

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health¹

Draft 2016 to 2020 Strategic Framework

Analysis | Advocacy | Accountability | Alignment

Introduction

The 2016 to 2020 Strategic Framework (Strategic Framework) for the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH; Partnership) presents a partner-based approach to achieving the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for women, children and adolescents, contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at country level.

This draft proposal takes into account key findings from partner consultations and recent PMNCH governance meetings. This includes the 2014 independent evaluation of PMNCH, outcomes of the December 2014 Board Retreat, PMNCH Executive Committee deliberations on previous drafts of this Strategic Framework, as well as recent consultations undertaken by the Executive Director, PMNCH Secretariat and consultants. It builds on current discussions relating to the updating of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (Global Strategy), and the Global Financing Facility (GFF).

This Framework seeks to prioritize core PMNCH capacities in the linked areas of advocacy, analysis, accountability and alignment of partners, and to articulate how and why PMNCH can add value to the emerging post-2015 agenda in support of country based action. It proposes strategic areas for multi-stakeholder collaboration in relation to shared concerns among partners, as related to advocacy and support for agenda setting, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder dialogue and planning, effective policies and programmes, international and domestic financing, and accountability.

Once agreed, this Strategic Framework will serve as basis for developing a more detailed Strategic Plan, which will be underpinned by a Partnership governance review, which the PMNCH Board is expected to commission to ensure that the Partnership is well structured and occupies the most appropriate place in the global architecture.

¹ The name of the Partnership should be reconsidered in late 2015 following the adoption of the full Strategic Plan.

Vision

Women, children and adolescents realize their right to the highest attainable standard of health and wellbeing, achieving the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals, and leaving no one behind.

Mission

Catalyze and support leadership and collective action by Partners across a broad range of health and health influencing sectors to achieve the Partnership's vision and to implement the Global Strategy, to be agreed in September 2015 in support of the SDGs.

Scope

The Partnership addresses the full range of factors that impact on the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents, with a focus on under-served and marginalized populations. PMNCH will take an holistic, integrative and rights based approach to support local action to strengthen the health workforce and resilience of health systems to provide high quality, available, accessible and acceptable health care and to maximize the impact of health-influencing sectors, which have a crucial impact on health outcomes for women, children and adolescents.

What value can PMNCH bring to the post-2015 goals? Emerging ideas for consideration

Strategic Areas	Gaps/opportunities/challenges	PMNCH comparative advantage
1. Supporting setting the agenda and securing high level political commitment.	- Ensuring that goals of the updated Global Strategy are widely adopted and implemented at local and global levels. - Advocating for identification of priority settings (including fragile and humanitarian settings) and populations for accelerated action.	- PMNCH's role in advocacy is highly regarded. - PMNCH has been independently evaluated to have achieved significant traction for the goals of the 2010-2015 Global Strategy.
2. Catalyzing multi-sector and multi-stakeholder forums for dialogue and collective action.	- Platforms that bring sectors and stakeholders together for analysis, advocacy, accountability and alignment facilitate stronger programme and collective action. - Multi-sector and multi-stakeholder platforms not in place in all priority settings.	- As a multi-stakeholder and multi-constituency platform, PMNCH brings institutional experience and agreed governance structures to enable coordination and information flow. - Track record in multi-stakeholder dialogue with processes and guides in place, with a range of approaches that can be rolled out to more settings.
3. Support effective policies and programmes that improve women's, children's and adolescents' health.	- Promoting generation, synthesis and consensus on the evidence and innovation to inform policies and programmes. - Agreement on needs and opportunities for evidence and innovation to support policies and programmes (e.g. high-impact implementation approaches for newborn/ still births, adolescents; collaborating with health-influencing sectors, etc.).	- Multi-stakeholder perspective provides opportunities for holistic approaches and consensus-building around evidence e.g. Essential Interventions for RMNCH. - Success Factors Study by PMNCH partners and including other sectors in analysis, country dialogue and policy reviews.
4. Efficient and effective international and domestic financing for women's, children's and adolescents' health.	- Support and align with domestic financing processes. - Harmonize financing by development partners. - Improve understanding of effective financing mechanisms. - GFF under development.	Capacity to coordinate multi-stakeholder consultations on financing, investment cases and investment frameworks (e.g. in the context of GFF: build consensus on effective interventions and investments, policies and approaches; provide a forum for feedback and information flow; enable oversight and promote accountability across all actors.)
5. Global accountability platform for monitoring, review and action.	- Unified, independent global RMNCAH accountability process required to increase harmonisation and coherence among partners. - iERG and Countdown to 2015 are completing their current mandates in 2015.	- Multi-stakeholder platform with mandate to support partners to hold each other accountable. - Experience gained undertaking annual reports on global financial commitments and implementation.

