



Women's,
Children's and
Adolescents'
Health

Hosted by the World Health Organization

20 Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
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PMNCH Board Meeting

4 and 5 July 2024, WHO, Geneva

Executive Memo

Overview, objectives, and questions for reflection

This Executive Memo provides an overview of the issues to be discussed at PMNCH's Board Meeting, to be held in person on 4 and 5 July 2024 and the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. It also provides guidance on any decisions that need to be made.

The 33rd PMNCH Board meeting will provide an opportunity for the Board members to:

1. Agree major priorities and opportunities for PMNCH to advance MNCH, SRHR and AWB goals in the final period of our current 2021-2025 strategy, taking forward the current PMNCH workplan and with respect to current national, regional and global contexts and challenges.
2. Initiate discussion on priorities for the development of the 2026-2030 PMNCH Strategy, including how PMNCH should position its issues and itself in relation to post-2030 UN development goal-setting process, and with respect to the forthcoming PMNCH evaluation for the 2021-2025 period. What is PMNCH's unique contribution, and how can it be best resourced and supported?
3. Approve the January to June 2024 Progress Report, and the PMNCH 2023 Annual Report.

This Executive Memo is developed and made available in conjunction with the draft Board Agenda to assist Board participants by: (i) describing and contextualizing the issue to be discussed; and (ii) highlighting opportunities for decision points. It provides an overview of all the main issues, with details to be found in the individual Board papers under each of the agenda items.

All Board papers can be downloaded [here](#)

As per usual practice, this Board meeting will be livestreamed, and its recording made available on PMNCH's website after the meeting has concluded.





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4 July 2024: 33rd PMNCH Board Meeting

ITEM 1 - Opening remarks, including conflict of interest review, agenda adoption and Note for the Record from November 2023 Board meeting

The 33rd PMNCH Board Meeting will be opened by Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, PMNCH Board Chair, who will welcome all of the participants – those joining in person in Geneva and those who will be attending virtually. Board members will also be welcomed by a video message from PMNCH's Board Chair, Hon. Minister J. P. Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare and PMNCH Board Vice Chair.

This is also the first Board meeting for PMNCH's newly appointed Executive Director, Rajat Khosla, who will be invited to share keynote remarks with the Board.

During this item, Members will be requested to review and approve the draft Agenda for the Board meeting, which was shared in advance, and to approve the Note for the Record from the previous meeting.

A Conflict-of-Interest declaration form was shared with Board members in advance of the meeting, allowing those with any real or perceived conflicts of interest related to one or more of the Board sessions to register these. Board members will also have an additional opportunity to declare any such possible conflicts of interest at the start of the Board meeting.

Decision(s)

- Approve the 4- 5 July 2024 Board Agenda.
- Approve the Note for the Record from the most recent PMNCH Board Meeting, 27 and 28 November 2023.

Document(s) for the meeting

- [PMNCH-B33-2024; 1a, Agenda, 4-5 July 2024](#)
- PMNCH-B33-2024; 1b, Executive Memo, 4-5 July 2024
- [PMNCH-B33-2024; 1c, Note for the Record, 27-28 November 2023](#)

ITEM 2 - Strategic Dialogue 1: Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Context

Global progress to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality has stalled drastically since 2015, bringing the massive gains of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) era to a halt. Efforts to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality have been further hampered by wide inequities that exist between and within countries. More specifically,



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fragile states and poorest communities continue to bear the biggest burden of preventable deaths among women, children and adolescents. About 50% of maternal, newborn and under-five deaths occur in humanitarian settings, and an estimated 400 million children are living in, or fleeing from, conflict zones.

Furthermore, risks to maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) are compounded by high levels of malnutrition, inadequate access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), as well as the impact of conflicts, higher costs of living, and pandemic threats. Pregnant women, newborns and children also face distinct and increased risks from [climate change and related disasters](#), which act as a threat multiplier for MNCH. Urgent and coordinated course-correction is therefore needed to address these ongoing and emerging challenges and the stagnation in progress.

The Board, while reflecting on this broader context, will have an opportunity to consider options for reinvigorating a collective response to this situation, including how PMNCH can take a leadership role in implementing the WHO [resolution](#) to Accelerate progress towards reducing maternal, newborn, and child mortality to achieve SDG targets 3.1 and 3.2, as adopted at the 77th World Health Assembly in May 2024.

The dialogue will include considerations of four proposed priority topics for moving towards MNCH acceleration. These include: (i) Improving MNCH financing; (ii) Advancing MNCH in humanitarian and fragile settings; (iii) Addressing the impacts of climate change on MNCH; and (iv) Strengthening PHC and Human Resources for MNCH.

Objectives

Against the above-mentioned context, this session will aim to identify key priorities and opportunities for PMNCH to advance MNCH goals in the final period of the 2021-2025 strategy, taking forward the current PMNCH workplan and with respect to current national, regional and global contexts and challenges.

Expected outcome

Provide strategic guidance on PMNCH actions to advance Maternal, Newborn and Child Health during 2024-2025 and toward the 2030 goals.

Documents

- [PMNCH-B33-2024; 02a: MNCH Discussion Note](#)



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ITEM 3 - Strategic Dialogue 2: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Context

Gaps in SRHR create a significant burden on individuals, communities, and economies, especially those who are marginalized and most vulnerable. For example, 70% of women and girls living in humanitarian and crisis settings experience gender-based violence, compared to 35% worldwide.¹ Almost 50% of women in 57 countries face constraints on their bodily autonomy and reproductive agency, such as their ability to make their own decisions about whether to have sex, use contraception, and seek reproductive health care.²

SRHR, alongside associated gender and human rights concerns, face direct challenges worldwide, marked by an erosion of human rights around the world. Within the context of sexual and reproductive health this is manifested as a pushback against human rights and gender equality operating across global, regional, national, and local spheres³, which specifically targets core elements of SRHR such as women's and girls' agency, abortion access, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), and LGBTIQ+ rights. This movement is systematically seeking to dilute rights-based language (including SRHR) within the United Nations (UN) system, directly and through its influence on government officials, jeopardizing advances in global health and development.

It is within this context that PMNCH has an important role to play in the promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and ensuring human rights are at the centre of global, regional and national policy and programming efforts. In doing so, the Board members will have an opportunity to engage with each other on exploring the potential PMNCH response to (i) anti-rights movements; (ii) declining funding for SRHR; and (iii) policy and political clashes for SRHR.

Objectives

Identify major priorities and opportunities for PMNCH to advance SRHR goals in the final period of our current 2021-2025 strategy, taking forward the current PMNCH workplan and with respect to current national, regional and global contexts and challenges.

¹ Global Humanitarian Overview 2021, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, December 2020. <https://2021.gho.unocha.org/global-trends/gender-and-gender-based-violence-humanitarian-action/>

² My body is my own: Claiming the right to autonomy and self-determination, UNFPA State of the World Population 2021, <https://www.unfpa.org/sowp-2021>.

³ Wilton Park. Working Together to promote comprehensive, universal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights, April 2023. <https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/reports/working-together-to-promote-comprehensive-universal-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights/summary/>.



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Expected outcome

Provide strategic guidance on PMNCH actions to advance Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights during 2024-2025 and toward the 2030 goals.

Documents

- [PMNCH-B33-2024; 03a: SRHR Discussion Note](#)

Reflections and key take aways from Day One

PMNCH Board Chair Helen Clark will provide a verbal summary of key thematic issues emerging on Day One.

5 July: 33rd PMNCH Board Meeting

ITEM 4 - Strategic Dialogue 3: Adolescent Well-Being

Context

While significant strides have been made in advancing adolescent well-being (AWB), various challenges persist, including threats of rollback on previous gains. Global pushback on crucial issues, such as the SRHR of adolescents, including comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), by anti-rights movements pose significant barriers to progress.

Additionally, issues such as climate change, artificial intelligence, and cyber-bullying pose intersectoral risks and challenges, demanding attention and resources but also providing an opportunity for engaging, mobilizing and working with adolescents and youth for solutions. Furthermore, increasing conflict and crises are diverting attention and funds globally, while economic constraints faced by many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are reasons for significant reduction in resources allocated for education, health, social welfare, nutrition etc., which are critical for AWB.

PMNCH stands uniquely positioned to advocate for increased accountability and prioritization of AWB within national policies and programmes, and thus ensuring continued attention and action for AWB. The Board will have an opportunity to discuss proposed areas of potential action, including: (i) leveraging PMNCH's network of partners to promote and sustain the momentum of the 1.8 Billion campaign; (ii) expanding political advocacy and leadership for targeted focus on AWB; and (iii) leveraging digital and traditional media to promote AWB.



