

New Delhi, India  
13-15th November, 2010

## *PMNCH Partners' Forum 2010: Concept Note*

# **Innovation & Partnerships for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health**

### **Background**

In 2010, the global community is two-thirds of the way to the target of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Over the past decade many countries have taken significant steps towards reaching the MDGs, but there is need for renewed energy and commitment in this last mile, particularly as related to achieving MDGs 4 & 5. In 2010, many high-level meetings emphasize the importance of maternal, newborn and child health, including the G8 summit in June with the Canadian presidency. For the first time, a Special Session at the UN General Assembly in September 2010 will focus on maternal and child health. The PMNCH Partners' Forum in New Delhi in November 2010 will build on the commitments of these previous high-level meetings in order to accelerate progress in the last part of this historic global journey towards the Millennium Development Goals. The Forum will celebrate success stories, promote innovation, and facilitate learning across countries in order to catalyze the changes required to meet MDGs 4 & 5. The meeting in Delhi is significant also as it is five years after the 2005 Lives in the Balance conference, at which the Delhi Declaration was launched and The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) was born. Today PMNCH has over 300 partner organizations including governments, multilateral organizations, donors and foundations, civil society organizations, health care professionals' associations, and academic, research and training communities. This will be the second full meeting of PMNCH partners, following the first Partners' Forum in Dar es Salaam in April 2007.

### **Objectives**

The Forum will be a high-level political event to share best practices and innovation in MNCH policy and practice, to promote South-South and South-North learning, and to mobilize multisectoral partnerships and socio-political movements for MNCH, such as those that catalyzed advances in HIV/AIDS and malaria work. This is not a technical meeting, but an opportunity for partner exchange and alliance-building, re-commitment to our overall goals and messages, and a platform for raising visibility for MNCH issues.

## Themes

The themes for the Forum are yet to be defined, but in initial brainstorming sessions with key stakeholders in India, three main themes were emphasized:

1. **Ownership & voice:** Supporting women and communities to speak out about MNCH issues and demand urgent change.
2. **Innovation & change:** Highlighting innovation in MNCH - political, financial, delivery of interventions eg, mobile phone technology, cash transfers, TV viewer clubs on MNCH, etc. Success stories of how required changes in MNCH were effected will be highlighted.
3. **Partnerships & mobilization:** Expanding partnerships beyond the health sector to media, parliament, local government, education, and corporations -- and energizing these constituencies to make a difference.

## Organization

The Forum will be co-hosted by the Government of India and PMNCH.

- The Minister of Health and Family Welfare (HFW) in India has been consulted and strongly supports the Forum. Invitations to ministers from other countries will be sent jointly by the Minister HFW and the Acting Chair of PMNCH. The Government of India will provide the venue for the Forum and host a reception. A preliminary cost estimate for additional expenses for the Forum is \$500,000 to be borne by PMNCH.
- There is an opportunity to join forces with the World Economic Forum's Regional Business Alliance meeting, particularly as related to the Forum themes of Public-Private Partnerships and Innovation. There is also the possibility of collaborating with the USAID-supported MCH-STAR project, which plans a three-day technical gathering following the Partners' Forum, of national professional officers working at state-level across India.
- A Strategic Steering Group comprising some PMNCH board members and external advisors will help shape Forum, including the main themes, broad development of the agenda and speakers.
- The PMNCH Acting Chair is willing to continue liaising with partners and to oversee, with the Strategic Steering Group, the organization of the Forum.
- An organizing partner/ committee will be identified in New Delhi to facilitate the day-to-day processes involved in hosting the Forum, including overall event production and agenda management, invitations, partner communications, registration and travel, conference papers, oversight of logistics & PR sub-contracts, etc.
- Event management company to be sub-contracted to handle the venue and food, A/V requirements, registration, on-site support, etc. PR company and communication partners to handle media and signage/communication products.

- Possible tasks for PMNCH secretariat in Geneva: facilitate communications with Strategic Steering Group and local organizing committee, produce member communications (web, e-blasts), coordinate content for background papers, and board/secretariat travel.

## Expected attendance

20 ministers, 300 international representatives of PMNCH member organizations, 200 national participants  
(+ 150 additional invited guests/media for the opening event of the Forum).

## Products

- **The Delhi Declaration 2010**, will signal renewed commitment and specify required changes required to accelerate progress towards MDGs 4 & 5. The Declaration will be signed by all the Ministers present and released by Mrs Sonia Gandhi at the conclusion of the meeting.
- **Innovation 'market-place'** will be a venue where partners attending the Forum and external groups can display and discuss innovations in MNCH. The market-place will be a place to network, learn, develop new ideas, and buy or commission products and projects that can accelerate progress for maternal, newborn, and child health.
- **A multi-media project on participation and innovation** will highlight the conference themes. Portraits of women, families and community leaders affected by MNCH issues, giving voice to their experiences (joy, sorrow, hope, resilience). Where relevant, stories might illustrate grassroots impact of innovations in politics, financing and delivery. A book that show-cases these stories with pictures and accompanying short narrative text could be given to Forum participants on behalf of the host government. Film and photo exhibit/banners, based on the book, would feature at the meeting.
- **A concert with national and international performing artists** could be the Forum finale and be a powerful advocacy mechanism to elevate MNCH on the world stage.

