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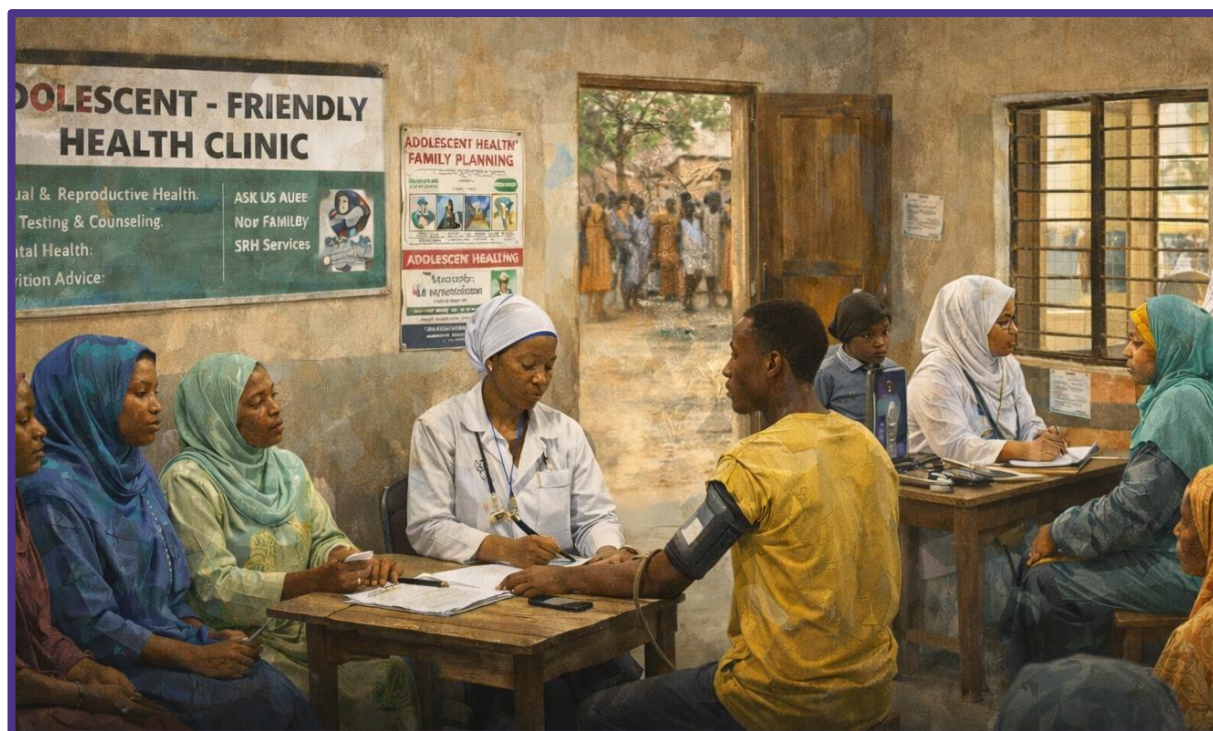
**GADA**

Gender Awareness And  
Development Association Kulishin

## CPED Discussion Brief 2025, No 3

# Expanding Adolescent-Friendly Health Services in Rural PHCs in Bauchi and Gombe States

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## Executive Summary

Access to adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services remains inadequate in rural communities of Bauchi and Gombe States. Stakeholders identified long distances to health facilities, lack of trained personnel, insufficient SRH commodities, and cultural discomfort in discussing adolescent sexuality as major barriers preventing adolescents—especially girls—from accessing essential SRH information and services.

This policy brief presents stakeholder evidence and proposes reforms to strengthen adolescent-friendly corners in Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities, improve commodity supply, and build health worker capacity.

## Problem Statement

- Rural PHCs in Bauchi and Gombe States face:
- Shortage of trained staff for adolescent SRH services
- Limited SRH commodities (condoms, contraceptives, sanitary pads)
- Inadequate privacy for counselling
- Long distances to facilities
- Cultural resistance to adolescent SRH discussions

## Evidence from Stakeholder FGDs

“In Tafawa Balewa, you may have only one personnel, and he does not have knowledge in all aspects, so there is no availability of trained staff.”

— *Health Manager, Bauchi State*

“Services are not adequate — no essential commodities like free condoms.”

— *Health Stakeholder, Bauchi State*

“Before you have to trek more than 5km to reach PHC. Distance is a big barrier.”

— *Community Leader, Bauchi State*

“It is taboo to begin to talk about sex education especially to women, so everybody shies away.”

— *Civil Society Representative, Gombe State*

## Policy Recommendations

1. Establish adolescent-friendly corners in PHCs with confidential counselling spaces.
2. Train health workers in youth-friendly SRH services.
3. Ensure continuous supply of SRH commodities.
4. Engage traditional and religious leaders to reduce cultural resistance.

## Key Decision Makers

- State Ministries of Health
- Primary Health Care Development Agencies
- Local Government Health Authorities

## Call to Action

CPED and ANeSA project team urges Bauchi and Gombe State Health Authorities to prioritize adolescent-friendly health services in upcoming health sector operational plans.

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## About ANeSA

Addressing Neglected Areas of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa (ANeSA) is a seven-year, CAD 29.9 million initiative co-funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Global Affairs Canada. ANeSA supports greater realization of neglected sexual and reproductive health and rights by underserved and marginalized populations.

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