



Adolescent and sexual reproductive health for all in sub-Saharan Africa: Are inequalities reducing?

[BMC Reproductive Health supplement](#)

Webinar: 23 June 2021

9:00-10:30 EDT | 14:00-15:30 WAT | 16:00-17:30 EAT

9:05	Introduction	Catherine Kyobutungi, African Population & Health Research Center (APHRC)
9:10	Inequalities in early marriage, birth and sexual debut among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa	Dessalegn Melesse, University of Manitoba
9:15	Examining the trends in adolescent sexual and reproductive health in five countries of sub-Saharan Africa based on PMA and DHS household surveys	Ronald Kananura Muhumuza, Makerere University
9:20	Wealth-related inequalities in demand for family planning satisfied among married and unmarried adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa	Martin Kavao Mutua, APHRC
9:25	Commentary: From evidence to policy: what do these results mean for policy making in sub-Saharan Africa?	Sarah Neal, University of Southampton
9:30	HIV prevalence trends and disparities by gender and urban-rural residence among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa	Réka Maulide Cane, Instituto Nacional de Saúde
9:35	Intimate partner violence against adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa: who is the most vulnerable?	Yohannes Dibaba Wado, APHRC
9:40	Is the glass half-full or half-empty? A content analysis of adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Global Financing Facility country plans	Asha George, University of the Western Cape
9:45	Panel discussion: What this supplement contributes to our understanding of adolescent health in Africa	Cheikh Faye, APHRC Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli, World Health Organization (WHO) Ties Boerma, University of Manitoba Jessica Ferne, CanWaCH
10:10	Closing message	Catherine Kyobutungi

Moderator

Catherine Kyobutungi is the executive director of APHRC. She was formerly the director of research and has served APHRC in several leadership roles over the past decade, having joined as a post-doctoral fellow in 2006. She holds a PhD (2006) in epidemiology from the University of Heidelberg, and a Master of Science (2002) in community health and health management. Prior to her graduate studies, Catherine studied medicine at Makerere University, Uganda; worked as a medical officer at Rushere hospital, in a rural western Uganda; and was an assistant lecturer and lecturer in the Department of Community Health at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology, where she was part of the response team during the Ebola outbreak in Uganda. She has served on numerous boards, panels, and expert groups, including the INDEPTH Network board of directors and the advisory council of the Carnegie African Diaspora Program at the Institute of International Education. She was the inaugural chairperson of the Kenya Epidemiological Association.



Presenters (in order of appearance)

Dessalegn Melesse is an epidemiologist working with Countdown to 2030 for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. He has a wealth of experience in global health research, focused on monitoring and evaluation of health policies and programs, data mining, population health surveillance, epidemiological data modeling, and advanced analytics of population health and demographic data. His research interest lies at the interface between epidemiology, global public health, and data science to improve the culture of analysis and use of health information system and demographic data, with particular focus to supporting and influencing policy making processes, guiding strategic planning and public health practices, and developing cross-cutting methods and tools for monitoring of countries' progress and performance. He has published numerous scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals.



Rornald Kananura Muhumuza is a population and health implementation researcher with a background in economics and statistics who is a research fellow at Makerere University School of Public Health's Maternal and Newborn Center of Excellence and a research team member of Countdown to 2030 for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. He is also a third-year doctoral student in international development at the London School of Economics and Political Science, conducting research on child health and survival in Uganda, applying systems thinking and life-course perspectives to understand child survival pathways or mechanisms. He has more than 9 years of experience in health implementation research in sub-Saharan Africa and in designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems.



Martin Kavao Mutua is an associate research scientist at APHRC. A statistician and an epidemiologist with a strong interest in maternal and child health research, he holds a doctorate in epidemiology from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya and a masters in biostatistics and applied statistics from Hasselt University in Belgium. An author or co-author of more than 40 peer-reviewed scientific publications on public health issues, he has a wealth of experience in the management of large and complex datasets, including the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), to research maternal and child nutrition and several health issues across the African continent.



