

## **Improving adolescents' sexual and reproductive health: What works?**

**Abstract:** In 2013, there were 1.2 billion adolescents, about 17 % of the world's population. Researchers and health providers have over the years pointed to the lack of adolescent specific health and social services designed to bridge the gap between children's health programs and the adult health and social care infrastructure. In 2015 the U.N. Secretary-General launched the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. The strategy includes adolescents as "central to everything we want to achieve, and to the overall success of the 2030 Agenda". However, many countries are struggling to design effective prevention programs for young people and to attract them to health services. Adolescents and young people, and particularly young girls, are vulnerable to sexual and reproductive ill-health. One top ranked cause of mortality only affects adolescent girls: deaths due to maternal conditions, which include deaths from childbirth and complications from self-induced abortions in countries where abortion is illegal. Although rates of maternal mortality among adolescent girls declined between 2000 and 2012, it still is the second leading cause of death among adolescent girls aged 15–19 globally. This symposium will present interventions aiming at empowerment of young girls and prevention of adolescent pregnancies.

- Introduction: Ingvild F. Sandøy (5 minutes)
- Dr Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli, WHO: Adolescent Health - examples of effective evidence based interventions and successful public health policies. What works? What do we know does not work? And what are the knowledge gaps?" (30 minutes)
- Ingvild F. Sandøy: Preliminary findings from the RISE trial: Unconditional cash transfer, and school and community interventions to prevent early pregnancy and child marriage in Zambia (15 minutes).
- Vincent Somville: Economic empowerment of girls in Tanzania. Findings from The Girl power study (CMI/NHH) (15 minutes).
- Discussion 25 minutes

### *Presenters:*

Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy, Professor, CISMAL, University of Bergen

Dr Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli, WHO

Vincent Somville, Postdoctoral fellow, Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) and Senior Researcher, Chr. Michelsen Institute