



## Does Culture & Religion contribute to the high rate of teen pregnancies in Kenya?



Did you know that a patriarchal society—one in which men predominate and women are primarily marginalized—can make it difficult for women or young girls to exercise their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)? IFAGE uncovers how culture and religion are used as enablers to limit youths', adolescents and young mothers' Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Rarieda Sub- County in Siaya, Kenya.

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Youth Friendly Health Care Providers & faith leaders having a discussion on Sexual Reproductive Health for Adolescents and Youths in Rarieda Sub-county on 9th April 2023

IFAGE held a sensitization training on adolescents and youth-friendly health services at St. Paul's Ranalo Church, from May 9th to 10th, 2023.

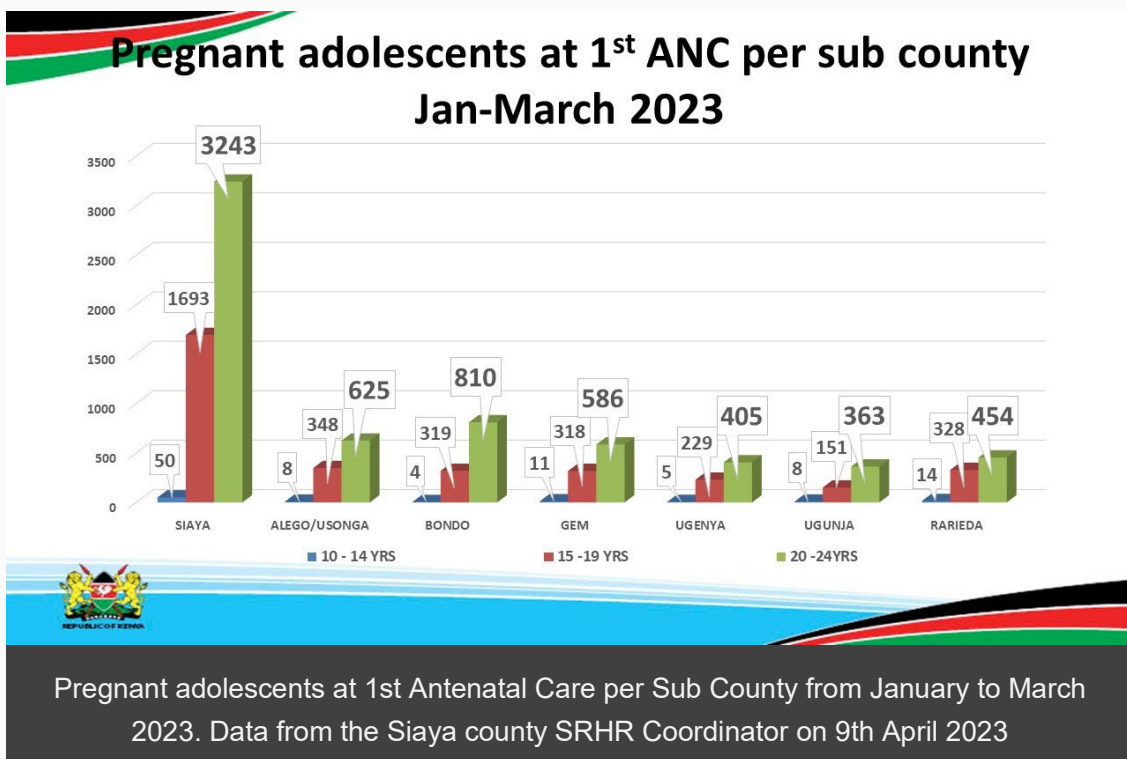
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Using the Inter-sectional See Judge Act (ISJA) tool we identified some religious and cultural barriers to the provision and access of youth-friendly services in Rarieda Sub-County, these barriers are enables to teen pregnancies in the area.

The ISJA tool is an action-focused tool used to identify and analyze issues in our communities from a religious perspective.

It allows us to understand youths & adolescents from different angles of intersecting vulnerabilities.

This enhances extensive Sexual Reproductive Education for all.



In Kenya, 1 in 5 young girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are already mothers. In Siaya, this ratio is practically on par with the national data.

This challenge is even more prevalent in Rarieda, a very interior part of Siaya County. There has been an urgency for SRHR knowledge among Youths, Adolescents and youth mothers in this area.

IFAGE priorities SRHR empowerment as a strategic action to end GBV and discrimination against women and girls, we are therefore happy to share this milestone.

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"In my village, children are considered wealth that's why we don't bother with SRH services" an adolescent from Rarieda says while presenting cultural barriers to accessing SRHR services at St. Paul's Ranalo Church on 10th April 2023

## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

# 40

Youths & Adolescents sensitized on Intersectional SRHR.

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# 16

Faith Leaders incorporated sex talks in 16 churches.

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# 5

Safe spaces created for youths and adolescents in Rarieda.