Sarah Neal is an associate professor in global health within the Department of Social Statistics and Demography at the University of Southampton. She originally trained as a nurse before studying social policy and social research at the Universities of Bristol and Bath. She has worked for nongovernmental organizations on a number of public health programmes in low income countries - particularly in fragile states such as DRC, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan - and was a UK-based advisor with the UK Department for International Development. After completing a doctorate on the determinants of neonatal mortality in developing countries at Southampton University in 2009, she worked on the Atlas of Birth Maternal Health Advocacy Project with the Universities of Southampton and Aberdeen and the White Ribbon Alliance. She held a British Academy postdoctoral fellowship researching motherhood among girls less than 16 years old and has continued research in this area. She is working on a large project to understand and address the sexual and reproductive health needs of migrant women in Central America, as well as continuing her interests in health in armed conflict and broader reproductive and child health issues with a focus on equity. She also leads the MSc in global health at Southampton University and teaches on a range of modules at both undergraduate and post-graduate level.



Réka Maulide Cane is a health researcher at the *Instituto Nacional de Saúde* at the Ministry of Health of Mozambique. She obtained master's degrees in tropical medicine and international health and in agricultural chemistry and novel foods at the Autonomous University of Spain. She has experience coordinating and implementing quantitative and qualitative research, national and multi-country studies linked with public health, infectious diseases, and nutrition, including monitoring and evaluation. She is also currently a doctoral student of international health at the Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Nova University, in Portugal.



Yohannes Dibaba Wado is an associate research scientist in the Population Dynamics and Reproductive Health Unit at APHRC. He manages and supports research and evaluation projects on sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and youth, family planning and unsafe abortion. He has over 15 years' experience in teaching, monitoring and evaluation of programs, and research in sexual and reproductive health and rights, impact evaluation of policies and programmes, and project management. He has a PhD in public health from the School of Public Health at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and a master's degree in population studies from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He has authored or co-authored more than 40 publications.



Asha George is a professor at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and a qualitative researcher engaged with health systems to advance health and social justice in low- and middle-income countries. With a gender and rights lens, she focuses on the frontline interface and governance of services taking into consideration community and health worker perspectives. She is also an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and a visiting fellow at the UN University's International Institute of Global Health. Since 2002, she has co-edited two edited volumes, four journal supplements, 122 journal publications and multiple technical reports and guidance documents.



Panelists and Supplement Editors (in alphabetical order)

Ties Boerma is professor and Canada research chair for population and global health at the Institute for Global Public Health, Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba, Canada, and director of the Countdown to 2030 for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. He has more than 35 years of experience working in global public health and research programmes, including 10 years at the national and district levels in Africa. He directed the World Health Organization's work on health information and evidence for 14 years, worked for bilateral donors, national governments, and research institutions, and published extensively on HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health, health information systems and statistics in epidemiological, demographic, and public health journals. A national of the Netherlands, he received his medical degree from the University of Groningen, and a PhD in medical demography from the University of Amsterdam.



Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli ('Chandra') leads the work on adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) in the WHO's Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (which includes the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Human Reproductive Programme). His work includes building the epidemiologic and evidence base on ASRH and supporting countries to translate this data and evidence into action through well-conceived and well-managed policies and programmes.



Cheikh Mbacké Faye is a researcher-statistician and public health specialist who is the head of the APHRC Regional Office in West Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal. He leads APHRC's work on the Countdown 2030 Initiative for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. He joined APHRC in 2010 as the country manager for the Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) project in Senegal. In 2014, he led the development of the APHRC Microdata Portal, an Open Data platform. He completed his doctoral research in public health from the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, holds a master's degree in statistics (2001) from the Houari Boumediene University of Sciences and Technology in Algeria.



Jessica Ferne is the director of global health impact at CanWaCH, the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health. Previously she served as director of programs for a Canadian-based humanitarian organisation. A passionate health rights advocate, she has also worked in diverse senior program management, technical expert, research, and evaluation capacities in Canada and abroad, with a particular focus on humanitarian action, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and youth engagement. She is the president on the board of directors for the Ontario Council for International Cooperation and a professor at Centennial College in the international development department. She has a Master of Public Health from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto.

