



PARTNERING FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

2018 ADOLESCENT HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM IN BRIEF

CONTENTS



Group discussion at the 2018 Adolescent Health Partnership Forum.

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- 1 OVERVIEW**
 - 2 BACKGROUND:** The Three A's
 - 3 BACKGROUND:** Why a Partnership Forum?
 - 4 THEME 1:** Ensure an Adolescent-Centered Approach
 - 5 THEME 2:** Focus on the Partnership as well as the Program
 - 6 THEME 3:** Strengthen Teamwork and Integrate Approaches Across Sectors
 - 9 APPENDIX 1:** From Insights to Action
 - 11 APPENDIX 2:** Participating Organizations
 - 12 APPENDIX 3:** Program Overview

“It takes a healthy person to change the world”
- Zandile Mkhize, Youth Leader

Grassroot Soccer (GRS) hosted its first Adolescent Health Partnership Forum from 10-12 April 2018 in Soweto, South Africa to harness the power of partnerships, influence the global adolescent health agenda, and achieve collective impact for today’s youth and tomorrow’s future. More than 75 participants from 14 countries and 63 organizations representing government, civil society, academia, private sector and development partners came together to share their knowledge and experiences, participate in GRS’s sport-based and youth-focused learning activities, and discuss how to improve collaboration and deliver better health outcomes for young people. Interactive sessions and lively debates over the three days emphasized the critical importance of integrating approaches and strengthening effective collaboration across issues and sectors.

Three key themes were identified that can support practitioners in their efforts to promote health and well-being for all adolescents and ultimately contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:

Theme 1: Ensure an Adolescent-Centered Approach

Theme 2: Focus on the Partnership as well as the Program

Theme 3: Strengthen Teamwork and Integrate Approaches across Sectors

See highlights from the Forum on <https://youtu.be/akEIUiA6Tmo>



Forum participants take part in an interactive soccer-based activity.

BACKGROUND: THE 3 A'S

Improving the health and well-being of the world's largest generation of adolescents is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, the global development community has made the case for urgent investment in the health and capabilities of the world's 1.2 billion adolescents—yet in this time of uncertainty and competing global priorities, ensuring effective, efficient and coordinated support is ever more important.

As outlined in *Agenda 2030*, and the *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent Health*, concrete commitments and collective action across sectors are needed to harness the power of partnerships and achieve collective rather than isolated impact. Today's adolescents are the leaders and decision makers of 2030. With support and encouragement from peers and adults, opportunities for growth, and services that respond to their unique health and development needs, adolescents can break long-standing cycles of poverty and inequality. Grassroot Soccer has committed to scaling

dramatically over the next five years in order to achieve greater impact and help improve adolescent health outcomes in high-need geographies across the globe. Greater impact will mean reaching more young people, providing highest quality programs, and strengthening linkages across the full health continuum. For Grassroot Soccer, this means ensuring adolescents develop the **Assets** (knowledge and skills) they need; that they can **Access** youth friendly services; and that they have the necessary support to **Adhere** to medicines and adopt health-seeking behaviors over the long term. By leveraging its own unique value proposition, namely the connection and trust that is generated with adolescents through GRS's 3 C's Model (**Coaches, Curriculum, Culture**), and building complementary partnerships to achieve the 3 A's, the organization seeks to contribute towards sustainable adolescent health and well-being.

GRASSROOT SOCCER'S IMPACT FRAMEWORK: THE 3 A'S

| ASSETS | ACCESS | ADHERENCE |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>Increased health knowledge and confidence to use it</p>  |  <p>Increased uptake of high quality health services</p>  |  <p>Adherence to medical treatment, therapy, and healthy behaviors</p>  |

BACKGROUND: WHY A PARTNERSHIP FORUM?

Against this background, the 2018 Adolescent Health Partnership Forum hosted by Grassroot Soccer created a space for a broad range of partners and stakeholders, including adolescents themselves, to exchange knowledge and experience – focusing attention on the “how” as well as the “what” – with a goal of enhancing collective action for adolescents.

