MAKE ADOLESCENT WELLBEING A PRIORITY
AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION

Draft Version 3.0 For Consultation
A thriving adolescent population fuels economic growth throughout the life-course. Investment in adolescent health, wellbeing and development generates a “triple dividend of benefits” and determines both the present and future health of individuals, as well as that of generations to come.

WHY DO WE NEED ACTION?

To ensure that every adolescent can make informed choices about their lives, and fulfill their rights to attain full health and wellbeing we, the signatories of this call to action, call on governments, donors and the international community to:

1. Place adolescents at the forefront of this Call to Action and all its related components.
2. Strengthen national platforms for increased and equitable adolescent engagement in developing policies and programs that impact them.
3. Empower young people to demand their rights and hold national systems and institutions accountable so that their distinct and diverse needs are met.

Engage adolescents in all legal, policy, and programme processes that affect them:

- Develop a framework for adolescent wellbeing, using a multisectoral and multi stakeholder lens, to improve the programming and measurement of adolescent wellbeing.
- Prioritize collecting more and higher-quality data about adolescents that can be disaggregated by age, gender and other characteristics to guide action and define who they are and what they want.
- Strengthen partnerships at all levels that ensure linkages between the adolescent health and wellbeing agenda with broader efforts to address young people’s livelihoods, education and skills, as well as productivity.

Go beyond the health sector by developing strong multisectoral, whole-of-government policy approaches that truly address adolescent health and wellbeing:

- Increase and make more effective domestic and donor spending on adolescent health, in line with commitments made on UHC and beyond the health sector, to cover all adolescents with mandatory, prepaid, pooled funding for services that comprehensively address adolescent needs.
- Commit to prioritise Adolescent Health and Wellbeing, in resolutions submitted at the World Health Assembly in 2020 and beyond.
- Mobilise efforts towards a first ever global summit on Adolescents in 2022, aiming to increase significantly the levels of commitment and global funding for adolescents and accelerating action towards 2030.

Strengthen political commitment and funding for adolescents to accelerate action towards 2030:

- Engage adolescents in all legal, policy, and programme processes that affect them.
- Invest in best-practice programmes to end child marriage, at approximately $3.80 per person, could bring about a six-fold return on investment and cut child marriage by around a third.
- For every dollar invested in selected adolescent health interventions, there is an estimated ten-fold health, social and economic return.1
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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

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- For every dollar invested in selected adolescent health interventions, there is an estimated ten-fold health, social and economic return.1
- Investing in best-practice programmes to end child marriage, at approximately $3.80 per person, could bring about a six-fold return on investment and cut child marriage by around a third.2
- Today, some 130 million girls around the world between the ages of 6 and 17 are still not in school - 75% of whom are adolescents. Research from the World Bank shows that every year of secondary school education is correlated with an 18 percent increase in a girl’s future earning power.3

2 Ibid.
Photo credits: UNICEF, UN Women, Global Partnership for Education
This Call to Action is published for consultation. For more details visit www.unmgcy.org/call-to-action-on-adolescent-health