In 2015, a total of 351,300 new infections among young people aged 15-24.
Adolescent girls constitute 72% of new HIV infections among adolescents aged 15-19.
AIDS is the leading cause of death for adolescents in the region.
Only 10% of young men and 15% of young women are aware of their HIV status.

Knowledge levels remain low in the region. 43% for males and 42% for females aged 15-24 years.
Lower HIV knowledge levels are consistent with higher rates of HIV infection among adolescent girls and young women.
Adolescents living in poverty are three times less likely to be aware of their HIV status.
With inadequate knowledge, young people are ill-equipped to make healthy and safe decisions in regard to their sexual health.
Knowledge needs to be combined with the right skills and attitudes, which can be taught and developed through quality, age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE).

In Southern African countries, more than 1 in 3 students between the ages of 13 and 15 worldwide experience bullying on a regular basis.
Students who experience bullying, a form of SRGBV, score lower in math and reading than those who do not.
In Southern African countries, where one in every three girls has been married by the age of 18 years.
Child marriage is rooted in gender inequality and in the low value accorded to girls.
It denudes girls their rights, choice and participation thus hampering progress towards a more equal, healthy and prosperous world.

Invest in programs that improve educational and economic opportunities for girls at risk of child marriage.
Engage communities and young people to change attitudes and behaviors related to child marriage.
Ensure that services provided across the education, health, youth and economic sectors reinforce each other and are tailored towards the needs of adolescents girls and young woman at risks of child marriage.
Enforce a robust legal and policy framework for preventing child marriage and supporting married girls.
Adopt and implement model child marriage eradication laws such as the SADC Model Law on Child Marriage in all ESA countries.

Provide good quality education for all learners and ensure that girls complete secondary school.
Provide CSE that develops learners’ knowledge and skills to prevent pregnancy through integrating content on pregnancy prevention, access to contraceptives, gender equality and power dynamics within relationships.
Develop and implement re-entry policies for pregnant and parenting girls and put in place programs that reduce drop out of adolescent mothers.
Increase adolescent access to health education & services (incl. contraception) through establishment of referral systems b/w schools & health facilities.
Eliminate school related gender based violence and engage boys and young men in learning and practicing pregnancy prevention.

Develop countries account for 90% of births to adolescent mothers.
Each additional year of girls education has been found to increase contraceptive uptake and also reduce pregnancy by 10%.
Early and unintended pregnancy often leads adolescents to drop out of school and in some contexts, girls are deliberately expelled.
Adolescent mothers risk falling behind with schoolwork due to the double responsibility.

Scale up provision and increase access of health facilities providing adolescent and youth friendly health services.
Institutionalize ART/HIV content and protocols in pre- and in-service health provider training programmes to enhance capacity of service providers to deliver ART/HIV services.
Ensure age and sex disaggregation of health management information system and monitor no. of young people utilizing ART/HIV services.
Intensify efforts to eliminate the extremely high levels of sexual abuse and violence against female children, including underage, child and forced marriages.
Engage young people’s networks, civil society and communities to accelerate HIV prevention efforts to ensure the region’s achievement of the target by 2030.
OUR VISION:
A young African, a global citizen who is empowered, educated, healthy, resilient and socially responsible - an autonomous decision-maker and has the capacity to reach their full potential and contribute to the development of their community, country and the region