

Global Forum for Adolescents Programme



The programme of the Global Forum for Adolescents has been framed in relation to the five domains of the Adolescent Well-Being Framework and tailored in response to the emerging findings of the “What Young People Want” initiative.

The Forum will include core sessions, a series of plenary sessions, an innovation showcase, and exciting product launches.



Panel discussions



Product launches



Cross-cutting



Good Health



Connectedness



Safety and Environment



Education and Learning



Agency and Resilience

Day 1: 11 October, 2023

08:30 - 09:50 CEST



Opening Ceremony & Plenary 1 - UNITE for adolescent well-being: Change begins with youth

Opening ceremony & an electrifying plenary to kickstart the Global Forum for Adolescents, our goal is clear: to amplify youth voices. Let's UNITE in optimistic action, with empowered adolescents, leading toward a better world for all.

10:00 - 10:50 CEST



Meaningful adolescent and youth engagement: An unfulfilled promise and the road ahead

Youth-led organizations unite in this vibrant session to explore meaningful youth engagement and governance, as well as how to foster intergenerational collaboration. Through real-world experiences, diverse adolescent leaders will spotlight successes, sharing insights to navigate and excel in this area. Participate through interactive discussions, panels, polls, and gaming, all designed to advance the conversation and foster transformative change.



Global adolescent priorities: Lights, camera, action!

Add your voice to an engaging interactive discussion around global adolescent health and well-being. Featuring a compelling short film that portrays 1.8 Billion Campaign leaders in a transformative meeting with UK FCDO Minister Andrew Mitchell, this event will pave the way to a healthier, brighter future for adolescents worldwide!



Day 1: 11 October, 2023

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Investing in tomorrow: Empowering the next generation of adolescent health professionals

Join young professionals - the vital bridge between teens and experts - in tackling adolescent challenges in public health. Representatives from global associations and networks will cover crucial topics, from burnout to training gaps and equity. Hear how embracing a transformative approach and centering youth rights and experiences can help us build leaders for tomorrow's well-being.



Elevating futures: Launching the continental strategy for education for health and well-being

Be part of history as we launch the "Continental Strategy on Education for Health and Wellbeing" led by the African Union in collaboration with UNESCO, UNFPA, WHO, IPPF and UNAIDS. This initiative envisions a young African, a global citizen who is empowered, educated, healthy, resilient, socially responsible, and has the capacity to contribute to the development of their community, country and the region.



12:00 - 12:50 CEST



Agents of change: Stories from youth on the frontline of the humanitarian response

How can we empower youth in crises? The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action is a global call uniting over 60 organizations to reshape humanitarian efforts with and for young individuals. Hear about localized strategies and innovative programs that prioritize youth rights, needs, and strengths during disasters and emergencies to make this agenda a reality.



Day 1: 11 October, 2023

12:00 - 12:50 CEST cont.



'Ready to learn and thrive': Promoting adolescent well-being in schools

Education and well-being go hand in hand, as underpinned by the UN's 'Ready to Learn and Thrive' report. Healthy students learn better, and quality education boosts health, which means schools can revolutionize well-being. Join us for insights, practical advice, and real-world success stories on how we can unite education stakeholders for lasting impact.



13:00 - 13:50 CEST



Generation cyberwise: Fostering safety for digital natives

Join the conversation on how digitalization shapes adolescents' future well-being. Explore the online environments, risks, and opportunities they face, and hear first-hand experiences from young voices and experts who are sharing strategies to build a safer and more supportive online space. Let's shape a digital world that truly works for young people.



Launch of the AA-HA! 2.0: Global guidance for accelerated action for adolescent health and well-being

The updated AA-HA! 2.0 guidance launches at GFA, offering the latest tools to advance adolescent health and wellbeing globally. This interactive session will showcase country examples, commitments and youth perspectives on applying this vital framework.



Day 1: 11 October, 2023

14:00 - 14:50 CEST



Mental health: Youth leaders break the silence

Youth mental ill health is a worsening issue, affecting 1 in 7 young people globally. This session profiles the voices and stories of mental health advocates, giving insight into meaningful solutions for change. Learn how youth-stakeholder collaborations can shape effective mental health services for a brighter future.



Communicating the noncommunicable: How marketing policy can protect children and young people from disease

Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of death and disability worldwide, especially among young people aged 5–14. This session spotlights strategies to counter commercial marketing targeting children and youth. Add your voice to the call for government commitment to regulate harmful marketing practices and pave the way for healthier, happier generations.



