

Multi-stakeholder consultations on programming to promote adolescent well-being

Concept note

Background

Many of the 1.2 billion adolescents (aged 10-19 years) around the world experience multiple barriers and challenges to their well-being. This includes a lack of access to good nutrition, health services, education, mental health support and a safe and supportive environment.

In 2019, the [publication](#) “*Adolescent Health: the Missing Population in Universal Health Coverage*” demonstrated the importance of including adolescents more centrally within efforts to achieve UHC and argued that policy makers need to take urgent action in the areas of service delivery, financing and governance. Later the same year, the [Call to Action for Adolescent Well-being](#) was launched. To date it has been endorsed by over 100 civil society organizations and UN agencies and by more than 12 national governments, with additional countries being added each month.

To provide technical support for this initiative, a consensus definition and conceptual framework for adolescent well-being were developed by the UN H6+ Technical Working Group and other partners, including representatives of youth-led and youth-serving organizations. This was published in the [Journal of Adolescent Health](#) in 2020.

Objectives and outcomes

PMNCH, WHO and partners are holding multi-stakeholder consultations to reach broad agreement on policies and programming to promote adolescent well-being.

The consultations will identify gaps in knowledge and an effort will be made to address these in the build up towards a Global Summit on Adolescent Well-being in the Digital Age, planned for the second half of 2023. The aim of the Summit is to make a strong case to countries and partners for enhanced and continued investment in adolescent well-being. Specifically, the consultations will address:

- Why should national and local governments, NGOs and others invest in adolescent well-being? What is required?
What evidence-based policies and programmes are needed to promote adolescent well-being globally and in different contexts?

Supported by [15 background papers on adolescent well-being](#)¹, we expect the consultations to:

1. inform the development of a BMJ collection of articles on the topic of Programming to promote adolescent well-being in the digital age, which will be published before the UN General Assembly in 2022;
2. serve as guidance for updating the [Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents \(AA-HA!\) Guidance](#), which is currently being used by in-country partners to design and implement programmes on adolescent health and well-being. The AA-HA! 2.0 will be a comprehensive resource for designing a multi-sectoral response to promote adolescent well-being;

¹ Translations available in Arabic, French and Spanish. See annex one for details.

3. identify gaps in knowledge and an effort will be made to address these in subsequent articles in the BMJ collection and within the build up towards a Global Summit on Adolescent Well-being in a Digital Age

The multi-stakeholder consultations

The WHO Regional Offices have agreed to coordinate the series of virtual *Multi-stakeholder consultations on Programming to Promote Adolescent Well-being*, working closely with PMNCH, WHO HQ, and other UN H6+ partners. These will take place during June, July and August 2021.

Eight consultations are currently being prepared:

- African Region, coordinated by AFRO: one in English (14-15 June) and one in French (16-17 June);
- The Americas, coordinated by PAHO: one in English (1-2 June) and one in Spanish (8-9 June);
- Eastern Mediterranean Region, coordinated by EMRO: in English (15-16 June);
- European Region, coordinated by EURO: in English, with Russian simultaneous translation for plenary sessions (6-7 July);
- South East Asian Region, coordinated by SEARO: in English (27-28 July);
- Western Pacific Region, coordinated by WPRO: in English (19-20 August).

Participation

The consultations will include representatives of national and local governments (e.g municipalities, districts), youth networks, UN agencies, NGOs (including youth-led and youth-serving organizations), professional associations, academics, donors and foundations. Participation will be by invitation only.

Participants will be identified based on their experience and knowledge of adolescent well-being policies and programmes. This process will ensure that, between them, participants represent the interests of all five domains of adolescent well-being: good health and optimum nutrition (domain 1); connectedness, positive values, and contribution to society (domain 2); safety and a supportive environment (domain 3); learning, competence, education, skills, and employability (domain 4); and agency and resilience (domain 5).

Outputs

Following the consultations, the following material will be developed:

- Six regional consultation reports in English
- One overall report of the regional consultations in English
- Collated comments on the background papers which will contribute to the development of articles and opinion pieces for a future collection of papers in the BMJ
- A summary of key suggestions for the updated version of the AA-HA! Guidance

Annex 1. List of background papers for the consultations

Paper	Topic	Translation
1	Introduction to adolescent well-being and the background papers	Full paper: Arabic, English, French and Spanish
2	Summary of findings from the workshops with youth	Full papers: English
3	The economic case for investment in adolescent well-being	
4	Domain 1. Good health and optimum nutrition	
5	Domain 2. Connectedness, positive values and contribution to society	
6	Domain 3. Safety and a supportive environment	
7	Domain 4. Learning, competence, education, skills and employability	
8	Domain 5. Agency and resilience	
9	Lessons learned from adolescent well-being programmes (case studies)	
10	Indicators for monitoring progress in adolescent well-being	
11	Opportunities and threats for adolescent well-being provided by digital transformations	Abstracts: Arabic, English, French and Spanish
12	Promoting adolescent well-being in humanitarian and fragile settings	
13	Adolescent well-being in times of COVID-19	
14	Adolescent well-being and the climate crisis	
15	Effective policies and programming to promote adolescent well-being: Lessons from the background papers	Full paper: Arabic, English, French and Spanish