

Note for the Record

PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

28 April, 2014 – Telephone Call

PRESENT

EC Members: Anuradha Gupta, India (AG); Flavia Bustreo, WHO (FB); Jennifer Goosen, Canada (JG); Francesco Aureli, (FA); José Miguel Belizán, Institute of Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (JB); Frances Day-Stirk, on behalf of HCPAs (FD); Sharon d'Agostino, J&J (SA); Nicole Klingen, World Bank (NK); and Ms Magda Robert, Office of Mrs Graça Machel (MR).

PMNCH Secretariat: Lori McDougall (LM); Olive Cocoman (OC); Geir Lie (GL); and Abir Shady (AS).

Speakers and observers: Elizabeth Mason, WHO (EM), Nana Kuo, Executive office of the UN SG (NK), Anna Pigazzini, Consultant (AP), BMGF (KS), Marta Seoane, WHO and Frederik Kristensen, WHO.

Apologies: Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, (FIGO); Craig Friderichs, (GSM Association); Gary Darmstad, BMGF; and Carole Presern, (PMNCH).

AGENDA

Chair: Anuradha Gupta

- ITEM 1 – Review of NfR of previous meeting
- ITEM 2 – Financing and governance:
 - Partners Forum: Logistics and Contents - Speaker: Olive Cocoman (OC)
 - Consolidated Feedback on PMNCH 2014 Workplan
 - Draft Board Meeting Agenda - Speaker: Abir Shady (AS)
- ITEM 3 – 2014 Tracking of RMNCH Commitments Web Platform – Speaker: Nana Kuo (NK)

Chair: Flavia Bustreo

- ITEM 4 – PMNCH Strategy & Funding Beyond 2015 – Speaker: Elizabeth Mason (EM)
- ITEM 5 – Update on PMNCH External Evaluation – Speaker: Anna Pigazzini (AP)
- ITEM 6 – AOB

Please see Annex 1 for background on each agenda item and Annex 2 for a concept note on the proposed integrated reporting process and web platform for tracking financial and non-financial commitments to Every Woman Every Child initiative.

1. Review and approval of NfR from the EC call on 24 February, 2014

Note for the record was approved by all members

2. Financing and governance

➤ Partner's Forum: Logistics and Contents

An update was provided on the progress of the Partners' Forum and the following key points were discussed:

- Thanks expressed by Mrs Machel for the work undertaken for developing the Forum agenda
- Confirmation from the Government of South Africa for co-hosting the Forum and co-convening a session with the African Union as a follow up to the International Conference on Maternal and Child Health, held in Johannesburg in 2013
- Briefing on the preparation of working groups for the 5 plenary and 20 parallel sessions

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- Review of all the invitations including high level invitees, invitations to constituencies and the 30 funded youth participants
- Request from EC members for the provision of a slot in the programme for a speech or presentation by the host government
- Secretariat to utilize the key events between now and the Forum, i.e. High Level Meeting on MNCH being organised in Canada end of May, Child Survival Call to Action/APR event in the US in June

Actions:

- EC/Constituencies/Secretariat: Utilize every event that will take place from now up to the Partners' Forum and afterwards as an advocacy opportunity since key recommendations will be central to positing RMNCH post 2015.
- Secretariat: Agenda will continue to be updated. Provisional Agenda is accessible through this link: http://www.who.int/pmnch/about/governance/partnersforum/pf2014_agenda.pdf?ua=1

➤ **Consolidated Feedback on PMNCH 2014 Workplan**

Consolidating feedback PMNCH 2014 Workplan is for the EC's information.

Actions:

The EC requested that the points raised in the consolidated feedback serve as guidance during implementation of the 2014 Workplan.

