

2022



ONE AMREF FOR
YOUTH STATEMENT

INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY: CREATING A WORLD FOR ALL AGES

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WEEK – AUGUST, 2022



INTRODUCTION

“Show me any social problem and I'll show you an intergenerational solution!”

Shannon Jarrott, PhD.

The world's youth population is 1.2 billion strong – a number that projected to grow by 7% to 1.3 billion by 2030.¹ In Africa, over 60% of the continent's population is aged below 25, and by the year 2030, the target date for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, young Africans are expected to make up 42% of the world's youth.²

Simultaneously, by 2050, the number of people over 60 is projected to increase by 50% in developed countries and triple in developing countries, with global life expectancy increasing to 75 years. While older generations have the knowledge and skills to support their communities, young people are often seen as the drivers of change and create solutions in their communities.

Young people in Africa deserve to live long, productive lives that include good health, quality education, financial independence, and active participation in civic processes. In order to ensure this, they deserve to be able to access, and participate in spaces or platforms without any age barriers or prejudice due to their age.

This can only be achieved by creating an enabling environment which cultivates and leverages on collaboration between different generations.

The theme of the International Youth Day (IYD) 2022 – Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for all Ages– highlights that solidarity across generations is key for sustainable development.

International Youth Day presents an opportunity to amplify young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives. It also offers a platform to amplify social integration and intergenerational solidarity as a driving force to sustainable development.

1. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/youth>

2. <https://www.prb.org/resources/africas-future-youth-and-the-data-defining-their-liv>

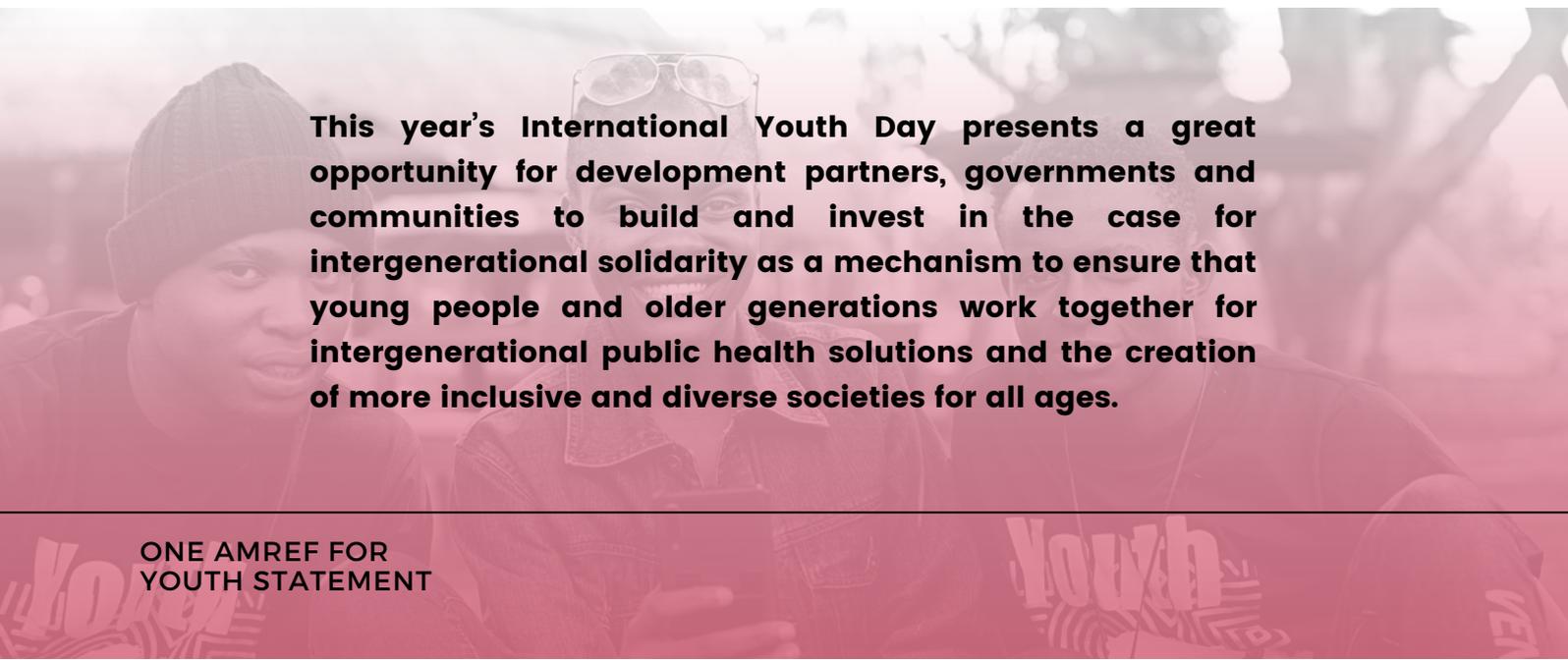
INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY:

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We call on duty bearers to create enabling environments whether in employment or civic spaces in the health sector, which build the capacity of young people to become great leaders.

In line with Amref Health Africa's Global Youth & Adolescent Strategy's commitment to promote collaborative youth leadership for lasting health change in Africa, Amref has embraced a transformation towards becoming a youth-centric organization. We celebrate the significant steps taken to initiate this culture shift, and advance youth agency in the health agenda. Here are a few examples of how we are celebrating intergenerational solidarity this year through this strategy:

- Inclusion of African youth in various boards and leadership teams across Amref Health Africa, including our International Board.
- Prioritizing mentorship programmes for youth staff through Amref's Leadership Academy, including youth staff shadowing leaders within the organization.
- Deliberately increasing investments and programmes for youth and adolescent empowerment, advocacy, and access to health information and services through digital platforms. These programmes include Power to You(th), Integrated Youth Activity (Kefeta), Y-ACT Youth in Action and Af-Rika.
- Global intergenerational conversations and campaigns, including 'Communities at the Heart of Universal Health Coverage' campaign, the 'Global Intergenerational Dialogue on Young People Expanding the Civic Space for Sexual and Reproductive Health', and amplifying the role of youth in the intersection of health and climate change.



This year's International Youth Day presents a great opportunity for development partners, governments and communities to build and invest in the case for intergenerational solidarity as a mechanism to ensure that young people and older generations work together for intergenerational public health solutions and the creation of more inclusive and diverse societies for all ages.

OUR CALL TO ACTION

ACT



**End Ageism in Health,
Employment and
Leadership, in Solidarity
with the Youth**

During the Global COVID-19 pandemic, young people faced multiple shocks, such as the disruption of education and critical health services. Further, a report published by the African Union estimates that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, “nearly 20 million jobs, both in the formal and informal sectors, are threatened with destruction.” The youth demographic is likely to be most affected as they disproportionately account for the biggest percentages of the unemployed, with youth unemployment being twice as high as that of older generations. This highlights the lack of intergenerational public health solutions, with the long-term impact of these global health and educational challenges more likely to impact the younger populations.

Despite these challenges, we are also presented with an opportunity for change. Africa’s youth are its biggest asset to drive development. Skilled and healthy young people will be the key to African countries’ success in building back better during this crisis. Supportive policies and programmes driven by youth, for youth development are critical now more than ever. We call on governments and other duty bearers to invest in platforms where young people and other generations can meaningfully participate and leverage on their skills and different lived experiences. This will advance policies that are inclusive, diverse and not only transform their lives but also transform communities, nations, and the continent. Additionally, we call on duty bearers to create enabling environments whether in employment or civic spaces in the health sector, which build the capacity of young people to become great leaders.

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ABOUT AMREF HEALTH AFRICA...



LASTING HEALTH CHANGE IN AFRICA

About Us

Amref Health Africa, headquartered in Kenya, is the largest Africa-based International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO). With a focus on increasing sustainable health access, Amref runs programmes in over 35 countries in Africa, with lessons learnt over 65 years of engagement with governments, communities and partners.

Amref Health Africa also engages in programme development, fundraising, partnership, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and has offices in Europe and North America as well as subsidiaries:

- [Amref Flying Doctors](#)
- [Amref Health Innovations](#)
- [Amref International University](#)

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