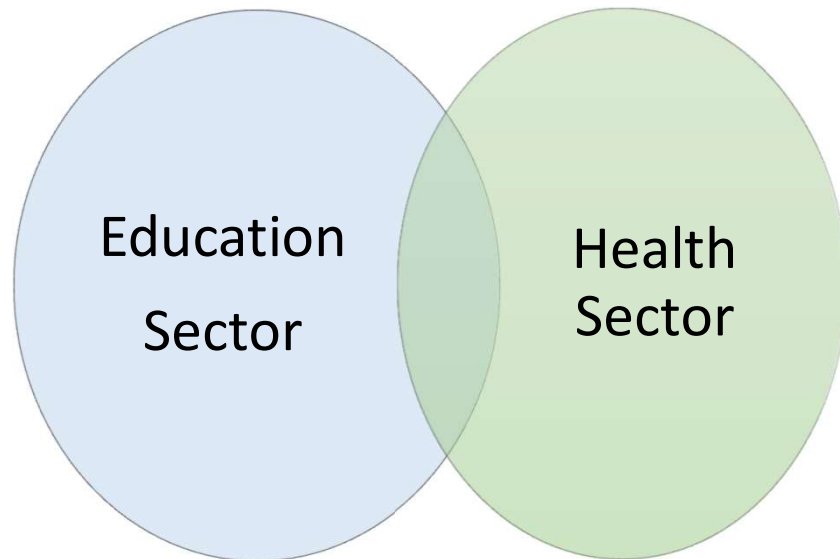


# Early and unintended pregnancy main reason for dropping out of school

Out-of-school teen girls in Homa Bay, Kenya (n=728)



# Building strong partnership



## **Closely articulating**

- Shared policies
  - Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
  - School Health Policy
- Share human resources
- Shared outcomes - wellbeing

## But

- Different approaches

# Health and Education Sector Stakeholder Dialogues



*Foster awareness of School health  
School policy and shared  
responsibilities*

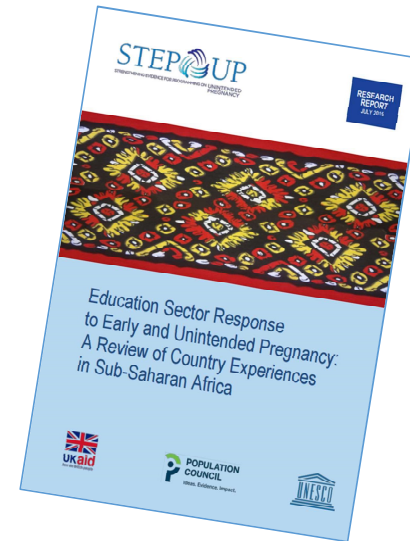
- We need to spell it out ....  
CSE delivered by teachers is ineffective  
& costly*
- Education sector needs the health  
sector to deliver on pregnancy  
prevention in schools including  
access to services*
  - Health sector needs education  
sector to reach out to new users and  
sustain the behavior*

*Talking about rights – mandatory  
pregnancy screening without  
preventive information is unacceptable*

# Re-thinking our approaches....

Compelling evidence that 'speaks to' end-users

- 1) *How many girls are out school because of pregnancy?*
- 2) *Documentation of repeat pregnancies in schools*
- 3) *Can school nurses deliver pregnancy prevention information and services in schools*
- 4) *Evidence-based model for school health linkages*





The **STEP UP (Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy) Research Programme Consortium** is coordinated by the Population Council in partnership with the African Population and Health Research Center; icddr,b; the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Marie Stopes International; and Partners in Population on Development. STEP UP is funded by UK aid from the UK Government.

