

Item 3: Keeping the pressure up: Increasing commitment for adolescent wellbeing

Report on the Global Forum for Adolescents

*Aditi Sivakumar, My Empowerment Platform & Naledi Katsande, Youth
for Health Promotion*

PMNCH Board Meeting, 27 & 28 November 2023



Global Forum for Adolescents 11-12 October 2023



Recap: Objectives of the Global Forum for Adolescents

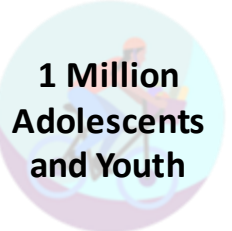
- ✓ Engage partners in the Forum and country level advocacy to secure political and financial commitments from governments to improve adolescent well-being,
- ✓ Increase awareness of adolescent well-being including through data, knowledge products, and the five domains of the Adolescent Well-being Framework,
- ✓ Stimulate action and engagement of 1 million young people, at the global, regional, national, and local levels to shape the Agenda for Action for Adolescents, and
- ✓ Build a strong community around AWB for long-term demand and action on accountability, contributing to progress towards SDG2030.



Winners of the Art for Well-being Competition

The Forum at a glance

The world's biggest gathering on adolescent well-being, 11-12 October 2023



**1 Million
Adolescents
and Youth**

- ✓ Coming together in a massive digital advocacy effort to drive community, national, regional and global change



**100+
Countries**

- ✓ Vibrant and innovative set of discussions, activities and events in countries, linked through digital advocacy hubs and shared on a global virtual stage



NEW

- ✓ Knowledge, data, evidence and innovations -- shared among PMNCH constituencies and partners + other partners and platforms concerned with young people



**Youth
Voices**

- ✓ Youth at the centre, speaking for their own health and well-being, empowerment and resilience, education and skills, and connection with people and planet

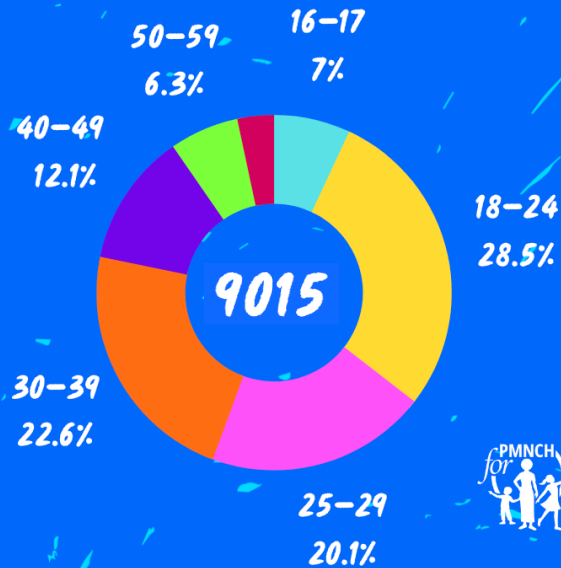


**An Agenda
for Action**

- ✓ Building on the evidence behind the Adolescent Well-being Framework, bring together the demands of more than 1m young people during October 2022 to October 2023 – developed into a tool for action to guide the political advocacy efforts of all partners

Total registrants (by age)

1.8 Billion
Young
People
for Change
Global Forum for Adolescents '23



Social media reach (1-12 October)

