Note for the Record
PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) Meeting
24 February, 2014 – Telephone Call

PRESENT

EC Members: Flavia Bustreo, WHO (FB); Jennifer Goosen, Canada (JG); Francesco Aureli, (FA); José Miguel Belizán, Institute of Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (JB); and Nicole Klingen, World Bank (NK).

PMNCH Secretariat: Carole Presern (CP), Andres de Francisco (AdF) and Abir Shady (AS)

Speakers and observers: Elizabeth Mason, WHO (EM), John Good, IPPF (JG), Kate Somers, BMGF (KS), Julian Schweitzer, Results for Development (JS), Marta Seoane, WHO and Frederik Kristensen, WHO.

Apologies: Anuradha Gupta (Government of India); Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, (FIGO); Craig Friderichs, (GSM Association)

AGENDA

Chair: Flavia Bustreo

- ITEM 1 – Review of NfR of previous meeting
- ITEM 2 – Financing and governance:
  - 2014 Workplan and Budget – Speaker: Elizabeth Mason (EM)
  - Partners Forum: Agenda and Budget – Speaker: Carole Presern (CP)
- ITEM 3 – RMNCH Policy Compendium – Speaker: Kate Somers (KS)
- ITEM 4 – Update on the Post-2015 Development Agenda – Speaker: Julian Schweitzer (JS)
- ITEM 5 – Update on PMNCH External Evaluation – John Good (JG)
- ITEM 6 – AOB

Please see Annex 1 for the action list and Annex 2 for background on each agenda item.

1. Review and approval of NfR from the EC call on 6 December, 2013

Note for the record was approved.

2. Financing and governance

2014 Workplan and Budget

EM indicated that as the workplan has been approved by the EC and recently by the Board, this is to notify the EC on specific items that partners asked to be expanded. In brief, comments received by the Secretariat included questions on 'fundraising and resource mobilization strategies', 'requests for more details on activities', and a request for more details on the Partners' Forum's budget' (See background section). The three groups of questions were answered by stating that the Secretariat approach the EC to seek advice on providing detailed information.

The overall goal is to work with the EC to develop further details on the workplan and develop fundraising strategies.

EC members commended PMNCH work in preparation of the 2014 workplan. Members asked about the different scenarios that could happen if PMNCH is not able to mobilize resources up to the current budget ceiling of the workplan USD12.5 million and is left with the current available amount USD11 million. Questions were raised about the Secretariat's plan for fund raising and on the accountability work stream in 2014.

CP indicated that:

- In either cases, if PMNCH does not succeed to raise funds beyond the current balance of USD11 million or should PMNCH is able to raise funds more than the USD12.5 million, which is the current budget of the 2014 workplan, the Secretariat will seek guidance from the EC either to shift activities from the current workplan to be able to execute activities up to the available funds. The other scenario of mobilizing resources beyond USD12.5 million, the EC will be approach to consult on other activities to added to 2014 workplan.
- PMNCH is currently in contact with several donors as part of its resource mobilization efforts, including Norway, Denmark and the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists.
- The accountability work is a top priority for PMNCH and a new approach is foreseen in 2014-2015 to avoid past difficulties with regards to partners responding to the survey. There are discussions with the UNSG's office for them to write to different partners requesting them to report to PMNCH in any way possible to them. A consultant would then provide synthesis of any reports that will be received from partners.

Action: The EC requested its members to reach out to their constituencies to actively engage in reporting to PMNCH for the 2014 accountability report.

- **Partners Forum: Agenda and Budget**

CP updated the EC on preparations being carried out by PMNCH, the co-hosts and other partners. It is anticipated that the Forum cost amounts to USD1.7 million taking all costs into account. It would be necessary to reach out to partners to raise funds to cover any financial gaps. However, PMNCH is awaiting and the Promise Renewed and other partners to specify the amount that they are willing to put forward to cover costs of the Forum. Once such information is confirmed PMNCH will be in a position to indicate the exact financial gap, which will then be the target of relevant fund raising.

PMNCH have recently written to the South African Government, particularly about their interest in providing logistics and other support to the event. CP indicated that during the Forum the Countdown report and ENAP will be launched.

