

Secretariat Hosted by the World Health Organization and Board Chaired by The Rt Hon. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister, New Zealand

PMNCH Executive Committee Meeting

Virtual meeting: 24 February 2021, 15:00 to 17:00 CET (120 min)

Document Title: EC-02-2021; 05, Lives in the Balance 3 and commitment mobilization

Summary: The EC is presented with a concept note for the proposed Lives in the Balance 3 e-summit, as well as approaches to continue with commitment mobilization towards PMNCH's COVID-19 Call to Action.

The potential theme of the Lives in the Balance 3 Summit is: Equity / Reaching the Last Mile, including through Health Workforce Commitments. The focus at this year's World Health Assembly (WHA) on health workforce needs and priorities, in line with the International Year of Health and Care Workers, allows commitments to come forward that address these needs, guided by the Call to Action.

Actions Required: Note and provide guidance on the 'Lives in the Balance 3' and commitment mobilization concept note

Secretariat Hosted by the World Health Organization and Board Chaired by The Rt Hon. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister, New Zealand

Proposal for discussion

Lives in the Balance 3 and commitment mobilization for the PMNCH Call to Action on COVID-19

17 and 18 May, 2021

1. BACKGROUND

COVID-19 has and continues to be a driver of inequity, deepening the rift between the rich and the poor and placing women, children, young people, the disabled, migrants and minorities at higher risk of social and economic fallout. COVID-19 presents an opportunity to reset political agendas and to position women's, children's and adolescents' health as a driver of recovery and resilience. The inequities experienced by women, children and adolescents, exposed and driven deeper by the pandemic, are the focus of the 24-month PMNCH Call to Action campaign, supporting the implementation of the PMNCH 2021-2025 Strategy.

The Lives in the Balance e-summits, launched by PMNCH and the CORE Group in 2020, have served as innovative and inclusive platforms for partner-led dialogue and action on COVID-19. The first summit, held on 1-2 July, saw the launch of the [PMNCH Call to Action on COVID-19](#). Driven by PMNCH members, this call outlines 7 asks to protect and promote WCAH during this precarious time and serves as the basis for PMNCH's ongoing advocacy. On 11 December 2020, [Lives in the Balance: Improving the Health of Women, Children and Adolescents through UHC](#), launched the first ever [State of Commitment to UHC report](#) calling for strengthened efforts to *protect everyone*. This meeting launched [commitments to the Call to Action](#) from 10 countries and 1 private foundation totaling 20.6 billion dollars, marking a successful first phase of the Call to Action mobilization campaign.

2. LIVES IN THE BALANCE 3 AND THE NEXT PHASE OF COMMITMENT MOBILIZATION

Looking ahead, continued commitment mobilization is required to keep momentum high for the Call to Action and the 24-month campaign. While the initial phase of outreach and mobilization, in Q4 of 2020, depended heavily on the efforts of a small number of partners, there is much more opportunity for outreach and inclusion among all partners and constituencies in 2021. The next "Lives in the Balance" summit is proposed for 17-18 May, in the week prior to the World Health Assembly, and in the same week as the next PMNCH Board meeting. This allows a period of up to three months to leverage opportunities within and across constituencies to mobilize new commitments to be presented at Lives 3.

As in December, the Summit will shine a light on commitments and pledges made by national leaderships and by other constituencies in support of national response to COVID-19. However, it is also an opportunity to reflect on progress made towards the implementation of commitments announced in December, identifying how national multi-stakeholder platforms can best support national leadership and an effective, multi-sectoral, systemic response to health and wellbeing.

Secretariat Hosted by the World Health Organization and Board Chaired by The Rt Hon. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister, New Zealand

The potential theme of the Lives in the Balance 3 Summit is: Equity/Reaching the Last Mile, including through Health Workforce Commitments. The focus at this year's WHA on health workforce needs and priorities, in line with the International Year of Health and Care Workers, allows commitments to come forward that address these needs, guided by the Call to Action.

Summit programming could:

- **Reflect** on challenges to protecting the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents in the context of COVID-19, particularly those with the least access to social, economic and political power;
- **Share** lessons, tools, and resources about how partners and governments are promoting equitable access to health services, including by addressing social, economic and environmental determinants of health; strengthening community representation in health governance and by integrating equity-based analyses in health planning and programming;
- Identify ways to **act** collectively to realize the PMNCH Call to Action on COVID-19, including by developing investment case evidence and tools for pandemic response and resilience that center on the needs of women, children and adolescents, and by spotlighting policy and financial commitments that respond to key COVID-19 Call to Action asks.

Commitment mobilization will be guided by the PMNCH Board and EC, and undertaken through coordinated efforts among all constituency groups, with the technical advice of the PMNCH Advocacy Working Group and Strategy Committee.

3. LANGUAGES

As with previous Lives in the Balance events, the May summit will be held in English, French and Spanish with different sessions being conducted in different languages. The entire summit will be simultaneously translated into English, French, and Spanish. Sign language interpretation will also be available.

4. PARTICIPANTS

This event is expected to reach 2,000 unique viewers from more than 100 countries, in addition to building on the social media audience of more than 7 million reached through the previous two summits. Deliberate efforts will be made to reach policy makers and decision makers, including ministers from health and health enhancing sectors, local government authorities, and parliamentarians. Outreach will be also be undertaken to ensure that as many health care providers – public and private, thought leaders, researchers and community members – including women, children and adolescents - from all countries are present and can engage.