



EVERY WOMAN  
EVERY CHILD

FOR HEALTHY AND EMPOWERED WOMEN,  
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

# EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD

## 2020 DONOR REPORT





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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>EWEC</b>	EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD
<b>GLOBAL STRATEGY</b>	GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS' HEALTH (2016-2030)
<b>GFF</b>	GLOBAL FINANCING FACILITY FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
<b>HLSG</b>	HIGH-LEVEL STEERING GROUP
<b>IAP</b>	INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY PANEL
<b>PMNCH</b>	PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH
<b>SDG</b>	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL
<b>SRHR</b>	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS
<b>SRMNCAH</b>	SEXUAL, REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEWBORN, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH
<b>UHC</b>	UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE
<b>UNFPA</b>	UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND
<b>WCAH</b>	WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS' HEALTH
<b>WHO</b>	WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION





*“The achievements of the EWEC movement in the past ten years have been outstanding in terms of mobilizing action to generate greater investment in and to deliver services for the health and rights of more and more women, children and adolescents. Through active promotion of the EWEC framework – survive, thrive and transform – EWEC plays a central role in maintaining momentum towards the achievement of the SDGs, and ultimately towards securing gender equality and human rights. As the world faces multiple crises which threaten this important progress, now more than ever, partners need to recommit to the EWEC agenda and prioritize attention to ensuring the health, lives and rights of all women, children and adolescents.”*

**MICHELLE BACHELET**  
UN High Commissioner for  
Human Rights



# Introduction

## AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR: FACING CHALLENGES AND SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES IN A COVID-19 WORLD

In its 10-year history, the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) movement has never experienced a year like 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented threat to progress made in recent years toward the movement's vision of "a world in which every woman, child and adolescent in every setting realizes their rights to physical and mental health and well-being, has social and economic opportunities, and is able to participate fully in shaping sustainable and prosperous societies." Instead, nearly every woman and every child, no matter where they live, faces new and unexpected challenges; and existing disparities have been further widened.

Yet, although the pandemic has slowed the drive to achieve the movement's key goal – delivering the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health 2016-2030 – it has also made the movement even more indispensable. A year such as 2020 is precisely why former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched EWEC in 2010 as a priority initiative in his office. The movement serves as a high-level reminder to the world that the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents must remain a global priority even when other issues, such as COVID-19 impacts dominate economic, political, health and security conversations worldwide. EWEC not only draws attention to that urgency, but also further mobilizes and sustains critical commitments on behalf of these vulnerable populations.



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WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

In 2020, EWEC has played a key role by making the case early on that effectively responding to the pandemic requires direct and targeted efforts to safeguard the health and well-being of women and children. The movement has highlighted linkages to global challenges throughout the year, as reflected by a shift in focus to COVID-19 and its impacts on women, children and adolescents. In the absence of a coordinated and coherent response at global level to women's, children's and adolescents' health during the pandemic in 2020, EWEC leveraged its convening and agenda-setting power to unite partners around a shared promise to leave no woman, child or adolescent behind. That shift is encapsulated in the EWEC 2020 COVID-19 Response Strategy, which is aimed at keeping issues of critical importance to women, children and adolescents at the forefront of local, national, and global responses to COVID-19. The strategy outlined the following three main objectives: (1) to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable populations in affected countries; (2) to mitigate the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic on women, children and adolescents; and (3) to safeguard progress and build back stronger health systems that are more resilient to shocks.

The health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have limited or reduced the ability of many key stakeholders, from governments to donors to non-governmental organizations and foundations, to take the actions and decisions necessary to push the Global Strategy forward as in previous years. In response to this reality, EWEC has focused as much on preventing reversals of progress (an approach indicated in the revised Strategy's third objective) as on building on previous years' improvements and hastening overall progress. The COVID-19 Response Strategy represents a rapid pivot that underscores EWEC's inherent flexibility in recognizing and responding to the most pressing challenges to the Global Strategy's implementation.





# THE EWEC MOVEMENT'S PURPOSE: THE GLOBAL STRATEGY AND THE SDGS

Since 2015, Every Woman Every Child's primary role has been to promote and support action toward delivering the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, which presents a road map to ending all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents within a generation and ensuring their well-being. The Global Strategy is a critical component of overall efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have multiple targets focused on women and children across a wide range of health and development areas. Achieving the SDGs is, in turn, an important step in reducing the inequities that have long kept women and children disproportionately vulnerable and marginalized in societies everywhere.

## **The movement's structure: The architecture that supports the Global Strategy**

EWEC has created and sustained a multistakeholder architecture to put the Global Strategy into action. It includes the following:

- The **High-Level Steering Group (HLSG)** provides political steer and guidance on the movement's direction and activities. Its members include global representatives from governments, the business community, philanthropists, young people, civil society and multilateral systems. The HLSG meets biannually to provide recommendations on issues such as financing, accountability, cross-sectoral action and country-level implementation of the Global Strategy.
- The **H6 partnership**, which comprises six UN member organizations, provides technical support to countries in reproductive, maternal,

newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH), including in regard to all health-related SDGs.

- The **Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF)**, housed at the World Bank, focuses on helping to close the funding gap for RMNCAH.
- The **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)**, an alliance of more than 1,000 organizations across 192 countries, provides a platform for diverse stakeholders to discuss and align objectives regarding the Global Strategy. In 2020, PMNCH announced a new strategic focus on advocacy, which will be supported by evidence and aimed at ensuring accountability for outcomes.
- The **EWEC Innovation Marketplace** is a strategic alliance of organizations and development innovation organizations and institutions. It provides an innovation support platform to coordinate and support collaboration and funding for new and promising innovations with high potential to improve the lives of women and children. The Marketplace was formed in 2016 and is hosted by Grand Challenges Canada.
- The **Independent Accountability Panel (IAP)** for EWEC provides an independent and transparent review of progress on the implementation of the Global Strategy. A key role of the IAP is to identify and advocate actions deemed necessary to accelerate achievement of the Strategy's goals from an accountability perspective. The IAP is hosted by PMNCH and its members are appointed by the Secretary-General.



## Commitments leveraged for the Global Strategy

Mobilizing new commitments and monitoring existing ones is a crucial part of EWEC's work. These commitments can be made in three areas: financial commitments, policy commitments, and service and delivery commitments. They are typically made by individual institutions or coalitions of multiple partners. From 2010 through 2019, the movement mobilized 776 commitments, including financial commitments worth a cumulative total of nearly US\$186 billion by governments and other partners. Added to this is more than US\$1 billion raised by the Global Financing Facility from 13 multi-stakeholder partners in a replenishment in 2018.



