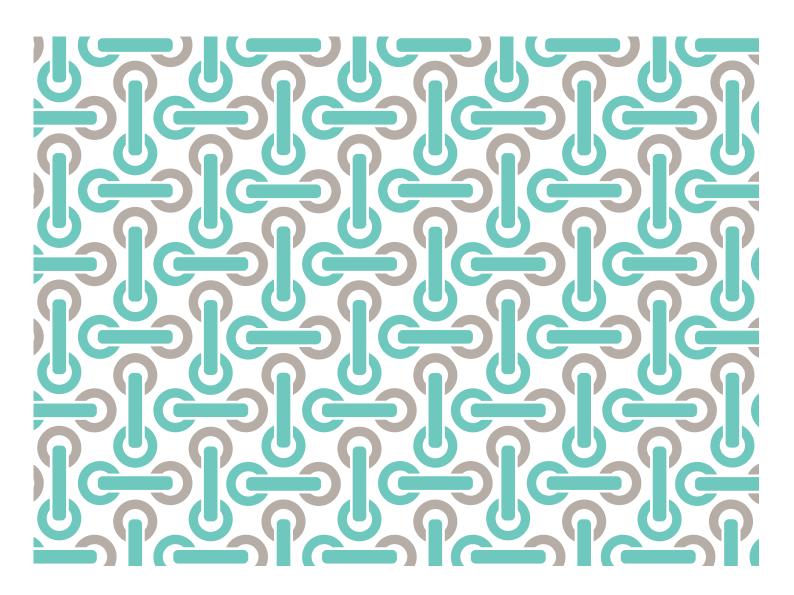
Ending the AIDS epidemic for adolescents, with adolescents

A practical guide to meaningfully engage adolescents in the AIDS response



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Background

AIDS is now the leading cause of death among adolescents (aged 10–19 years) in Africa, and it is the second most common cause of death among adolescents globally (1).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a specific goal to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Within this goal it includes a specific target (3.3), which aims at ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

To end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, specific yet flexible strategies are needed for different age groups, populations and geographic locations. Ending the epidemic among adolescents requires amplifying investments where they can make the most difference and fostering innovation not only among governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, but also among adolescents and youth themselves.

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to programme designers, implementers, policy and decision makers on how to meaningfully engage adolescents in the AIDS response and broader health programming, and to demonstrate why adolescents and youth are critical in efforts to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. It also highlights what steps should be taken to implement programmes and policies that improve adolescent health outcomes (including for HIV) at the national, regional and global levels.

Evidence related to adolescents and HIV

Demographics: adolescents and youth in the world

- Among the world population of approximately 7.3 billion, there are about 1.8 billion young people. Many of them—600 million—are adolescent girls (2).
- Of the world's population of people aged 10–24 years, approximately 89% live in less developed countries.
- Half of the population in 17 developing countries is under 18 years old (2).

How HIV and AIDS affect adolescents and youth

- In 2015, an estimated 29 adolescents acquired HIV every hour.
- There were 250 000 [180,000 340,000] new HIV infections among adolescents in 2015. Of these,

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