Action: The EC requested the D&F constituency to discuss how they can support the Forum, especially once the exact financial gap is specified.

3. RMNCH Policy Compendium

KS briefed the EC on extensive effort and expert review from different partners around the globe to develop the RMNCH Policy Compendium. She emphasized that the Compendium is a multi-stakeholders' effort which provides countries with the tools to ensure policies and enabling environment are available to achieve progress. KS specified the following two points for the EC to consider:

- It is important to think of best ways to disseminate the Policy Compendium and ensure that it is used by countries and other partners; and
- Some mechanisms need to be put in place to measure progress/impact of utilizing the Compendium. An idea could be that Countdown to create a tool checklist for countries to assess their policy environment after using the Compendium.

The EC thanked KS and all those involved in the production of this important document. A question was raised about the extent to which the Compendium has been reviewed and involvement of stakeholders. EM and ADF indicted that the Compendium has gone through an extensive review by different constituencies through the advisory group networks, and that field testing has started through partners using it at different levels (India was cited as an example). It was also pointed that over a dozen institutions undertook a through review prior to approving to have their logo included in the document.

The EC reiterated its gratitude to all the teams and partners involved in this process.

Action:

- To elaborate the acknowledgement section of the Compendium to include the involvement of stakeholders .
- EC members to discuss with their constituencies how best to disseminate and ensure that the Compendium is used where appropriate, particularly as a companion document to the Essential Interventions.

4. Update on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

JS updated the EC on status of work being done by the Post-2015 Working Group, particularly their work to include adolescents health and ensure that this link is established and included as a global target. The position paper has been developed by a group of 30 members representing different constituencies and countries.

Also, an analysis on the MDGs and world progress is necessary and subsequently to develop country targets and relevant benchmarks. There is a need to have a consensus around indicators for this process. It is suggested to have an online consultation to this effect, whose findings could be presented at the Partners' Forum.

PMNCH could play a key role to convene a virtual debate in preparation for the Forum and give real indicators and goals at the Forum. This would lead to a declaration made at the Forum and a clear position taken by the partners attending the Forum.

FA indicated that the NGOs constituency will be convening a call that week and this item will be a discussion point. FA will update the EC on outcome of those discussions.

The EC thanked JS for the update and the great work being done by the Working Group. The EC particularly emphasized the following:

- It is important to have double targets for countries to match the ongoing accountability discussions;
- It is important to reach a consensus on the goals and indicators, particularly based on an analysis of the MDGs;
- PMNCH will be advocating for a post-2015 accountability model to match the landscape then, especially that it is hard to know whether the CoIA and iERG model would be suitable then.

Action:

- Members of the Multilaterals Constituency to exchange notes and discuss positions to reach a consensus and statement on possible goals and indicators. Such goals and indicators would initially be global, however, they need to be further tailored at country level.
- PMNCH Secretariat to convene a virtual consultation with partners on goals and indicators in preparation for the Partners' Forum and a possible declaration then.

5. Update on PMNCH External Evaluation

JG updated the EC on the process the External Evaluation Committee has taken to choose the firm that would carry out PMNCH external evaluation. A tender took place to which eleven candidates responded and PWC was chosen through a unanimous agreement by the Committee.

PWC are in regular contact with the Committee, discussing terms of references, the evaluation process and an inception report was received by the Committee, which will be discussed on the same day by Committee.

The evaluation will be carried out through three main stages:

1. Collection of key information and interviews;
2. Assessment of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of PMNCH; and
3. Identification and evaluation of key areas of operational services for improvement.

The above stages will look upon four areas:

- PMNCH vision, mission and strategy - Comparative advantage and added value of PMNCH
- Governance and structure:
- Operations and delivery model:
- Monitoring of results and impact:

The above would certainly touch upon PMNCH governance structure, communication, alignment of decisions, role of the Secretariat, delivery model, financial challenges, implementation efficiency, execution of the workplan, management practices, monitoring of results and evaluation of impact, particularly with regards to the level of impact PMNCH has had on the delivery of MDGS 4 and 5. In addition to interviews, PWC would use their surveys tools to gather information.

