



## **Concept note for regional capacity building workshops in using the Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!): Guidance to support the implementation of the AH flagship programme in the African Region**

### **Background**

The Global Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescent's Health is leading the way in articulating the actions needed to capitalise on the existing achievements, operationalise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and assure that the unfinished MDGs agenda is addressed within one generation. To further these goals and harness the triple dividend from investing in adolescent health, in May 2017 WHO has launched the [Global accelerated action for the health of adolescents \(AA-HA!\): guidance to support country implementation](#). The guidance aims to assist governments in what to do – as well as how to do it – as they respond to the health needs of adolescents in their countries.

Building on latest WHO and other UN agencies recommendations, and on key global initiatives and movements - including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, the Global Financing Facility in Support of Every Woman Every Child and the global and regional movement to end child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), the Lancet Commission on adolescent health and well-being, the Global Accelerated Actions for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!): Guidance, WHO/AFRO has proposed to develop and implement in the region an adolescent health flagship programme. The flagship programme is the biggest opportunity to make the adolescents the human face of the SDGs and engages all clusters and programmes in the region. The overall objective of the AH flagship programme is to guide and support countries in the implementation of evidence-based interventions to improve the health and well-being of adolescents in the African Region.

To support countries in making a case for investment in adolescent health, in 2016-2017 WHO has developed an adolescent health costing module in the OneHealth software tool that allows countries to project costs for adolescent-specific programmes, as well as the cost of delivering adolescent health interventions within other national programmes or national health plans. The module can be also used to cost the proposals submitted to the Global Financing Facility and the Global Fund. It is the right time therefore to invest in building regional and national capacity in using the (AA-HA!): guidance and the costing module.

In 2015, WHO in collaboration with the Global Fund trained a pool of experts in RMNCAH strategic and operational planning. WHO and the Global Fund consider this new pool as a public good which will be made available to countries and partners who will need this resource. The adolescent health component was addressed as part of this training although not in depth. Preliminary results of an ongoing review indicate that this mechanism addresses the needs for a rapid, quality and efficient technical assistance response. The demand for such assistance is likely to increase dramatically after the dissemination of the AA-HA! Package and implementation of the AH flagship programme in the region.

To address the emerging needs, the WHO/AFRO and HQ in collaboration with UN H6 plus UNESCO agencies will organise capacity building and orientation workshops for English speaking countries. It will be a five-day capacity building and orientation workshop for regional experts who could be part of this technical assistance pool (all the days) and national adolescent health focal points (two days).

## **Objectives**

### **The objectives of the 2 days AA-HA! Guidance capacity building workshop;**

To build competencies of the regional pool of experts in applying the AA-HA! Guidance for national priority-setting, programming, monitoring & evaluation as well as the implementation of the AH flagship programme. This will include the following competencies:

1. Introduce participants to the AH flagship programme in the African Region and understand why the region needs a flagship programme;
2. Introduce participants to the AA-HA! package, and their use for various audiences and understand what is special and why investing in adolescents results in a long-term societal benefits, and how to use AA-HA! Package to inform such understanding by national stakeholders;
3. Understand global, regional and national adolescent health profiles;
4. Understand the logical framework for adolescent health programming, and using the AA-HA! reference document and its Annexes to inform the process of needs assessment, landscape analysis and priority-setting, programming for universal health coverage and to address broader determinants of health, including overcoming bottlenecks at country level to scale up effective interventions;
5. Understand the application of the adolescent health module of the OneHealth costing tool for RMNCAH strategic and operational planning;
6. Understand key issues in monitoring and evaluating adolescent health programmes, and using the AA-HA! reference document and its Annexes to inform monitoring and evaluation components of national programmes and RMNCAH plans.