Given the COVID-19 impacts, EWEC in 2020 focused less on mobilizing new commitments and more on preventing erosion of those that had already been made. This entailed collaborative work with existing commitment-makers and partners to ensure that extant pledges are honoured as fully as possible, and not, for example, re-allocated to other areas during or as part of pandemic responses. EWEC also provided a global platform to promote and share best practices/pledges from existing commitment-makers that earmarked funding for sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (SRMNCAH) and/or prioritized women's and children's health in their COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

Furthermore, EWEC's Open Letter to 'Protect the Progress' at UNGA75, secured 150+ signatories to safeguard the hard-won progress and commitments made towards the Global Strategy. It brought world leaders in their commitment to protect and prioritize the health of women, children and adolescents around the world and rise to the challenge of the Decade of Action ahead.

Due to the necessary shifts in strategic emphasis, the full scope and scale of commitments made in 2020 for the Global Strategy has yet to be determined. It is clear that they will differ from previous years, especially in terms of expected impact. Some will be tied to initiatives and programmes that focus primarily on COVID-19, including those that make available new and additional funding to support women, children and adolescents whose health and well-being have been negatively affected by the pandemic.

The massive economic and fiscal strain that the pandemic has placed on most low- and middle-income countries also seems likely to pause, at the very least, a welcome trend in recent years related to their engagement. Over the decade since EWEC was started in 2010, the largest share of total commitments (nearly 67 per cent) to the Global Strategy were made by low-income and lower-middle income country governments. In terms of financial value, commitments from countries in those income categories represented about 86 per cent of the cumulative value of all government financial commitments between September 2015 and December 2019 (due in large part to the pledge by the Government of India).

This trend is important because it signals ownership and a desire for sustainability in the parts of the world where the gaps and needs for women, children and adolescents are greatest.

For example, on 11 December 2020, building on the momentum created by EWEC and its partners throughout the year, PMNCH announced \$20.6 billion in pledges towards its 7-point Call to Action to protect women's, children's and adolescents' health from the threats of the COVID-19 crisis. \$7.4 billion (36%) of the total pledge was from money committed by low and middle-income countries themselves, including Afghanistan, India, Kenya, Liberia, and Nigeria. An additional \$13.2 billion (64%) was from official development assistance and grants given by Germany, Canada, Sweden, UK, USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



# Current Landscape

## OVERVIEW OF CURRENT LANDSCAPE FOR WOMEN'S CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS' HEALTH

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the outlook for the Global Strategy to be achieved by 2030 was uncertain. On the one hand, there is much to be optimistic about over the first five years since its 2015 launch. Globally, for example, child and maternal mortality rates were steadily declining; the annual number of new HIV infections among infants and children was falling; more girls were going to and staying in school; and more than 1 billion children had been vaccinated over the past decade, which translates into up to 3 million deaths prevented every year through immunization.

These gains have improved the lives and prospects of millions of people, but millions more have still not been reached. The progress in these and other areas related to the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents was slower than it needed to be for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to be fully achieved. Major gaps persist in coverage of essential health, social, education and other services that help to reduce vulnerability and insecurity among them. Far too little has been done to protect and support women, children and adolescents from the damages and dangers of conflicts, climate instability, and gender-based discrimination and violence – all of which affect them especially severely. Legal, social, cultural and political barriers that marginalize and constrain them have not fallen fast enough, and in more recent years efforts to address such obstacles at global, national and country levels have been considerably less successful due to trends such as the rise in populism, distrust in governmental institutions, and a backlash against multilateralism and globalization.



In response to the lagging progress, the UN Secretary-General in September 2019 launched the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The renewed attention provided a boost to efforts by EWEC, its partners and allies to accelerate momentum on the Global Strategy. However, within six months from the launch, the COVID-19 crisis had shut down much of the global economy and nearly every country had reoriented its health and development priorities.

The most vulnerable always suffer the most in any crisis, and COVID-19 has been no exception. Women, children and adolescents are bearing a disproportionate burden from both the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic. Although data indicate that men are marginally more likely to die from COVID-19, women are at greater risk of contracting the virus due to their greater representation in health care as frontline workers (e.g., as nurses and caregivers). Worldwide, an estimated 70 per cent of health care workers are women.

The indirect impacts have proven to be even more devastating. Women, children and adolescents have always had more precarious economic footholds in most societies, and the pandemic has put them at even greater disadvantage. According to one calculation, measures taken to control the spread of COVID-19 will have pushed as many as 100 million people into extreme poverty (living on less than US\$1.90 a day) by the end of 2020, the majority of whom will be women. School closures are usually more devastating to girls because they are less likely to return. Their risk for early marriage, forced or not, and other harmful practices has increased.



*“The growing evidence confirms that the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are not gender-neutral. The impacts of lockdowns and travel restrictions imposed in many countries to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the failure to designate sexual and reproductive health services and services for survivors of violence as essential services, and the undermining of women’s economic security have compounded the barriers for women and girls experiencing abuse, especially those who are trapped at home with their abusers.”*

**WINNIE BYANYIMA**  
**UNAIDS Executive Director**

At the same time, disruptions in health systems and restrictions on travel and access to health facilities are preventing women, children and adolescents from accessing critical family planning, sexual health, and social support services, among many other health-related needs. Country data from the early months of the global pandemic, for example, showed large reductions in outpatient consultations for children (e.g., a decline of 35 per cent among children under five years of age in Liberia).<sup>1</sup> Steep declines in the share of women seeking medical care during pregnancy (e.g., by 16 per cent in Nigeria) put hundreds of thousands of women at greater risk of complications from pregnancy. The consequences include a huge surge in avoidable deaths among the most vulnerable. A report in The Lancet released in May 2020 projected a nearly 1.16 million additional child deaths and 56,700 additional maternal deaths in 118 low- and middle-income countries due to a 45 per cent reduction in the coverage of key high-impact maternal and child health interventions over six months.<sup>2</sup>

That projection was based on what the authors called a “most severe” scenario, and some more recent estimates and data have different conclusions, often less dire, regarding the extent and impact of pandemic-related disruptions to

health services. However, there is widespread agreement that the well-being of millions of women and children have been imperilled. A United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) report in November 2020, for example, “found that COVID-related disruptions to critical health and social services for children pose the most serious threat to children, with about a third of the countries witnessing a drop of at least 10 per cent coverage for health services, including routine vaccinations and outpatient visits.”<sup>3</sup>

The pandemic-related impacts would be a major challenge to global health and well-being regardless of the pre-existing situation. They are even more grievous from the perspective of the overall lives and hopes of women, children and adolescents because they are reversing already inadequate progress toward the Global Strategy. To avoid allowing the global goals and targets for 2030 to slip further behind, EWEC in 2020 has stressed that the continuity of essential services and funding for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health must be protected from cuts or reallocation as part of national COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, and also prioritized and increased to respond to the immediate and long-term needs.