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Objectives

Delineate major priorities and opportunities for PMNCH to advance AWB goals in the final period of our current 2021-2025 Strategy, taking forward the current PMNCH workplan and with respect to current national, regional and global contexts and challenges.

Expected outcome

- Provide strategic guidance on PMNCH actions to advance adolescents health and wellbeing during 2024-2025 and toward the 2030 goals.

Document(s)

- [PMNCH-B33-2024; 03a AWB Discussion Note](#)

ITEM 5 - Progress Report to the Board

Context

The PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) oversees the operational aspects of PMNCH's work, and reports on these to the PMNCH Board.

Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, as Chair of the EC, will provide a few opening remarks on the work of the EC in 2024 and will then call on PMNCH's Executive Director, Rajat Khosla, to present a progress report on the work delivered by PMNCH in the first six months of 2024.

Objectives

This will be an opportunity for the Board to hear an update on work that has been delivered in the first half of 2024, as well as be given a chance to reflect on the formal Annual Report for the year 2023.

Expected outcome

- Approval of the 2023 Annual Report and January to June 2024 Progress Report.

Document(s)

- [2023 Annual Report](#)
- [2024 PMNCH Workplan and Budget](#)



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ITEM 6 - Strategic Dialogue 4: Political leadership and parliamentary engagement for women's, children's and adolescents' health

Objectives

This panel discussion will focus on opportunities for supporting political leadership and parliamentary action across all three PMNCH thematic objectives. This action will be guided by regional and country frameworks and supported by all PMNCH constituencies and current country-focused efforts, including those aligned with the Global Leaders' Network for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health.

Board decision

- Guidance on how PMNCH can best focus its efforts to increase political leadership for WCAH advocacy and accountability at country and regional levels.

Document(s)

- [Global Leaders Network Concept Note](#)

ITEM 7 - Strategic Dialogue 5: PMNCH's strategic vision and priorities, 2026-2030

Context

As PMNCH enters the final years of its current 2021-2025 Strategy, it is important that the Board begins to consider the future direction of travel for the partnership, in the context of the ever-changing external landscape. This is also a time for all PMNCH stakeholders to begin taking stock of the work delivered as part of the current strategy, thus looking into the future on the basis of what has worked well and integrating lessons of what could be further improved.

Historically, PMNCH's work has been independently evaluated towards the end of each of its five-year strategy periods. Therefore, PMNCH is planning to initiate a similar process to provide direction for designing and implementing a new strategy to 2030.

To support the Board on this journey, two sets of closely integrated workstreams are being proposed for the Board's consideration and as outlined in the background paper, namely:

- Workstream 1 (Jul / Aug to Nov 2024): Overarching framework of strategic priorities to 2030. Informed by the PMNCH Board and constituency leaders, an independent consultant will coordinate the development of a "strategic priorities framework" to be presented at the Nov 2024 Board meeting.
- Workstream 2 (Jul / Aug 2024 to launch in Sep 2025): External evaluation and development of a 2026-2030 Strategy. New PMNCH strategy and results



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framework to be launched by Sep 2025, incorporating agreed strategic priorities framework (Workstream 1) and lessons learned from the evaluation.

The Board members will have an opportunity during this session to provide their reflections on the main priorities for PMNCH going forward, and as initial inputs into the work above.

Objective

To review and agree current proposals and timelines for the PMNCH evaluation and strategic prioritization exercise, and in doing so to reflect on principles, practice and requirements for this effort. It is expected that this work will ultimately lead to an updated articulation of PMNCH's unique value as well as its contribution to women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being, to be articulated as part of its 2026-2030 Strategy.

Board decision

- Approval of roadmap for evaluation and strategy development, including broad guidance on thematic and functional priorities to underpin the evaluation and 2026-30 PMNCH Strategy process.

Document(s)

- [Strategy Development 2026-2030: Evaluating PMNCH's work to date and considering future opportunities](#)

ITEM 8 - Closing

In closing the Board meeting, Rt. Hon Helen Clark, Board Chair, will summarize and share reflections and 'take aways' from the Board Meeting.

As per usual practice, a draft Note for the Record (including all decisions) will be shared after the Board meeting for review by Board members.