



June 2023

Update: Global Forum for Adolescents

1. Background

PMNCH will convene the world's largest-ever Global Forum for Adolescents (GFA) on 11-12 October 2023, to drive action to meet the multi-sectoral needs of adolescents. The Forum will serve as a key galvanizing moment within a multi-year campaign, [1.8 billion young people for change](#), catalyzing a global movement for the well-being of young people.

The event will consist of a vibrant and inclusive two-day Forum to advance adolescent well-being through the coordinated commitment of all constituencies; 50+ national events aligned with the Global Forum to take action to community level; and the "What Young People Want" effort, bringing together the voices and demands of 1 million young people around the world to push for national, regional and global advocacy action, culminating in the launch of an Agenda for Action for Adolescents at the conclusion of the Forum.

All PMNCH constituencies and partners are encouraged to get involved in the preparations. A [partner toolkit](#) highlights five main ways for partners to engage, including through adolescent well-being commitment mobilization, national events, Global Forum programming, social media, and the What Young People Want outreach effort.

2. At a glance: The Global Forum program

Work is proceeding rapidly in the development of the 11-12 October Forum program, including through the leadership of the PMNCH Adolescent and Youth constituency. The draft framework will be published online by the end of July to enable early registrations for the October Forum.

The Forum is designed as a dynamic, interactive opportunity for all constituencies to come together to explore needs and opportunities for change, success stories to inspire action, tools and resources to accelerate efforts, and new commitments to drive efforts forward. The programme will be framed in relation to the five domains of the [Adolescent Well-Being Framework](#), and tailored in response to the emerging findings of the massive "What Young People Want" survey effort.

The virtual programme (Figure 1; Annex 1) will consist of a series of dynamic, inter-related plenary sessions featuring current evidence, country success stories and new country commitments to adolescent well-being. Each plenary will be introduced by a short segment filmed in a different location in the world, featuring young people interacting with champions and decision-makers. Approximately 22 concurrent sessions, shaped through 260 expressions of interests from PMNCH partners, will allow participants to choose their Forum experience along five programme tracks¹. Dynamic and interactive opening and closing events, based on the findings of the "What Young People Want" effort, will elevate and express the voices of

¹ The Forum's five programming tracks are based on the Definition and Conceptual Framework for Adolescent Well-being, as well as the findings of the 15 technical papers of the BMJ Adolescent Wellbeing Collection, developed by PMNCH in partnership with UN H6+ Technical Working Group alongside youth-led and youth-serving organizations.



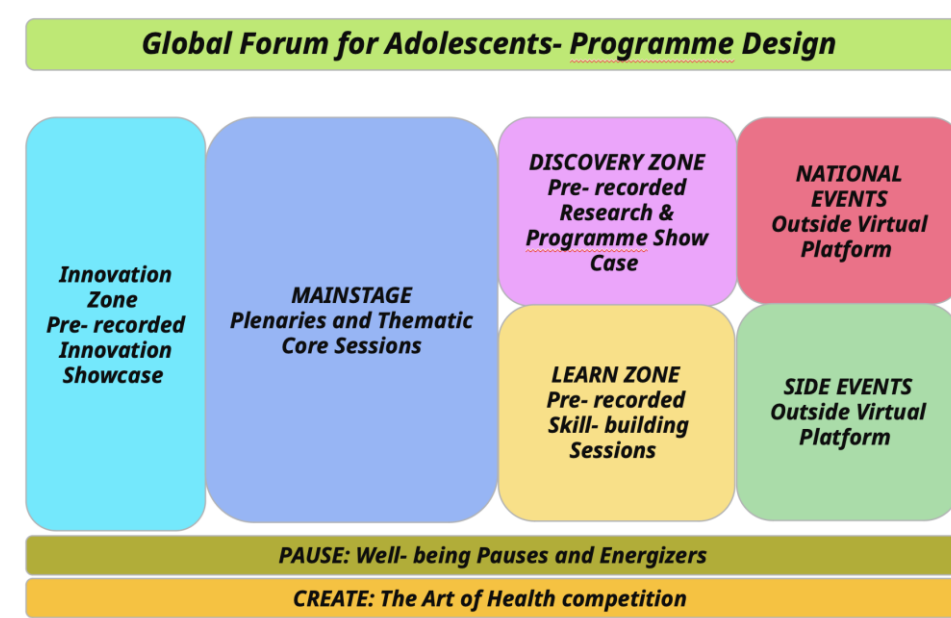
young people around the world, setting the stage for the launch of the “Agenda for Action for Adolescents” in the final plenary of the program.

