

## BACKGROUND

- **Maternal mortality ratio (MMR): 319 per 100,000 live births**
- **Multiple barriers to accessing SRH information and services, especially for young people**
- **21% of women aged 20 – 24 married before 18, 5% before 15**
- **17% women aged 20 – 24 gave birth before 18, 2% before 15**
- **43% of girls between 15 – 19 have had sex**

## APPROACH




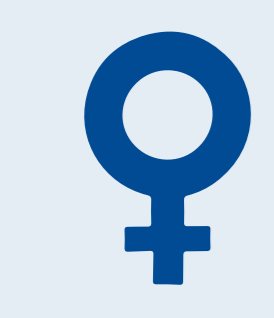
- Get Up, Speak Out (GUSO) project goal is for all young people to fully enjoy their SRHR in a productive, equal and healthy society
- Aims to improve access to information, CSE and quality services with an emphasis on wellbeing
- Social media platforms (WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, etc) to facilitate access to CSE and referrals to other critical services
- Create space for young people to own and plan the process, and be part of implementation team.
- Address myths about SRHR and mobilize community support for young people's access to SRHR education/ information and services
- Interventions focused in one district each selected from the Northern and Upper East regions

## RESULTS

- GUSO shows that young people can successfully educate their peers and refer them to services.
- More than 2,500 young people reached with SRHR information and CSE through moderated WhatsApp platforms and social media with referrals to Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) clinics for quality SRHR services
- 25 CSE facilitators trained and linked to schools and social centers (to reach in and out of school youth) visited regularly for SRHR sessions
- PPAG Facebook & Twitter handles have become source of information and a help line for adolescents who have questions on SRHR
- Other districts have asked to take part in project in order to reach more young people





## PROBLEM

-  Young people in Northern and Upper East regions of Ghana lack access to sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services
-  Quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) not yet incorporated into the school curriculum
-  Inaccurate information often obtained from unreliable sources (friends, internet etc)
-  Young women especially reluctant to engage in discussions around sex and sexuality

## LESSONS LEARNED

-  Inclusion of young people essential in the development and implementation of projects that are designed for them.
-  Young people come on board with creative and innovative ideas and when guided, can help the project achieve its objectives and beyond
-  Social media can be a great way to reach out to youth using innovative means such as videos, pictures, infographics, discussions etc

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

-  The project which is still being implemented is expected to reach out to more youth in many more districts in the two regions.
-  Based on availability of funding, the project can be extended to the remaining 8 regions of Ghana to ensure that the majority of Ghanaian youth can access quality SRHR information and services to enjoy a safe and fulfilling sex life.