Dr. Tommy Clark, CEO and Founder of Grassroot Soccer, opened the event: “We are committed to working hand-in-hand with our partners to maximize impact and outcomes. As implementers, policymakers, researchers and funders, your vision, knowledge, passion and experience are invaluable—and sharing best practices amongst us is key to ensuring the health and well-being of young people globally.”

“Sharing best practices amongst us is key to ensuring the health and well-being of young people globally.” - Dr. Tommy Clark

The three-day Partnership Forum was structured around the 3 A’s (Assets, Access and Adherence) and included interactive sessions in various formats which enabled partners to discuss strategies and approaches that have and have not worked to address the unique needs of adolescents and ensure they are empowered, skilled, and able to access and adhere to youth-friendly services.

Throughout the event, however, it was repeatedly emphasized that adolescents cannot do it on their own. On day one, Remmy Shawa of UNESCO’s Regional Office outlined how adolescent health cuts across the Sustainable Development Goals and highlighted the critical importance of an enabling environment in terms of policies and



GRS CEO and Founder Dr. Tommy Clark with Co-Founder and Global Board Member Methembe Ndlovu.

and people, noting that “adolescents don’t just need services, they need trained professionals who are non-judgmental”.

“Adolescents don’t just need services, they need trained professionals who are non-judgmental.”

- Remmy Shawa

The lively and often frank discussions over the three days coalesced around three key themes that are outlined below and reaffirm the need for practitioners to actively engage adolescents themselves and work more effectively in partnerships across issues and sectors.



Adolescent learners participate in a Grassroot Soccer program in Soweto, South Africa.

Ensure an Adolescent-Centered Approach

Adolescent health and well-being need to be understood holistically, moving from a disease or issue-centered focus to a “kid-centered” approach. The distinct needs of adolescent boys compared to adolescent girls were emphasized and discussed in a socio-ecological context, taking into account that each adolescent is part of a family, school, and

“If we are going to make a difference in young people’s health there is no other way than partnering”

- Dr. Saiqa Mullick

community. The levels of violence and poverty that individual adolescents face influence not only their ability to access HIV and SRH services, but also impact on their mental health and ability to perform in school. Hence the meeting participants called for recognition and linkages among all players working with adolescents across government ministries and sectors to ensure a youth-centered and youth-

driven approach. To reach adolescents, and especially those most at risk, including gender non-conforming and adolescents living with a disability and/or HIV, it is critical to work with partners and build trusting and supportive relationships that enable a full understanding of the breadth of their lived experiences and perspectives. Dr. Saiqa Mullick of WITS Reproductive Health Institute concluded her presentation on adolescent development by stating “if we are going to make a difference in young people’s health there is no other way than partnering”.

This was underscored by the vibrant Youth Panel on day one where youth leaders described their daily realities and challenges which include financial woes, depression, and concerns about school and career. Even if help is out there, adolescents often lack the confidence to access it, and the panel noted that this is where programs like GRS play an important role. Everyone agreed that adolescents are the future, but as the Youth Panel boldly concluded, “it takes a healthy person to change the world.”



“Nothing for us without us”: Youth leaders share their views at the Forum.

Strengthen Teamwork and Integrate Approaches Across Sectors



Chivuli Ukwimi from Hivos speaks on the multisectoral panel about the importance of collaborating with government and across sectors.

The importance of engaging with government ministries and fostering cross-sectoral dialogue and influence was highlighted during the lively multisectoral panel on the afternoon of day two. Representatives from Ministries of Education and Health in Zambia and Zimbabwe emphasized their interest and commitment to work with partners more closely to ensure the best outcomes possible for adolescents in their countries.

