



## ▶ DELIVER FOR YOUTH (D4Y)

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE WOMEN DELIVER CONFERENCE  
NEW YORK, JANUARY 2008

*Women Deliver, a landmark global conference held in October 2007 in London, brought together nearly 2,000 global leaders in health, development, and human rights from 115 countries to increase investment in women's health and rights, especially maternal health, as a primary engine for economic, social, and political progress.*

*Throughout the conference, young people emerged as those most vulnerable to maternal death and disability and as agents of change who can transform policies, programming, and culture to reflect their right to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services.*

*Women Deliver demonstrated strategies that can prevent the deaths of women and newborns and identified the need for resources and political will to successfully implement these solutions, including young people's universal access to affordable family planning and reproductive health services. As a result, 70 cabinet ministers and parliamentarians from 35 countries committed to increasing financial and human resources to achieve MDG 5 (maternal health) and MDG 4 (child health) with special attention to adolescents.*

### Youth Working Group Delivers

This high profile of the young advocates and youth issues at the conference resulted from the dedicated organizing of members of the *Women Deliver* Youth Working Group<sup>1</sup> and the conference organizing partner, Family Care International (FCI). In the months leading up to the conference, this group engaged in the following activities:

- Conducted outreach and created the Deliver for Youth (D4Y) list-serve, a network of young people, youth allies, and experts involved with *Women Deliver*.
- Developed the Youth section for the *Women Deliver* website (<http://www.womendeliver.org/youth/index.htm>) that includes tips for conference advocacy as well as fact sheets and news on young people and maternal health.
- Organized the Youth/Adults Commitments Desk<sup>2</sup> at the conference that gathered 85 concrete commitments from participants to increase youth participation in creating programs and policies for sexual and reproductive health and rights and maternal health.
- Recommended young speakers for the plenary panels, including: Hope Alice Birungi, Uganda, International Community of Women Living with AIDS; Li Dan, China, AIDS activist, Orchid AIDS Project, Reebok Human Rights prize winner; Andrew Francis, Jamaica, Advocates for Youth International Youth Leadership Council; and Fatma Hacioglu, Turkey, UNFPA Y-Peer network. View the webcasts of their talks on-line at <http://www.womendeliver.public-i.tv/site/listing.php>.
- Promoted youth participation in simultaneous sessions; all panels on youth issues featured young speakers, and young panelists contributed research, advocacy strategies, and the stories of young people's tragedies and triumphs worldwide. Ten of the 71 session panels and three out of 17 sessions in the Speakers' Corner venue focused on youth issues.
- Broadcast youth perspectives, including regular posts to Reproductive Health Reality Check ([www.rhrealitycheck.org](http://www.rhrealitycheck.org)) and the Lancet Student ([www.thelancetstudent.com](http://www.thelancetstudent.com)).

## Deliver for Youth (D4Y) in 2008

*Women Deliver* challenged how governments address maternal death and disability – improving maternal health is an integral strategy to reducing poverty as well as a human rights and public health imperative. The conference catalyzed global and local actions mobilizing the resources and political support necessary to implement this vision.<sup>3</sup> Together, these on-going efforts are the *Women Deliver* campaign. To maintain the *Women Deliver* focus on youth empowerment, FCI will facilitate the Deliver for Youth (D4Y) project, seeking to:

- **Sustain international commitment to promoting young people’s comprehensive sexual and reproductive health** as part of maternal health (MDG 5), human rights, and the socio-economic well-being of nations;
- **Follow-up with the *Women Deliver* Commitments to Youth;**
- **Build linkages between the maternal health community and youth networks and young advocates** in order to maintain youth involvement as well as their SRHR needs as high priorities on advocacy, research, and funding agendas;
- **Build the capacity of young people to advocate for maternal health**, including their sexual reproductive health and rights;
- **Facilitate the development of strategic messaging and materials** around young people and maternal health; and
- **Mobilize young advocates** for campaigns at conferences and other strategic opportunities, including the proposed UNGASS on maternal health and *Women Deliver* II.

FCI will be collaborating with partners to make the most of strategic opportunities to bring young advocates and youth issues to the forefront of the maternal health movement. If you have feedback or ideas for D4Y, please be in touch via e-mail at: [deliverforyouth@gmail.com](mailto:deliverforyouth@gmail.com).

<sup>1</sup> The WD YWG included representatives in every region of the world from **Advocates for Youth, Guttmacher Institute, International Community of Women Living with AIDS, Ipas, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, UNFPA Y-Peer network, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, Youth Coalition, and Youth Incentives.**

<sup>2</sup> The Youth/Adults Commitments Desk was co-sponsored by Advocates for Youth and Ipas.

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the *Women Deliver* campaign and its objectives, please visit <http://womendeliver.expressiondev.com/campaign/index.htm>.