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# 12

Health

care providers actioned to work towards achieving zero teen pregnancy & zero new HIV/AIDS infections among adolescents and youths in Rarieda

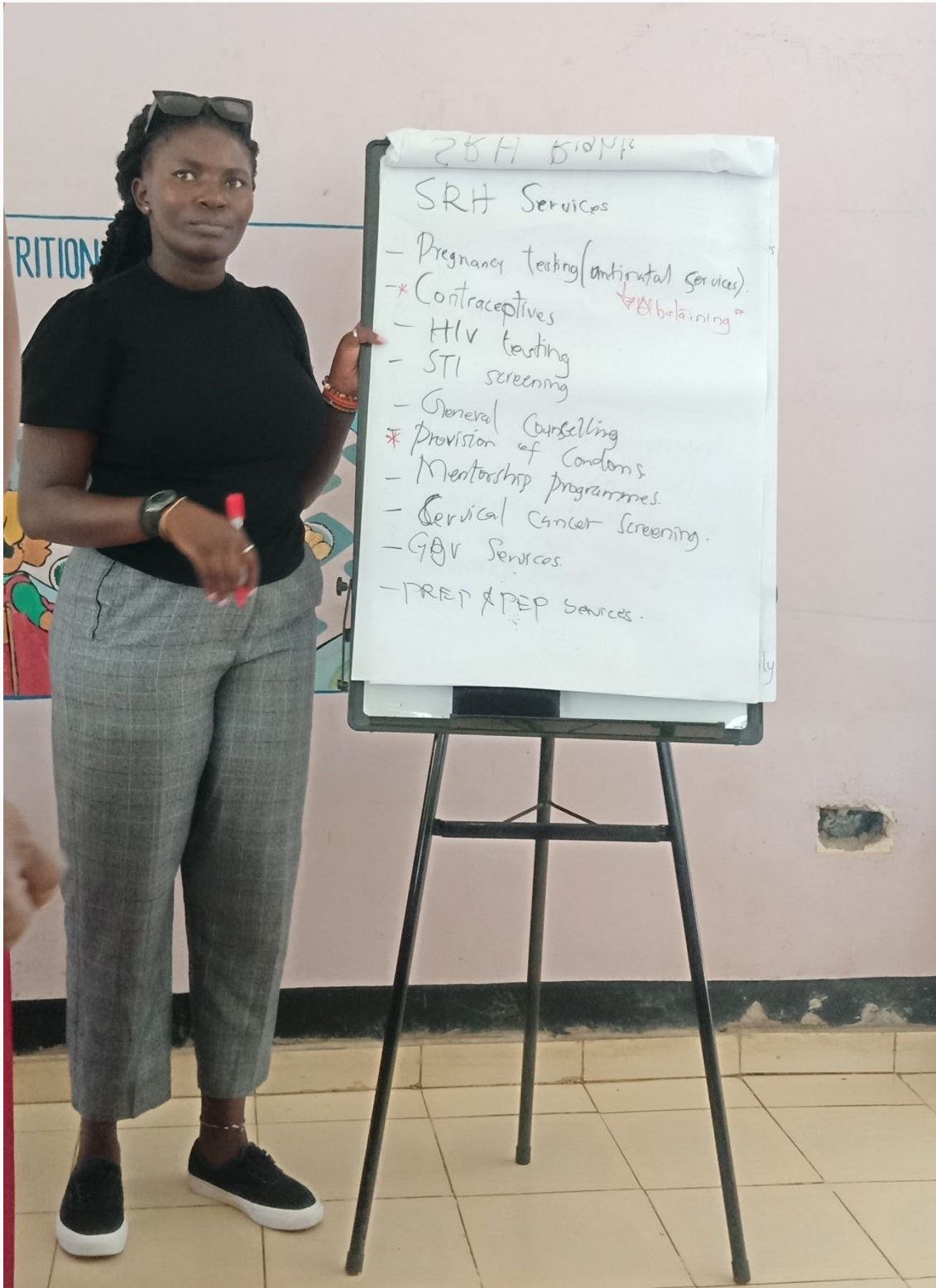
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Improved access to Youth-Friendly health Services through referrals and linkages to the sensitized Sexual Reproductive Health providers

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Patriarchy, retrogressive cultural practices like child marriage, over reliance on religion & over reliance on traditional herbalist identified as barriers to provision and access to SRHR services by youths in Rarieda.

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28/11/2024

## SRH Services

- Pregnancy testing (antipartal services)
- \* Contraceptives Abstinence
- HIV testing
- STI screening
- General Counseling
- \* Provision of Condoms
- Mentorship programmes
- Cervical cancer screening
- GAV Services
- PrEP & PEP services

IFAGE facilitator (Ada Okwiri) conducting a facilitation  
Sexual Reproductive Health Services on 10th April 2023

Teen pregnancy is a challenge that limit the agency of many girls in the marginalized areas. Being informed on SRHR gives these girls power and chance to better their future, join us today in this journey of empowering young women and girls on Sexual Reproductive Health Education.

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*Rev. Domnic Misolo (CEO) & IFAGE team*



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