Day three's focus on Adherence enabled participants to hear first-hand the needs, challenges and dreams of adolescents who are living with HIV. These powerful insights resonated with all participants and were underscored by the final high-level panel that brought together experienced leaders from the United Nations, private sector, academia, government, sport, and the international NGO world to discuss "hot topics" for adolescent health, and how partnerships can play a role in addressing them. By and large these leaders conveyed their concern that we will only achieve the ambitious global goals and targets

related to 90-90-90, Family Planning 2020 and the SDGs if we work better together to engage adolescents themselves, their communities, and elected leaders, and ensure we address their full range of concerns. These concerns span from safety to education, nutrition, and mental health.



Forum participants take part in a "Partner Speed Dating" activity.



Catherine Sozi, Director, UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa

“Adolescents want what everyone else wants. We seem to forget that we have been adolescents. We forget they have the same right to health as everyone else...They want security, safety, trust, confidentiality, respect and more—in both health centres and schools” - Catherine Sozi



Carl Manser, Head of New Ventures and Partnership, Life Health Care

“Adolescents and young adults today don’t want to be managed, they want to be coached.” - Carl Manser



Ruth Mufute, FHI 360 South Africa, Dr. Heena Brahmbhatt, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Zandile Masangane, Ministry of Health, Swaziland

“This is a human being embedded in a community, in a family, in an environment, and if you don’t make any effort to understand what the issues are that this individual is coming into contact with, you’ll make very little impact on your individual health outcome.” - Dr. Heena Brahmbhatt

THEME 3



Amanda Dlamini, former South African National Women's Soccer Team (Banyana Banyana) Player And Development Activist, and Lebo Motsumi, HIV Activist

“Being a good female soccer player just isn't enough. Girls' access to health services is a priority and having support structures that lift up girls and young women is very important.” - Amanda Dlamini

Urgent and complex challenges call for transformational solutions. At the 2018 Partnership Forum, participants acknowledged the need to integrate approaches and strengthen collaboration across issues and sectors, taking an “adolescent-centered” approach. The causes of and solutions for social challenges are interdependent and cannot be addressed unless organizations and stakeholders break out of silos.

This powerful takeaway, and the underlying call to engage adolescents more meaningfully and ensure programs and policies meet their current needs, led Grassroot Soccer to focus its recent International AIDS Conference Pre-Conference event on the theme of “demystifying adolescent-centered design”, to make such approaches more accessible and build a critical mass of partners working towards the same aim. The knowledge and experience shared during the Pre-Conference underscored several important points:

- Adolescence is a journey, and it is critical that partners and service providers understand the biological basis for risk-taking and create an environment that takes this into consideration.

- The global health community must put resources behind gender transformative approaches.
- Adolescents must be viewed as partners, not just beneficiaries.
- Innovative approaches, including investment in self testing, are needed to reach men and boys and facilitate their access to health care services.
- Adolescents require differentiated models of prevention, care, treatment and psychosocial support – one size does not fit all.

As Grassroot Soccer embarks on our new scale strategy to address the adolescent health gap, we are taking partnering seriously. Today's adolescents are the policy and decision-makers of 2030. With competing priorities and limited resources, we recognize that we must learn to partner differently, to leverage each stakeholder's unique value and achieve sustainable impact towards broader adolescent health and development. The future of our younger generation depends on our collective action today. Thank you for engaging with us to keep adolescents at the center of our work.

From Insights to Action

The Forum generated a host of recommendations about how to move from insights to action. These are summarized below and will serve to guide Grassroot Soccer's interactions with partners and adolescents themselves going forward.

