Call for experts

Advisory Group for Adolescent Health Metrics

August 2018

Background
Improving health outcomes for adolescents aged 10-19 years is a priority for WHO and its partners, as outlined in the Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HAI)

1. To track progress towards this goal, measurement of health behaviours and determinants, outcomes, and policy implementation is essential.

The increased priority accorded to adolescent health by the international global health community is reflected in an increase in the number of organizations collecting data to monitor adolescent health activities in countries across a wide range of domains, including education, nutrition, mental health and environment, to name a few. However, data are often captured by different sectors and initiatives, with different levels of age- and sex-specific disaggregation, and adolescent health indicators are often not standardized or consistently used across countries and populations, making the sharing and use of the data complicated. Furthermore, many countries report having an increased burden of reporting to international aid partners and other organizations.

To ensure that quality data are used to support quality programming and to relieve the reporting burden of countries, WHO is forming an Advisory Group for Adolescent Health Metrics, which will provide advice to WHO on all issues around metrics and measurement for adolescent health. This group will be established to coordinate ongoing measurement efforts, prioritize metrics, identify measurement gaps and provide guidance and tools for measuring and monitoring health indicators for adolescents.

The group will be similar to the Technical Advisory Group for Mother and Newborn Information for Tracking Outcomes and Results (MoNITOR)

2, a group of 14 experts that guides WHO’s efforts around maternal and newborn measurement.

The MoNITOR Advisory Group, the Advisory Group for Adolescent Health Metrics, as well as a similar group for child health measurement efforts will hold back-to-back meetings to ensure synergy among participants. The first meeting will be held on 28-30 November 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland, with follow-on meetings twice per year over an initial two-year period.

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Selection

Members of the Advisory Group for Adolescent Health Metrics must have excellent technical knowledge, including at least some of the following:

- Broad knowledge of adolescent health epidemiology;
- Familiarity with the methods for generating information on adolescent health, including through health information systems, health facility and household surveys, and demographic surveillance systems in low and middle-income country contexts;
- Tracking progress towards reducing adolescent mortality, morbidity and health risk factors, including proper monitoring and evaluation;
- Health information systems implementation.

In addition, the Advisory Group for Adolescent Health Metrics will include members who have deep experience working at the national level in adolescent health with monitoring and evaluation expertise. The group will have gender and geographical balance, and broadly cover the main health issues adolescents face, including sexual and reproductive health, mental health, substance use, violence and injury, communicable diseases, NCD risks and nutrition, and mortality. The group will also include two young people that will be selected through a separate selection process.

Process to identify members

1. Candidates will be requested to submit:
   a. A brief curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages);
   b. A list of authored papers to demonstrate area(s) of expertise and contribution to the field of measurement;
   c. One relevant example of a work product or report.

2. The WHO Secretariat will review the nominations and identify up to 12 proposed members, considering:
   a. Gender balance;
   b. Geographic balance;
   c. Technical expertise in metrics, research, epidemiology, monitoring and evaluation of adolescent health indicators, as related to:
      i. Data collection instruments and analysis;
      ii. Data collection methodology;
      iii. Statistical methods and analysis;
      iv. Demographic principles and analysis;
      v. Issues of accountability and human rights;
   d. Coverage of main health issues adolescents face.

3. The WHO Secretariat will contact all proposed members with information on the 1st meeting to be convened 28-30 November 2018. In person attendance at this meeting is mandatory. Travel to the meeting and per diem for the members will be covered.

4. Candidates who are not nominated will be informed.

5. All nomination submissions should be sent to Dr Regina Guthold (gutholdr@who.int) and Mrs Ann-Beth Moller (mollera@who.int), with copy to Ms Carolin Ekman (ekmanc@who.int), labelled “Advisory Group for Adolescent Health Metrics”.