This global mainstage program will be accompanied by high profile complementary events. These include: an innovation programme led by UNICEF; the launch of the revised, WHO-led global AA-HA!; the launch of new indicators and a monitoring framework for measuring adolescent well-being; an Adolescent Investment Case; a Discovery Zone, featuring new research and implementation findings; and a skills-building zone to enhance the advocacy capacity of youth participants. A matching and mentoring programme will enable Forum participants to connect directly with each other for live conversation on the margins of the event. The Forum will conclude with awards for youth leaders and the winners of the [Art of Well-being](#) competition. Well-being pauses and energizers, programmed and led by young people, will be incorporated throughout.

National events, organized and led by governments and PMNCH partners in 50+ countries, will be held before, during and after the Forum, with highlights of national events woven into the global mainstage program.

Throughout, at least 20% of speakers will be young people under the age of 30, guided closely by the principles of Meaningful Youth and Adolescent Engagement. The GFA Program is under development by the Forum’s Program Action Group, co-chaired by UNICEF, UNFPA, together with youth leadership. A minimum of 4000 – 5000 registrations for live and recorded participation is expected, with the participation of all constituency groups. Programming and policy experts and adolescent well-being advocates from all regions of the world are anticipated to be the dominant live audience; youth audiences will be encouraged to view the Forum as school timings permit. Viewing parties in countries are highly encouraged.

Figure 1: Overview of Global Forum draft program framework





Members of the Forum's Program Action Group [met face to face](#) in New York at UNFPA on 5-6 June to determine the 20 thematic sessions to be included in the main stage sessions. These are reflected below in Figure 2.

Figure 2: The Global Forum's five concurrent programme tracks

GFA Core Programme	
Track	Exact Session Names: TBC
Track A - Good Health	1) Health & UHC
	2) Menstrual Hygiene Management
	3) Road Safety
	4) Substance Misuse
	5) Adolescents & Youth and HIV and AIDS
Track B - Connectedness	1) Adolescent Mental Health
	2) Youth on the forefront of a) climate action b) humanitarian action
	3) The role of family and caregivers
Track C- Safety and a Supportive Environment	1) Sexual and Reproductive Health
	2) Gender Based Violence
	3) Online safety and Artificial Intelligence
	4) Masculinities
Track D - Education & Learning	1) Comprehensive Sexual Education
	2) Education skills-based systems strengthening
	3) Education and Nutrition
	4) Young Professionals in Public Health
Track 5- Agency and Resilience	1) Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement and Civic engagement
	2) Agency
	3) Resilience
	4) Disabilities
Priority cross-cutting topic for integration (Abortion, CSE, SOGI, HIV/AIDS, gender inequality)	

3. National Events extend the reach of the Global Forum

All PMNCH constituencies and partners are encouraged to support national and local communities to host national events aligned with the Global Forum under the [#1point8](#) campaign banner. To date, approximately 50 events² have been [registered online](#); more are warmly encouraged. Audio-visual materials from the events will be used during the Forum.

Ideas include:

1) Partners work with national Governments to stage their own national event for adolescents and young people, e.g., a two-day program, inaugurated by champions, government policy-makers, parliamentarians, multi-stakeholder platforms, and other existing

² To date, 49 events have been registered and/or announced to the PMNCH Secretariat in 29 different countries. This includes: the planning of a National Adolescents Forum in Egypt -- a collaboration between civil society, UN partners and the government to be organized by the Arab Coalition for Adolescent Health & Medicine; students at Bath University in the UK, in collaboration with One Young World, dedicated a session to the campaign and adolescent well-being at their symposium in [month here](#). Several youth-led organizations have registered community gatherings to discuss specific issues, including SRHR and/or menstrual health. PMNCH Adolescent and Youth grantees (11 in total) will organize national events and activities in their respective countries. Knowledge institutes have expressed an interest in organizing and participating in such events, including Karolinska Institute, John Hopkins University, Victoria University and the University of Oslo. The African Union (AU) has committed to including the launch of the AU strategy on Education, Health and Well-being. In addition, regional forums are being organized in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region and Latin American countries.



platforms. Objectives of these meetings can include the development of national adolescent plans and policies, and the potential development of government-led commitments to improve adolescent well-being to be launched during the October Forum and/or in conjunction with the UN General Assembly's SDG Review in September.