The overall evaluation would include comparative analysis with organisations of a similar nature to PMNCH and feasibility studies for the different options and recommendations PWC will suggest.

PWC will provide a draft final report by mid-May to be reviewed by the Committee and the report will be submitted to the Board one week before the forthcoming Board Meeting on 2 July.

The EC thanked JG for this thorough update and extensive effort the Committee is undertaking to manage PMNCH external evaluation process. The EC, also, mentioned the following concerns:

- The deliverables promised by PWC are great but sound too ambitious. Is the Committee confident PWC will be able to perform as planned?
- One week is too short time to give the Board to review the draft final report. It is suggested that PWC provide a summary of main evaluation findings and recommendations on key areas for improvement to the Board early on to give members a chance to review and effectively discuss such points during the Board Meeting.
- PWC may provide the final report towards end of 2014, particularly that the section on strategic future of PMNCH post-2015 is highly dependent on the global development agenda and the landscape then. An option could even be that PMNCH may not exist under a new set of global determinants.
- The EC appreciates JG joining this month's call and the presentation he made. The EC invited JG or the chair of the Evaluation committee to join the every two months EC calls until this process if finalized.

JG reassured the EC that PWC are capable of delivering what they promised and the Committee is not worried about that. It is possible to request PWC to provide an earlier interim report with the main findings for the Board review and discussion during their meeting on 2 July. JG will talk to PWC and get back to the EC during the next call. Finally, JG accepted the EC's invitation and he or the chair of the Evaluation Committee will attend future EC calls.

Actions:

- JG to discuss with PWC the earlier interim report, which would the main evaluation findings and recommendation. This brief report would be provided to the Board early June for their review and discussion during the Board meeting on 2 July.
- JG to attend future EC calls. The next one is scheduled on Monday, 28 April.

6. AOB

No other business was raised by the EC members.

Annex I

Action List

No.	Action	Agenda Item	Focal Point	Deadline
1	ACTION: The EC requested its members to reach out to their constituencies to request them to actively engage in reporting to PMNCH for the 2014 accountability report.	Item 2	EC/Constituencies	March 2014
2	ACTION: Advocacy for the Partners' Forum.	Item 2	EC Members Constituencies The Secretariat	June 2014
3	ACTION: the EC requested the D&F constituency to discuss how they can support the Forum, especially once the exact financial gap is specified.	Item 2	The D&F Constituency	March 2014
4	ACTION: To elaborate the acknowledgement section of the Compendium to include the explanation given by EM and ADF.	Item 3	The Secretariat	March 2014
5	ACTION: EC members to discuss with their constituencies how best to disseminate and ensure that the Compendium is used where appropriate, particularly as a companion document to the Essential Interventions.	Item 3	EC Members Constituencies	March/April 2014
6	ACTION: Members of the Multilaterals Constituency to exchange notes and discuss positions to reach a consensus and statement on possible goals and indicators. Such goals and indicators would initially be global, however, they need to be further tailored at country level.	Item 4	Multilateral Constituency	March 2014

7	ACTION: PMNCH Secretariat to convene a virtual consultation on goals and indicators in preparation for the Partners' Forum and a possible declaration then.	Item 4	The Secretariat	March-May 2014
8	ACTION: John Good to discuss with PWC the earlier interim report, which would the main evaluation findings and recommendation. This brief report would be provided to the Board early June for their review and discussion during the Board meeting on 2 July.	Item 5	John Good/PWC	Last week of May/first week of June
9	ACTION: John Good to attend future EC calls. The next one is scheduled on Monday, 28 April.	Item 5	John Good The Secretariat to follow-up	28 April

Annex 2

Background on the Agenda

ITEM 2 – Financing and governance:

