

Towards effective
linkages of young
people to SRHR
services and support
in Eastern and
Southern Africa:

Perspectives from CSOs

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Overview



BACKGROUND TO
THIS STUDY



STUDY AIM



RESEARCH DESIGN
AND METHODOLOGY



KEY FINDINGS

Background

SRHR of adolescents important yet contested provision

Inequitable gender norms

Adults' perception of young people

Limited information

Contextual understanding needed



Study aim

- To increase understanding of the **sociocultural contexts** in which programmes and interventions linking youth to SRH services and support are implemented, in order to contribute to implementation science on addressing adolescent SRHR in the ESA region



Research design & methodology

- Narrative assessment is a qualitative evaluation tool that emerged from critiques of the results-focused approach of many traditional monitoring and evaluation (M&E) methods
- Applies an advocacy lens
- Storytelling method makes visible the tacit knowledge of why an approach works or not
- Purposeful sampling; programme managers, implementers and advocacy workers at CSOs
- 13 interviews with 17 CSO representatives from Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia

Key findings

01

WHAT WORKS IN TERMS
OF LINKING YOUNG
PEOPLE TO SERVICES?

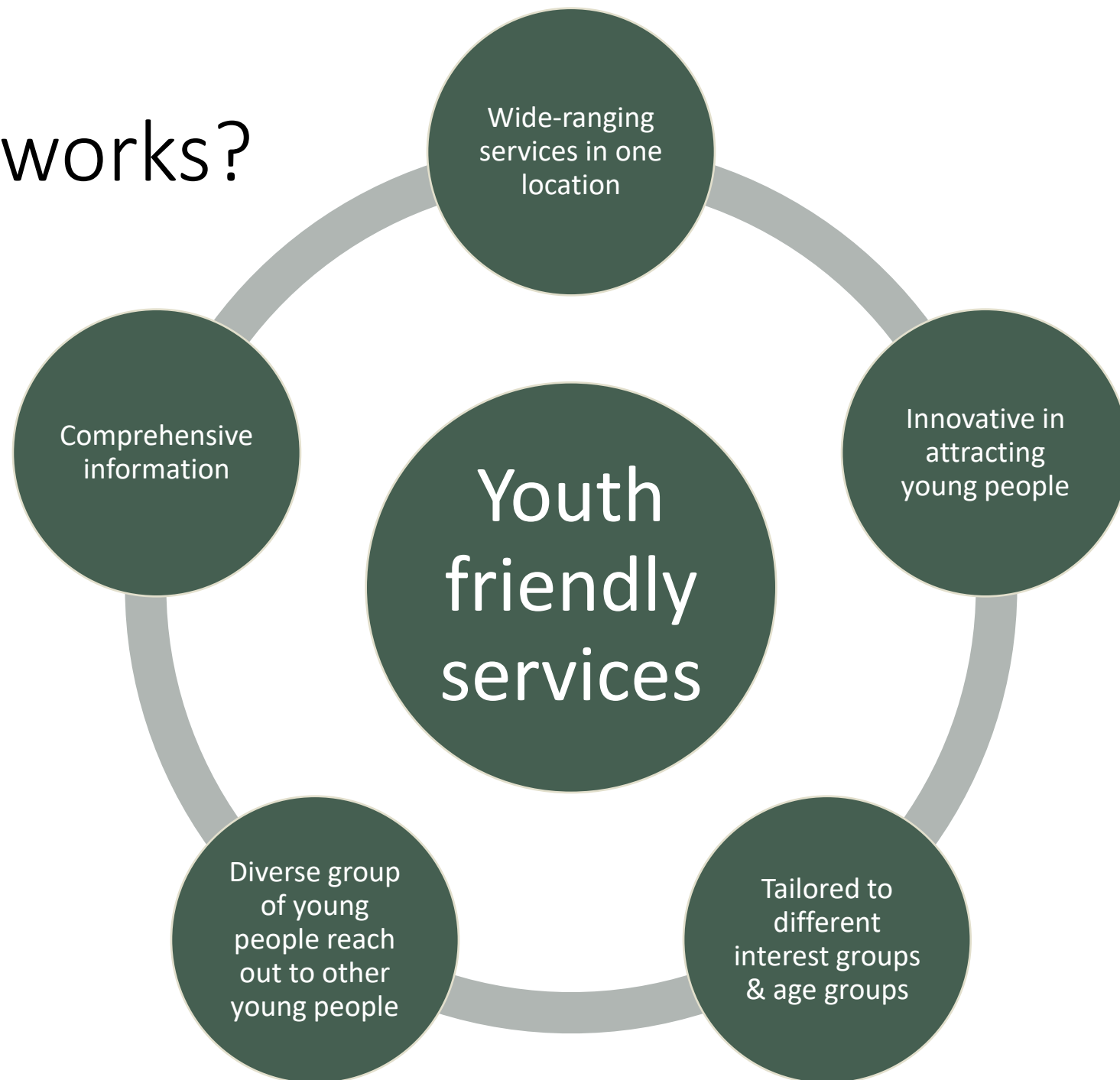
02

KEY
BARRIERS/CHALLENGES
TO LINKING YOUNG
PEOPLE TO SRHR
SERVICES

03

APPROACHES THAT
DOESN'T SEEM TO
WORK

What works?