2) Activities led by young people and PMNCH partners through their own organizations and networks, such as rallies, marches, discussions, debates, symposiums, webinars, games, competitions, concerts, localized campaigns, social media activities, and school and university activities, etc., in support of the #1point8 campaign. All interested partners are also encouraged to stage virtual "1.8 street parties" within their networks and communities. For example, "viewing parties" of the Global Forum, with country participants commenting in real time during the live event, or through a post-event townhall meeting based on the recorded version of the Forum.

3) International multi-national (youth) organizations can support national (youth-led) events in different countries due to their institutional capacity. Activities can take a variety of forms as expressed above. Sponsoring event partners will be supported by PMNCH with knowledge resources, messages and branding materials. Events are especially encouraged to be held in close proximity to the dates of the Global Forum in October, e.g., the weekend before, or even during the Forum itself, allowing live broadcast material to be brought into the global mainstage of the Forum in real time.

It is expected that the majority of events will be announced just ahead of the Forum. Registered events will be featured on the [1point8 Website](#), including information on registration for individual events/participation and contact details of organizers. Organizers will be supported with an events kit, including design templates for local printing of campaign banners, merchandise, posters and other materials. An event checklist has been developed to support promotion of the national events. A follow-up survey has also been developed to capture engagement of young people, document outcomes and measure impact



Women's,
Children's and
Adolescents'
Health

20 Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
T: +41 22 791 259 Fax: +41 22 791 5854
E: pmnch@who.int
www.pmnch.org

Figure 3: Examples of national events aligned with the 1.8 campaign and the Global Forum



4. What Young People Want: elevating the voices of 1m young people

An integral part of the Forum experience is the “What Young People Want” (WYPW) global survey effort, in which 1m young people around the world will express in their own words what they want for their own well-being. This effort is essential to ensuring that the perspectives and views of young people are full integrated in the Forum programme.

Beyond its contribution to the Forum programme, the quantitative and qualitative results of the survey will be analyzed rapidly with the assistance of AI technology, and shared by PMNCH in the form of a searchable online dashboard. PMNCH will use this data to produce regional and national advocacy agendas, which will be shared back to young people and the general public through strategic efforts to maximize earned media and social media reach.

These evidence-based advocacy agendas are intended to provide large-scale, real-time, verified information to policymakers and programmers about what their own young citizens need and want. This intended to assist in planning and investment efforts at all levels of government. This methodology draws on the highly successful and tested experience of the [What Women Want](#) campaign, pioneered by the White Ribbon Alliance.



Results will also help shape the development of the “Agenda for Action for Adolescents”, to be launched at the conclusion of the Forum in October as a call for action going forward. This agenda will call on governments and all stakeholders to protect adolescents in all their diversity, using principles of equity and equality, through increased policy/legislation, investment and service delivery. This Agenda will mirror the programming pillars of the Forum, and is expected to include asks related to:

- **Promoting agency and resilience** through empowerment and engagement of adolescents and youth from all communities, i.e., designing data-driven and evidence-based policies and programmes, including programme implementation, governance, monitoring and evaluation;
- **Improving adolescent health and well-being by** addressing mental health & well-being issues, nutrition, reducing interpersonal violence, road injury, HIV and self-harm;
- **Preventing stigma and discrimination**, and sexual and gender-based violence toward adolescents, i.e., through protection, sensitization, and education programmes, including Comprehensive Sexuality Education;
- **Supporting adolescents to stay in school**, i.e., by investing in education and skill development through targeted programmes and policies for all and especially those most at risk of dropping -out and non-enrolment;
- **Fostering connectedness, positive values and healthy relationships**, i.e., through cohesive programming that focuses on creating enabling environments at multiple levels -- community and family level, school level and through digital spaces.

As of mid-June 2023, WYPW has received more than 320,000 responses, on track toward the goal of 1m by October 2023. Responses have been generated through online tools and community mobilization in countries including: Brazil, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The WYPW dashboard will be launched on the 1.8 campaign site at the end of June, providing real-time data visualization and comparison capabilities through searchable filters.

PMNCH constituencies and members are encouraged to promote WYPW through their networks to extend the reach and speed of the response toward the Forum.



Annex 1: Global Forum plenary framework