| INSIGHT | ACTION | REMARKS |
|--|---|---|
| Nothing about us without us | Include greater representation of adolescents (not just young adults, and across a range of life experiences) in future forums and across all levels of planning and implementation | <i>"Who should determine what adolescent health services are offered and where those services are located?"</i> |
| SDGs are interdependent | <p>Improve partner and intervention mapping to get to transformational partnerships across sectors</p> <p>Leverage partnerships to access and influence funding</p> <p>Engage with the private sector early and often</p> | |
| Identify champions & institutionalize effective leadership | Involve key stakeholders from government, civil society, and private sector from the start | <i>"It should be us designing and Washington refining"</i> |
| 3A's & 3C's as a simple, effective framework for conveying adolescent health partnerships | Use the framework as a concrete way to convey the adolescent health journey to partners and stakeholders | <i>"We can build young people's assets through the education system"</i> |
| Need for gender-transformative work with adolescent boys and young men | <p>Understand and address conflict between rights and legal frameworks</p> <p>Facilitate open and challenging dialogues on masculinities</p> <p>Consider shorter vs. longer term health gains</p> | |
| Importance of citizen engagement | Elect the right people to office; work with partners to create a collective voice and message to influence policy makers | <i>"You're fighting with the wrong people – approach decision-makers with a collective voice"</i> |

From Insights to Action

| INSIGHT | ACTION | REMARKS |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Adolescent-centered NOT issue-centered programs; their challenges do not exist in a silo</p> | <p>Understand the adolescent brain before you design for it – i.e. age-appropriateness, gender synchronized programs, etc.</p> <p>Stop problematizing AGYW and villainizing ABYM — adolescence is an adventure not a problem</p> <p>Engage parents and care-givers; intentional father-son interventions (i.e. braais)</p> <p>Design with the Human at the center</p> <p>Address gap in religious leadership</p> <p>Maximize adolescents and youth as trendspotters AND trendsetters to stay relevant</p> <p>Train and support mentors to engage with and normalize adolescents with disabilities and identify exciting or concerning trends early — this is an identified gap</p> <p>Social prescribing — need for community influencers and caregivers to have training on observing social cues as warning signs</p> | <p><i>“Adolescent development is a journey, not a final destination”</i></p> <p><i>“I’m going to go back to MOE and train teachers differently for mental health issues; focus on the right people in the right place at the right time on the right issues!”</i></p> <p><i>“Don’t reinvent the pie, bake a new one!”</i></p> <p><i>“Re: inclusion - do people want to be “included” in the first place?”</i></p> <p><i>“You cannot do SRHR without mental health, substance/ alcohol abuse and safety!”</i></p> |
| <p>Design the partnership for the purpose</p> | <p>Identify a few partnerships that have transformative potential, and focus your effort on guiding them along the partnership continuum</p> <p>Identify your unique value proposition</p> <p>Develop exit strategies from the start</p> | <p><i>“Not all partnerships need to be transformational”</i></p> <p><i>“The power of shared vocabulary in partnerships”</i></p> |
| <p>Data-driven decision making & advocacy in adolescent health partnerships</p> | <p>Collective partner advocacy, e.g. HIV testing at schools</p> <p>Interpret data with youth committees’ and advisory boards’ support.</p> | <p><i>“Partnering is not always easier than doing it alone”</i></p> |

Participating Organizations



Participants in the 2018 Adolescent Health Partnership Forum represented a wide range of expertise, backgrounds, and geographies. Participating organizations included:

| | |
|---|--|
| Action Aid | Partners in Health |
| Afrika Tikkun | PATH Zambia |
| Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo | Project Concern International, Botswana |
| Amanda Dlamini Girls' Foundation | Peace Corps South Africa |
| Aurum Institute | Peace Corps-Office of Global Health and HIV |
| Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation, Malawi | Philakahle |
| Biriaelat | South African National AIDS Council |
| Bulawayo Project Centre | Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service |
| Centre for Communication Impact | SRHR Africa Trust |
| Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia | Sentebale |
| Concern WorldWide Malawi | Show Me Your Number |
| Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation | Sonke Gender Justice |
| DG Murray Trust | Soul City |
| Dominican Republic Education and Mentoring Project | Special Olympics |
| Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Kenya | Special Olympics Nigeria |
| FHI 360 | Special Olympics South Africa |
| Ford Foundation | Sports for Social Change Network Southern Africa |
| Foundation for Professional Development | Stepping Stones |
| Futbol Mas | Swaziland Ministry of Health |
| Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance | UNAIDS - The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/ AIDS |
| Hivos | UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| IBIS Reproductive Health | USAID - United States Agency for International Development |
| ICAP | University of California Berkeley |
| Integrated School Health Policy & Adolescent and Youth Health Policy | Waterberg Welfare Society |
| Iringa Development of Youth, Disabled and Children Care | Waves 4 Change |
| John Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health | WITS Reproductive Health & HIV Institute |
| Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs - Tchova Tchova Communications Programs | World Education |
| Justice Project South Africa | Young1ove |
| Laureus | Zambia Ministry of General Education |
| Life Health Care | Zambia Ministry of Health |
| Mothers2Mothers | Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Care |
| | Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council |

