

15 June 2020

## Executive Memo

### *Overview, objectives and questions for reflection*

#### *Virtual PMNCH Board Meeting, 09 June 2020 (12:00 to 15:00 CET)*

This Executive Memo provides an overview of the issues to be discussed at PMNCH's Board Meeting, to be held by teleconference on 30 June 2020, and provides guidance on decisions to be made.

This virtual Board meeting will take place on the Webex platform, with the connection details noted at the end of this message. Given the virtual nature of this Board meeting, and in line with the PMNCH Board manual, we would like to kindly remind you that only Board Members may speak and vote during the meeting; Alternates and Observers may be invited to speak as per the discretion of the Board Chair.

The Board meeting will be focused on the following objectives:

1. Decision on next steps in finalizing the PMNCH 2021 to 2025 Strategy document.
2. Decision on next steps in developing the PMNCH governance reform model.
3. Approval of the Executive Director's report on work undertaken in 2019 and the 2019 financial report, as well as guidance on the PMNCH 2020 prioritized workplan, including the repurposing of activities and budget due to COVID-19.
4. Approval of PMNCH COVID-19 response and the Call to Action.

This Executive Memo, to be read in conjunction with the draft Board Agenda, is intended to assist Board participants by: (i) summarizing the issue to be discussed; and (ii) highlighting action points set forth to the Board.

### **1. Agenda Item 1 – Opening remarks of the 25th PMNCH Executive Board Meeting**

The Board will be opened by remarks from the Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, PMNCH Board Chair, and a keynote speech by the Government of India in the context of COVID-19 and PMNCH's response, as well as the PMNCH Strategy refresh.

### **2. Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Conflict of Interest, Adoption of the Agenda and note for the record from previous Board meeting (10-11 November 2019, Nairobi)**

#### **2.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

This administrative aspect of the meeting will see the Board members declare any possible conflict of interest.

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## 2.2 Approval of draft Agenda

Board members are requested to review and approve the Agenda for the meeting, or potentially amend it to reflect any newly emerged issues to be discussed.

### Document(s)

- *PMNCH-B25-2020; 2a, Agenda, 30 Jun 2020*
- *PMNCH-B25-2020; 2b, Executive Memo, 30 Jun 2020*

### Decision(s)

- *Approve the draft Agenda*

## 2.3 Approval of Board note for the record from 24th PMNCH Board Meeting, 10-11 November 2019

The last Board meeting was held on 10-11 November 2019. It was chaired by Rt. Hon Helen Clark. The notes were circulated on 05 December 2019 to the Board. A few revisions were made based on comments received from Board members at the time.

All actions agreed and noted in the Note for the Record have been acted upon and delivered.

### Document(s)

- [\*PMNCH-B25-2020; 2c, Board NfR Nairobi, 10-11 Nov 2019\*](#)
- [\*PMNCH-B25-2020; 2d, Monitoring of decisions from 24th Board, Nairobi, 10-11 2019\*](#)

### Decision(s)

- *Approve Board NfR Nairobi, 10-11 Nov 2019, noting actions undertaken as planned.*

## 3. Agenda Item 3: Report from the Executive Director

### 3.1 PMNCH in 2019 and 2020

PMNCH Executive Director Helga Fogstad will present the Board with an overview of work undertaken by PMNCH in 2019, including the six focus areas that have defined PMNCH's 2018 to 2020 Business Plan. This summary will also include a proposal for 2020 PMNCH priorities, as shaped by the findings of the independent External Evaluation (Jan 2020), the emerging direction of the 2021-2025 Strategy, as well as the COVID-19 context. The Board is asked to approve the PMNCH's report for 2019, as well as the proposed programme of work and repurposed budget for 2020.

In her presentation, Helga will also inform the Board of a recent [\*Statement from the PMNCH Secretariat on opposing discrimination and exclusion\*](#). This statement, published on the PMNCH web site and through social media, opposes discrimination and exclusion based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity and other grounds, which are often the underlying driver of inequities faced

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by women, children and adolescents. This infringes on their rights and dignity and leads to vast disparities in health and well-being. In this context, Helga will present a set of draft action points developed by the Secretariat to address discrimination and exclusion, with a request for Board input and suggestions.

