

Note for the Record

PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

04 November, 2013 – Telephone Call

Present: Elizabeth Mason, WHO (EM); Jennifer Goosen, Canada (JG); Francesco Aureli, (FA); José Miguel Belizán, Institute of Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (JB); Craig Friderichs, GSM Association (CF); Rafael Cortez, World Bank (RC) Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, FIGO (SA); and Magda Robert, Mrs Graça Machel's office (MR).

PMNCH Secretariat: Andres de Francisco (AdF), Kadi Toure (KT), Nebojsa Novcic (NN) and Abir Shady (AS)

Apologies: Anuradha Gupta (Government of India); Flavia Bustreo (WHO); Carole Presern (CP)

AGENDA

Chair: Elizabeth Mason in absence of Flavia Bustreo and Anuradha Gupta

- ITEM 1 – Review of NfR of previous meeting
- ITEM 2 – Financing and governance:
 - Virtual Board Retreat, 11-12 December 2013
 - PMNCH list of criteria to prioritize projects in 2014
 - Partners Forum: Organizing Committee and its membership
 - Update on WHO hosting arrangements
- ITEM 3 – Update on PMNCH External Evaluation Sub-Committee
- ITEM 4 – RMNCH Harmonization Working Group
- ITEM 5 – RMNCH Policy Compendium
- ITEM 6 – Information & Communication Technologies in Support of RMNCH
- ITEM 7 – PMNCH Post-2015 Working Group
- ITEM 8 – PMNCH Adolescents Working Group
- ITEM 9 – AOB

1. Review and approval of NfR from the EC call on 7 October, 2013

Note for the record was approved.

2. Financing and governance

- Virtual Board Retreat, 11-12 December 2013
- PMNCH list of criteria to prioritize projects in 2014
- Partners Forum: Organizing Committee and its membership
- Update on WHO hosting arrangements

AdF briefed the EC about the current status of the preparations for the Virtual Board Retreat, the agenda and video conferencing sites. EM checked with the EC their approval of the video conferencing sites, which has been confirmed by the EC members. EM opened the floor for comments on the Virtual Board Retreat. EC members expressed their concern about the timing of

the different sessions and requested to add 30 minutes to the agenda items on the Executive Director's report and the 2014 workplan.

EC members highlighted the following areas to be included in the agenda and/or discussions during the Retreat, namely:

- RMNCH financing group role and raison d'être ;
- Role of CSOs in the Promise Renewed agenda;
- Global investment framework and PMNCH role; and
- Every newborn agenda and PMNCH role.

Also, EC members requested that the Executive Director's report to the Retreat to include an update on PMNCH evaluation and to ensure that the Executive Director's report be circulated to EC members in advance of the Retreat.

AdF introduced the modifications made in the current revised version of the draft list of criteria the Secretariat prepared to enable selection and prioritisation of PMNCH projects, which has been circulated to EC members for their comments. Modifications were made based on the EC request during its October call. EM asked EC members whether they have any comments on the revised list. EC members had no further comments on the revised version and the list was approved.

On the Partners Forum item, AdF updated the EC that the Secretariat was able to have in addition to PMNCH three co-hosts of the Forum, namely: ***Countdown to 2015, A Promise Renewed, and the independent Expert Review Group***. Preparations for the Forum at this stage needs a Steering Committee to be established with an overall responsibility of the Forum and overseeing two subcommittees; one for the programme and another for the logistics. EC members approved the proposed organizational structure to prepare for the Forum.

EC members requested the Secretariat to have a list of previous Fora recommendations and status of implementation of those recommendations. Also, it is advisable that the forthcoming Forum to have specific two to three objectives and clear deliverable to be sought out of it.

AdF updated the EC on a current process taking place in WHO with relation to hosting partnerships within WHO. WHO Executive Board requested WHO to establish a framework to review hosting arrangements with partnerships. A paper describing the approach and progress report will be submitted to the next PBAC and EB in January 2014. Reviews of individual partnerships (most likely one or two initially), as opposed to an overall review of all partnerships, will be carried out subsequently.

WHO is engaged in a process to develop a costing framework that will provide a fair cost recovery from partnerships. The objective of WHO will be to ensure full cost recovery from all partnerships by developing a list of all services provided by WHO and costing them in a transparent way. AdF clarified that the intention at this point is to bring to the attention to the EC the current process WHO is pursuing with regards to hosting partnerships, however, no decision is needed at this point.

3. Update on PMNCH External Evaluation Sub-Committee

NN briefed the EC on relevant milestones and current status related to the implementation of the Independent Evaluation of PMNCH. The ToRs for the Independent Evaluation Sub-Committee have been developed and approved by the EC. To ensure complete independence and discretion of the Sub-Committee the Secretariat hired a Consultant (CEPA, London) to support work of the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee current has eight members representing all PMNCH constituencies and had its first meeting on 18 October 2013. Early November the Sub-Committee finalized the RFP

to hire the external entity which will carry out the evaluation. The RFP was published early November and review of the proposals is expected to take place mid December 2013.

4. RMNCH Harmonization Working Group

NN presented information on two main processes related to RMNCH financing harmonization, which have significant PMNCH involvement, namely RMNCH Steering Committee co-Chaired by Geeta Rao Gupta (UNICEF) and Tore Godal; and PMNCH Financing Harmonization Group, which PMNCH continues to convene based on the request of the Board.

PMNCH Group is co-Chaired by Neema Rusibamayila (Tanzania) and Ann Starrs (FCI). It has attempted to provide a neutral discussion space for stakeholders interested in discussing the challenges of today's extremely complex and dense global RMNCH financing architecture, and also to be a space where those not part of the RMNCH Steering Committee have an opportunity to meet. A number of members have expressed a view that they would like to see this group continue in its operations.

