

THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S, AND ADOLESCENTS' HEALTH

The Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents Health

The updated *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health*, to be launched in September 2015, is a roadmap for ending all preventable deaths of women, children, and adolescents by 2030 and improving their overall health and well-being, and builds upon the 2010-2015 *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health* launched by the UN Secretary-General.

The updated Strategy will support the achievement of women's, children's and adolescents' health related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and anticipates a more integrated post-2015 development framework in which all countries are supported to attain and sustain their health goals, moving beyond reductions in mortality to a vision of healthy life for all through the life-course. The updated *Global Strategy* is being developed by a wide range of national, regional and global stakeholders under the umbrella of the *Every Woman Every Child* movement, with strong engagement from WHO.

Why is an updated *Global Strategy* needed?

Great strides have been made in reducing maternal and child mortality – with a 47% reduction in maternal mortality¹ and a 49% reduction in child mortality² since 1990 – demonstrating that change is possible. While there has been substantial progress, much remains to be done. As we transition from the MDGs to the SDGs, it is imperative to accelerate momentum for women, children and adolescents, but also to protect the often fragile gains in some countries, as recently witnessed with the impact of Ebola and weakened health systems on maternal, child and adolescent health.

An updated *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health* will build on new evidence, including the need to focus on critical population groups such as newborns, adolescents and those living in fragile and conflict settings, build the resilience of health systems, improve the quality of health services and equity in their coverage, and work with health-enhancing sectors on issues such as women's empowerment, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene. It will align with the targets and indicators developed for the SDG framework and outline opportunities for means of implementation, including innovative financing and the Global Financing Facility. The updated *Global Strategy* will be accompanied by a first 5-year implementation plan to be finalized in May 2016, ensuring that countries are able to tailor it to their country needs and context.

Who is the *Global Strategy* for?

The updated *Global Strategy* will aim to unite all stakeholders who want to contribute to the global effort to end preventable maternal, newborn, child and adolescent deaths. It will be driven by country ownership, complementing work already underway at country and regional level and will be well integrated with other sectors. The updated *Global Strategy* emphasizes multi stakeholder partner alignment which brings together government, parliamentarians, multilateral agencies, donors, foundations, private sector, civil society, healthcare professionals, etc. It will also engage constituencies beyond reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH), e.g. noncommunicable diseases, as well as health-enhancing sectors such as women's empowerment, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene.

What is the process and timeline for the development of the updated *Global Strategy*?

¹ WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, United Nations Population Division. Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2013. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014.

² UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, United Nations Population Division. Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2013. New York: UNICEF; 2013.

The updated *Global Strategy* is being developed through an extensive outreach and consultation process undertaken around key national, regional and global events in early 2015. The updated *Global Strategy* consultations are designed to facilitate inputs that build on national plans and processes through discussions with national governments. In order to engage a broad community of stakeholders and ensure the strongest possible participation in the consultation, outreach will also build on existing *Every Woman Every Child* commitment-makers and partners networks, such as *A Promise Renewed*, *Every Newborn*, the technical and advocacy working groups of the *UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities, Family Planning 2020*, etc.

It is anticipated that the consultation process will be carried out in two phases with the first round, in February-March, to enable input to the technical working groups of the *Global Strategy*; and the second round, in conjunction with the World Health Assembly in May, to share a draft of the updated *Global Strategy* with a wide set of member states and stakeholders for response and support. Major events and project milestones are shown in the timeline below.

<i>Global Strategy</i> Stakeholders Meeting, New Delhi	26-27 Feb 2015
UN Secretary-General's <i>Global Strategy</i> Progress Report Launch	10 March 2015
Senior Leaders Retreat with the UN Secretary General, New York	End March 2015
Presentation of first draft of updated <i>Global Strategy</i> at World Health Assembly	May 2015
Launch of Global Financing Facility for RMNCAH at Financing for Development Conference, Addis Ababa	13-16 July 2015
Launch of updated <i>Global Strategy</i> and draft implementation plan around UN General Assembly	Sept 2015
<i>Global Strategy</i> and implementation plan presented to World Health Assembly and Women Deliver Conference, Copenhagen	May 2016

Opportunities for engagement?

Learn more: To engage in the consultation process and for more information on the *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health* and the *Every Woman Every Child* movement, please visit www.everywomaneverychild.org which contains key resources, and background on updating the *Global Strategy* and workstream leads and contact details.

Take the survey: The first online survey for the updated *Global Strategy* will go live on www.everywomaneverychild.org on 20 February and will close on 20 March. A second survey is expected to run between late April and late May. Stakeholders will be able to upload replies and comments to a set of survey questions, the responses of which will feed into the development of the strategy. These questions are annexed and responses can also be submitted via email to pmnch@who.int. A timeline for this survey process is as follows:



Join the online discussion: An interactive consultation hub www.womenchildrenpost2015.org, has been developed as a platform to enable stakeholders to access information about the process of updating the *Global Strategy*. The website content includes downloadable tools, resources, webinars and news about national, regional and global consultative events. It will allow users to ask questions, post blogs and access case studies. The hub is a resource hub for both knowledge and advocacy tools and will encourage the sharing of information and support open dialogue and discussion around the process.

Join a live event: Citizens' Hearing on RMNCH+A at community and national level in up to 30 countries will be taking place led by the PMNCH Board NGO representatives, White Ribbon Alliance, Save the Children, IPPF and World Vision. These events will provide an opportunity for civil society to set out recommendations and influence national government policy positions relating to the content of RMNCH+A targets needed in the SDGs and new *Global Strategy*.³ Additional regional and national consultations can be seen in the below calendar. For more information on how you can participate in a consultation please contact Kadi Toure at tourek@who.int

³ More information on the hearings available here <http://whiteribbonalliance.org/campaigns/citizens-hearings-2015/>