



AstraZeneca 

Young Health Programme

A global community investment initiative

with founding partners



JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG  
SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH



# The Young Health Programme

A global initiative promoting adolescent health

# Adolescent Health: a crucial factor in NCD Prevention

Globally there are 1.2 billion adolescents<sup>1</sup>. These young people are at a crucial stage in their development. The choices they make can set them on a path to be healthy adults, or take them down a road towards non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancers, heart and respiratory disease, mental ill-health and diabetes; the great killers of our age. Yet between 2003 and 2015 just 1.6% of development assistance for health was spent on adolescents<sup>2</sup>.

**88%** 

Proportion of US adult daily smokers who started smoking by the age of 18<sup>3</sup>

**x2** 

Overweight children are twice as likely to become overweight adults as 'normal' children<sup>4</sup>

**US\$47**  
**trillion**

Estimated cost of lost output from NCDs 2011–2030<sup>5</sup>

The AstraZeneca Young Health Programme (YHP) was set up in 2010 to address the issues of youth health with a specific focus on behaviours that can lead to NCDs.



# The Young Health Programme

**Our award-winning programme has reached more than three million young people with health information.**

## Programmes

We have worked with partners to achieve long-term behaviour change in disadvantaged and marginal communities in 26 countries across six continents.

We use peer-education widely to reach young people and are continually innovating to see what works best and sharing good practice.

## Research

We support research from international specialists such as Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Imperial College London, the Population Research Bureau, RTI International and the Economist Intelligence Unit. These address gaps in knowledge and in data on youth health and the NCD risk factors to inform policy, programming and interventions.

## Advocacy

We provide sustained funding for the development of policy papers, to support calls for more action on NCDs and to ensure that young people and their voices are heard by policy-makers.

The YHP has helped inspirational young people, many of them from our programmes, to develop their skills and networks through regional seminars and the One Young World Summit, and has given them platforms to address global audiences

## Volunteering

AstraZeneca volunteers support the YHP's work – for example in Sweden providing one-on-one mentoring for vulnerable young people, in China going to schools to teach about air quality and in Turkey running parkour sessions to encourage physical activity.



**26**  
countries



**6**  
continents



**3m+**  
people reached

- 1 UNICEF (2016) Adolescent Demographics. Available at <https://data.unicef.org/topic/adolescents/demographics/>, accessed 1 October 2019
- 2 Li Z, Li M, Patton G (2018) Global Development Assistance for Adolescent Health From 2003 to 2015, JAMA Netw Open. 2018 Aug; 1(4): e181072 Available at <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2696504>, accessed 1 October 2019
- 3 US Department of Health and Human Services (2012) Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General p9. Available at [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK99237/pdf/Bookshelf\\_NBK99237.pdf](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK99237/pdf/Bookshelf_NBK99237.pdf) accessed 1 October 2019
- 4 Singh AS, Mulder C, Twisk JWR, et al, 2008, Tracking of childhood overweight into adulthood: a systematic review of the literature, Obesity Reviews 2008 Sep; 9(5):474-88. Available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-789X.2008.00475.x> accessed 1 October 2019
- 5 Bloom E, Cafiero ET, Jané-Llopis E et al (2011) The Global Economic Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases. Geneva: World Economic Forum, p6. Available at [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Harvard\\_HE\\_GlobalEconomicBurdenNonCommunicableDiseases\\_2011.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Harvard_HE_GlobalEconomicBurdenNonCommunicableDiseases_2011.pdf) accessed 1 October 2019

# YHP Impact to Date

## In Numbers

Delivered programmes in **26** countries across **6** continents. Reached over **3m** young people with health information. Trained over **50,000** young people as peer educators. Trained almost **20,000** people as frontline health providers in adolescent health. Reached **60m** people through awareness and media campaigns. Worked with almost **5,000** AZ volunteers, who have contributed over **40,000** hours of their time. Provided **75** scholarships for inspiring young people to attend One Young World summits to improve their skills and networks.

“AstraZeneca’s approach to philanthropic activities is very strong: it targets local health needs, and is aimed at long-term improvements, while monitoring and evaluating pre-defined objectives.”

Access to Medicine Foundation, 2016

“A real model to study.”

Ethical Corporation: Community Investment of the Year, 2018

“A very impressive and complex health project tackling deeply systemic issues.”

Business Charity Awards: Business of the Year, 2019

## The Future

Our work with adolescents underpins many of the Sustainable Development Goals including those for health and wellbeing, education, equality, economic growth and peace, justice and strong institutions. This is part of our long-term investment in society’s long-term future.



If you would like to find out more about the AstraZeneca Young Health Programme please visit our website: [www.younghealthprogrammeyhp.com](http://www.younghealthprogrammeyhp.com)