



Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health

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## PMNCH Campaigns and Outreach

### Flagship deliverable for 2022: Global Leaders Network

Tues. 07 December 2021, 12.00 – 14.00 CET and Wed. 08 December 2021, 12.00 – 14.30 CET

**Document Title:** PMNCH-B28-2021-7d, Global Leaders Network (Campaigns & Outreach)

### Background

The PMNCH [2021-2025 Strategy](#) prioritizes effective advocacy in delivering results for women, children and adolescents (WCA) and describes it as one of PMNCH's added values. This is critical for mobilizing political leadership and commitments, policies and financing to protect, promote and prioritize the health and rights of WCA in national COVID-19 response and recovery plans and to deliver on the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) ('the 2030 Agenda'), including SDG targets for WCA. Political leaders can influence the future of global cooperation and reinvigorate inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism as urged by the Secretary-General's report on "[Our Common Agenda](#)". Leaders have a window of opportunity to build forward better for a sustainable future using equity-based approaches to social welfare.

This discussion note proposes a rationale, vision, objectives, outcomes, proposed structure, and status of a "Global Leaders Network (GLN)" to promote WCA's rights, health and well-being. Catalyzing a peer network at the highest political level (Head of State and Government), can encourage greater prioritization of evidence-based global, regional, and national development policies and approaches critical to delivering on the 2030 Agenda. GLN members can identify opportunities in their networks to exert influence; they can open doors to high-level peers; they can lend importance and credibility to PMNCH policy asks; and they can generate visibility for issues and solutions.

### Rationale and Lessons Learned<sup>1</sup>

The onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how fragile social progress can be, and that it is critical to protect and promote WCA's rights, health and well-being. Building on past experiences (e.g., Global Campaign for MDG4,5&6; and the EWEC High Level Steering Group) there are lessons on how a network of Heads of States and Government may constitute an unprecedented legitimacy as elected leaders within the global health and development architecture at global, regional and national levels. The network provides Heads of State and Government opportunities to exchange evidence, experiences, and insights to build individual and collective strategic drive and new momentum for WCAH, emphasizing the high return on WCAH investments which include significant social, demographic and economic benefits.

<sup>1</sup> These lessons have been gleaned from the experiences of similar initiatives in the past, particularly, the [Global Campaign for the Health MDGs](#) and [the Every Woman Every Child High Level Steering Group](#).





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By setting this agenda, the GLN can crowd in leadership from across sectors and constituencies to foster new partnerships, mobilize aligned resources and identify innovations. Concerted action by these leaders can strengthen and accelerate the multisectoral approach to addressing WCAH issues, generating more long-term holistic solutions and sustainable financing.

### **Vision and objective**

A loosely knit, peer-to-peer network of Heads of State and Government that operates in a coordinated and effective manner to increase investment, strengthen policy directives and enhance service delivery for WCA rights, health and well-being, ensuring increased momentum for the 2030 Agenda in the post COVID-19 era.

### **Expected Outcomes**

GLN members can mobilize leadership to ensure that WCAH is appropriately elevated in the broad discourse among governments and remains central to all PHC and UHC efforts, as well as COVID-19 recovery and pandemic preparedness plans. The GLN will aim to identify opportunities to have a catalytic effect and build new momentum for effective global, regional and national action for WCAH based on mutual learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Possible Structure**

The GLN will be convened and chaired by a world leader with issue-credibility and convening power (including at the regional and global level). The GLN will consist of up to 10 sitting Heads of State and Government from the global south and north, each committed to a multisectoral approach to sustainable development. It will be developed in a phased manner, using a snowball approach that accommodates the structure of the network to evolve.

Our PMNCH Board Chair, Helen Clark, will coordinate and facilitate the GLN, supported by the PMNCH Secretariat. The Secretariat will provide analysis of needs and gaps based on evidence-based knowledge developed by partners. PMNCH will help build consensus on and ownership of policies and the various ways to address the challenges of delivering on the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016 – 2030).

### **Status**

The GLN concept has been developed by the PMNCH Board Chair together with representatives from the Partner Engagement in Countries Committee (PECC), Strategic Advocacy Committee (SAC) and the Governance and Ethics Committee (GEC)<sup>2</sup>. The concept will be organically developed further.

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<sup>2</sup>Standing Committee representatives involved in concept development include Joy Phumaphi (PECC), Lars Gronseth (SAC), and Flavia Bustreo (GEC).



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### Discussion Questions

- How can the GLN have catalytic effect and build momentum for effective global, regional, and national action for WCAH?
- Recommendations for leaders to be approached?