Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!)  
Implementation Guidance

Kenya Pediatric Association Scientific conference  
24th – 27th April 2018  
PrideInn Paradise Beach Resort

Dr. Martin Chabi Joseph  
WHO-Kenya Country Office
The Global AA-HA! Guidance

• Was launched during the World Health Assembly in May 2017

• It is intended to Contribute to the implementation of the adolescent component of the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health 2016-2030
Why the Focus on Adolescent Health

Adolescent Health in the Global Agenda
Adolescent Health: Important to all 17 SDG targets

**SURVIVE**
*End preventable deaths*
- Reduce global maternal mortality to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- Reduce newborn mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1000 live births in every country
- Reduce under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1000 live births in every country
- End epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and other communicable diseases
- Reduce by 1/3 premature mortality from NCDs and promote mental health and well-being

**THRIVE**
*Ensure health and well-being*
- End all forms of malnutrition, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and children
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services (including for family planning) and rights
- Ensure that all girls and boys have access to good quality early childhood development
- Substantially reduce pollution-related deaths and illnesses
- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, and access to quality essential services, medicines and vaccines

**TRANSFORM**
*Expand enabling environments*
- Eradicate extreme poverty
- Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and good quality secondary education
- Eliminate all harmful practices and all discrimination and violence against women and girls
- Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and to adequate sanitation and hygiene
- Enhance scientific research, upgrade technological capabilities and encourage innovation
- Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development
**Global Strategy For Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents Health:**

**Suggested Adolescent Health Interventions in Broad areas rather than specific interventions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Routine vaccinations (e.g. human papillomavirus, hepatitis B, diphtheria-tetanus, rubella, measles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Promotion of healthy behaviour (e.g. nutrition, physical activity, no tobacco, alcohol or drugs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prevention, detection and management of anaemia, especially for adolescent girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Comprehensive sexuality education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information, counselling and services for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health including contraception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Psychosocial support and related services for adolescent mental health and well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prevention of and response to sexual and other forms of gender-based violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prevention of and response to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prevention, detection and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and sexually transmitted and reproductive tract infections, including HIV, TB and syphilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Voluntary medical male circumcision in countries with HIV generalized epidemics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Detection and management of hazardous and harmful substance use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Parent skill training, as appropriate, for managing behavioural disorders in adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assessment and management of adolescents who present with unintentional injury, including alcohol-related injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prevention of suicide and management of self-harm/ suicide risks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*World Health Organization*
Global Strategy:

• Minimal specificity to adolescent health:
  – Chapter 7.2: Participation of adolescents
  – Chapter 7.3: Priorities for adolescent programming
PLEDGE OF SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN’S, CHILDREN’S AND ADOLESCENTS’ HEALTH

In 2010, the launch of the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health by the United Nations Secretary-General was a pivotal moment to accelerate the improvement of the health and well-being of women and children around the world.

The momentum for progress and change for women and children has grown steadily in Kenya, with improvements in skilled deliveries and contraceptive prevalence rate which increased from 44% to 62% and 46% to 50% respectively (KDHS 2008 & 2014). During the same period, child mortality decreased from 74 per 1,000 live births to 52 per 1,000 live births and neonatal mortality decreased from 31 per 1,000 live births to 22 per 1,000 live births. Additional gains were achieved in stunting which declined from 35% to 26%. However, progress is still required, building on the successes and lessons learned to complete the unfinished Millennium Development Goals’ agenda and further pursue our efforts for women, children and adolescents through the Sustainable Development Goals.

Therefore, I, the President of the Republic of Kenya, affirm my support to the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health (2016-30) as a global effort to bring all stakeholders together in support of countries’ work to improve women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health and well-being.

I pledge to take the needed sustainable actions to end all preventable deaths of women, children, and adolescents within a generation and ensure their well-being and we hold ourselves accountable for our collective progress towards this goal. Kenya commits to: (i) progressively increase government allocation to health with particular focus on women, children, adolescents and HIV to meet WHO global recommendations and ensure

sustainable financing of the Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Investment Framework in support of the Global Strategy 2.0; (ii) continue to provide free maternal and child health care services and remove user fees at government primary care facilities and to introduce a policy ensuring universal health coverage in line with Vision 2030; (iii) implement policies and strategies and laws that support gender equality and women’s empowerment; and (iv) support and strengthen efforts in implementation of strategies that ensure access to information on sexual reproductive health and services to adolescents.