Draft Board Meeting Agenda:

- Presentation of the Board Agenda by AS
- Meeting to take place right after the Partners' Forum
- Board meeting to focus on:
 - PMNCH future strategy and funding post 2015
 - PMNCH external evaluation
 - Financial Committee report and the draft decisions

EC members raised concerns about the insufficient time allocated for the Board meeting and recommended to have a separate meeting for discussing both the external evaluation and the future of PMNCH post 2015, sometime between the Board Meeting in June 2014 and the following one in December 2014. In addition, the EC requested extending the time of the forthcoming June Meeting to allow time for discussions on how best PMNCH can utilize the last year and a half of its strategy, increasing momentum and ensuring that women's and children's health is in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which would be an important deciding factor in PMNCH future.

Actions:

- Secretariat: Extend the time of the Board Meeting to allow time for discussions on the evaluation findings and PMNCH future strategy.
- Secretariat: To include an agenda item in the next Board Meeting Agenda to discuss how best can PMNCH utilize the last year and a half of its strategy to increase momentum and ensure that women's and children's health is in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- EC Members/Constituencies: EC members to reach out to their constituencies to advocate for and coordinate efforts to ensure that women's and children's health is in the Post-2015.

3. 2014 Tracking of RMNCH Commitments Web Platform

EC was briefed, by NK, on the current development of a web-based commitment tracing platform coordinated between PMNCH, WHO, UN SG Executive Office, UN Foundation, FP2020, and other PMNCH partners to further streamline the existing global efforts to track commitments to the UNSG Global Strategy. The Global Strategy has had accountability at its centre since the launch of the Strategy, with the CoIA framework and work streams led by the iERG, PMNCH and many other stakeholders. In terms of PMNCH, the Partnership has been producing reports on initially identifying and then tracking commitments to the Global Strategy since 2011.

In 2014, PMNCH's accountability related work will focus on producing a report on tracking the implementation of financial commitments, and also on working with a wide range of stakeholders to further streamline existing accountability processes. It was proposed that the latter work stream will include work on a sustainable and integrated reporting process and platform for tracking financial and non-financial commitments to Every Woman Every Child initiative, building on the work already underway (see Annex 2). The proposed approach is aimed at supporting existing processes whilst reducing the considerable and growing reporting burden. It is also expected to ensure transparency and allow for the process, methodology and analysis data to be accessible to all relevant partners and the public more generally.

It is proposed to develop a working group of partners to further develop the proposed concept note on how this process can be taken forward and how necessary resources can be made available, so that in the medium and longer term resources are actually saved and reporting burden reduced. As this is an endeavour to synergise processes on data and access to that data by the existing initiatives, linkages between simultaneous endeavours will be important to prepare for reporting to the end of and beyond 2015.

The EC supported the idea as it helps to avoid duplication of efforts and increases communication between related processes. It also is not intended to replace or override any existing work streams, but simply to streamline the access to data and to improve the data quality. The EC also noted that in developing the work stream, it will be essential to consider what follow-up mechanisms ought to exist so that the data collection and access approach works and users report on their commitments as required.

It was indicated that exploring collaboration with OECD DAC will be an important element of this work, since from 2014 they start to track 2013 financial commitments for RMNCH. In doing so one will avoid duplication of data collection initiatives for partners already surveyed by OECD.

In addition to harmonizing the different tracking methods, there will be an added value of this process to the reports that PMNCH (and others) will continue to produce within their respective workplans. PMNCH's report will continue to pull together the different analysis data and ensuring that relevant key messages are well incorporated and advocated.

Anuradha Gupta asked permission to leave the call and thanked each and every member for their work and cooperation. All the members thanked Anuradha for her support to her last EC as a Board member. The rest of the call was chaired by Flavia.

Action:

- Secretariat: Establish a working group to oversee the development of the work stream with regards to tracking of commitments web platform, including discussions on necessary resources and timelines for this work.
- Secretariat to ensure:

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- o the work stream focuses on integrating with other tracking processes and works towards reducing duplication and reporting burden that already exists;
- o there is a systemized follow-up to ensure adequate reporting and data quality, in terms of number of stakeholders reporting on their commitments and the quality of reporting;
- o building on the work that is ongoing with the CoIA framework and the iERG, and to look towards sustainability beyond 2015.