➢ 2014 Workplan and Budget

A draft outline of the 2014 Workplan was presented at the virtual Board Working Session on 12 December, 2014. Building on the helpful discussions at this virtual meeting, the Secretariat developed a full version of the 2014 Workplan and Budget, which was reviewed and on 31 January, 2014, recommended to the Board by the EC for a no-objection approval. A number of questions and requests for clarifications have been received from the Board and the Secretariat is now working on addressing these before the final version of the Workplan and Budget, together with the clarifications, is shared with the EC and the Board. In summary, the workplan is structured around four outcomes, the 2014 Partners Forum , and ongoing support to the Countdown to 2015 initiative. The budget is set at US$ 12.5m and it is proposed that the EC continues to oversee the funding situation in 2014. Should funding opportunities arise that would allow for a more ambitious budget of around US$ 14m, the EC will inform the Board about this, including the implications of any proposed changes to the workplan that may be appropriate. At the moment, the Partnership has secured around US$ 11m of funding for its activities in 2014, and resource mobilization work is ongoing.

- ***Funding and resource mobilisation strategy***. Questions asked were about: (i) strategy is to raise the additional resources; (ii) process to prioritise activities in case of insufficient resources, or, if additional resources are available, which activities will be scaled up. In essence, PMNCH would be guided by the EC, who oversee the implementation of the workplan.
- ***More details on activities***. Questions about providing greater detail on what activities are involved under different outputs, and what the audiences are for some of the listed outputs. These will be provided as discussions on specific activities are discussed at the EC.
- ***More details on the Partners' Forum budget***. Information on the Forum's budget will also be provided to the EC as per the ongoing discussions at the relevant committees.

➢ **Partners Forum: Agenda and Budget**

On June 30th and July 1st 2014, PMNCH will co-host its 3rd Partners' Forum at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. The co-hosts are: A promised Renewed, independent Expert Review Group (iERG) and Countdown to 2015. The Forum will bring together key stakeholders in women's and children's health as well as other sectors to:

- Develop a strategic vision for the RMNCH community to achieve the MGDs and for the post-2015 era, to be set out in a Partners' Forum Declaration
- Take stock and learn lessons from MDG achievements to inform 2015 and beyond, and guide investment and action

Strengthen shared commitments and accountability for these commitments so that women, adolescents, children and newborns and their families and communities are enabled to realise their right to the highest attainable standard of health in the years to 2015 and beyond.

ITEM 3 – RMNCH Policy Compendium

This is a companion document to the Essential Interventions, Commodities and Guidelines for RMNCH. It provides policy makers, programme managers and advocates with an 'at a glance' reference on key health and multisectoral policies that support the delivery of proven interventions to women and children. The Compendium is the result of collaborative work over the past year among many partner organizations, supported by the WHO and the PMNCH, and will now be disseminated widely. Request for EC to suggest opportunities to use the Policy Compendium among constituencies.

ITEM 4 – Update on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

PMNCH and 10 agencies organized a side event on Gender Inequality and Adolescent Girls' Health: A Post 2015 Framework for Action on the side lines of the Eighth session of the Open Working Group which addressed inequalities. The session which brought together over 100 mission representatives, youth and development partners made the case for an investment in the health of adolescent girls and highlighted critical strategies for the Post 2015 sustainable development agenda – summarized in the attached Framework. The Post 2015 working group is also overseeing the revision of the Post 2015 Position. A working draft which is currently being revised to include information on targets proposed to date is attached. A Post 2015 engagement strategy focusing on member state engagement has also been developed.

ITEM 5 – Update on PMNCH External Evaluation

The independent evaluation of PMNCH has now commenced. The evaluation is expected to balance both retrospective aspects (in terms of assessing PMNCH's activities and measuring the results achieved) and forward looking aspects in terms of the identification of any key lessons learned and recommendations for future action. Thus, the future of the Partnership, and not its past, is the overall context and focus for the evaluation. The Independent Evaluation Committee oversaw the recruitment of consultants through a transparent and competitive process, awarding the contract to PricewaterhouseCoopers. The inception report for this work has now been submitted to the Evaluation Committee, as at 17 February, 2014. Initial findings and then the draft report will be shared with the Evaluation Committee by 17 April and 30 May, 2014, respectively. The Final Report will be completed one week prior to the Partners' Forum, on 25 June 2014. PWC will present the Final Report recommendations to PMNCH Board on 02 July, 2014.