15:00 - 15:50 CEST



Our planet, our well-being, our say: Youth-led action and the climate crisis

Adolescents, hit hardest by climate change, are taking the reins in driving action. This session outlines the impact of the climate on adolescent well-being, and uncovers youth-led solutions. Take part in a dynamic roundtable and intergenerational dialogue designed to ignite change for a sustainable planet.



Day 1: 11 October, 2023

15:00 - 15:50 CEST cont.



We lead: Youth-led advocacy strategies for SRHR and bodily autonomy

Youth voices from diverse backgrounds are uniting to advocate for bodily autonomy in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Learn strategies to break down barriers, from challenging consensual sex criminalization to data-driven policy shifts. Be inspired by success stories and contribute to global effort to protect young people's SRHR.



16:00 - 16:50 CEST



Building agency of adolescents through quality programming and accountability

Join youth voices, including girls from marginalized communities, in a compelling conversation about the power of agency. Experience its intrinsic value, plus how agency can fuel gender justice, education, and well-being. The session will share best practices, community solutions, and advocacy strategies, empowering you to be part of this movement for a brighter, more inclusive future.



Take action for adolescents: The U.S. National Adolescent Health Action Plan

Experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and partners alongside youth co-creators present an innovative plan to enhance U.S. youth well-being in this discussion. Learn about research, stakeholder engagement, how the Take Action Toolkit supports local implementation, and the plan's goals and steps for youth-serving sectors.



Office of
Population Affairs

Day 1: 11 October, 2023

17:00 - 17:50 CEST



We deserve better: From combating violence to fostering safe spaces

Every adolescent has a right to live safely, yet gender norms can fuel bullying and violence, impacting their physical and mental health. Join us to reflect on groundbreaking new research and discover interventions from Egypt, Cameroon, Bangladesh, and Indonesia that foster awareness, prevention, and support. Let's unite for change! #BreakTheNorms #AdolescentSafety #GlobalChange

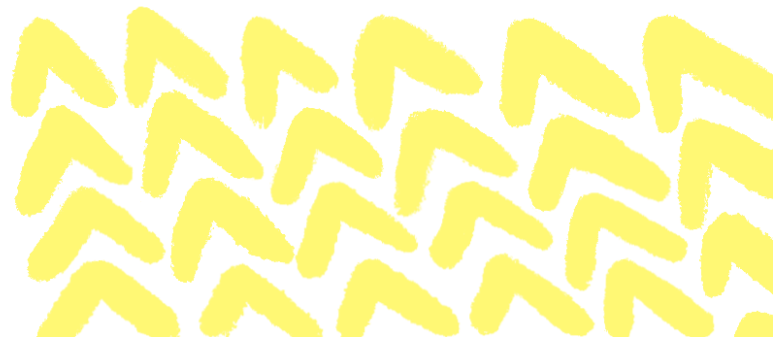


Adding it up - Evidence to impact: Making the case for adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights

In a world of polarization and misinformation, adolescents struggle to access vital sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) care and information. Unveiling groundbreaking preliminary data on the urgent need for sexual and reproductive services for adolescents across 130 nations, this session showcases evidence-based advocacy strategies led by young people.



End of Day 1



Day 2: 12 October, 2023

08:30 - 09:50 CEST



Plenary 2 - RISE to success: Unlocking solutions for adolescent well-being

Join us for a dynamic session anchored in the adolescent well-being framework where we'll take stock and share successful initiatives and real-life case studies, including the launch of the revised Global AA-HA! plus the latest evidence and tools to inspire, drive solutions and ignite change. Let's RISE to success!

10:00 - 10:50 CEST



A healthy dose of change: Reducing harm through youth-driven drug education solutions

Adolescents and young people who use drugs are often left out of conversations relating to their health and wellbeing, leading to policies and practices that don't meet their needs. This session unites them with the service providers and educators who support them, to explore how education-based approaches can meaningfully reduce harm.



Driving change: Youth engagement for improved road safety

Road safety is paramount for global well-being, with road traffic injuries claiming lives every two minutes. Experience the impact on young people through stories, debates, and youth-led insights. This session will explore how adolescent engagement in road safety can both accelerate public health change as well as help tackle climate change, inspiring us all to make roads safer together.



Day 2: 12 October, 2023

11:00 - 11:50 CEST



"If only you would listen!" A conversation between adolescents and global experts on building resilience in an uncertain world

Amid pandemics, climate change, and conflict, adolescent well-being is crucial and resilience is key. Hear from Indian youth on the crises they experience and their priorities for change. Global experts and youth activists will then be questioned on evidence-based interventions for improving adolescent health and well-being including building agency, supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-responsive social protection for securing brighter futures.



