

Financing for RMNCAH has shown steady increases in recent years, with the 2010 launch of *Every Woman Every Child* helping to increase official development assistance (ODA) by 25% in its first three years (2010-2013), significantly outpacing the more modest growth in ODA for health more generally. Even more, domestic spending for reproductive, maternal and child health increased by 17% in the 49 *Global Strategy* focus countries and by 21% in the 75 highest-burden countries between 2010 and 2012.¹ Yet, significant gaps remain, with a historically complex development landscape and shifting politics threatening the possibility of more predictable, sustainable and long-term financing for women's, children's and adolescents' health. Additionally, the transition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its set of ambitious, integrated SDGs highlights a need to invest in new ways. The SDG era requires a reimagining of traditional financing efforts to break the siloes that have historically governed the development space and instead foster more horizontal investments that strengthen systems, account for social-determinants of health and chart a path toward more sustainable domestic financing. The Global Financing Facility (GFF) in support of *Every Woman Every Child* offers a critical tool to facilitate this and is closing the financing gap for RMNCAH in high-burden countries. The GFF is catalytic, bringing together domestic government resources, the World Bank's IDA and IBRD, aligned donor financing—including The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance—and private sector investment. The September 2017 launch of the GFF's replenishment provides a crucial opportunity for targeted advocacy. The case is clear: investing in women's, children's and adolescents' health is not only morally compelling, its significant returns make it economically sound. Greater investments in women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being will not only end preventable death and illness; it will unlock a 'grand convergence' in health, giving all women and girls an equal chance to survive, thrive and transform their lives and their communities.

WHAT DO WE NEED FOR PROGRESS?

- Sustained—and increased—political will, to mobilize sufficient and sustainable resources, from both domestic and international sources
- Improved efficiency of existing resources to increase the value of investments
- Integrated and innovative approaches, including domestic financing, private sector engagement and government spending across sectors for RMNCAH
- Policies for Universal Health Coverage, including determining affordable packages of services, and strengthened social protection schemes (e.g., health insurance packages) for women, children and adolescents to decrease the impact of out-of-pocket health spending
- Improved data on global and domestic RMNCAH spending

TOP LINE MESSAGES

Investments in women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being are among the soundest economic decisions a government can make. Investments in the health and well-being are the building blocks for healthier communities, more vibrant economies and more peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies.

A \$33.3 billion financing gap leaves countless women, children and adolescents without access to life-saving and life-changing care and services across the course of their life. Fifty countries account for 96% of this funding gap and 80% of preventable deaths. As shifting politics threaten to increase this gap, we must work together, taking bold action to increase long-term, sustainable financing for women, children and adolescents. Smart, scaled, and sustainable financing is needed urgently to support country efforts to save and improve the lives of women, children, and adolescents in their communities. The GFF's new approach to development finance aims to save the lives of up to 38 million women, children and adolescents by 2030.² A successful replenishment will be a critical first step in this effort.

New and innovative efforts are needed to ensure effective development assistance and sustainable domestic financing that respond to an evolving landscape and improve access to critical RMNCAH services for women, children and adolescents. This calls for a change in the way we do business, with country priorities based on unique experiences and needs guiding financing efforts to improve value, improve efficiencies and maximize impact. Innovative financing solutions—like the GFF—will be crucial. By aligning domestic and global partners around a clear set of priorities and a single investment case for the most effective interventions, the GFF is helping governments chart a course toward sustainable financing, while saving lives and yielding gains in human capital.

¹ "Saving Lives, Protecting Futures." Progress Report on the Global Strategy for Women's & Children's Health. 2015.

² The GFF Business Plan, 2015.

KEY STATISTICS

- Investments in RMNCAH yields at least a 10-fold return through better educational attainments, workforce participation and social contributions.^{3,4,5,6,7}
- Investments in early childhood and adolescent health and development yield at least US\$100 billion in demographic dividends.^{4,5}

MEASURING PROGRESS: KEY INDICATORS FROM THE EWEC GLOBAL STRATEGY

- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential services, medicines and vaccines (SDG 3.8)
- Coverage index of essential health services, including for RMNCAH: family planning, antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, breastfeeding, immunization, childhood illnesses treatment (SDG 3.1.2, 3.7.1, 3.8.1)
- Current country health expenditure per capita (including specifically on RMNCAH) financed from domestic source (additional to SDGs)
- Out-of-pocket health expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure (additional to SDGs)
- Proportion of population with access to affordable essential medicines on a sustainable basis (SDG 3.b.1) (GS additional contextual indicators, by target)
- Growth rate in government health expenditure compared to the GDP growth (GS additional contextual indicators, by target)
- Percentage of development assistance for health that is on budget (GS additional contextual indicators, by target)
- Government purchase price of a selected basket of essential RMNCAH medicines compared to the international reference price (GS additional contextual indicators, by target)
- Number of innovations from the EWEC Innovations Marketplace that have received investments to scale (GS additional contextual indicators, by target)

³ Stenberg K, Axelson H, Sheehan P, et al. Advancing social and economic development by investing in women's and children's health: a new Global Investment Framework. *The Lancet* 2014; 383: 1333-54. 14.

⁴ Jamison DT, Summers LH, Alleyne G, et al. Global health 2035: a world converging within a generation. *The Lancet* 2013; 382: 1898-955.

⁵ Heckman J. 4 big benefits of investing in early childhood development. 2015. <http://heckmanequation.org/content/resource/4-big-benefits-investing-early-childhood-development>.

⁶ The power of 1.8 billion: adolescents, youth and the transformation of the future. New York: UNFPA, 2014.

⁷ Maternal and Child Nutrition series. *The Lancet* 2013; 382. <http://www.thelancet.com/series/maternal-and-childnutrition>