UHURU KENYATTA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA.
The Global AA-HA! aims to:

Provide technical advice to help countries decide what to do and how to do it in adolescent health
The challenge

• The health problems of adolescents and young people have long been neglected
  ➢ Few advocates
  ➢ Not yet in powerful positions themselves

• Having the “A” word in the Global Strategy does not guarantee that increased attention to adolescent health will translate into action
Five key reasons for countries in sub-Saharan Africa to focus on the health of adolescents and young people

1. **Large group** with substantial proportion of burden of disease which is increasing relative to that of younger children

2. Need to **act now to avert major adult NCD**, mental health, violence & injury burden in the future

3. Ensure we **recoup the investments in child survival**

4. Avoid **swelling the ranks of angry protestors** and combatants

5. There is **increasing evidence** that interventions and programmes in this age group can work
By 2050, sub-Saharan Africa is projected to have more adolescents than any other region

Population of adolescents 10–19 years old in millions, by region, 1950–2050
Top 5 causes of mortality & DALYs lost (2012)
LMICs in the African Region: Older Adolescents (15-19y) by Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Mortality</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>DALYs lost</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>HIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Road injury</td>
<td>Maternal</td>
<td>Maternal</td>
<td>Road injury</td>
<td>Maternal</td>
<td>Maternal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>conditions</td>
<td>conditions</td>
<td></td>
<td>conditions</td>
<td>conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Lower respiratory</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Unipolar</td>
<td>Meningitis</td>
<td>Meningitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>violence</td>
<td>tract infections</td>
<td>violence</td>
<td>depression</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Meningitis</td>
<td>Meningitis</td>
<td>Meningitis</td>
<td>Meningitis</td>
<td>Lower respiratory tract infections</td>
<td>Lower respiratory tract infections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lower respiratory</td>
<td>Diarrheal</td>
<td>Lower respiratory</td>
<td>Meningitis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tract infections</td>
<td>diseases</td>
<td>tract infections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WHO 2014. Health for the World’s Adolescents
Communicable diseases; Nutrition; Unintentional injuries; Intentional injuries; Mental health
Health investments among adolescents
Essential for:

**Immediate health and survival:**
- Violence
- Road injuries
- Self-harm
- Psychoactive drug use
- Too-early pregnancy
- Alcohol-related injuries

**Subsequent health and survival as adults:**
- Tobacco use
- Poor diet and lack of exercise
- Unsafe sex

➢ *that can lead to key causes of adult death and illness such as diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, HIV, etc.*
The importance of the health of adolescents far exceeds immediate mortality and morbidity
Demographic transition

• Many countries in the African region should now be starting to reap the demographic dividend (lots of young adults)

• This is a one-time potential economic dividend to countries

• But, to reap the dividend, the young adults must be healthy, well-educated and employed
  • “Prevalence of long-term unemployment among youth in sub-Saharan Africa reached 48% in 2014”
  • “61% of young workers do not have the level of education expected to make them productive on the job”

Source: ILO Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015
Demographic transition

• High youth unemployment breeds streets full of angry protesters, radicalism, and potential for conflict & violence

• Export of talent

➢ RISK of Squandering the demographic dividend
AA-HA! Guidance covers all the priority health opportunities and challenges during adolescence

Adolescent health needs

Source: Patton et al 2016
Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health & Wellbeing

World Health Organization
Principles of the AA-HA! Guidance

• Focus on the major health problems and potentials
• Only make evidence-based recommendations
• Global remit, but local applicability
• Promote equity (needs of the most vulnerable)
• Build on existing Global Strategy documents
• Fit within
  ➢ Universal health coverage
  ➢ Quality of care
  ➢ Positive development
  ➢ Health within all policies
The systematic approach for the implementation of accelerated action for the health of adolescents (AA-HA!)

**SECTION 1**
Understanding what is special about adolescents and why investing in them results in long-term societal benefits

**SECTION 2**
Understanding global and regional adolescent health profiles

**SECTION 3**
Understanding what works - the AA-HA! package of evidence-based interventions

**SECTION 4**
Understanding the country’s adolescent health profile
Undertaking landscape analysis
Conducting a consultative process for setting priorities based on explicit criteria

**SECTION 5**
Planning and implementing national programmes

**SECTION 6**
Strengthening accountability for adolescent health:
- monitoring and evaluating adolescent health programmes
- priorities for adolescent health research

**Leadership and participation of adolescents and young people**

**Addressing adolescent health needs in humanitarian and fragile settings**

World Health Organization
Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!)
Guidance to Support Country Implementation

http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/adolescence/en/
http://everywomaneverychild.org/