How the Partnership could achieve its Mission through Analysis, Advocacy, Accountability and Alignment²

Strategic Areas	Comparative advantages of PMNCH addressing these critical factors for success through its multi-stakeholder partnership and convening platform, anchoring the global health architecture			
	Analysis	Advocacy	Accountability	Alignment
1. Supporting setting the agenda and securing high level political commitment.	Analyse how other partnerships in different sectors achieve this, and set metrics.	Work through a broad range of local and global partners and platforms to achieve results that impact local policies, programmes and finance.	- Ensure high level dialogue on accountability and related processes. - Advocate for action on findings from accountability processes.	Engage key national, regional and global institutions, including media, to advocate and communicate.
2. Catalyzing multi-sector and multi-stakeholder forums for dialogue and collective action.	Identify and catalyse partner research on multi-stakeholder action and cross sector impacts.	- Advocate for greater investment and policy support for national multi-stakeholder forums. - Engage with such forums to promote two-way information flow for local impact, linking national forums with regional and global information and opportunities, and promoting flow of information from national to regional and global.	Develop monitoring indicators for contribution of all stakeholders in health and other sectors.	Enhance participation of health-influencing sectors and issues, such as education, WASH, nutrition, gender based violence, gender equality, etc.
3. Support effective policies and programmes that improve women's, children's and adolescents' health.	Identify and promote research on knowledge gaps on effective implementation and cross sector impacts.	- Communicate evidence of what works and what does not. - Advocate for evidence-based policies and approaches.	Assess investment and implementation with identified effective approaches.	- Engage key non-health actors in Partnership. - Align action at country level with best practice and knowledge of effective policies and programmes.
4. Efficient and effective international and domestic financing for women's, children's and adolescents' health.	Support, with GFF and others, consistent financing policies and multi-stakeholder oversight.	- Communicate evidence of what works and what does not, and on agreed approaches. - Advocate for greater and more efficient investment and approaches to domestic and donor financing.	Monitor financing as part of annual accountability achievement report.	Create platforms to align with key financial institutions and mechanisms, engaging with all key stakeholders.
5. Global accountability platform for monitoring, review and action.	With local and global partners, help implement robust systems of metrics for mutual accountability.	- Communicate findings from annual accountability reports. - Advocate for policy change based on findings from accountability reviews	Annual report on achievement of relevant SDGs and Global Strategy.	Build on existing mechanisms and engage with all key stakeholders.

² In this context, 'Alignment' refers to the Partnership's role in developing and servicing its constituencies, enabling members to effectively align and represent collective views through working groups, governance bodies, and other institutional structures embedded in the Partnership's multi-stakeholder platform. The Partnership's structure to best facilitates this alignment will be articulated through the governance review.

Expected impact

The Partnership is a global structure working to achieve real, measurable and sustained local, country level, impact through analysis, advocacy, accountability and alignment. The metrics and approaches to monitoring the impact by the Partnership will be developed in the context of a more detailed impact and results framework, which is to be integrated into the full Strategic Plan. This Plan will be developed by the end of 2015, incorporating the findings of the Governance Review to be undertaken between April and October, 2015.

The Partnership delivers impact in countries through the work of its members, all of whom are active and present in the regions and countries. The members are represented in the Partnership through an inclusive Board, and served by an effective and appropriately resources Secretariat.

The Partnership's expected impacts reflect the outcomes and the added value of Partners working together through analysis, advocacy, accountability and alignment to make meaningful contributions to:

- enhanced national leadership and country led plans, through better resourcing and alignment of multi-stakeholder partnerships, in the context of achieving the SDGs;
- improved access to and use of quality health services and interventions, and strengthening and improving the resilience of health systems;
- better collaboration with health influencing sectors in countries, resulting in more integrated and holistic approaches to improving health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents;
- strengthened and shared accountability at all levels; and
- realizing the rights of women, children and adolescents.

The Partnership, served by its Secretariat, operates principally at the global level with regional focal points supporting two way dialogue between global, regional and national stakeholders, for improved outcomes for women, children, and adolescents in countries.

Summary and conclusion

The Strategic Framework sets out the main pillars that are proposed to frame the work of the Partnership in the years 2016 and beyond and guide the development of the Strategic Plan:

- Vision and Mission.
- Scope of work – Analysis, Advocacy, Accountability and Alignment.
- Five strategic areas of focus
 1. Supporting setting the agenda and securing high level political commitment.
 2. Catalyzing multi-sector and multi-stakeholder forums for dialogue and collective action.
 3. Support effective policies and programmes that improve women's, children's and adolescents' health.
 4. Efficient and effective international and domestic financing for women's, children's and adolescents' health.
 5. Global accountability platform for monitoring, review and action.
- Expected impact at country level through analysis, advocacy, accountability and alignment.

