

# Youth Development Program



## Our Youth Development Program

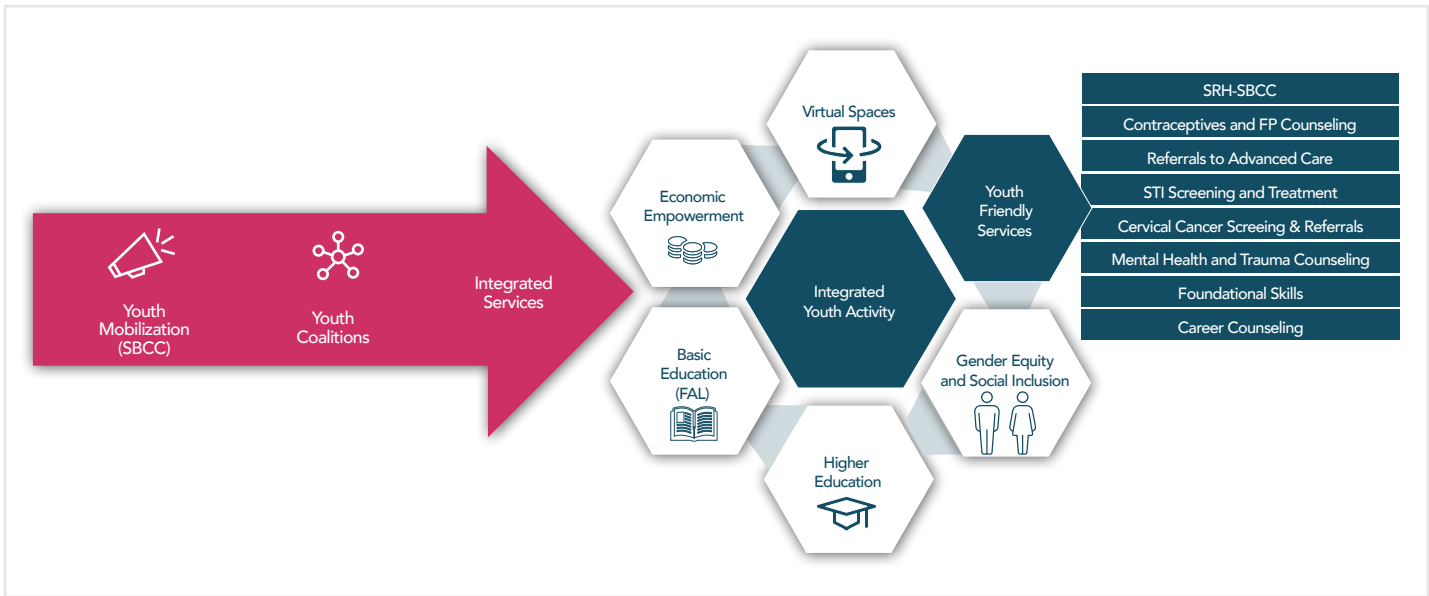
Ethiopia is undergoing a demographic transition, with young people representing the largest share of its population. Youth aged 15–29 make up more than one-third (33.8%) of the urban population, while an additional 32.8% are under the age of 15. This “youth bulge” offers immense potential for the country’s social and economic transformation. However, without adequate investment and opportunities, this demographic dividend risks becoming a source of vulnerability.

Despite their potential, many young people face persistent challenges. Urban youth unemployment stands at 25.5%, and rural–urban migration exceeds 40%, reflecting limited opportunities in rural areas and increased pressure on urban labor markets. Gender-based violence remains a major barrier to equity and participation, with 34% of girls reporting experiences of physical violence and 30% reporting sexual violence. Educational attainment is also low: 2.6 million young people are out of school, only 29% complete secondary education, and just 13.3% transition to tertiary institutions. Economic participation is further constrained by weak financial literacy—over 70% of youth lack basic financial knowledge—and limited access to finance, with only 2% able to secure loans.

Amref Health Africa recognizes that these challenges require bold, multi-sectoral responses. Our vision is to see Ethiopian youth as game changers—empowered to advance their social, civic, and economic development; resilient in the face of shocks; and active contributors to peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. Through integrated programming, strong partnerships, and youth-led platforms, Amref works to transform this demographic opportunity into lasting, inclusive growth for Ethiopia.

## Amref’s Youth Development Approach

Amref Health Africa brings deep technical expertise and innovative approaches to advancing youth development in Ethiopia. Our programming is grounded in evidence, multi-sectoral integration, and strong partnerships with government, civil society, and the private sector. We have established ourselves as a leader in designing and implementing holistic youth programs that respond to the diverse needs of adolescents and young people.



### Integrated Service Provision

Amref delivers youth-focused interventions that combine health, education, livelihoods, and digital services under one roof, ensuring that young people can access comprehensive support in safe and inclusive spaces.

### Youth Empowerment and Participation

By facilitating the creation of youth coalitions, networks, and leadership platforms, Amref ensures that young people are not just beneficiaries but co-creators of solutions, actively engaging in civic processes and community development.

### Skills Development and Employability

Through vocational training, digital literacy, entrepreneurship support, and job placement initiatives, Amref strengthens youth employability and links them to sustainable livelihood opportunities.

### Digital Innovation and Accessibility

Leveraging technology, Amref has pioneered the establishment of digital labs, DIY centers, and e-learning platforms that expand access to knowledge, innovation, and employment pathways.

### Local Capacity Building

Amref invests in strengthening youth-led CSOs, youth centers, and government institutions to sustain programming, enhance accountability, and promote local ownership of youth initiatives.

### Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Systems

Using robust tools such as DHIS2, PowerBI, and digital dashboards, Amref generates real-time evidence, tracks outcomes, and continuously adapts programming to meet emerging youth needs.

### Social Capital and Networking

Through peer-to-peer platforms, youth ambassadors, and large-scale events such as youth festivals, Amref fosters trust, engagement, and collective action among young people.

### Regional Presence and Digital Engagement

With field offices across Ethiopia and innovative digital platforms, Amref ensures programs are contextualized, scalable, and accessible to youth nationwide.

This technical leadership, rooted in Amref's seven decades of health and development expertise, positions us as a trusted partner to government, donors, and communities in transforming Ethiopia's youth bulge into a **demographic dividend**.

## Key Achievements

Over 1.1 million youth reached through the integrated programming



- More than 872,000 (74% females) youth reached through youth-friendly SRH services
- Over 2,000 service providers trained on the integrated approach
- 2,765 female youth received services in SGBV/one-stop centers
- Close to 7,000 youth received mental health counseling and trauma-informed care



- Over 46,000 youth received life skills, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy, and employability skills
- Of these, close 12,000 were linked to employment opportunities
- Over 13,000 youth are members of the youth SACCO



- Over 13,000 received basic numeracy and literacy education that impacted their life style
- Over 6,000 youth advocates on their health, economic and social issues