... Safe spaces

“freedom to ask questions”

“feel safe, feel comfortable and free”

“a service without discrimination”

“a safe and friendly environment”

... Meaningful
youth
participation

Young people need to be central to developing initiatives for themselves and their peers

“young people should not be seen as clients, but as partners”

“you need to let young people be at the forefront of their projects and activities”

... Staff
trained in
youth-
friendly
approaches

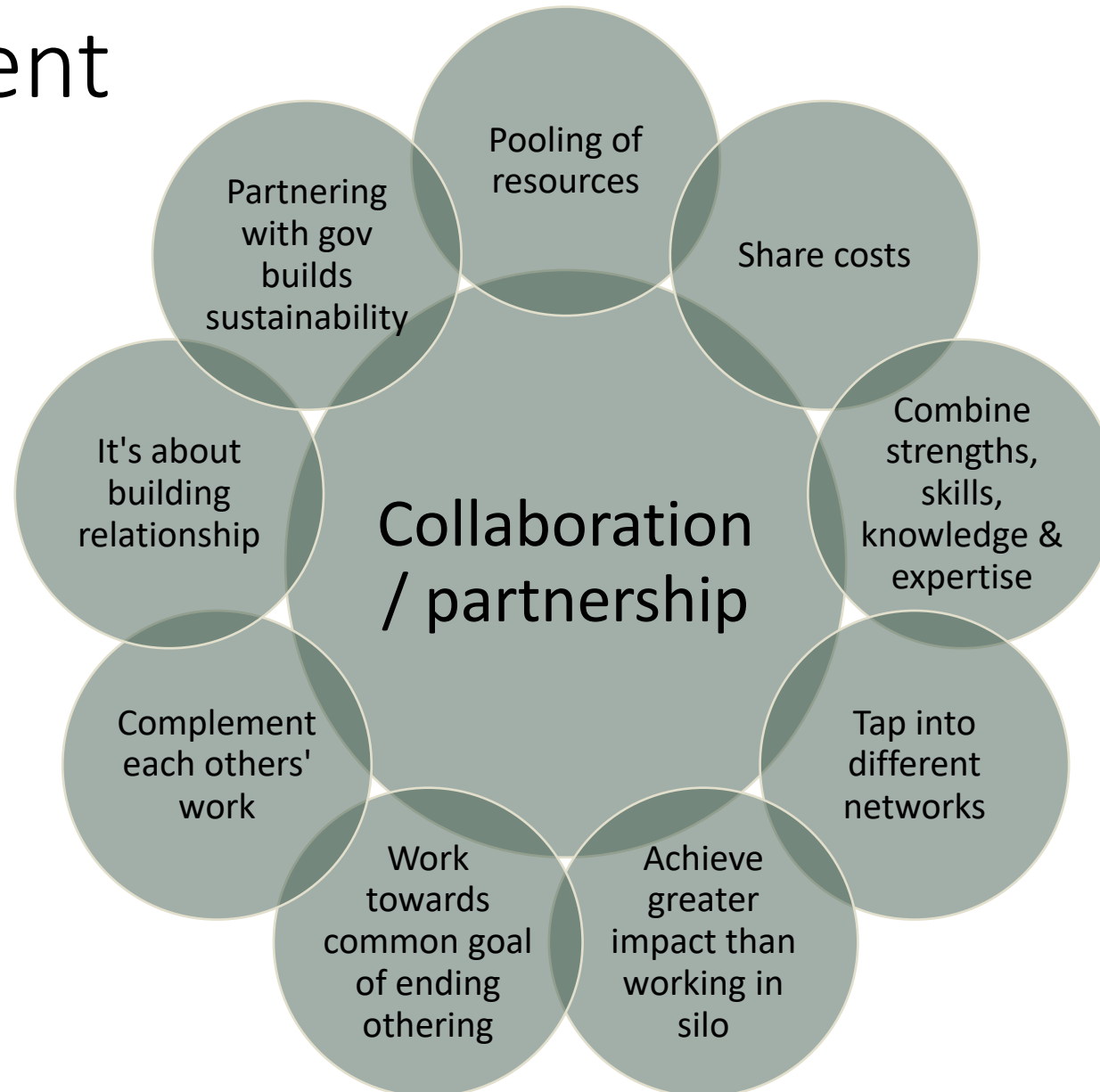
Staff that are **well-trained**, but also **passionate** about the work

“...the staff is genuinely hands-on”

“All of our staff, from technical staff to non-technical staff go through the training on non-discriminatory services”

“...it’s always important that for everyone that we hire, it’s not just about how to make them competent, but else to try to look and interrogate the politics that person embodies”

... Collaboration with other CSOs and government



... Adopting a community approach

Targeting young people in isolation is a very limited approach. Parents, guardians, cultural and religious leaders and other role players also need to be engaged

“what they believe is, we are encouraging their children to have sex...”

it’s about emphasizing on the importance of attaining an education and only allowing the child to get married when they are old enough to make an informed decision, old enough and ready”

Key barriers/challenges

Negative attitudes
of healthcare
workers

Limited knowledge
of SRHR amongst
teachers and
parents

Cultural
perceptions of
young people and
SRHR

Discrimination
against LGBT
young people

Gaps in policies
and legislation

Competitiveness
amongst CSOs

Approaches that doesn't seem to work

Peer groups
operating in own
school

Training life skills
teachers only

Providing SRHR
services in
isolation in
communities

Targeting young
people in isolation

Community
engagement
during political
campaign times

Concluding remarks...

Young people positioned at the centre of the conversation about SRHR services and support for adolescents and young people

Young people exist in context: important to engage adults and other role players in their lives too

Approaches need to be geared toward re-socializing young people to understand that they do have an opinion and can raise this in respectful ways