The EC expressed their concern about the necessity to continue with the PMNCH Group and PMNCH role in it. Also, it is noted that PMNCH external evaluation will include reviewing PMNCH different groups and subcommittees, among which is the PMNCH Financing Harmonization Group. The external evaluation recommendations will provide independent guidance on the necessity to continue this Group.

The EC requested CP to convene a group discussion prior to the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

5. RMNCH Policy Compendium

EM presented the Policy Compendium as the result of collaborative work over the past year among many partner organizations, supported by the WHO and the PMNCH. An Advisory Group consisting of experts in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health as well as in social determinants of health, mHealth and human rights, reviewed and guided the development of the Compendium. In addition to WHO and PMNCH, participating organisations included many represented on the Executive Committee and other partners.

The Compendium will complement and be used in conjunction with a range of RMNCH tools and activities, including the Countdown to 2015 country profiles and RMNH Alliance implementation analyses. Many partners have shown a keen interest to be part of the consensus around the RMNCH Policy Compendium, and to mark this as a joint effort and publication. As such, we would also value the Executive Committee members' final review by 11th November 2013, and the inclusion of your organizational logos on the publication.

Several EC members commended the great effort exerted to produce the Policy Compendium and expressed interest in sharing the document with their sub-constituencies.

EC members will review the publication, get feedback from their respective constituencies members and revert back to PMNCH Secretariat by 10 November at the latest.

6. Information & Communication Technologies in Support of RMNCH

CF presented the mHealth/ICT Workbook as a result of the collaborative effort of several key partners and stakeholders, including GSMA, IWG, GSMA, mHealth Alliance, WHO, and others who have provided excellent feedback and continue to be engaged. Several other agencies were also involved as part of an advisory group that was set up to guide the development of the workbook.

The workbook has been developed in part, to be used as a resource to support the RMNCH Policy Compendium (will be used in India as part of the multi-stakeholder dialogue process), but can also be used as an independent resource. The motivation for developing this workbook is two-fold-

(a) it creates a platform that enables collaborative, inclusive multi-stakeholder conversations on the use of ICTs for partners working together in applying RMNCH essential interventions; and (b) it provides a means to identify key barriers to scaling the use of ICTs via a risk assessment tool, and focuses the attention of participants in the [multi-stakeholder] conversation on how to address these barriers.

The workbook is targeted at policy-level specialists, programme planners and project managers who are considering scaling the use of ICTs for RMNCH.

Current status of the workbook:

- a. The IST draft of the workbook is ready, and is being currently edited; requests have also gone out for logos (to be complete by 30th November, 2013)
- b. The 2ND draft will be shared for further feedback (to be complete by 7th December)
- c. The edited/final copy will then be available for dissemination (to be complete by 20th December)

Several EC members praised the publication and the efforts exerted to produce it. Also, it is suggested to ensure that KMS department at WHO is involved in the finalization of the Workbook.

EC members will review the Workbook and provide comments by 15 Nov. at the latest.

7. PMNCH Post-2015 Working Group

KT updated the EC with the current PMNCH position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which has been endorsed by 240 members. PMNCH was able to integrate the language around MNH.

The Secretariat is working on expanding membership of the Post-2015 Group. EC members supported the expansion of the group and encourages further advocacy of PMNCH position at different platforms, e.g. New York.

The Post-2015 Group will be meeting soon through teleconference and results of the discussion will be shared with the EC.

8. PMNCH Adolescents Working Group

AdF briefed the EC on the process PMNCH carried out to gather experts and members together around the adolescents topic and develop a strategy for PMNCH in this regard. AdF shared a list of proposed names to join PMNCH Adolescents Working Group and the ToRs of a consultant who will provide support to the Working Group.

It is expected that the Working Group meet through teleconference within a week to discuss the basic elements for a PMNCH Strategy and the comparative advantage of PMNCH multi-constituency discussion and action.

During the December EC Call, the Secretariat will provide the results of the first meeting of the Adolescents Working Group, potentially a draft Adolescents Strategy.

9. AOB

No other business was raised by the EC members.

Action/Decisions List

No.	Action	Agenda Item	Focal Point	Deadline
1	DECISION: Approval of the video conferencing sites of the Virtual Board Retreat, 11-12 December 2013.	Item 2	-	-
2	ACTION: To increase the session time on the Retreat Agenda items on the Executive Director's report and 2014 workplan	Item 2	The Secretariat	Done
3	ACTION: To include the areas highlighted by EC members in the agenda/discussions of the Retreat and the Executive Director's report to include PMNCH evaluation, as well as to be circulated in advance of the Retreat.	Item 2	The Secretariat	30 Nov. 2013
4	DECISION: Approval of the revised draft list of criteria for projects selection in PMNCH 2014 workplan.	Item 2	-	-
5	DECISION: Approval of the organizational structure to prepare for the Partners Forum.	Item 2	-	-
6	ACTION: To prepare a list of recommendations of previous PMNCH Fora and status of their implementation.	Item 2	The Secretariat	5 Dec. 2013
7	ACTION: Carole Presern to convene a group discussion on RMNCH Financing Harmonization Group prior	Item 4	The Secretariat	30 Nov. 2013

	to the next meeting of the Steering Committee.			
8	ACTION: EC members to review the RMNCH Policy Compendium and provide comments by 10 Nov.	Item 5	EC Members	10 Nov. 2013
9	ACTION: EC members to review the ICT Workbook and provide comments by 15 Nov.	Item 6	EC Members	15 Nov. 2013
10	ACTION: To provide the EC with the draft Adolescents Strategy resulting from the first Adolescents Working Group meeting.	Item 8	The Secretariat	Dec. 2013

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