

**Lessons learned from applying the Accelerated Action  
for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!) guidance for  
policy development in early adopter countries**

**SUDAN**





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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Full text</b>
AA-HAI	Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents
ADH	Adolescent Health
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CAH	Child and Adolescent Health
EMRO	Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of WHO
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
H6	Partnership of UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, World Bank
MCA	Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Department
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
NCDs	Non-communicable Diseases
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMOH	State Ministries of Health
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TB	Tuberculosis
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sudan is committed to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030), which aims to reduce unacceptable maternal, newborn, child and adolescent mortality in pursuit of its commitment to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

In view of this, Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) launched the "Ten in Five" Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategy 2016-2020 which received the highest political support at presidential level. However, of the 10 objectives articulated by the RMNCAH, not one explicitly describes specific interventions to address and improve adolescent health. Adolescents were deemed to benefit indirectly from a package of interventions designed to address more generally issues of equity, universal health coverage and vulnerable groups within the overall strategy.

In 2015, at the Sixty-eighth session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Member States requested that WHO develop guidance on implementing global accelerated action for the health of adolescents as an imperative to address this neglected population group. The Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!) Implementation Guidance document was presented during the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017.

Following subsequent exposure to AA-HA! the FMOH embarked on the development of its own targeted adolescent health strategy which would improve the health and wellbeing of the country's adolescents. The resulting National Strategy of Adolescent Health and Wellbeing 2018-2022 aims to further articulate the adolescent health

adolescent health strategy. The report has been generated through in-depth interviews of key informants from the FMOH, participating sectors including the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MOYS), Ministry of Interior (MOI), Ministry of Security and Social Development (MSSD), representatives from Sudan's State Ministries of Health (SMOH), H6 partners, academia, as well as a desk review of relevant policy and strategy documents and reports from two national consultative AA-HA! workshops.

The following are the main conclusions and recommendations regarding this process:

1. The AA-HA! guidance was a useful tool for developing a national adolescent health strategy and plan in Sudan. Comprehensive, systematic, and adaptable, it enabled the development of national capacities in planning and implementation, and motivated related sectors to carry out detailed analysis, prioritization and planning for adolescent health and sectoral interventions.
2. The AA-HA! guidance contributed to a better understanding of the benefits of investing in adolescent health and motivated national authorities, such as ministries of health and other national and international stakeholders, to fund related activities.
3. AA-HA! guidance offered direction with regard to identifying and analysing health priorities, offered a generic menu of evidenced based interventions suited to different ecological settings, and provided useful overall and cause-specific global and regional estimates for deaths and DALYs lost. All these helped the national team to better analyse, select and build consensus around national priorities.

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