4. PMNCH Strategy & Funding Beyond 2015

This item to be discussed in a separate EC meeting and a concept note is currently being prepared for this purpose.

Action:

Secretariat: to share the concept note on PMNCH Strategy and Funding Beyond 2015 and arrange for an EC meeting for this item.

5. Update on PMNCH External Evaluation

AP presented this item on behalf of GD, who apologized for not being able to participate due to unforeseen circumstances. AP provided an update on the process of PMNCH 2009-2013 external evaluation carried out by PwC. The evaluation exercise is looking at work undertaken by the Partnership to date, but set in the context of the Partnership's future endeavours. The Evaluation Committee consists of 8 members led by GD, which oversees the whole process. The Evaluation approach is currently being undertaken in three phases:

- **Evaluate phase**, which is the current phase, to collect data across working dimensions, reports, interview of constituency, survey and desk review.
- **Strategize phase**: to consolidate findings and draw future projections.
- **Report phase**: to produce final findings, recommendations and report

The initial findings will be made available on 30 May. A draft report is expected on 12 June and on 25th June the final report will be produced and delivered to the Board.

The evaluation will also include a deep dive review of three projects across the three SOs, namely: The Essential Interventions; ENAP; and the Tracking of Commitments Report. PwC will also launch a survey of PMNCH members. As part of this process, PwC has asked the EC members to reach out to their constituencies to follow up on the survey and encourage them to respond. PwC will draft such messages and follow-up on responses. AP will coordinate this process.

It was indicated that there is currently a review process being carried out for EWEAC on accountability processes, and it will be mutually beneficial for PwC to establish contact with the UNSG office to discuss synergies. The Secretariat will facilitate this linkage.

The EC requested to receive any available information on the findings, presentation, etc. as early as possible to allow time for internal review and discussion by the EC prior to the Board Meeting, and preferably well before 25 June.

AP will communicate the EC request to the Evaluation Committee and provide feedback.

Actions:

- Secretariat: To link PMNCH external evaluation with EWEAC accountability review process. The Secretariat to facilitate linkage.

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- PwC Consultant/Secretariat to follow up: To Provide information on the findings, presentation, etc. as early as possible to allow time for internal review and discussion by the EC prior to the Board Meeting. Request will be transmitted to the Evaluation Committee by AP.
- PwC Consultant/Secretariat to follow up: EC members to follow up with their respective constituencies to encourage them to complete the external evaluation survey. PwC to draft messages and follow-up on the process, coordinated by AP.
- PwC Consultant/Secretariat to follow up: Evaluation Committee will provide a briefing note the EC on the progress of the evaluation in due course

6. AOB

No other business was raised by the EC members.

Flavia thanked everyone and the EC call ended.

Background on the Agenda

ITEM 2 – Financing and governance: – Speaker: Carole Presern

➤ Partners Forum: Logistics and Contents

On June 30th and July 1st 2014, PMNCH will host its 3rd Partners' Forum at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. This event will be co-hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa, A Promised Renewed, the independent Expert Review Group and Countdown to 2015. The Partners' Forum will welcome over 800 participants from the health and non-health sectors including representatives from countries, multilateral organizations, health care professional organisations, UN agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector. The Forum aims to take stock of progress and accelerate action for women's and children's health, and set out a vision for the world we want beyond 2015.

The Countdown to 2015 –2014 report and the Every Newborn Action Plan will be launched at the Partners' Forum. Work is currently underway to develop the 5 plenary and 20 parallel sessions, finalise the invitation list and optimise advocacy and communications for the event. A PR company is engaged to manage the messaging and PR and a South African Event Management company has been appointed to manage the logistics. Speaker invitations have already been sent. Currently, three Ministers of Health have accepted these invitations, from Bangladesh, Nigeria and South Africa. CEOs of the United Nations Foundation, Save the Children and Becton, Dickinson, and Rajiv Shah, Dr Amina Mohammed, Chris Elias, Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, Jeffrey Sachs, among others, have agreed to speak.

