

Parliamentarian Role in Improving Health for Women, Children, and Adolescents

Parliamentarians are key to ensuring that all women, children, and adolescents live healthy and fulfilling lives. Through your roles in making laws, overseeing policies, budgeting, and representing people, you can help create positive changes that improve health outcomes. This document outlines the main actions you can take to promote the health and well-being of these groups.

1. Legislation



You have the power to make laws that protect the health and rights of women, children, and adolescents. You can:

- Make sure that national laws guarantee access to maternal, child, and adolescent-friendly health services.
- Propose and support laws that improve access to education, tackle gender-based violence, and address other key issues affecting health.
- Ensure national laws align with international commitments like the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

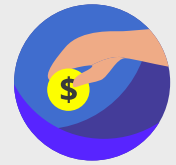
2. Oversight



Parliamentarians can hold governments accountable for delivering on health commitments. You can:

- Regularly review how well health strategies, such as those for reproductive, maternal, and child health, are being carried out.
- Ensure that governments keep their international promises, like the Sustainable Development Goals and commitments from platforms like the World Health Assembly.
- Oversee government data on important health indicators, such as maternal and child death rates, teen pregnancy, and vaccination coverage.

3. Budget Allocation



A well-funded health system is crucial for better health outcomes. Parliamentarians influence how funds are distributed. You can:

- Advocate for increased and sustained funding for health, especially for women, children, and adolescents.
- Ensure health resources are distributed fairly, with a focus on reaching marginalized groups.
- Promote the use of international funding options, like the Global Financing Facility, to support national health plans.

4. Representation



As representatives, parliamentarians speak for all people, including vulnerable groups who are often unheard. You can:

- Champion policies that prioritize the health of women, children, and adolescents in parliamentary debates and public forums.
- Facilitate discussions between governments, civil society, media, and affected communities to include their perspectives in health policy-making.
- Create opportunities for young people, especially adolescents, to participate in decisions that affect their health and future.

By leveraging core functions of legislation, oversight, budget allocation, and representation, you can champion the health of women, children, and adolescents. Your actions are essential for improving health outcomes, advancing gender equality, and fostering societal progress where no one is left behind.

For any inquiries or additional information about how PMNCH can support and inform your parliamentary functions, please contact us at pmnch@who.int or visit pmnch.who.int.