#### Document(s)

- [\*PMNCH-B25-2020; 3a, Report on PMNCH highlights for 2019 and priorities for 2020\*](#)

#### Decision(s)

- *The Board is asked to approve:*
  - *PMNCH's report for 2019; and*
  - *Repurposed workplan and budget for 2020.*

Additional background documents for this agenda items include:

- [\*PMNCH 2019 Annual Report\*](#)
- [\*PMNCH 2019 Workplan with 'Traffic Lights'\*](#)
- [\*PMNCH 2020 Workplan with 'Traffic Lights'\*](#)

### 3.2 Draft PMNCH 2019 Financial Report

The Draft PMNCH 2019 Financial Report provides information on Partnership's income and expenditures in 2019. It notes that PMNCH's budget in 2019 was US\$ 10 million.

In summary, PMNCH secured US\$ 8.54 million of new revenue in 2019. However, reflecting individual grant agreement specificities, some resources recognized in 2018 as received were allocated to 2019, and therefore PMNCH allocated a total of US\$ 10.26 million for use in 2019, meeting its US\$ 10 million essential budget. Approximately 83% of funds available for use in 2019 were from governments, 15% from private foundations, and 2% from multilateral agencies/initiatives.

The PMNCH implementation rate in 2019 was 92%, as of 31 December 2019.

A fully certified financial report will be circulated to the Board as soon as it is finalized by WHO.

#### Document(s)

- [\*PMNCH-B25-2020; 3b, Draft PMNCH 2019 Financial Report\*](#)

#### Decision(s)

- *The PMNCH Board is asked to approve the draft 2019 Financial Report, subject to WHO certification process taking place. The final certified report will be shared electronically as soon as received from WHO.*

#### 4. Agenda Item 4: Draft PMNCH 2021 to 2025 Strategy

The Board is presented with a second full draft document of the PMNCH 2021 to 2025 Strategy. Anders Nordström, Chair of the Strategy Committee, and Peter Colenso, Independent Consultant, will give an overview of the Strategy development process and highlight key issues for Board feedback.

Since the last Board meeting in Nairobi in November 2019, when this process was launched, inputs into this document have to date consisted of:

- Three consultation rounds with PMNCH partners under the auspices of the Strategy Committee (including meetings of individual constituencies, surveys, reaching out to in-country partners, etc.): (i) Dec 2019 with chairs of constituencies and members of the Strategy Committee on the overall process and approach; (ii) Mar – Apr 2020 consultations on the draft Strategy Outline; and (iii) May 2020 consultations on the first full draft of the Strategy. Detailed recording and monitoring of all comments have been undertaken to ensure that all comments were addressed as best as possible.
- Two day in-person Strategy Retreat in Feb 2020 in Geneva.
- Work undertaken by the Governance & Nominations Committee on governance restructuring as well as work undertaken by several working groups, including Advocacy, Accountability, Country Engagement, etc.

The PMNCH 2021 to 2025 Strategy development process is based on a number of sequential steps, as agreed by the Board at its meeting in Nairobi in Nov 2019 and set out in Table 1 below. We are currently at the highlighted June 2020 stage of the process. The Board is not expected to decide on the Strategy at its 30 June 2020 meeting, but provide guidance for its finalization.

*Table 1: Strategy development process*

Dates	Steps
Nov 2019	Process agreed and launched by the Board in Nairobi, Kenya.
Dec 2019	First consultative outreach, led by Chair of the Strategy Committee, discussed the process and approach with chairs of constituencies and members of the Strategy Committee.
Jan 2020	Constituencies meet to discuss documentation in advance of the February 2020 Strategy Retreat.
Feb 2020	PMNCH two-day Strategy Retreat.
March to April 2020	Consultations on the draft Strategy Outline
18 May-5 June 2020	Consultations on the first full draft of the Strategy commence.
1 June	EC special meeting on PMNCH COVID-19 response including call for action, which also influence the draft Strategy
9 June 2020	EC meeting to review consultation outcomes, governance options and country engagement approach.
30 June 2020	Virtual Board meeting.
July to Sept 2020	Further actions to be agreed.