### **The objectives of the 2-days orientation meeting with national focal points for adolescent health**

1. Introduce participants to the AH flagship programme understand why the region needs a flagship programme;
2. To discuss regional priorities for programming in adolescent health, based on the AA-HA! Guidance;
3. To develop country road-maps for implementing the flagship programme using the AA-HA! guidance, and costing of the priority package of interventions;
4. To apply regional consultants' skills in supporting national teams in priority-setting, programming, implementation and monitoring & evaluation for adolescent health.

### **The objectives of the 1-days AA-HA meeting with the regional pool of experts**

1. To get feedback on the AA-HA facilitator guide;
2. Make inputs into the facilitators guide.

## Expected outcomes

- Participants are introduced to the AH flagship programme and to the AA-HA! package,
- Global, regional and national adolescent health profiles are well understood by participants;
- Logical framework for adolescent health programming, and using the AA-HA! reference document and its Annexes to inform the process of needs assessment, landscape analysis and priority-setting, programming for universal health coverage and to address broader determinants of health, including overcoming bottlenecks at country level well understood;
- The application of the adolescent health module of the OneHealth costing tool for RMNCAH strategic and operational planning well understood;
- Key issues in monitoring and evaluating adolescent health programmes, and using the AA-HA! reference document and its Annexes to inform monitoring and evaluation components of national programmes and RMNCAH plans well understood;
- Regional priorities for programming in adolescent health based on the AA-HA! Guidance discussed;
- Country roadmap for implementing the flagship programme using the AA-HA! guidance, and costing of the priority package of interventions developed;
- Regional consultants' skills in supporting national teams in priority-setting, programming, implementation of the flagship programme and monitoring & evaluation for adolescent health applied;
- Feedback and on the AA-HA! facilitator guide done;

## Methods of works

1. The preparatory work will be conducted by WHO AFRO and HQ;
2. The background documents to be discussed during the regional capacity building workshop, and the key questions will be discussed in advance by the organizers prior the workshop;
3. Plenary presentations and discussions on key topics pertaining to the AH flagship programme and AA-HA! Guidance.

## Date and venue

The workshop will be held in Kigali Rwanda from 27<sup>th</sup> November– 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 for English speaking countries.

## Language

The workshops will be held in English.

## Participants

The regional capacity building workshops in using AA-HA to support the implementation of the AH flagship programme will bring together a mix of participants coming from 13 English-speaking countries<sup>1</sup>. These will comprise of:

#### **For the 2 days AA-HA! Capacity building workshop**

- Regional and country level experts with an excellent knowledge of RMNCAH technical field, including those previously trained in 2015 by the WHO in collaboration with the Global Fund;
- WHO Regional Advisers in the area of adolescent health and other relevant areas (school health, mental health, substance use, NCDs, nutrition and physical activity, injuries and violence, SRH, communicable diseases);
- Members of the Inter-cluster Technical Working Group on the adolescent health;
- WHO Country Office staff;
- Representatives of H6 plus UNESCO agencies;

In addition, representatives of relevant UN organizations such as UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UN Women, World Bank, African Development Bank and African Union. These should be invited, but are expected to self-fund their participation.

#### **For the 2-days meeting with national focal points for adolescent health on national priority-setting, programming, monitoring & evaluation (in addition to the above):**

- Ministry of Health focal points for adolescent health and school health.
- Ministry of Education focal points for adolescent health and school health.
- Ministry of Youth and Sport;
- Representatives of civil society (e.g. young people, youth-led and youth-serving NGOs as well as NGOs providing services in the area of adolescent empowerment and participation, education, health and health services, violence against women and children, child marriage, professional bodies or associations (e.g. medical associations)

#### **Documents**

1. Working documents:
  - a. The roadmap for implementing the AH flagship programme;
  - b. The AA-HA package consisting of four documents.
2. Reference Documents
  - a. WHO guidelines and tools pertaining to adolescent and school health;
  - b. Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health;
  - c. AH Regional Atlas.
  - d. Rapid mapping of adolescent health interventions in the African Region.

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<sup>1</sup> Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe