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DASH

Research network for design and evaluation of adolescent health interventions and policies in Sub-Saharan Africa

Short description of the network project:

The overarching and long-term goal of the Research Network for Design and Evaluation of Adolescent Health Interventions and Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa (DASH) is to promote adolescent health in Sub-Saharan Africa through population-based intervention and policy research.

To achieve this goal, efficient collection and use of relevant data on adolescent health and the use of robust quantitative and qualitative methods are to

be combined with local, domain-specific expertise in nutrition and physical activity, sexual and reproductive health, and mental health and violence.

Through its planned research activities, DASH has the potential to significantly strengthen the research infrastructure and evidence base and thereby improve adolescent health in Sub-Saharan Africa. In doing so, it will address important research gaps related to the need for interventions and policies, as well as their design, evaluation, and transferability.

BURKINA FASO

National Institute of Public Health

ETHIOPIA

Addis Continental Institute of Public Health

GHANA

University of Ghana

NIGERIA

University of Ibadan Research Foundation

SOUTH AFRICA

University of KwaZulu-Natal

TANZANIA

Africa Academy for Public Health
University of Dodoma

UGANDA

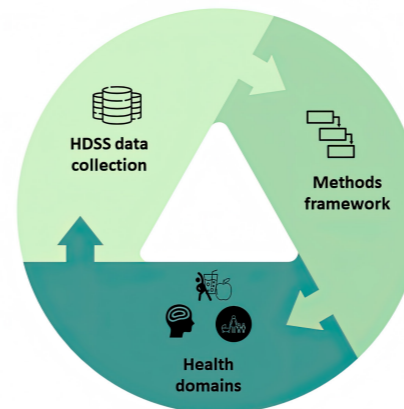
Makerere University

GERMANY

Technical University of Munich (Bayern)
Heidelberg University (Baden-Württemberg)



DASH Network Partners



- Across 7 countries**
 - Longitudinal survey of adolescents
 - Seven partner countries
 - Data harmonization and management
- Intervention and policy research**
 - Design
 - Evaluation
 - Transportability
- In three domains**
 - Nutrition and physical activity
 - Sexual and reproductive health
 - Mental health and violence

DASH intervention research: data, methods, and domains

Challenge, approach and impact:

Annually, 1.2 million adolescents die prematurely due to preventable or treatable causes, while many more suffer from poor health and disability. A high share of the global mortality and morbidity burden in adolescence occurs in sub-Saharan Africa. Adolescence is also a critical stage of life when important physical, cognitive, and social developments take place and critical behaviours related to diet, exercise, alcohol and tobacco use, violence, and sexual behaviour are developed. These developments determine and shape behaviours well into adulthood and thus influence long-term health outcomes. Improving adolescent health is therefore

paramount in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and creating healthy societies. DASH brings together researchers working in population health and epidemiology, public health, health economics, health system research, implementation science, design research, intervention, and policy evaluation from seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa – Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda – and Germany. Its collaboration builds upon an established research network in adolescent health in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The overarching and long-term goal of DASH is to boost adolescent health in Sub-Saharan Africa through rigorous population-based intervention and policy research.

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