ITEM 3 – 2014 Tracking of RMNCH Commitments Web Platform

Accountability for commitments made has from the start been central to the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy and the Every Woman Every Child effort. It underpins our joint efforts to date and keeps us all – global, regional, and national stakeholders – accountable for our commitments to women's and children's health. As a result, many of the initiatives that have emerged under the auspices of the Global Strategy have put in place their respective accountability processes. Whilst this energy has been welcomed, it has inevitably resulted in the emergence of a number of different information collection workstreams, each of which is contacting commitment makers annually or otherwise, seeking information on progress related to implementation of their respective commitments. Commitment makers are therefore facing multiple data collection requests, often asking for similar information but by using different methods and survey approaches, increasing the already significant reporting burden for partners.

After discussions between PMNCH, UN Secretary General's executive office, UN Foundation, FP 2020 and others, a proposal has emerged to start developing in 2014 a more centralised approach to gathering and analysing commitments and progress against such commitments, across all efforts engaged in the work towards achieving the Global Strategy objectives. Such a centralised, most likely web-based, platform would reduce fragmentation and reporting burden, and is likely to result in improved quality and reliability of data. The ambition to have post-2015 development agenda include a continued emphasis on women and children as one of the continued development goals also necessitates better tracking of its commitments as early as possible to establish a sound baseline.

ITEM 4 – PMNCH Strategy & Funding Beyond 2015

The EC members are kindly requested to start discussing PMNCH future prospects beyond 2015, including its strategy, structure and funding options. This discussion is necessary in preparation for the 2014 Partners' Forum and the forthcoming Board meeting. PMNCH Executive Committee and the Board need to consider the different possibilities in the Post-2015 development arena and discuss how best to plan and prepare for them.

The current external evaluation of the Partnership will add perspective to this endeavour, particularly as the findings of the evaluation will be shared with the Board, during its meeting, on 2 July 2014. PMNCH resource mobilization efforts are affected by its future strategy; it is not possible to raise funds beyond 2015. However, if PMNCH continues, it means that many major grants will all be finishing at the same time, leading to a funding crunch if this issue is not addressed well in advance.

The donors and foundations community would like to see what direction the Partnership will take in the new strategic period. This shows that PMNCH needs to earlier anticipate a smoother transition into any post-2015 strategic period for the Partnership, with work on defining that value added for PMNCH commencing in 2015 and beyond.

ITEM 5 – Update on PMNCH External Evaluation

The independent evaluation of PMNCH's since 2009 is currently underway and is being conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers consultancy, as has already been communicated to the EC at the last meeting. The EC will recall that the evaluation is expected to balance both retrospective aspects (in terms of assessing PMNCH's activities and measuring the results achieved) and forward looking aspects in terms of the identification of any key lessons learned and recommendations for future action. Thus, the future of the Partnership, in addition to its past, is the overall context and focus for the evaluation.

The work of the consultants has been closely overseen by the Board-established Evaluation Committee, as Chaired by Gary Darmstadt (BMGF). The inception report for this work has been submitted to the Evaluation Committee in February 2014, and the evaluation work is underway.

Annex 2**Sustainable and harmonized reporting platform for tracking financial and non-financial commitments to Every Woman Every Child initiative****Decision by the Executive Committee**

- Approve the proposed approach to developing a unified accountability platform, in coordination with Every Woman Every Child.
- Approve use of remaining funds (USD 100,000) in the allocated budget for this activity (subject to fund raising closing the remaining gap) through pooling of financial and human resources with other initiatives.