1.8 Billion
Young
People
for Change
Global Forum for Adolescents '23

PMNCH **#1point8**
2.9 **4**
Million **Million**

PMNCH for



Commitments for adolescent well-being

1.8 Billion
Young
People
for Change
Global Forum for Adolescents '23

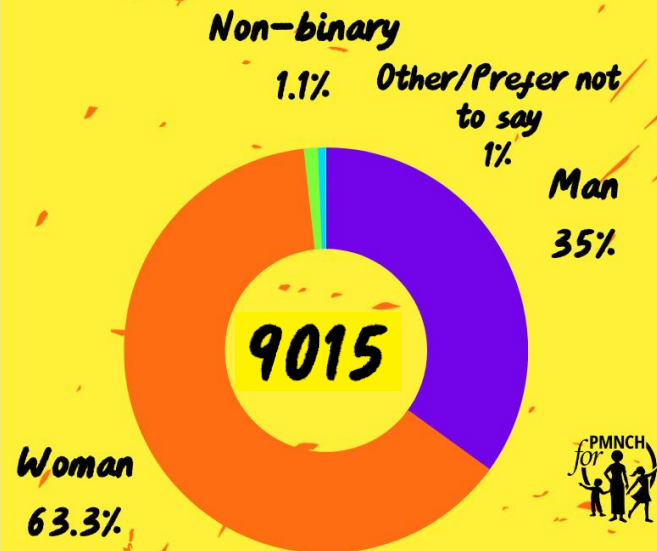
18 countries
2 regions
10 Donors & Foundations
2 NGOs
1 IGO
1 HCPA

#1point8

PMNCH for

Total registrants (by gender)

1.8 Billion
Young
People
for Change
Global Forum for Adolescents '23



1 anthem
1 platform
3 plenaries
22 sessions
130+ speakers
117 leading partners
125 national events
19 hours of content, music,
discussions and much more...

#1point8

PMNCH for

1.8 Billion
Young
People
for Change
Global Forum for Adolescents '23

68 Media hits **16** potential reach
8 product launches
1 innovation space
9 art competition winners
100's of partners
involved....

PMNCH for

1.8 Billion
Young
People
for Change
Global Forum for Adolescents '23

Highlights



1.8 Billion
Young
People
for Change
Global Forum for Adolescents '23

Top 10 countries in the
order of viewership:
USA, Nigeria, Kenya,
India, UK, Uganda,
France, Netherlands,
Mexico, Finland



1.8 Billion
Young
People
for Change
Global Forum for Adolescents '23

The top ten countries
with most <30-yo
participation:
Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya,
India, Indonesia,
Ghana, South Africa,
UK, Zimbabwe and USA



VIEWERSHIP

5656 participants in total
(42% under 30)
131 countries
55 minutes average
watching
±700 on-demand viewers



Programme

“As a young advocate, I think it is completely understandable to be mad because we are frustrated. But one thing that gives me hope in the middle of frustration is the stories of young people who are taking the chance of thinking that this world can be different.”



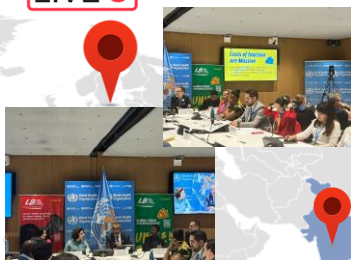
Plenaries

8

GFA Hub (includes live moderation
through the virtual programme, broadcast
and plenary teams)

Geneva, Switzerland

LIVE



National event in **Brazil**,
broadcast on 12 October
during **Plenary 3**

National event in **South Africa**,
broadcast on 12 October during
Plenary 2

National event in **India**,
broadcast on 11 October
during **Plenary 1**

Powered by
© Australian Bureau of Statistics, GeoNames, Microsoft, Navinfo, Open Places, OpenStreetMap, TomTom, Zi

Featuring status of AWB and What Young People Want

Plenary 1
UNITE
*for adolescent well-
being: Change
begins with youth*

The “Setting the Scene” plenary will set the stage for an energetic, exciting, and engaging Global Forum for Adolescents – positioning the asks and needs of young people at the centre of the discussion.

- Panel of 3 young women
- **18+** Member states present in the room, 8 to make strong statements in support of AWB
- 4 UN agencies represented with 3 EDs in attendance; commitments made by UN agencies

Featuring lived experience and success stories

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

- Dynamic session anchored in the adolescent well-being domains
- Share successful initiatives and real-life examples on micro finance, SOGI, mental well-being and menstrual health
- Launch of the revised Global AA-HA! + latest evidence and tools.

Featuring agenda for action and commitments

Plenary 3
LEAD
*the way:
From commitments
to action*

- Set out the roadmap for action
- Feature launch of the Agenda for Action for Adolescents
- Showcase MS + Non-MS commitments
- Call on countries and community to join forces for AAA

GFA Thematic sessions

9

GFA Schedule

Opening Ceremony

Plenary 1: "Setting the Scene"

8:30-9:50

09:50-10:00

10:00 - 10:50

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

Global Adolescent Priorities: Lights, camera, action!