<sup>1</sup> Global Financing Facility. New findings confirm global disruptions in essential health services for women and children from COVID-19. Press release, 18 September 2020. [www.globalfinancingfacility.org/new-findings-confirm-global-disruptions-essential-health-services-women-and-children-covid-19](http://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/new-findings-confirm-global-disruptions-essential-health-services-women-and-children-covid-19) (accessed December 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Robertson T et al. Early estimates of the indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal and child mortality in low-income and middle-income countries: a modelling study. *Lancet Glob Health* 2020; 8: e901–08. 12 May 2020 (published online). [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30229-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30229-1)

<sup>3</sup> UN news portal. Future of an entire generation at risk, as COVID-19 pandemic drags on. 19 November 2020. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/11/1078022> (accessed December 2020).



TO AVOID ALLOWING THE GLOBAL GOALS AND TARGETS FOR 2030 TO SLIP FURTHER BEHIND, EWEC IN 2020 HAS STRESSED THAT THE CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND FUNDING FOR REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEWBORN, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH MUST BE PROTECTED FROM CUTS OR REALLOCATION AS PART OF NATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS, AND ALSO PRIORITIZED AND INCREASED TO RESPOND TO THE IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM NEEDS.







*"I cannot imagine more urgency than during and beyond COVID-19 to deliver on all commitments for every woman, every child and every adolescent; to ensure that they are healthy, well-nourished and thriving. Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) will do everything to support countries and communities get back on track, scale up investments and find solutions that address the needs, and uphold the rights, of women, children and adolescents, everywhere."*

**GERDA VERBURG**  
UN Assistant Secretary-General and SUN Movement Coordinator

## Summary of activities

EWEC's rapid adoption of a COVID-19 Response Strategy in 2020 illustrates its flexibility over the years in adapting to shifts in global, regional and national landscapes.

Most of EWEC's actions and approaches in 2020, as in previous years, are in the areas of knowledge (information gathering and dissemination); influence (via advocacy); and impact (through innovation and results-driven commitments). Key activities and activity areas in 2020 are grouped below by these three top-level categories. All are implemented by the EWEC Secretariat in collaboration with multiple partners.







## Knowledge

A major EWEC activity undertaken in the early days of the global pandemic was the development of the dynamic Women, Children, Adolescent Health (WCAH) COVID-19 Resource Page. This online knowledge hub, which is updated regularly, is a one-stop shop bringing together the latest, most relevant information and evidence regarding the impacts of COVID-19 – both the disease itself and the responses to the pandemic – on women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being. It includes tailored resources for a wide range of people and institutions, including health care providers, policy makers, community leaders, and vulnerable women, children and adolescents (and their families).

EWEC in 2020 also initiated and has participated in several efforts to streamline communications related to COVID-19 and the health of women, children and adolescents, including the following:

- EWEC leads the curation and development of a joint biweekly e-blast in partnership with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) focused on COVID-19 and its impact on women, children and adolescents. The bulletins feature the latest research and updates on the pandemic, as well as science news and updates from the UN system and beyond. The bulletins reach over 1,000 development professionals on a weekly basis.
- PMNCH and EWEC have designed and disseminated innovative communications assets, including infographics to illustrate key data and evidence

points for policy advocacy around specific 'asks' and priorities on SRMNCAH, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and adolescent health. Another example of these assets are animated videos on self-care during COVID-19 crises.

- EWEC ran a video experts series on COVID-19 and women's, children's and adolescents' health with select guests from various stakeholder groups. The videos, which are posted on EWEC's YouTube channel, offered real-time insight into complex issues, such as guidance on face masks for children, impact of COVID-19 on pregnancy, and vaccine roll-out.
- EWEC collaborated with the High-Level Steering Group (HLSG), the H6 partnership and other partners to feature their work and voices related to COVID-19 and women's, children's and adolescents' health through a series of interviews, blog posts and other opinion pieces (e.g., op-eds).
- EWEC established a pro-bono partnership with AspireIQ, a leading social media influencer advertising firm, to help bring fact-based, easy-to-understand information on COVID-19 through the Secretary-General's Verified campaign. That important initiative aims to confront the myths and misinformation about the pandemic, from risks to protection to treatment and beyond. The creation of this partnership is an example of EWEC's ability to bring together and leverage innovation involving the broader UN system and the private sector.

- o The aforementioned approach with AspireIQ was to reach all people far and wide in providing the messaging and inviting influencers to share with their followers under their own branding/aesthetic by harnessing the power of influencers in disseminating public health messages during COVID continues to be a powerful and smart road to pursue.
- EWEC established a partnership with the Communication Initiative Network to support the generation and dissemination of knowledge regarding COVID-19 in the context of SRMNCAH. The information gathered and assessed reached over 100,000 development communication professionals globally.

Collectively, these communications activities have reached thousands of policy makers, service providers and advocates focusing on women's, children's, and adolescents' health and well-being at global, regional and local levels.

Many more are also being reached through EWEC's strategic use of its varied social media accounts, through which EWEC also disseminates key Secretary-General messages and actively amplifies the work of partners.

EWEC's editorial plan has a 360-degree approach in which Every Woman Every Child generates original content, partners with organizations to strengthen and align messaging across organizations and ultimately

brings organizations together to set the global agenda. Engagement happens vertically and horizontally from the SG and heads of state to the campaigns with the general public.

Original Content: As an umbrella initiative, Every Woman Every Child is in a good position to draw on the expertise of partner organizations and feature their voice by way of blog posts, video interviews, and through engagement on social media. Accessible original content is far more effective than straight promotion because it educates the general public while simultaneously showcases the work of the many partners and stakeholders.

Throughout the year, the SG, DSG and the President of Estonia participated in disseminating EWEC's calls to action, as well as the Board Chair of PMNCH, Rt. Hon. Helen Clark. Additionally, EWEC also diligently promoted the messages of the SG and H6 partners as speeches and policy briefs were released and new campaigns launched, including Rise For All. Increased communication lines further streamlined and strengthened these efforts.

EWEC used its position and connection with global health partners to produce original content that helped to inform decision makers, advocates and funders. Including an expert interview series in video form, question and answers in blog form and high-level political advocacy events in May, July and September which leveraged the EWEC platform to bring together the many cross-sectoral messages around the threats to the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents.

The ambition was to be solutions focused – to promote investing in what we know works, to continue investment in this space and to prioritize women, children and adolescents during and after the pandemic.

Social Media: Every Woman Every Child’s social media strategy focused on Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Although each platform was used to share original content and engage with partners, the engagement strategy was varied because each platform served a different audience.

Twitter is a high-volume social network that requires frequent updating. The goal was to therefore make the EWEC account a “need-to-follow” account when it comes to women’s and children’s issues. The team issued 3-5 daily tweets sharing high-value relevant news and reports. The Twitter account responded to followers and participated in big conversations via quote-tweeting and created Twitter threads that were a more in-depth exploration of a given topic, especially around campaigns. The team has used the account to promote EWEC and partner campaigns, as well as to live tweet from select events of significance.

- Twitter – [https://twitter.com/UN\\_EWEC](https://twitter.com/UN_EWEC)

On Instagram, the focus was less on sharing information and more on fostering an emotional connection. Twitter is a news medium, but Instagram is a visual medium that lends itself to storytelling. Thus, the Instagram strategy focused less on the high-level strategy and research, and more on posting pictures of the people who are affected and information about their lives and the work they do

to gain awareness for issues in the general public. A large part of EWEC’s Instagram strategy rested in a pro-bono partnership with the influencer firm AspireIQ. The partnership has allowed for access by the UN to provide social media influencers with messaging to amplify the #HealthyAtHome and #Verified campaigns. Connections with the general public through influencers using a wide array of aesthetics that appeal to diverse audiences proved a superior way to get information to the general population.

- Instagram – <https://www.instagram.com/everywomaneverychild/>

LinkedIn is an important platform because it connects to the business and international community. LinkedIn served as the ideal place to establish the expertise of EWEC and share original content created by our experts geared to a more specialized level than the general public. For example, blogs and op-eds penned by the coordinator or statements from the high-level steering group were disseminated via LinkedIn.

- LinkedIn – <https://www.linkedin.com/company/every-woman-every-child>

In summary, the success of the editorial strategy is exhibited in an Every Woman Every Child that has brought together organizations, and helped to align messaging in the Decade of Action. With each organization continuing to launch initiatives, the importance of an entity concerned with bringing organizations together and amplifying a united voice for women, children and adolescents is paramount.



## Influence

Throughout 2020, EWEC undertook high-level political advocacy to raise awareness of the impacts of COVID-19 on women, children and adolescents and to mobilize support to mitigate them. This approach has been guided by the High-Level Steering Group, which is co-chaired by the UN Secretary-General and President Kersti Kaljulaid of Estonia. Development officials and other influential government personnel are the main focus of these advocacy efforts.

The following were among the main activities and achievements in 2020 in terms of high-level political advocacy:

### **Women's Leaders Roundtable and outcome document**

On 28 May 2020, President Kaljulaid and Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, the PMNCH board chair and former Prime Minister of New Zealand, convened a High-Level Women Leaders Roundtable that resulted in an agreed outcome document identifying 14 actions to respond to the acute challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including concerns about severe and longstanding negative consequences in areas such as SRHR, education and physical and emotional security. This political momentum was later amplified through an open letter/call to action to protect the progress and investments made for women's, children's and adolescents' health in which EWEC secured over 150 high-level signatories/endorsements. The event was preceded by the release of an op-ed co-signed by President Kaljulaid and former Prime Minister Clark as well as Jorge Alcocer Varela, Mexico's Secretary of Health, and Graca Machel, former PMNCH board chair and the founder of the Graca Machel Trust.



### High Level Political Forum event and release of the IAP's 'Caught in the COVID-19 Storm' report

The EWEC Secretariat led the launch event, advocacy and dissemination of *Caught in the COVID-19 storm: women's, children's and adolescents' health in the context of UHC and the SDGs*, a detailed and comprehensive report of the Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) for EWEC. The report reviewed the status of key EWEC indicators and the implications of COVID-19 on women's, children's and adolescents' health and rights. It was formally released during the UN High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development at an event on 13 July 2020, which had a line-up of powerful speakers, including the President of South Africa, the President of the Japan International Cooperation (JICA), and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on behalf of the Secretary-General, among various other high-level officials.

In the lead up to the launch event, the EWEC Secretariat coordinated the engagement of the Governments of South Africa, Japan and Georgia along with UHC2030, the IAP and PMNCH to drive a common advocacy agenda around the three main recommendations as to how countries and other stakeholders can achieve their goals: investing in data systems; ensuring that accountability is institutionalized; and acting upon the voices of people and communities.

The report and event generated political momentum and inspired governments and multi-stakeholder partners to strengthen social-political accountability, especially at the country level, toward ensuring that countries deliver on the promise of universal health coverage (UHC) for women, children and adolescents.

### 2020 Progress Report on the Global Strategy

EWEC, in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Countdown to 2030, PMNCH and the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF), produced and launched *Protect the Progress: Rise, Refocus, Recover, The 2020 Progress Report on the Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health*. This annual flagship report highlighted the most recent year of data and progress on record before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down economies and societies worldwide, reinforcing what is at stake and must therefore be safeguarded.

The report placed particular attention and focus on the need to protect the hard-won gains and to better understand – and mitigate – the impacts that measures to contain COVID-19 are having on the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents. As part of that objective, the report also sought to demonstrate the urgency to further invest in the health of the most vulnerable women, children and adolescents especially during humanitarian crises and conflicts.

In conceptualizing the Progress Report which also served to commemorate EWEC turning 10 in 2020, the following strategic objectives were identified:

- **Clearly communicate the vision of the EWEC Movement:** By 2030, a world in which every woman, child and adolescent in every setting realizes their rights to physical and mental health and well-being, has social and economic opportunities and is able to participate fully in shaping prosperous and sustainable societies.



- **Showcase the global progress** made toward improving the health of women, children and adolescents and present the successful path 140 countries have followed to achieve the SDG 3 targets.
- **Protect the hard won gains** and mitigate the projected impact measures to contain COVID-19 are having on the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents.
- **Demonstrate the urgency** to further invest in the health of the most vulnerable women, children and adolescents especially during humanitarian crises and conflict.

The report was produced in traditional form, and also translated to an online digital experience. The report was launched on the sidelines of the 75th UN General Assembly at a UN Press Conference which was also live streamed on UN WebTV.

Speakers included:

- H.E. Ms. Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia and Co-Chair of the High-Level Steering Group for Every Woman Every Child (@KerstiKaljulaid)
- H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway and Co-Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group (@erna\_solberg)
- Mr. Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF
- Ms. Inger Ashing, CEO of Save the Children International (@ingerashing)

- Mr. Ayanda Makayi, Actor from MTV Shuga: Down South, South Africa (@AyandaMcKayi)
- H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (via video) (@AminaJMohammed)

The press conference was moderated by Sarah Crowe, of UNICEF.

Ahead of the report launch, an open letter was drafted in collaboration with PMNCH and circulated for signature among high level leadership. The letter then went live on the microsite and was open to public signature. At the time of launch, the letter had 100+ signatures, including all executive directors from H6 partners. Engagement with this letter signalled broad support and commitment to the EWEC movement.

Complementary assets were developed and translated into Spanish and French to support broad dissemination of the key messages and calls for action related to the report. These included:

- The innovative, interactive Microsite, housing the Report, Advocacy Brief (English, French and Spanish) and Open Letter for Signature
- Press Release and Media Advisory and related communication materials
- State-of-the-Art Social Media Assets (English, French, Spanish)
- Unified Voices Video featuring the 18 high-level signatories to the Open Letter
- Press Briefing





The report launch publicly brought together leadership from all partner organizations, and beyond, in support of EWEC and their commitment to prioritizing the health of women, children and adolescents now and beyond. Projected social media reach was 11 million, with the engagement of H6 principles, as well as across the High-Level Steering Group of EWEC.

### Accountability Breakfast 2020

Together with PMNCH and the White Ribbon Alliance, EWEC co-hosted the “Accountability Breakfast 2020: Advancing Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health During COVID-19,” supporting overall event coordination and leading the Evidence to Action session to deep-dive in the Global Strategy Progress Report findings. H.E. President Kaljulaid of Estonia, EWEC HLSG Co-Chair opened the event.

The EWEC led session brought together leaders from government, the UN, academia, civil society and young people to deep-dive into the report’s data and the current state of evidence, to celebrate progress and highlight gaps and challenges that the global community must urgently act on to guide global and domestic investments in SRMNCAH.

The session opened with a short video narrated by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, which looked back on the past 10 years of progress driven by the Every Woman Every Child movement.

The interactive panel discussions was comprised of the following speakers:

#### Theme 1: Data and Lessons Learnt from a Decade of Progress

- Dr. Shannon Hader – Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS
- Ms. Gerda Verburg – Executive Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement

- Ms. Smita Bajpai – Executive Committee Member at White Ribbon Alliance India

#### Theme 2: The Decade Ahead: Solutions, Investments and Accountability

- Ms. Ana Claudia Carletto – Secretary for Human Rights and Citizenship of the Municipality of São Paulo
- Ms. Beth Schlachter – Executive Director, FP2020
- Dr. Monique Vledder – Head of Secretariat and Practice Manager, Global Financing Facility (GFF)
- Ms. Toyin Chukumozie – Education as a Vaccine, and Member of the PMNCH Adolescents and Youth Constituency
- Dr. Joy Phumaphi – Co-Chair of the Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) for EWEC

The event was viewed by more than 2,200 people from 110+ countries representing governments, health practitioners, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society, media, researchers and academia. The event summary, key highlights and media coverage can be found in the links provided: <https://accountabilitybreakfast.com/>


### EWEC Virtual Hub: UNGA75 and beyond

In a bid to streamline and support partner engagement during the first ever virtual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), EWEC developed a curated Virtual Event Hub to serve as a repository for all SRMNCAH-related events associated with the UNGA in September 2020. Building on this success, and following requests from across the international community, EWEC transformed the hub into the primary repository for all key SRMNCAH events, resources, and activations post-UNGA, with continued curation and refined design elements to enhance the user experience and global engagement.

### Ensuring and enabling a holistic approach: EWEC's support of a campaign to address modern slavery among women and girls

At a United Nations Press Briefing ahead of the International Day of the Girl, in partnership with the Minderoo Foundation's Walk Free Campaign, and to ensure a holistic overview of progress against the Global Strategy, particularly the Thrive pillar, EWEC joined forces to launch the global report and campaign "Subscribed to Slavery" on the disproportionate impact of modern slavery on women and girls - building on the UNFPA State of the World's Population 2020 Against My Will report and Generation Equality call to action. The report provides the single most comprehensive look at how modern slavery impacts women and girls providing a robust evidence base to drive advocacy across the key areas of child and forced marriage, ending the kafala system, and protecting workers in supply chains.

Within the first 72 hours of the launch, the report and campaign had been covered by top-tier international outlets including; AP, Reuters, ABC, CNBC, Fox, Euronews, The Washington Post, BBC, CCTV, TRT Global News, China Global TV, The Economic Times, Huffington Post, The Daily Telegraph (UK) and India Daily. These extraordinarily impactful innovative videos have had more than 4 million video views recorded with an average video view completion rate of 85% - compared to the YouTube average of 27%.



*"EWEC is heading into its second decade with an even stronger mandate to achieve its goal of a world in which every woman, child and adolescent not only survives, but thrives and transforms. "*

**H.E. MS. KERSTI KALJULAI**  
**President of the Republic of Estonia**  
**Co-Chair of the High-Level Steering Group for Every Woman Every Child**



ALL EWEC ACTIVITIES IN  
SUPPORT OF ITS REVISED  
2020 STRATEGY AIM TO HAVE  
SUBSTANTIAL AND POSITIVE  
IMPACTS ON THE HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING OF WOMEN,  
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS  
DURING AND AFTER THE  
ONGOING HEALTH CRISIS.



## Impact

All EWEC activities in support of its revised 2020 strategy aim to have substantial and positive impacts on the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents during and after the ongoing health crisis. One distinct approach has been the focus on innovation as a key driver of impact in areas ranging from communications to advocacy to reaching and better reflecting the needs and priorities of intended beneficiaries. Examples of activities and achievements include the following:

### **A partnership with the MTV Staying Alive Foundation and UNITAID centred on innovative behaviour change communication as an outreach strategy targeting adolescents and young people across sub-Saharan Africa.**

The main product of this partnership was the production of #AloneTogether, a 70-part video series with MTV Shuga in Africa. This programme aimed to reach young people with information on hygienic habits, social distancing and self-isolation, all of which are critical to fighting the spread of the coronavirus, while also supporting their mental health.

Set in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Côte D'Ivoire, Botswana and the United States, MTV Shuga Alone Together followed the lives of longstanding and new characters as they navigated their daily lives during the pandemic. The storylines were played out through video calls between MTV Shuga characters, mirroring how social media became the new form of socialising during the quarantine era. The issues tackled in MTV Shuga Alone Together ranged from mental health, gender-based violence, relationships, and general health and well-being – all issues that have taken on heightened significance during the COVID-19 crisis. The daily episodes aired on YouTube were accompanied by a YouTube live chat, where the MTV Shuga team were able to interact, facilitate discussions and respond to questions from fans in real time.

By the end of 2020, MTV Shuga Alone Together had generated an impressive total of 5 million views with 62 per cent of viewers under the age of 24 and a 60 per cent female audience. The messaging in the web-series was further complemented by content from over 427 accounts including cast, influencers and regional partners – serving 183 million impressions (or potentially reaching 183 million accounts) in over 53 different countries. The dedicated website amassed over 40,000 page views from 20,000 unique users and served as a hub offering blog posts, series assets and helplines for viewers in need. A randomised Facebook poll of more than 5,000 respondents found that 89 per cent of those that had watched Alone Together (13 per cent) had learned key COVID-19 messaging from the show.

EWEC's early investment leveraged 10 times its input.

### **Fast-tracking and scaling up innovations to support health outcomes of women, children and adolescents – with a particular focus on resource-constrained settings – in partnership with the EWEC Innovation Marketplace.**

The EWEC Secretariat has been supporting the Marketplace's efforts to link funders and other partners rapidly and efficiently, with the goal of bringing to scale high-impact innovations in women's, children's and adolescents' health. The marketplace manages 40+ innovation portfolios specifically for SRMNCAH and is financed by the Governments of Canada, Norway and the United States and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as founding partners. The pandemic has brought more urgency to such work as researchers, governments and companies seek to identify safe and effective COVID-19 therapies and vaccines. Increased attention and resources for innovation could be beneficial in other ways for women, children and adolescents who are experiencing increased economic, social and health vulnerabilities from the disease itself as well as responses to it.



### Promoting and expanding the engagement of the private sector

Throughout 2020, EWEC has been promoting a framework developed to harness the power, influence and flexibility of the private sector, whose commitments account for about 22 per cent of the total number of pledges made to the Global Strategy since 2015. This is based on the recognition that the private sector plays a critical role in addressing the needs and challenges of women, children, adolescents and others highly vulnerable to the negative effects of COVID-19. For example, Merck for Mothers, a long-standing commitment-maker to EWEC, pledged US\$3 million in April 2020 to help health systems better meet the needs of pregnant women before, during and following delivery while tackling COVID-19.

Specific approaches by EWEC include coordinating and galvanizing the global business community for collective action on COVID-19 and helping to steer the sector's support and resources to key issues and areas such as nutrition, education, social protection and safety and security. In addition to a convening and mobilizing role, EWEC is leveraging its partners to provide guidance for how and why such support and pledges can be most effective and integrated within their core business models.

Also of value to enhanced private sector engagement, EWEC continues to be best positioned to map commitments from the sector made towards improving women's, children's and adolescents' health. This not only helps to ensure accountability and impact, but is also useful to identify critical gaps in SRMNCAH that could benefit from rapid and strategic private sector support.

One notable 2020 activity aimed at increasing and leveraging private sector engagement took place on 23 January 2020 at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The EWEC Secretariat co-organized a

high-level event, with UNFPA and Philips (a multinational firm based in the Netherlands), titled Building a Global Private Sector Coalition for Women's and Girls' Health and Well-being to discuss a private sector partnership platform to help deliver on an integrated agenda for women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being. This aimed at helping transform ICPD+25 and EWEC pledges into meaningful results at country level through a unified platform owned and directed by private sector commitment-makers themselves. The event helped to jumpstart a collective conversation on how to:

- translate commitments to action yielding concrete results;
- proactively identify strategic areas for partnership and joint delivery at regional and/or country level;
- broker and enable transformative partnerships between commitment-makers to accelerate the scaling of interventions and high-impact solutions and to utilize resources more effectively to deliver on Global Strategy targets;
- promote harmonized advocacy, including through joint events and campaigns at key visibility points throughout the year; and
- promote pilots and principled partnerships across sectors that help break down the silos that have traditionally governed global health and development.

### **Real-time evidence gathering on the devastating impact of COVID-19 on women, children, and adolescents across Latin America and the Caribbean**

In June 2020, EWEC – in partnership with the Collaborative Group for Health Equity in Latin America (CHELA) of Tulane University and the recently established Public Health Center Program of the University

of Santiago de Chile – launched the ISLAC Project ([islaccovid.org](http://islaccovid.org)), a study to gather information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health services for women, children, and adolescents across the Latin American and Caribbean region. The Bernard van Leer Foundation provided financial support for the initiative.

The ISLAC project consists of real-time operational quantitative and qualitative research on the COVID-19 pandemic in 25 countries. It focuses specifically on issues of maternal, childhood, and adolescent health to inform public policies and the allocation of resources. The study, which concluded its first phase of research in December 2020, assessed how the pandemic has affected health services that are essential to the reduction of under-5 morbidity and mortality.

### **Leveraging the political stewardship of the HLSG to help ensure a full 2020 Gavi replenishment**

EWEC played a critical convening and advocacy role in advance of the Global Vaccine Summit 2020, held on 4 June 2020, at which world leaders pledged an additional US\$8.8 billion for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. The amount pledged far exceeded the target of US\$7.4 billion. In addition to helping immunise 300 million more children in the world's poorest countries against diseases like measles, polio and diphtheria by the end of 2025, the new funds will be used to help health systems establish and maintain the necessary infrastructure to roll out a future COVID-19 vaccine on a global scale.

One important component of EWEC's efforts on behalf of a successful Gavi replenishment included explicit and deliberate discussions in advance of and during an HLSG meeting in March. This gathering marked a high-profile opportunity to leverage political support and eventual commitments among donor countries represented on the HLSG.



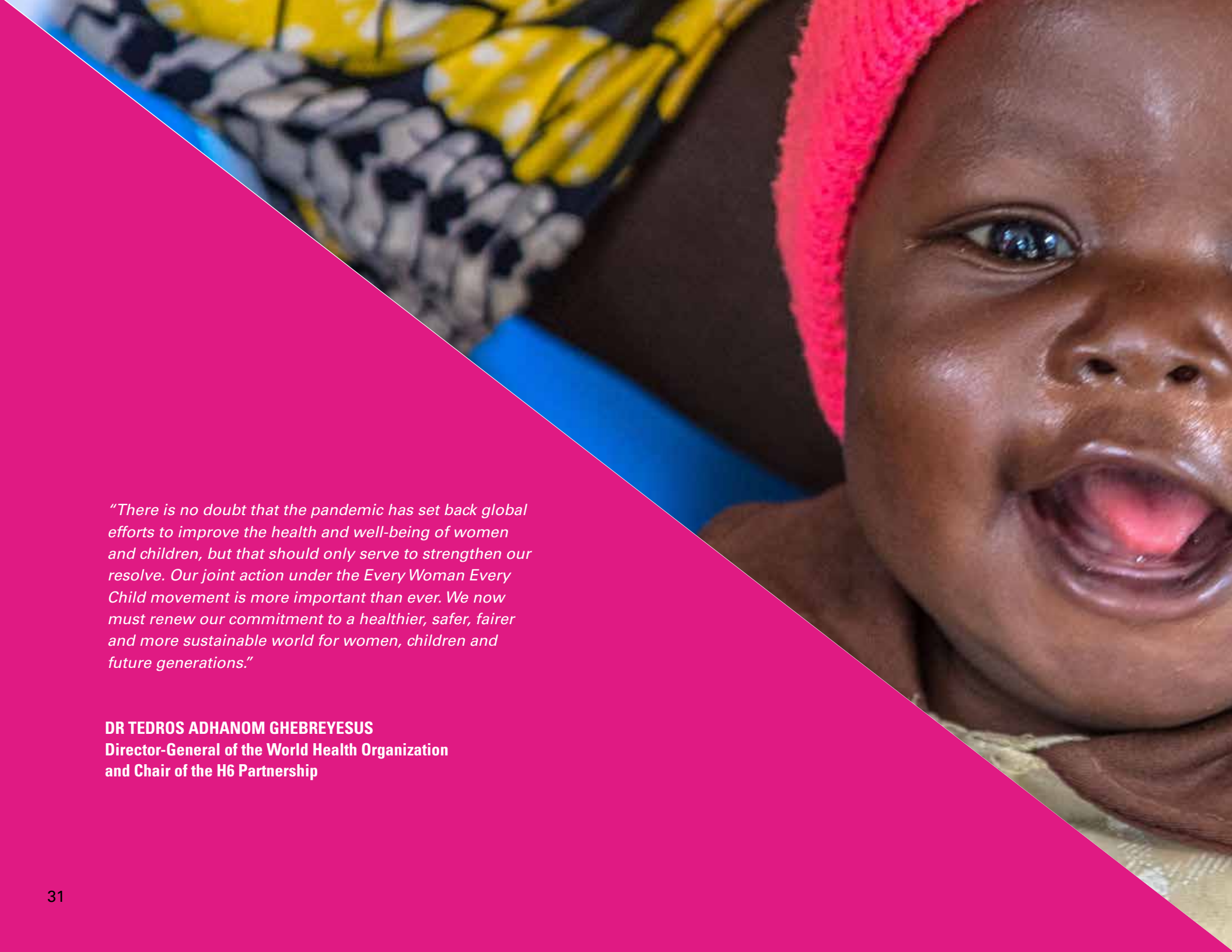
## Coordinating, supporting and leading evaluations

Throughout 2020, EWEC invested heavily in evaluation processes across the EWEC ecosystem. These processes are vital for steering strategies, approaches and interventions that influence progress toward the Global Strategy in an evolving development landscape. Evaluations undertaken in 2020 and decisions made in response to them are particularly important given the challenges related to women's, children's and adolescents' health in the COVID-19 era. The following are among the evaluations that EWEC was involved in throughout 2020:

- **The Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman Every Child (IAP).** The EWEC Secretariat led the evaluation management response process for the IAP to inform the next stages of the panel's activity and shape discussions about reforms within the overall accountability system for the 2030 Agenda.
- **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH).** As an outcome of the PMNCH evaluation completed and released in January 2020, the EWEC Secretariat actively contributed to the review of the PMNCH Options Paper and formulation of the new PMNCH Strategy released in late 2020.
- **Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF).** Marking its fifth anniversary in 2020, the GFF conducted a strategy refresh process, with EWEC contributing to its considerations for prioritization and repositioning. EWEC's support and engagement in this process focused on helping the GFF sharpen its scope, expand its scale, capitalize on gains made, and learn from what has and has not worked.
- **Every Woman Every Child.** In June 2020, EWEC embarked on its own independent strategic evaluation in response to the request of the HLSG in March 2020. The evaluation was conducted from June to September 2020 by Deloitte Canada. It assessed the relevance and direction of the EWEC partnership in relation to its mandate for women's, children's and adolescents' health at global and country levels, particularly since the development of the EWEC Global Strategy 2016–2030 and in consideration of the roles and responsibilities of other partnerships and platforms.

EVALUATION PROCESSES  
ARE VITAL FOR STEERING  
STRATEGIES, APPROACHES  
AND INTERVENTIONS THAT  
INFLUENCE PROGRESS  
TOWARD THE GLOBAL  
STRATEGY IN AN EVOLVING  
DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE.





*"There is no doubt that the pandemic has set back global efforts to improve the health and well-being of women and children, but that should only serve to strengthen our resolve. Our joint action under the Every Woman Every Child movement is more important than ever. We now must renew our commitment to a healthier, safer, fairer and more sustainable world for women, children and future generations."*

**DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS**  
Director-General of the World Health Organization  
and Chair of the H6 Partnership



A close-up photograph of a young child's face, showing their eye and part of their smile. The child is wearing a bright red knitted beanie and a brown jacket with a yellow and white patterned lining. The image is positioned on the left side of the page, with a diagonal cut separating it from the white background.

# Future priorities and focus

At the start of 2020, the expectation that significant headway would be made over the year in gender equality and narrowing gaps that prevent women and children from their full health and well-being potential seemed realistic and unexceptional. The outlook is, of course, much bleaker at the start of 2021. A year ago, there were clear indications of progress, and EWECE's focus was on accelerating and expanding this progress to ensure a trajectory for successful achievement of the Global Strategy. Entering 2021, the immediate emphasis is more modest – to sustain the gains that have been made and prepare for 'building back better' as the COVID-19 pandemic comes under control.



In the words of the Deputy Secretary-General, EWEC is the face of the Decade of Action. This underscores its value in helping restore and reshape action on behalf of the most vulnerable to meet the SDGs. The campaign is more important than could have been imagined when the Secretary-General launched it in September 2019. The COVID-19 crisis has heightened the urgency to do more, and more quickly, to ensure that the SDGs are achieved.

The SDGs require cross-sectoral collaboration, multi-sectoral partnerships and innovative approaches to deliver on a transformative, indivisible and universal agenda that leaves no one behind. Key factors of success will include securing and ensuring results-driven commitments and political will. The renewed sense of urgency in the wake of COVID-19 offers an opportunity to scale up and leverage the proven solutions and lessons learned over the past decade, since the movement was launched.

The Global Strategy and its three pillars – Survive, Thrive and Transform – should continue to be the overarching guide to EWEC’s work in the future, with partners mobilized and commitments cultivated across the three pillars.

But the EWEC movement is in need of a revised structure, renewed agenda and engaged leadership at all levels.

The Strategic Evaluation of the EWEC Movement concluded in September 2020, assessed the

relevance and direction of the EWEC partnership in relation to its mandate for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health at global and country levels – particularly since the development of the EWEC Global Strategy 2016-2030 – and considering the roles of other partnerships and platforms. It evaluated three broad dimensions:

1. Vision and mandate: EWEC’s strategic positioning and value-add in the global health landscape.
2. Governance: EWEC’s governance structure and decision-making processes.
3. Partnerships: EWEC’s partnership model including partnership processes and partner contributions.

The Evaluation, conducted by Deloitte, presented two high level options for the future of the movement:

Option 1: Re-establish and revitalize EWEC’s position in the global health landscape with defined niche focus area and resources available to be committed.

Option 2: Phase out the EWEC movement, including disbanding the Secretariat and HLSG, providing space for other global health actors and new ways of working to ensure ownership and accountability for the Global Strategy.

These findings have helped lay the path forward for the EWEC Movement to adapt to the Decade of Action by implementing critical changes to its current configuration.




**As EWEC enters its second decade, it will be repositioned under the leadership of the SG and the DSG to focus on the country-level implementation of the EWEC Global Strategy within the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs.**

Although the EWEC Global Strategy remains as relevant today as when it was launched in 2015 at the start of the SDG era, the EWEC Movement's focus will shift to country and regional-level mechanisms driven by the UN Sustainable Development Group and aligned with the SDG 3 Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All.

As part of this shift, EWEC will be leading simplification efforts, including bringing the High-Level Steering Group's tenure to a close on 31 March 2021, while creating a new position, the UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Every Woman Every Child. Through this role, the movement will continue to position women's, children's and adolescents' health at the forefront of the international agenda and highlight the collective need to deliver on the Global Strategy. An annual progress report on the EWEC Global Strategy will be developed under the leadership of the Special Advocate and supported by the H6 in collaboration with PMNCH, Countdown to 2030 and others.

The repositioning of EWEC also serves as an opportunity to strengthen and integrate accountability for the EWEC Global Strategy into broader SDG 3 accountability mechanisms to support countries. EWEC-specific reporting of the IAP came to an end on 31 December 2020, however their transition is currently underway until March 31st. During this transition period and at the request of the DSG, the IAP will develop a final report to the SG by March 2021, outlining their learnings from a decade of EWEC accountability mechanisms for women's, children's and adolescents' health as well as their reflections and recommendations on continuity moving forward.



IN THE WORDS OF THE DEPUTY  
SECRETARY-GENERAL, EWEC IS THE  
FACE OF THE DECADE OF ACTION.





## Conclusion

The launch of Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) a decade ago marked a critical step towards generating the highest level political commitment from across sectors when it was clear that progress was beginning to lag. By coordinating multi-stakeholder partners and mobilizing action to generate greater investments aimed at improving the health, rights and prospects of women, children and adolescents around the world, EWEC has been instrumental in creating the momentum needed to realizing tangible results towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Harnessing the collective strength of governments, the private sector, international NGOs and civil society has resulted in EWEC securing 776 commitments over 10 years, including financial commitments worth a cumulative total of nearly US\$186 billion by governments and other partners.

THE EVERYWOMAN EVERY CHILD GLOBAL STRATEGY  
FOR WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS' HEALTH  
(2016-2030) REMAINS THE ROAD MAP FOR HOW WE GET TO  
WHERE WE NEED TO BE BY 2030

Since the launch of Every Woman Every Child, the world has achieved significant gains in maternal, newborn and child health and well-being:

- More than 1 billion children were vaccinated over the last decade;
- Maternal deaths declined by 35% since 2000, with the most significant declines occurring from 2010;
- Under-5 deaths reached an all-time recorded low; and, Coverage of immunization and skilled birth attendance and access to safe drinking water reached over 80%.

Progress, however, has not reached every woman nor every child, and the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have shown us the fragility of our hard-won gains. The response to the unravelling of decades of progress must unite us to recommit to this ambitious agenda and strengthen our efforts to deliver on our collective promise to leave no one behind.

*The Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030)* remains the road map for how we get to where we need to be by 2030 and is especially relevant as the world seeks to recover and build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Global convening, agenda-setting and coordination between both public and private partners, a central approach adopted by EWEC, will continue to be important to advance the goals and targets of the EWEC Global Strategy.

EWEC's repositioning will facilitate country support and implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. Stronger alignment with the SDG3 GAP and the reformed Resident Coordinator System will fast-track and streamline country-level implementation in the next Decade of Action. This serves as a critical opportunity to firmly embed EWEC into broader SDG country-level delivery efforts to help achieve health for all.

We are confident that this repositioning of EWEC to country-level as it steps into its second decade will enable us to continue the excellent and vital efforts of the EWEC movement while also ushering in even stronger action on behalf of women, children and adolescents. A reinvigorated, concerted focus on supporting national efforts to accelerate progress toward the EWEC Global Strategy, particularly ending preventable maternal and child deaths within this generation, offers a tremendous opportunity to realize a more equitable, resilient and sustainable future for every woman, every child and every adolescent, everywhere.

*"Ten years ago, the founders of Every Woman Every Child showed remarkable foresight in calling for a global movement that would build on the collective strength of international organizations, governments, the private sector and civil society to end all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents. Recent months have proven them right and shown that there can only be an effective response to global health challenges if we all pull in the same direction and if we give a voice to everyone, including women, children and the most vulnerable communities. It has also highlighted how women, who make up the bulk of the health workforce, have often been left out of decision-making processes, and how children suffer the consequences of our lack of preparedness. Covid-19 is but one in a series of health crises we need to tackle but it is a wakeup call for us to recommit to inclusive governance and genuine collaboration for the wellbeing of all."*

**ELHADJ AS SY**  
Chair, Kofi Annan Foundation

## EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The Every Woman Every Child Secretariat expresses its appreciation to all resource partners that contributed to its work throughout 2020. The funding has allowed Every Woman Every Child to scale its global advocacy and effectively respond to the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being. As EWEC steps into its second decade and is repositioned to focus on country-level delivery driven by the UN Sustainable Development Group and aligned with the SDG 3 Global Action Plan, dedicated funds to further the EWEC agenda will be essential. Flexible resources will support long-term but agile planning to effectively reposition and collectively support national priorities, including the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health 2016 - 2030.

The Every Woman Every Child Secretariat would particularly like to express its gratitude to the below resource partners, UNFPA as the host of the EWEC Secretariat, the core EWEC ecosystem partners, supporting initiatives and each of the EWEC commitment-makers who have shaped and realized its unprecedented success over the past decade.

Top resource partners for 2020:

1. The Government of Norway
2. The Government of Finland
3. UNFPA
4. UNICEF
5. World Health Organization
6. UNAIDS



EVERY WOMAN  
EVERY CHILD