Invest we must! The time is now: Making the case for investing in adolescent well-being

PMNCH and Victoria University are launching an adolescent well-being investment case exploring the multidimensional nature of adolescent well-being across its five domains, and the need for multi sectoral investments. This session presents key findings and advocacy asks of the investment case as well as a modelling toolkit to support Member States to develop their own investment case.



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

12:00 - 12:50 CEST



It starts with families: Improving adolescent well-being through strengthened support

Parents and caregivers are the foundation for young people's growth. Positive experiences of both parenting and community backing have a direct impact on adolescent resilience. But how can the challenges of low- and middle-income countries amid global upheavals be overcome? Hear about challenges and solutions as well as the policy responses that bolster family support and unlock the potential of early adolescence.



Day 2: 12 October, 2023

12:00 - 12:50 CEST cont.



Data that matter: Championing adolescent well-being measurement

To date, no single initiative brings a comprehensive, multidimensional approach to adolescent well-being measurement. A new, measurement approach developed by WHO, PMNCH, and partners, is changing the future of adolescent well-being data. Discover its initial results and help steer the conversation towards a brighter, healthier world for adolescents.



13:00 - 13:50 CEST



Hungry for change: Students assess school nutrition programs

Access to education is every adolescent's right, yet many face barriers to optimal learning and future opportunities due to disparities in access to nutrition and health services delivered through schools. COVID-19 closures underscored the importance of school-based health and nutrition services. This session focuses on how school based intervention as well as digital solutions are supporting girls to be empowered, and can drive holistic well-being and opportunities.



Man up? How deconstructing masculinities improves adolescent well-being

Empowering boys is a meaningful way to improve gender equality and well-being, but it takes early investment to deconstruct harmful masculinities. Join the experts and youth voices exploring tailored approaches for positive boyhood, driven by recent evidence and data and join the call to action for a brighter, equal future.



Day 2: 12 October, 2023

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From siloes to systems: Bringing adolescents into the healthcare agenda

What is the gap between adolescent needs and universal healthcare and why does it matter? Discover the challenges, workforce shortages, and youth fighting for change on this critical topic, and hear success stories showcasing how adolescent health can best be integrated into healthcare systems through policies and practices.



Ask us what we need! Youth-led approaches to redefining sexuality education

Empowering the future requires comprehensive sexuality education for all. With insights from UN agencies and over 10,000 young voices, join a session led by dynamic global youth leaders who will share the significance, impact and opportunities of this vital topic. Your voice matters too – together, let's reimagine better sexuality education for all.



15:00 - 15:50 CEST



Embracing sexual and gender diversity in SRH: LGBTQIA+ adolescents and youth lead the way

Discover how global adolescent sexual and reproductive health programs can embrace diversity, especially around sexual orientation and gender identity. Engage with LGBTQIA+ youth leaders in an interactive fireside chat, exploring tech-driven mental health services, advocacy approaches, and ground breaking inclusive programming approaches.



Day 2: 12 October, 2023

15:00 - 15:50 CEST cont.



Periods are bloody important: Learnings from menstrual health interventions

Menstrual health is both an issue of human rights and public health, and yet it's met with many challenges, from cultural taboos to barriers to access. This session shares innovative solutions designed to drive change, including a girl-led period tracker, school- and community-based programmes and sustainable and scalable policies that will enable girls to thrive worldwide.



16:00 - 16:50 CEST



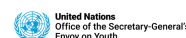
A better way: Transforming the HIV response for adolescents and young people

Six inspiring young leaders from sub-Saharan Africa share their experiences with HIV along with insights, questions, and priorities for youth-centered care. Hear a multistakeholder panel facilitated by youth reflect on these perspectives and discuss the opportunities for multi-sectoral programming for adolescents and young people affected by HIV that effectively address their needs in education, health, and social protection.



Making the future disability-inclusive: Bringing stakeholders together to change the future, today!

Globally, 1.3 billion people - including 180 to 220 million youth - live with disabilities, facing exclusion and barriers to education, health and work. Despite recognition in international fora, stigma persists. Join CSOs, UN partners, and young people with disabilities to champion a disability-inclusive agenda, sharing challenges and strategies for meaningful adolescent engagement, empowerment and well-being overall.



Day 2: 12 October, 2023

17:00 - 17:50 CEST



Plenary 3 - LEAD the way: From commitments to action

Despite the benefits of investing in adolescents, political and financial commitments have fallen behind. The time to act is now. In our closing plenary, distinguished speakers include high-level governmental leaders, UN representatives, adolescents, young people, and other commitment-makers. Be part of this historic moment and LEAD the way towards a brighter future for adolescents and beyond.

End of Day 2

