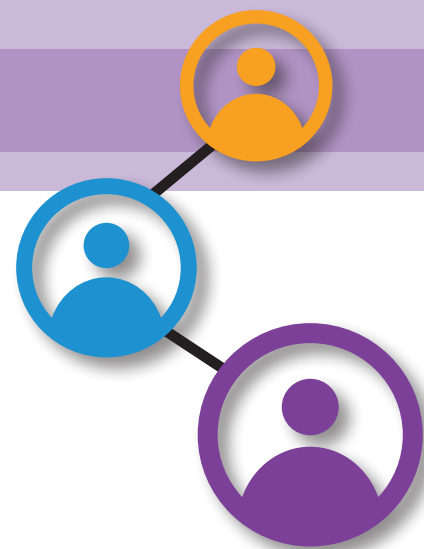


## Adolescents & Youth: Delivering for Change



### Our Partnership - PMNCH

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH; the Partnership) is the world's largest alliance for the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents. We bring together more than 1,000 member organizations from 192 countries into 10 diverse constituencies.

**Our work is organized around a partnership-centric model**, offering equal opportunities for all to contribute, share knowledge, align around priorities, advocate for the hard-to-reach, and demand accountability.<sup>1</sup> This approach enables partners to achieve more together than they could alone.

PMNCH is a unique platform, offering breadth, depth and diversity, which involves a wide range of partners – from governments and the private sector to health care professionals and grassroots activists. We build on the work of each partner and focus on areas where multi-stakeholder collaboration and multi-sectoral action can increase impact at the national, regional and global level. Our work accelerates progress towards the six Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) focus areas<sup>2</sup> and Universal Health Coverage.



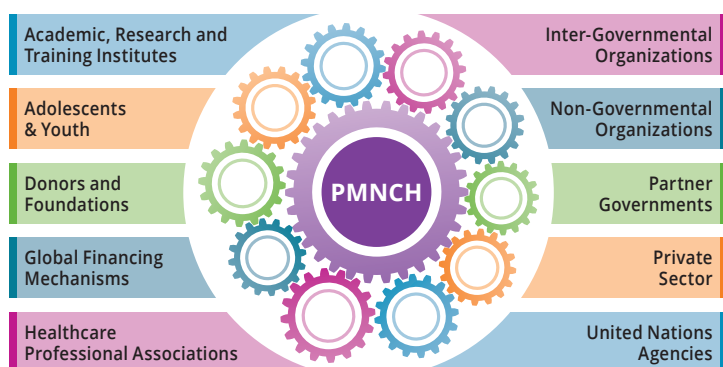
*Adolescent health and well-being retreat, November 2017, Geneva, Switzerland.*

### Recognizing Adolescents and Youth as Equal Partners in Driving Social Change

In 2015, PMNCH created a constituency for Adolescents and Youth (AYC), providing an opportunity for young people to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their active participation and involvement in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's health. Our PMNCH 2018-2020 Business Plan and governance structure includes the systematic representation of young people across all constituencies and workstreams.

**The AYC is the only constituency representing a population segment within PMNCH**, making it a unique and dynamic group within the Partnership. The AYC is composed of ambitious and inclusive youth-led organizations from 192 countries, working at country, regional and global levels. They include non-governmental organizations, healthcare professional associations and research institutions working on, and advocating for, an array of health and development priorities. Many are also networks of youth-led organizations, such as the Organization of African Youth and the International Federation of Medical Students Association.

### The ten constituencies of our Partnership (2018).



### PMNCH shares the vision of the *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health*:

A world in which every woman, child and adolescent — in stable, fragile and humanitarian settings — realizes their right to physical and mental health and well-being; has social and economic opportunities; and can participate fully in shaping prosperous and sustainable societies.

## Our PMNCH Adolescent Health and Well-being Portfolio

### What We Do and How We Drive Change

Since our establishment the AYC has consistently expanded, ensuring that adolescent and youth health and well-being issues are increasingly visible. We continue to be a key driver for change and progress within the Partnership's Adolescent Health and Well-Being portfolio,<sup>1</sup> a focus area of EWEC, as well as an important contributor to the other five interrelated EWEC focus areas,<sup>2</sup> ensuring that adolescent issues receive significant attention.

We have coordinated across constituencies and sectors, serving as a platform for youth engagement at global high-level events such as the UN General Assembly in New York, or national events such as the district health committee in Malawi.

The specific objective for the Partnership's Adolescent Health and Well-Being portfolio in the 2018 to 2020 Business Plan is to support partners to align around the development of five to ten national plans for adolescents, and support national youth-led coalitions to strengthen the skills and knowledge of adolescents so they can exercise their rights and make informed choices.

PMNCH is aiming to invest between US\$ 5 million (Essential Budget) and US\$ 8 million (Comprehensive Budget) in pursuit of these objectives, depending on the level of funding the Partnership is able to secure.