10:50 - 11:00

11:00 - 11:50

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

Elevating Futures: Launching the Continental Strategy on Education for Health and Wellbeing

11:50 - 12:00

12:00 - 12:50

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

Ready to Learn and Thrive: Promoting adolescent well-being in schools

12:50 - 13:00

13:00 - 13:50

Generation cyberwise: Fostering safety for digital natives

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

13:50 - 14:00

14:00 - 14:50

Mental Health: Youth leaders break the silence

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

14:50 - 15:00

15:00 - 15:50

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

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

15:50 - 16:00

16:00 - 16:50

Building agency of adolescents through quality programming and accountability

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

16:50 - 17:00

17:00 - 17:50

We deserve better: From combating violence to fostering safe spaces

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

17:50 - 18:00

National Event footage

Plenary 2: "Success and Making it Happen"

8:30-9:50

09:50-10:00

10:00 - 10:50

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

Driving change: Youth engagement for improved road safety

10:50 - 11:00

11:00 - 11:50

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

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

11:50 - 12:00

12:00 - 12:50

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

Data that Matter: Championing adolescent well-being measurement

12:50 - 13:00

13:00 - 13:50

Hungry for change: Students assess school nutrition programs

Man up? How deconstructing masculinities improves adolescent well-being

13:50 - 14:00

14:00 - 14:50

From siloes to systems: Bringing adolescents into the healthcare agenda

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

14:50 - 15:00

15:00 - 15:50

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

Periods are bloody important: Learnings from menstrual health interventions

15:50 - 16:00

16:00 - 16:50

A better way: Adolescents and young people at the centre of a transformative HIV response

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

16:50 - 17:00

17:00 - 17:50

Plenary 3: "Commitments"

17:50 - 18:00

Closing Ceremony

11th October (Wednesday) Time (CET)

12th October (Thursday) Time (CET)

Product launches

S. No.	Product	
1.	Agenda for Action for Adolescents	PMNCH and partners
2.	Adolescent Well-being Investment Case	PMNCH and partners
3.	Championing adolescent well-being measurement	PMNCH and partners
4.	Global AA-HA! 2.0	WHO and partners
5.	Continental Strategy on Education for Health and Well-being	African Union (underpinned by PMNCH's AWB FW)
6.	Take Action for Adolescents – A Call to Action for Adolescent Health and Well-Being	USG (underpinned by PMNCH's AWB FW)
7.	Unpacking Marketing Policy to Protect Children and Young People from Noncommunicable Diseases	NCD Alliance
8.	Evidence to Impact: Making the Case for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health	Guttmacher Institute

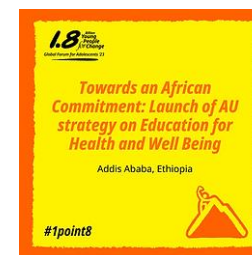
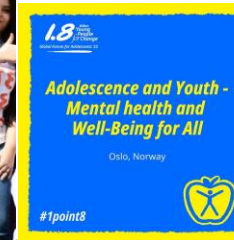
An overview of National and Regional Events

Total number of events (registered): 125

Registered events Breakdown by Region:

African Region (AFR)	41	Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR)	11
Region of the Americas (AMR)	26	Western Pacific Region (WPR)	4
South-East Asian Region (SEAR)	24	European Region (EUR)	14
Global	2	Regional	2

7337 participants of which 3974 were under 25 years of age



Commitments

“The solution is to ensure that young people and adolescents are engaged at all levels. We are not just the future. We are actually the present. You cannot describe as the future without involving us in the policies and frameworks that are being worked on.”



Mobilizing Commitments for AWB

During the GFA, leaders and high-level participants responded to the demands of adolescents and youth regarding their well-being needs.

- ✓ Governments and partners committed to
 - ✓ More investments
 - ✓ Better policies
 - ✓ Smarter programmes aligned with the seven asks of the AAA
- ✓ These commitments prioritize adolescent well-being through financial pledges, policy changes, and increased investments in young people.
- ✓ The GFA on the 11-12 October 2023 was a key moment to launch and amplify these commitments.

