

Note for the Record

PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

February 5, 2013

Present: Flavia Bustreo (co-Chair); Elizabeth Mason (WHO); José Belizán (IECS); Sabaratnam Arulkumaran (FIGO), Craig Friderichs (GSM), Ruth Lawson (DFID), Rafael Cortez (World Bank)

PMNCH Secretariat: Carole Presern, Andres de Francisco, Abir Shady, Stephen Nurse-Findlay

Regrets: Francesco Aureli, Susan D'Agostino, Nicole Klingen

AGENDA

Chair: Flavia Bustreo

1. Review of Jan 15 EC Teleconference Minutes
2. Update on 2013 Report
3. Discussion on draft proposal for Lancet Series
4. Review of project to implement the Essential Interventions
5. Discussion on Advisory Group TORs for Financing for RMNCH
6. Post 2015 Next Steps
7. PMNCH Governance and Funding

The Chair welcomed the participants, reviewed the agenda and introduced Ms Abir Shady as the new Governance and Project Management Officer to the EC.

1. Review of Jan 15 EC Teleconference Minutes

The minutes were accepted as submitted without any changes.

2. Update on 2013 Report

Andres de Francisco gave a brief introduction on this item requested by the iERG to inform their report that will be published in September 2013. PMNCH has issued Requests for Proposals for report-related web based surveys and associated project management, identification of country case studies and thematic analysis for the 2013 report on the PMNCH website (these documents were distributed to EC participants prior to the call). Discussion followed:

- PMNCH will produce a matrix detailing all the various country case studies being planned and in progress to prevent duplication of efforts
- The Project manager of the report production will report directly to the PMNCH Director
- The timeline for the production of the report was queried, given that the iERG is already asking for some reports by May 2013.
 - The iERG has asked for an annotated draft version of the report by the last week of May and the dates stated in the RfP reflect this.

3. Discussion on draft proposal for *Lancet* Series

Andres de Francisco gave a brief introduction on this initiative to bring several on-going analytic projects supported by PMNCH (e.g. X-factor study, RMNCH investment, etc.) together in a framework that can be packaged for a Lancet series of articles PMNCH would facilitate the development and packaging of the papers through partners. Discussion followed:

- A revised, condensed draft was requested with annotation on objectives of the papers and information on the level of development of these. Several articles are completed or close to completion and can be more easily "packaged" into a series on RMNCH. Others are not as advanced, but no articles have been sent to the *Lancet*.
- The idea was endorsed, with the following caveats:

- o The *Lancet* is set to publish a series at the end of 2013 on “Investing in Health” which may overlap with this initiative. It was proposed that a series of papers from the list could be published over subsequent months.
- o Publishing a Lancet paper takes a great deal of time and effort. . Good advance planning and involvement of several writers is required.

4. Review of project to implement the Essential Interventions

Andres de Francisco and Sabaratnam Arulkumaran gave a brief introduction on this item. This project would be led by IPA, FIGO and ICM to change behaviour and health care professionals and focus on the integration of 15 specific interventions (5 each for ob-gyn, paediatrics and midwifery) from the list of 56 essential interventions into clinical practice of obstetricians, paediatricians, and midwives. The project will add other partners (namely CSO, nursing and private sector organisations) and to ensure that it was consistent with the 2013 PMNCH workplan item 2.2.2. Discussion followed:

- An initial planning meeting between stakeholders is planned for end February-early March in London to solidify the “What?” and “How?” of this project.
- The idea was endorsed with the following caveat.
 - o Both DFID and USAID are engaging in programmes to integrate Essential Life-Saving Skills Training into professional practice. This project should link to and be differentiated from these other programmes doing similar work.
- The Chair strongly recommended that Elizabeth Mason from WHO should be included in this project given her extensive links and expertise in this particular area of work.
 - o Additionally, PMNCH should seek to establish connections with the Commission for Life Saving Commodities (chaired by Norad) to ensure that these synergies are maximized.

5. Discussion on Advisory Group TORs for Financing for RMNCH

The Chair gave a brief introduction to this topic. The discussion was led by Carole Presern.

The proposal was delayed slightly as the Secretariat waited for programmes like the Family Planning 2020 and the H4+ trust fund to complete their evolution. After recent meetings in Oslo, the feeling was that the harmonising project might proceed slightly slower than was previously envisioned. The advisory group will be a multi-stakeholder effort that will focus on the definition of RMNCH financing and the prioritisation on placing PMNCH as an honest broker in these high level discussions. Discussion followed:

- It was noted that the TOR’s focus largely on supporting the decisions made about the RMNCH trust fund. It was suggested that this might be broadened to include other financing modalities
- The proposal should clarify how the input will be integrated into the on-going work going forward

6. Post 2015 Next Steps

Carole Presern gave a brief introduction to this complex, politically delicate project and the development of the manuscript on the Post 2015 priorities. The next step is a one pager that will come up with the “headline messages” for the post-2015 activity and an associated knowledge summary on the economic benefit of investing in women’s and children’s health.

- The World Bank will keep the group updated on the indicators and targets that may change as this debate progresses
- This process depends on international support, and so a small group chaired by Barbara Kloss-Quiroga from Germany, is working with the Secretariat to ensure international buy-in.

7. PMNCH Governance and Funding

Carole Presern updated the EC that while the search for a new Chair of PMNCH is ongoing; no announcement can be made at this time, but should be finalized very soon. Discussions are also ongoing on the fill the vacancy for a partner Government Board member.

The Donor and Foundation constituency will have a discussion on the inclusion of alternates on the Board, given the interest among many partners to serve on the PMNCH Board.

Next Steps →

- The Secretariat will keep the EC informed about the progress of the 2013 report at its monthly teleconferences
- The Secretariat will update the EC at the next meeting about the following issues with respect to the Lancet series:
 - More details as to which papers (on which topics) are closest to publication
 - How this project will prevent or reduce overlap with other planned series
 - Associated next steps, timeline and prioritization plans
- The Secretariat will prepare a briefing document to be sent to the private sector constituency with a specific ask related to the implementation of Essential Interventions.
- The Secretariat will share the “one pager” of headline issues for the post-2015 planning with the EC once completed, and will also complete a Knowledge Summary on the Economic benefits of investing in RMNCH.
- Advisory Committee on Financing will be pursued, while allowing various constituencies (Private Sector and NGOs in particular) to engage in reflection with their colleagues
 - PMNCH will seek to weave together the various TORs for similar Committees to create clear links to the other initiatives that are in train.
 - This issue will be raised again at the March 2013 EC teleconference with an eye on making the plan operational.
- The various constituencies will provide updates on their plans for engagement during the Women Deliver conference In Kuala Lumpur at the next EC Teleconference.
- The **next call** of the EC will take place on **Tuesday 5 March at 1500PM Geneva**. The Secretariat has already sent a “Save the Date” notification.