Our Adolescent Health and Well-being Portfolio is based on three pillars of work:

- **'Evidence for Action'** - promoting and synthesizing new adolescent and youth research findings for action and results;
- **'Empowerment and Accountability'** - equipping the SDG generation with the skills and tools they need to be agents of change; and
- **'Scaling up adolescent and youth action for social change'** - enabling youth-led advocacy and accountability to drive social change.

### Our Three Pillars of Work



### EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

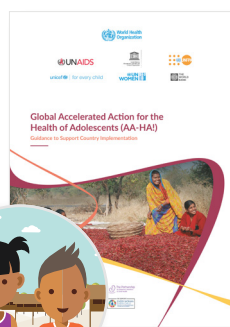
We promote and synthesize new research findings on adolescents and youth, which we use in our advocacy efforts to drive action for results. Below are samples of our products and efforts.

#### Knowledge Summary: Act Now for Adolescents!

In 2016, PMNCH produced a [knowledge summary](#) based on the latest evidence of adolescent health and well-being in a youth-friendly format. The knowledge summary intends to raise awareness on the priority issues facing adolescents with virtual dissemination and presentations at various events, for example the IPU Assembly in Dhaka 2017 with over 1000 parliamentarians.



#### Accelerated Action for Health among Adolescents (AA-HA!)



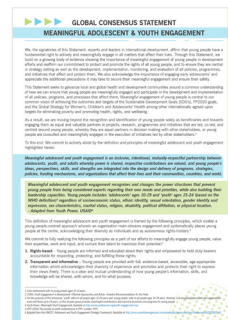
The Partnership's AYC worked with leading health and development partners to produce technical guidance and an adolescent-friendly [comic book](#) to support country implementation and efforts to strengthen the quality of adolescent health and well-being programmes.

### EMPOWERMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We equip the SDG generation with new skills and tools, and position them to be agents of change.

#### Strengthening Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement

PMNCH ensures the positioning and engagement of AYC members on various platforms. Members receive transparent and competitive biddings to participate in new or ongoing work. They are called upon to speak at meetings and events with high-level decision makers, join working groups around technical areas of interest, join and help run webinars, and can be commissioned to work on resources and tools on a competitive basis, such as the [Global Consensus on Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement](#).



#### Speaking for Change!

Our AYC members are selected to represent the constituency and speak on various topics in meetings, conferences, and trainings, and meet with decision-makers and other key networks. PMNCH will offer virtual leadership and public speaking courses to amplify the voice of its AYC members.

*International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA) Pre-World Health Assembly, May 2018, Geneva, Switzerland.*



## AYC Mentorship Programme

Launched in 2017, the AYC mentorship programme involves a year-long commitment by mentors to their mentees to mutually build their organization's capacity and provide access to an online resource hub for young professionals around priority areas selected by the AYC, including EWEK focus areas, resource mobilization, entrepreneurship, and monitoring and evaluation.



*Dance4life mentee, Francis Mutua, and Africa Health Budget Network mentor, Aminu Garba, meet in Nairobi, Kenya, March 2018.*

## Toolkit for Change

*Advocating for Change for Adolescents*<sup>3</sup> was developed in 2017. This toolkit provides guidance for youth networks on the design, implementation and monitoring of effective national advocacy campaigns related to adolescent health and well-being.



It aims to encourage the meaningful engagement of youth, and to drive positive advocacy and accountability efforts to influence national health plans and policy processes.

*Launch of the Advocating for Change for Adolescents toolkit, May 2017, Ottawa, Canada.*

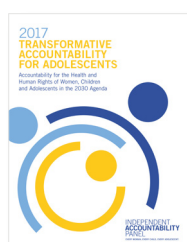


## Making Every Adolescent Count – The Power of Data

PMNCH is mandated to provide a progress report on the objectives and targets of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health, and assesses progress on commitments, implementation and accountability. This includes synthesizing progress on the health and well-being of youth and adolescents – in particular highlighting areas where progress is lacking and there is a need for accelerated attention to scale up evidence-based interventions. The data draws on the open access data portal of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, part of the WHO Global Health Observatory website, which covers 60 Global Strategy indicators. Ensuring improved data on adolescents and youth will enable increased visibility and necessary change in an area that has previously lacked appropriate attention.

## Transforming Accountability for Adolescents

The Independent Accountability Panel (IAP), hosted by PMNCH, launched its 2017 report, [Transformative accountability for adolescents](#), at the UN's headquarters in New York. Among its recommendations, the IAP appealed urgently to all stakeholders to make adolescents visible, to measure what matters and to invest in them in order to achieve the SDGs.



## SCALING UP A&Y ACTION TO DRIVE SOCIAL CHANGE

We provide support and enable youth-led organizations to drive advocacy and accountability for social change.