Commitments were announced from a wide range of stakeholders:

- ✓ *18 Member States*
- ✓ *2 Regional intergovernmental organizations,*
- ✓ *13 philanthropic and funding organizations*
- ✓ *2 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other inter-governmental organizations*
- ✓ *Health-care professional associations*

The image displays three commitment cards from the Global Forum for Adolescents (GFA) 2023, set against a yellow background with a faint world map. Each card features a national flag, the text 'THE GOVERNMENT OF [Country] COMMITS TO:', and a list of commitments. The cards are for Botswana, Canada, and the African Union. Each card also includes the '1.8' logo and the PMNCH logo at the bottom right.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA COMMITS TO:

- Education, including Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- Gender equality and ending gender-based violence
- Pedestrian safety
- Monitoring Adolescent well-being

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA COMMITS TO:

- \$1.4 billion a year for rights of women and girls
- \$700 million of this for sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights as a priority

THE AFRICAN UNION COMMITS TO:

- Safe digital connectivity and online safety for all, especially girls
- Guarantee access to electricity for all on the continent
- Ensure Clean cooking is a priority

18 Governments and 2 regions committed till date



<https://pmnch.who.int/news-and-events/campaigns/agenda-for-action-for-adolescents/country-commitments>

Non-State Actor Commitments

PMNCH partners across multiple constituencies joined forces with Governments to respond to the needs of adolescents and demonstrated their commitments to the well-being of 1.8 Billion adolescents and youth.



Commitment by Plan International



Commitment by Women Deliver



Agenda for Action for Adolescents



What is the Agenda for Action for Adolescents?



A call to action for financial, policy and service delivery commitments



A year-long effort to collect voices of **1.2 million adolescents and youth** aged 10-24 participating in the “What Young People Want” effort coordinated by PMNCH. Responses were collected from **90 countries**, by **~1000 mobilizers from 16 priority countries**. Average age of the respondents was 19 years old.



Drafted by an expert advisory group of PMNCH youth leaders, members of PMNCH standing committees and working groups, and the Programme Action Group of the GFA



Launched at the Third Plenary of the GFA – on 12 October.

Key Asks



1. Provide universal primary, secondary, and tertiary education, and vocational training to ensure all adolescents and youth develop skills aligned with modern labour market demands, protected by strengthened labour laws and policies to ensure decent jobs, meaningful career options and safe working environments.



2. Provide affordable, high-quality adolescent health and well-being services, especially to adolescent parents, including through “one-stop shops”, digital platforms, and peer-led models that bring care closer to communities, including through primary **health-care services, schools, and community-based services**.



3. Ensure mental well-being and resilience through provision of timely and flexible, access to affordable and quality evidence-based information, services, psychosocial support, therapy, and destigmatizing mental health conditions.



4. Reform harmful and punitive laws and institute affirmative and protective laws and policies that facilitate access to education, healthcare, and other wellbeing services, as well as providing safe public spaces including roads. Laws and policies should provide protection from all forms of violence, discrimination, and harm, including sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence. Ensure age of consent laws do not deprive access to **essential SRH services and information, including HIV services, contraception, and safe abortion**, while also **protecting against child, early and forced marriage**.

Key Asks



5. Strengthen and establish social protection policies and mechanisms that meet the unique needs of adolescents and youth, through income protection programs, safety nets for vulnerable adolescents including cash transfers and food security.



6. Prevent stigma and discrimination against adolescents and youth in all their diversity, irrespective of identity and background, through legal protection, awareness building including among all stakeholders, provision of **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in and out of school.**



7. Strengthen agency of adolescents and youth through providing meaningful social and civic participation and allocating adequate resources to support youth and adolescent centred accountability mechanisms, to track the implementation of the Agenda for Action for Adolescents, utilising existing mechanisms at the national, regional, and global levels, such as the Voluntary National Review and Universal Periodic Review.