Program Overview

April 10-12, 2018 - Nike Football Centre, Soweto, South Africa

Day 1 - ASSETS: Tuesday April 10

7:00 - 8:00am - Registration

8:00 - 8:30am - Opening and Welcome: Tommy Clark, Founder and CEO Grassroot Soccer

8:30 - 10:00am - Setting the Adolescent Health Scene within the SDGs
• UNESCO

10:00 - 10:30am - Tea Break & Crossbar Competition

10:30 - 12:00pm - Adolescent Development and Evolution of GRS: 3C's to 3A's
• WITS RHI

12:00 - 1:00pm – Lunch Break

1:00 - 2:40pm - Building the ASSETS of Adolescent Girls and Young Women: Key to Empowerment and 'Future Planning'
• Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation
• Soul City
• Centre for Communication Impact
• South African National AIDS Council
• Mothers2Mothers

2:40 - 3:00pm - Session Demonstrations: Gender Stadium & Soccer Equality

3:00 - 3:30pm - Tea Break & Gallery Walk

3:30 - 5:00pm - Building the ASSETS of Adolescent Boys & Young Men: Key to Engagement and Retention
• Sonke Gender Justice
• Aurum Institute
• WITS Reproductive Health & HIV Institute

Day 2 - ACCESS: Wednesday, April 11

7:00 - 8:00am - Registration

8:00 - 8:30am - Review Day 1, Overview of Day 2, Session Demonstrations: Game Changer & My Community

8:30 - 10:00am - What do we know about partnering? Interactive Session

10:00 - 10:30am - Tea Break & Timed Obstacle Course

10:30 - 12:00pm - Partnering for Collective Impact: Interactive Session

12:00 - 1:00pm – Lunch Break

1:00 - 3:00pm - Innovations and Results from Service Integration Partnerships
• Special Olympics
• Waves for Change
• Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council

3:00 - 3:30pm - Tea Break & Shoot-Out on a Skilled Goalie

3:30 - 5:00pm - Multi-sectoral Partnerships for Impact

- University of California, Berkeley
- Zambia Ministry of General Education
- Zimbabwe Ministry of Health
- Zambia Ministry of Health
- Hivos

Day 3 - ADHERENCE: Thursday, April 12

9:00 - 10:00am - Registration

10:00 - 10:30am - Review of Day 2, Overview of Day 3: Methembe Ndlovu, Co-Founder, Grassroot Soccer

10:30 - 12:00pm - Engaging and Supporting ALWHIV

- Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation, Malawi
- Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Kenya
- ICAP

12:00 - 1:00pm - Lunch Break

1:00 - 2:00pm - Summary Session: From Insights to Action

2:00 - 2:30pm - Tea Break & SKILLZ For Life Demonstration (Special Olympics)

2:30 - 3:30pm - Multisectoral High-level Panel: "Hot Topics in Adolescent Health and Partnering for the Future"

- Former Banyana Banyana player
- UNAIDS
- Life Health Care
- Ministry of Health, Swaziland
- Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
- FHI 360

3:30 - 4:00pm - Closing Remarks: Tommy Clark, Founder & CEO, Grassroot Soccer



Grassroot Soccer is an adolescent health organization that leverages the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilize youth in developing countries to overcome their greatest health challenges, live healthier, more productive lives, and be agents for change in their communities.