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. 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.

88%  
Proportion of US adult daily smokers who started smoking by the age of 18³

x2  
Overweight children are twice as likely to become overweight adults as ‘normal’ children⁴

US$47 trillion  
Estimated cost of lost output from NCDs 2011–2030⁵

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.

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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