Background to the challenge

Since the UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health¹ was launched in 2010, partners have made commitments and are continuing to make new commitments aimed at improving women's and children's health through addressing specific needs outlined in the Global Strategy.

In order to support the implementation of the Global Strategy, and move closer towards its aim of saving 16 million lives, it is important to ensure that information flows into existing accountability processes are structured in a sustainable and harmonised manner. To date, a number of different information collection workstreams has emerge, each of which is contacting commitment makers annually or otherwise, seeking information on progress related to implementation of their respective commitments to the Global Strategy. This has resulted in commitment makers facing multiple data collection requests asking for similar information but by using different methods and survey approaches. Data collection is a time consuming, labour intensive task, and having several initiatives performing this activity adds to the reporting burden.

This welcome energy to ensure that commitments to the Global Strategy are implemented is reflected in the work associated with initiatives such as The follow-up Commission on Information and Accountability (COIA) for Women's and Children's Health, the independent Expert Review Group (iERG) on Women's and Children's Health, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH), Family Planning (FP) 2020. Simultaneously, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD-DAC), Creditor Reporting System (CRS) will start collecting data on overseas development assistance (commitments and disbursements) in support of reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) through a policy marker for 2014 reporting on 2013 flows from their members. The recommendation and funding to develop the policy marker to monitor the financial parts came from COIA.

Proposed solution – a joint web-based commitment tracking platform

It is proposed that a more centralised approach is piloted as a means to harmonize and integrate efforts to track commitments made for the Global Strategy, at the global and country level. Such an approach is expected to reduce fragmentation of initiatives collecting information from committer's as it would keep all tracking initiatives and activities together under the same umbrella, which will reduce the reporting burden for partners, and result in improved quality data.²

¹ http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/images/content/files/global_strategy/full/20100914_gswch_en.pdf

² Over the last year and a half, the WHO has been successful in its efforts to harmonize donors and health initiatives both in country and at the global level of tracking of flows of health expenditures through the application of a standard platform, namely Systems of Health Accounts 2011 (SHA 2011) framework. An opportunity is therefore presented to learn from this

There is now an opportunity for Every Woman Every Child³ to potentially host, together with PMNCH and other partners, a single harmonized, integrated online platform that will be the global standard and depository of information related to reporting on commitments to the Global Strategy. This is an opportunity to synergize the commitments tracking work of the different initiatives using a single platform. The ambition to have post-2015 development agenda include a continued emphasis on women and children as one of the continued development goals also necessitates better tracking of its commitments as early as possible to establish a sound baseline.

The proposed approach would be to set up an online platform, building on the Every Woman Every Child website, to encourage regular reporting and transparency. Those participating in this endeavour would combine resources – financial and human – towards the development of a single, overarching accountability web platform that would collect all commitments to EWEC in one place⁴. There are several advantages of setting up such a harmonized tracking platform:

- It is more technically rigorous in that there will be a standard way to report commitments.
- The use of a consistent survey instruments, and data base, ensures comparability of data over time.
- It will minimize multiple parallel data collection initiatives that are labour intensive and time consuming for national staff and all other stakeholders. It will make the reporting at more regular, consistent intervals, and should reduce errors, allowing the process to focus more on the reporting of data and its use.
- It is expected to reduce fragmentation of data collection as partners will be able to access and use the information.

Next steps

- To set up a small working group of partners working on commitment tracking and reporting (e.g. PMNCH, FP2020, UNF, EOSG, others), which will meet regularly and develop this concept note and its terms of references further and keep each other updated and explore opportunities for collaboration.
- Take the project forward by operationalize terms of references, through pooling of resources.
- Update the Executive Committee on progress.

experience, and explore which partners have signed up to this harmonized approach since it is a likely that many of the partners would be the same as for this activity.

³ <http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/>

⁴ Given OECD effort on tracking financial commitments it will be key to have a close dialogue with the Statistics and Development Finance Division so to best align and harmonize the new platform so to not create duplication in any way.