Summary of commitments by source against the 7 asks of the Agenda for Action for Adolescents

	Ask 1 	Ask 2 	Ask 3 	Ask 4 	Ask 5 	Ask 6 	Ask 7 
	Providing vocational training and secondary/third-level education	Providing affordable, high-quality adolescent health and well-being services	Ensuring mental well-being and resilience	Reforming harmful and punitive laws and institute affirmative and protective legal and policy mechanisms	Strengthening and establishing social protection mechanisms	Preventing stigma and discrimination	Strengthening agency of adolescents and youth
Botswana	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Canada		✓		✓		✓	✓
Ecuador		✓		✓		✓	
Ethiopia				✓			
Ghana	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Honduras	✓					✓	
Liberia	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Malawi	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Mexico	✓	✓				✓	✓
Namibia		✓					
Nigeria	✓	✓					✓

	Ask 1 	Ask 2 	Ask 3 	Ask 4 	Ask 5 	Ask 6 	Ask 7 
	Providing vocational training and secondary/third-level education	Providing affordable, high-quality adolescent health and well-being services	Ensuring mental well-being and resilience	Reforming harmful and punitive laws and institute affirmative and protective legal and policy mechanisms	Strengthening and establishing social protection mechanisms	Preventing stigma and discrimination	Strengthening agency of adolescents and youth
Portugal	✓		✓				
Republic of the Congo	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Serbia		✓		✓			✓
Sint Maarten		✓	✓				✓
South Africa	✓			✓		✓	✓
United States	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Zambia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
African Union		✓		✓	✓		
European Commission	✓			✓			✓

Recommendations from the GFA

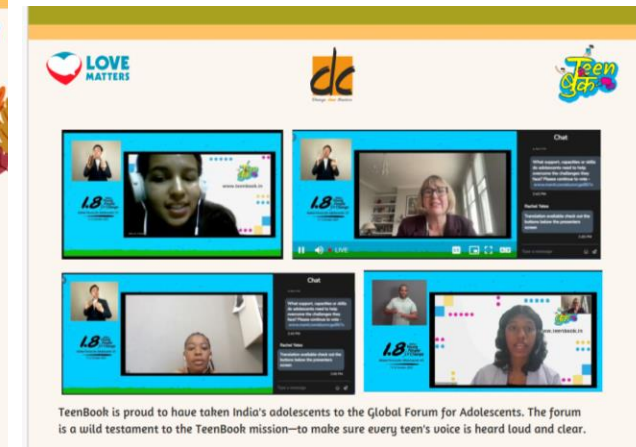
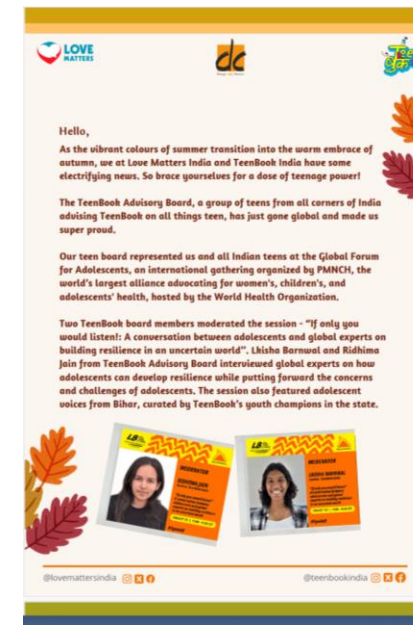
- Champion the AAA collectively across all stakeholders and national, regional, and global levels;
- Integrate AAA asks into various sectoral agendas to ensure sustained attention, avoiding isolation.
- Turn promises into action by including commitments to adolescents and youth in budgets, policies, and laws.
- Ensure strong accountability and involve young people meaningfully in decision-making.
- Strengthen intersectoral collaboration for a cohesive, whole-of-government effort, advancing adolescent well-being.
- Actively involve adolescents and youth in collaborative efforts, encouraging their participation in data generation, advocacy, and accountability initiatives to effectively deliver on the AAA agenda.

Next steps for the 1.8 Campaign



Immediate Action

- **±8000 thank you notes** and block-chain **certificates** to participants, speakers, session organizers, national event organizers, What Young People Want mobilizers and Champions and Allies
- **Feedback Survey** to participants has been sent
- **GFA report** – a high level, public facing summary publicly on metrics and outcomes of GFA
- **Collection of Testimonials:** All messages from partners and session organizers (**post GFA**) to be included as a 'partner wall' on the 1.8 website
- **GFA website** updated with GFA session recordings – now available – and knowledge products and other outcomes
- Continuing the conversation through the DAH



Thank you!