



2018 ADOLESCENT HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM

Influencing the adolescent health agenda to deliver collective impact

10-12 April 2018, Soweto, South Africa

Background:

The health and well-being of the world's largest generation of adolescents are fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring a healthier future generation. Today's adolescents will be the decision makers of 2030. It is during this critical phase of mental, physical, social and educational development that their values, behaviours and skills are developed and entrenched. With support and encouragement from caring peers and adults, opportunities for growth, and crucial services that respond to their unique health and development needs, **adolescents can break long standing cycles of poverty and inequality.**

The global development and health community has made the case for significant and urgent investment in the health and capabilities of the world's 1.2 billion adolescents. The Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Well-being [estimates](#) that investment in adolescent health will generate a 10x economic benefit by 2030. Yet in a time of economic uncertainty and competing global priorities, it is ever more important to ensure the most effective use of available resources. 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 partnership and achieve *collective* rather than *isolated* impact.

Objectives and Focus Areas:

Against this background, Grassroot Soccer is hosting the inaugural Adolescent Health Partnership Forum, from 10-12 April 2018, at the Nike Football Centre in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Grassroot Soccer, health experts, and government, development and civil society partners from around the world will convene at the Forum to share knowledge and experience on how to promote the health and well-being of adolescents. The Forum will include approaches to partnering effectively by leveraging comparative resources and expertise to deliver evidence-based interventions at scale. Using the Grassroot Soccer model as a backdrop, the interactive sessions will focus on how best to utilize the unique sport-based approach to build the **"Three A's of Adolescent Health"**: **Assets**: increased health knowledge and the confidence to use it; **Access**: increased uptake of high-quality health services; and **Adherence**: adherence to medical treatment, therapy, and healthy behaviours; all of which promote adolescents' health and will help them to secure a more productive future. Ultimately, the Forum aims to gather concrete insights on *how* partners can improve collaborative efforts and deliver better health outcomes for young people. The Forum will contribute valuable insights towards the business of partnering, integration and the adolescent health agenda.

Please join us as we collaborate with government counterparts, INGOs, research institutions, and adolescent stakeholders in the spirit of innovation and learning. The future of tomorrow depends on our collective action today.

Logistics:

For more information on the Forum sessions and format, accommodation and transport, visit our website grassrootsoccer.org/partnershipforum or contact partnerships@grassrootsoccer.org