## Scaling-up Action to Drive Social Change

PMNCH provides small grants to adolescent- and youth-led organizations and members to scale up social change:

- Building and strengthening coalitions for a more cohesive and unified movement to drive youth-led advocacy and accountability.
- Rolling out the ["Advocating for change for adolescents!"](#) toolkit.
- Strengthening national coalitions for youth-led accountability for women's, children's and adolescents' health.
- Establishing or strengthening multi-stakeholder national platforms that ensure meaningful engagement of adolescents and youth, to advance policies on adolescent health.
- Establishing digital health platforms to enhance policy service delivery and financing mechanisms for women's, children's and adolescents' health.
- Building multisectoral country-specific campaigns to improve adolescent and youth health and well-being.

## Enabling Youth-led Organizations to Advocate and Drive Social Change

Following the international launch of the toolkit *Advocating for Change for Adolescents*<sup>3</sup> in Ottawa, in May 2017, five youth-led organizations received small grants to support the roll-out of the toolkit in their respective countries (Cameroon, India, Kenya, Malawi, and Nigeria). The organizations, with support from in-country partners, are using the toolkit in a variety of ways, including: advocating for increased resources for adolescent health and well-being; lobbying for the removal of legal barriers to access services as they relate to adolescents and young people; and strengthening the mutual accountability of all stakeholders. A coordinated coalition is key to mobilizing a cohesive youth voice to "unleash the power of young people."<sup>4</sup>



*Desmond Nji and Mary Josephine outline the process of rolling out their domestic versions of the Advocating for Change for Adolescents toolkit, at the Africa Sexual and Reproductive Health Conference, Johannesburg, February, 2018.*

## Strengthening Adolescent and Youth Coalitions in Malawi

Recognizing the fragmentation and lack of coordination within Malawi's youth movement, the Partnership contracted the AYC Malawi Coordinator to map and develop a catalogue of youth organizations to facilitate the appointment of a youth representative on numerous district technical committees, and to mobilize at least 200 youth organizations and networks to achieve coordinated action at district and national levels.



# Become a Member: Get Involved and Change the World

## How to Apply

Join the AYC and become a member of the Partnership today.<sup>5</sup>

Fill out an application form here:

[http://www.who.int/pmnch/members/application\\_form.pdf](http://www.who.int/pmnch/members/application_form.pdf)

*"My membership in the AYC has not only expanded my avenues for meaningful youth engagement, both nationally and internationally, but has also widened my partnership base for more consolidated actions to promote the health and well-being of adolescents, young people and women."*

– Desmond Nji, Cameroon Youth Network.

## Advantages for Members

Build your network and collaborate with members from around the world.

Access knowledge and build skills, resources and opportunities for collaboration to achieve the Global Strategy and the SDGs and be an active agent of change.

Represent the AYC on global, regional and national platforms and meet with decision makers.

Gain visibility and advocate for your organization's work on PMNCH's web and social media platforms.

## Actions Members Can Take to Advance Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health

Engage in AYC activities and share opportunities with your organization / network.

Advocate for the life of every woman, child, and adolescent, and for the power of partnership.

Support the concept of the life course approach,<sup>6</sup> and take active part in the implementation of the Partnership's Business Plan.

Take part in projects and deliverables that advance women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being, and work with other members and constituencies on the PMNCH platform.

## References:

1. PMNCH 2018-2020 Business Plan.
2. Early childhood development; adolescents' health and well-being; quality, equity and dignity in health services; sexual and reproductive health and rights; empowerment of women, girls and communities; and humanitarian and fragile settings.
3. 'Advocating for change for adolescents' toolkit: [http://www.who.int/pmnch/knowledge/publications/advocacy\\_toolkit.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/pmnch/knowledge/publications/advocacy_toolkit.pdf?ua=1)
4. Independent Accountability Panel, 2017 report: [http://iapreport.org/2017/files/IAP%20Annual%20Report%202017-web%20\\_%20without%20endnotes.pdf](http://iapreport.org/2017/files/IAP%20Annual%20Report%202017-web%20_%20without%20endnotes.pdf)
5. There is no cost to becoming a member of PMNCH. Membership to PMNCH requires a commitment to advance sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescents health, in accordance with The Partnership's guiding principles, vision, and mission.
6. See, for example: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/96/1/17-198358/en/>

## Your Representatives

### Gogontlejang Phaladi

Gogontlejang Phaladi Pillar of Hope Organization, PMNCH Board Chair/Member, Botswana.



*"We each have to make a decision daily that we will play our roles in safeguarding a better future for our adolescents."*



### Tikhala Itaye

Her Liberty Malawi, PMNCH Board Member, Malawi.

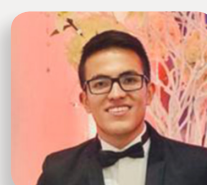
*"Young people are not just young people in the room, but young professionals with expertise to drive the agenda!"*

### Enes Efendioğlu

Civil Life Association, PMNCH Board Alternate, Turkey.



*"Young people should always be heard when we are striving for change. After all, we are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of TODAY."*



### David Imbago Jácome

Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR) PMNCH Board Alternate, Ecuador.

*"My passion for youth sexual and reproductive health and rights advocacy is rooted in the right to universal health coverage and quality, comprehensive information and services."*

## Contact Us

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