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### Document(s)

- [PMNCH-B25-2020; 4a, Draft PMNCH 2021 to 2025 Strategy](#)

### Decision(s)

- *The PMNCH Board is asked to review the Strategy and decide on next steps for its finalization.*
- *The Board may wish to reflect on the following questions:*
  - *Do you feel that the changes made to the draft Strategy from the original Strategy Outline capture views and suggestions emerging from the consultations?*
  - *Do you think that we now have a sufficiently agile and sharp strategy that will enable PMNCH with all its members to really make a difference for WCAH?*
  - *What is the optimum timing for completion and launch?*
  - *What will be the next steps for engaging with PMNCH members across the world?*

## 5. Agenda Item 5: PMNCH Governance Reform

The findings of PMNCH's external evaluation (Jan 2020) recommended that the Partnership undertakes a process of reform to reduce the complexity of our governance structures, maximize value for money, and ensure that our structures remain fully conducive to high level advocacy and partner engagement. In addition, the evaluation recommended that PMNCH governance and Secretariat structures should be fully aligned with the priorities emerging from the PMNCH 2021 – 2025 Strategy (as per Agenda item 4 above).

Since March 2020, the PMNCH's Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC) has overseen a robust process of research and analysis on governance reform, led by the GNC's Vice Chair, Dr. Dorothy Shaw. This work has led to the delineation of several different options for revamping the PMNCH governance structures. It has included extensive consultations with stakeholders, including interactions with the Board Chair, PMNCH's Strategy Committee and other partners; interviews with leaders and analysis of 18 other partnerships in global health to compare the current PMNCH governance model and identify new ideas for reform; as well as literature reviews on topics including global health partnership governance, partner engagement and secretariat models.

Flavia Bustreo, the Chair of the GNC, and Dorothy Shaw, Vice-Chair of the GNC, will use this opportunity to present three governance options that have been developed to date, following detailed work by the members of the GNC. This committee now seeks a decision from the Board on recommended next steps in the further development of models for reform.

### Document(s)

- [PMNCH-B25-2020; 5a, PMNCH options for Governance models. Discussion paper.](#)

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### Decision(s)

- *The PMNCH Board is asked to review the options for governance models and decide on next steps in the development process.*

## 6. Agenda Item 6: COVID-19: Call to Action

Responding to COVID-19, this Call to Action unifies the voice of all PMNCH partners to protect and promote the health and rights of women, children and adolescents through strengthened political commitment, policies, and resource mobilization and financing.

The Call to Action, coordinated by the PMNCH Advocacy Working Group, focuses attention on seven advocacy “asks” in relation to COVID-19 response and recovery. These include: protecting access to SRMNCAH services and supplies; advancing SRHR and gender equality; quality care and community engagement; recruitment and conditions for frontline health workers; social protections for marginalized and vulnerable groups and enhanced data; WASH; and prevention of violence against women, children and adolescents.

The Call to Action was workshopped by the Executive Committee at a dedicated meeting on COVID-19 on 1 June. It was presented by the Advocacy Working Group in revised form at an Executive Committee meeting on 9 June. The current draft incorporates this feedback. It is presented here for Board review and approval. The Call to Action is intended for immediate launch by Board Chair Helen Clark at the “Lives in the Balance: A COVID-19 Summit for the Health and Well-Being of Women, Children and Adolescents”, 1-2 July.

Next, this Call to Action will guide the development of a 24-month action plan for all PMNCH partners to take forward. This follows the decision of the Nov 2019 Board meeting to develop an umbrella campaign approach to joint advocacy. The Advocacy Working Group, co-chaired by the White Ribbon Alliance and Norad, will work with the PMNCH Country Engagement Working Group and other committees/working groups in establishing a concrete and actionable plan, measured by SMART indicators. This plan will build on, and amplify, the efforts of all PMNCH partners, as well as existing PMNCH knowledge and advocacy activities on COVID-19 [PMNCH-B25-2020; 3a. Report on PMNCH highlights for 2019 and priorities for 2020].

### Document(s)

- [\*PMNCH-B25-2020; 6a, PMNCH COVID-19 Call to Action\*](#)

### Decision(s)

- *The PMNCH Board is asked to review and approve the PMNCH COVID-19 Call to Action.*

## 7. Any other business and closing remarks

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- Update on “Lives in the Balance: A COVID-10 Summit for the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents” 1-2 July: Lisa Hilmi, CORE Group; NGO constituency chair
- Update on the Board meeting in Mexico.
- Closing remarks by Rt Hon Helen Clark.