



Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health

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## PMNCH Knowledge Synthesis

### Flagship deliverable for 2023: Global Investment Framework on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health and Well-being

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### Background

PMNCH plays an important role in translating and packaging evidence to highlight gaps in progress, support consensus-building on advocacy, and equipping partners with evidence for action and greater accountability. Our efforts to increase new country, regional and global commitments for women's, children's and adolescents' health (WCAH) and well-being depend on how evidence is shaped in relation to audience, context and need.

Mobilizing equity-enhancing financing, including domestic resources, to improve health and well-being is a key advocacy goal within the [PMNCH 2021-2025 Strategy](#). Indeed, it has been nearly a decade since PMNCH and WHO put forward a landmark case for [investing in women's and children's health](#), contributing to the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health (2012). Now in the SDG era, economic evidence, intervention science, global development, and the wider context have evolved in important ways.

When existing evidence for advocacy is missing or incomplete, PMNCH can fill an important gap by pooling knowledge resources to promote a multi-constituency consensus and to develop stronger evidence-based messages that make the case for urgent action. Economic and financing implications of implementation solutions are critical to informing policy. They include estimates of the costs and benefits of interventions as well as the costs of inaction. Conducting and synthesizing such knowledge is therefore an activity that underpins PMNCH advocacy efforts.

Over the next months, and as countries think about "building back better" from COVID-19, it is evident that governments around the world will need to strengthen their health systems to be gender-responsive and resilient to future crises. They will need robust and contextualized evidence to guide their decisions about investing in high-impact health interventions and adapting, extending and scaling-up health and social protection programs that support the most vulnerable. [Emerging data from the World Bank](#) shows that governments will have to increase their health spending – for some low-income countries, well beyond historical highs – to get back on the path towards universal health coverage. This will not be easy, as the pandemic has triggered a global recession, incurred record levels of government debt, and has required policymakers to stimulate an economic recovery in parallel to providing economic support to many sectors. However,





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given the [disproportionate impact the pandemic](#) is having on women, children and adolescents, governments will need to prioritize their economic, health and social protection measures if not to miss the opportunity to rebuild sustainable and resilient societies. In this context, the PMNCH Knowledge & Evidence Working Group proposes to convene and align key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive Global Investment Framework for WCAH and wellbeing.

## Rationale

There is a gap in evidence on the socioeconomic returns of investments in WCAH and well-being, including preparedness, response and recovery measures, as highlighted by [the Venice Forum in April 2021](#), a meeting of biomedical and social scientists, economists and public health leaders. Recent studies have focused on the investment requirements for WCAH, without stressing the enormous potential gains from those investments. For instance, the [SDG3 price tag](#) includes a component on preparedness, but no analysis of returns to investments. Similarly, the [WHO Investment Case](#) argues for investing in UHC triple billion targets over 2019-2023, with returns to investment in UHC and health emergency responses, but does not specifically report the case for investing in WCAH interventions. Guttmacher's [Adding It Up](#) is an ongoing project that estimates the need for, impact of and costs associated with providing essential sexual and reproductive health services. Similarly, the Global Financing Facility (GFF) has also developed [global price tags](#) for accelerating WCAH in 50 countries, but does not include a socio-economic return on investment analysis. Thus, there is a need to collate, disseminate and amplify existing investment cases, modelling tools and case studies specific to WCAH, to facilitate access to robust and contextualized evidence and enable partners to drive evidence-based advocacy.

Context-specific evidence, packaged into persuasive messages across the full SRMNCAH continuum, can support partners in framing investments in WCAH as part of UHC efforts -- not as a cost, but as an economic and social investment in preparedness, response and recovery. In an uncertain world, such investments yield important returns, promoting community resilience and gender equity. Moving beyond the scope of the [2013 Investment Framework for Women's and Children's Health](#), this updated and comprehensive Global Investment Framework will also include a focus on adolescents and a comprehensive concept of health and well-being as a route to sustainable and resilience societies. The Investment case will not only estimate financial needs, but provide clear evidence for the dramatic gains for society of investing in WCAH and well-being, and the short and longer term costs of failing to make such investment. It will show that investing in WCAH and well-being not only has an impact on reducing inequities, but will raise the productivity resilience of societies in general, contributing to a more equal and sustainable future for all. The Investment Framework will also include a component on global health security, including preparedness, response and recovery measures to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts on WCAH of future shocks such as pandemics.

The specific products and outputs of this collective effort would be designed in response to the needs of the end-users – PMNCH advocacy partners at both country and global levels – laying out the strategic approach to investing in WCAH and well-being in line with PMNCH's COVID-19 Call to Action. It will echo the UN call to action to tackle the social and economic dimensions of this crisis, with a focus on equity and vulnerabilities: “It is, above all, a call to focus on people –



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women, youth, low-wage workers, small and medium enterprises, the informal sector and on vulnerable groups who are already at risk". Importantly, it will make a strong case for the potential benefits of investing in WCA for society at large.

### Key components of a Global Investment Framework for WCAH and Well-Being

Further development of this concept would be informed by country-level and global advocacy demands based on a needs assessment survey underway, as well as mapping of existing investment cases – both to be shared in January 2022 at a PMNCH work-planning retreat convened by the PMNCH Strategic Advocacy Committee with leadership from the Partner Engagement in Countries Committee, the Knowledge & Evidence Working Group, and the Accountability Working Group.

Discussion to date in the PMNCH Knowledge & Evidence Working Group suggests that a PMNCH-led Investment Framework could offer:

- a cost-benefit analysis for investing in high-impact sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health interventions, as well as multisectoral strategies on WCAH, for a range of low- and middle-income countries over life-course and intergenerational timeframes, providing both global and country-level partners with updated evidence for financing advocacy;
- an economic analysis of the wider societal benefits of investment in WCAH and wellbeing, using models beyond GDP and for a range of settings and timeframes;
- evidence on the estimated costs of effective strategies and interventions for improving WCAH in strengthening health system preparedness and response to health or environmental shocks;
- evidence for the socioeconomic costs of inaction in terms of under-investment in WCAH and wellbeing in short-, medium- and long-term in a range of settings in the post-COVID era, to inform PMNCH advocacy initiatives at regional and country levels.

### Proposed partnerships, timeline and outputs

It is proposed that the Global Investment Framework project is undertaken as an 18-month project (January 2022-September 2023), organized under the auspices of the PMNCH Knowledge & Evidence Working Group, reporting to the Strategic Advocacy Committee. It would involve the participation of the target benefit groups (women and youth groups) and a broad range of PMNCH constituencies, including the Global Financing Mechanism, Academic, Research and Training Institutes, United Nations Agency, Health Care Professional Associations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Adolescent and Youth constituencies. Specific institutional partners are to be determined. Initial interest in this project has been expressed by members of the Venice Forum; the GFF; the World Bank, University of Southampton (UK), University of Calgary (Canada), and Heidelberg University (Germany), among others.



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OUTPUTS	TIMELINE
Mapping of existing WCAH investment cases	December 2021 - January 2022
Establishment of Steering Committee	January-February 2022
Multi-stakeholders consultations, including but not limited to consultations with PMNCH constituencies, target benefit groups, SAC and PECC	March – November 2022
Economic Analyses	May 2022 – May 2023
Anticipated launch date (Global Investment Framework and related policy advocacy and communication tools, e.g., advocacy toolkit, policy brief, earned media and social media products, etc.)	September 2023, coinciding with the UNGA and PMNCH Partners' Forum/Global Adolescent Summit

## Proposed cost

PMNCH would welcome co-funding this landmark project with key partners.

## Questions for discussion

- How can a Global Investment Framework best support commitment mobilization at the country level, as well as global level?
- What are some of the lessons learnt from similar exercises conducted before (e.g. 2013 Global Investment Framework) that should be taken into account in developing this project?
- What does success look like for the Global Investment Framework, and how will we measure it?
- How should PMNCH work with key stakeholders during the development of the Global Investment Framework, and more broadly, to promote multisectoral action for increased and more efficient financing for equity?