Focus on humanitarian challenges for the renewed
UNSG’s Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy
February 10 & 11, 2015
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Background

Launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit in September 2010, Every Woman Every Child is an unprecedented global movement that mobilizes and intensifies international and national action by governments, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society to address the major health challenges facing women and children around the world. The movement puts into action the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health that presented a roadmap on how to enhance financing, strengthen policy and improve services on the ground for the most vulnerable women and children at the most vulnerable times in the lives.

The key stakeholders group of Every Women Every Child (EWEC) met in November 2014 to reaffirm their commitment to accelerating progress towards women’s, adolescents’ and children’s health in the lead up to and in the post-2015 era. The meeting agreed that the Global Strategy should be updated, building on its successes to date and ensuring strong alignment and complementarity with the emerging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The vision is that the renewed EWEC Global Strategy will present a common agenda for 2016-2030 and that it will be launched, jointly with a first five-year implementation plan, at the UN General Assembly in September 2015, aligning with the adoption of the SDGs.

The timeline to develop the updated Global Strategy is the following:

- **February 2015**: Review UNSG report on the current Global Strategy – results and lessons learned
- **End-February 2015**: Stakeholder meeting to review work streams’ progress and seek inputs and consensus on the Global Strategy 2016-2030
- **March 2015**: High-level Greentree retreat convened by the UN SG with senior leaders to secure commitment and identify country champions, and to build consensus for the main directions of the Global Strategy 2016-2030
- **April 2015**: UN Secretary-General reports back to Member States on progress and impact of the 2010 Global Strategy
- **May 2015**: draft 2016-2030 Global Strategy presented to Member States at the World Health Assembly
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- **September 2015:** Launch of the Global Strategy 2016-2030 at the UN General Assembly, together with the first 5-year implementation plan

**Justification for a Focus on Humanitarian Response in the EWEC:**

56% of preventable maternal and under-5 deaths take place in fragile settings, in conflict and natural disasters. In fragile settings, women and girls, in particular, confront exclusion, marginalization, and exploitation. In countries emerging from conflict, continued lack of access to justice, and ongoing gender based violence (GBV), contribute insecurity further limiting opportunities for development. Of the more than 80 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2014, for example, over 75% are women and children, the majority of whom are deeply impoverished.\(^1,2\)

At any given time, approximately 4% of any displaced or otherwise disaster affected population will be pregnant\(^3\) and of these, approximately 15% will experience an obstetric complication. Without access to emergency obstetric services, many women die in pregnancy or when giving birth while many more suffer long-term health consequences that otherwise are preventable. In these circumstances, many newborns do not survive even their first 24 hours of life.

Reliable and secure access to life saving commodities, such as those necessary to protect women and adolescent girls from unwanted pregnancies, to support protection from sexually transmitted infections and respond to HIV/AIDS, continues to be essential in the context of emergencies. Programmes that engage boys and men in support of better sexual and reproductive health outcomes also have an important and yet largely unexplored role to play.

Meeting reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent (RMNC&A) health needs and human rights in humanitarian contexts, reducing preventable maternal and child deaths as well as preventing and responding to GBV, while addressing fundamental needs for nutrition and “WASH” are critical for the resilience and more rapid recovery of affected communities overall. With humanitarian crisis and disasters a stark feature of the global health and development landscape, it is essential that the new EWEC Global Strategy includes clear measures to better support countries and the international community to uphold human rights and assist mothers, newborn, children and adolescents, in emergencies – providing access to essential health care services, life saving interventions and stronger health care systems overall.

**Convening a Consultation with Experts**

HRH Princess Sarah Zeid has been asked by WHO and PMNCH to sponsor cross-sector collaboration to highlight the specific issues confronting women, newborns, children and adolescents in the context of disasters and emergencies. In support of this process, UNFPA, in partnership with the other H4+ agencies, will hold an experts consultation meeting in early February to be convened by the Princess and generously hosted by the Government of UAE.

Held prior to the Every Women Every Child 2015 key stakeholder meeting, scheduled for end of February 2015, this experts consultation will focus on RMNC&AH in emergencies and generate inputs

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for both UNSG report on the current Global Strategy and the new Global Strategy 2016-2030

Purpose of the Experts Meeting

The primary purpose of the meeting is to review evidence on, information about and expert advice with respect to RMNC&AH humanitarian resilience, preparedness, response and recovery. Recommendations drafted as result of these discussions will subsequently guide the integration of emergency preparedness, response and recovery into the framework of the second generation EWEC Global Strategy.

Proposed Priorities for Discussion

Drawing on select evaluations, background papers and case studies as well as their own expertise, the consultation’s participants will review the effectiveness of national and international level actions taken to date, consider emerging challenges and opportunities and make recommendations to focus and support on-going efforts to address RMNC&AH, including GBV, in the context of sudden-onset, slow-onset and protracted humanitarian crises. Participants will consider what are the strategic priorities with regards to, inter alia:

- Critical needs and challenges given the changing nature, scale, complexity, duration of emergencies and existing capacity to respond, i.e. the Ebola crisis
- Increasing access to essential RMNC&AH services in humanitarian settings, including through enhanced surge capacity, task shifting and multi-sectoral support, including for GBV survivors in security compromised contexts
- Integrating RMNC&AH, including GBV responses, into humanitarian norms and protocols, the UN coordinated emergency response (Inter-Agency Standing Committee) and country-level health clusters; building on the work of the Global Health Cluster to date.
- Bridging of development and humanitarian responses and financing, addressing RMNC&AH in the continuum of the crisis – preparedness, resilience, response, and recovery - and strengthening underlying health systems; building on the review/evaluation of the IAWG of RH in crises (2012-2014)
- The burden placed on the structure and systems of countries hosting refugees including those who have taken refuge in urban settings and specific considerations for addressing RMNC&AH in urban contexts
- New and emerging concerns and opportunities such as new technologies, new commodities, new innovations and new thematic/programme areas such as engaging men and boys and addressing the protection and health needs of marginalized groups
- Enhancing accountability for delivery of essential services, including accountability to affected populations
- Options for more robust data gathering and research to enable evidence-based interventions and greater accountability, including by building on the recent evaluation of the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) initiative

Framework for Analysis of Strategic Priorities

Participants will build recommendations regarding the areas identified above, based on their reflections
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about:

- **Lessons learned under the current EWEC strategy:** What has worked well and what needs to work better in the future?
- **Critical challenges ahead:** What new and emerging challenges and opportunities do we see?
- **Impact, equality and scale:** What are the key areas for reform to ensure delivery of proven interventions that can make the biggest difference and for whom? How can these best be financed? How do we better integrate a focus on human rights and international humanitarian law?
- **Systems approaches:** What contributions can health systems strengthening make, in preparing for and delivering more effective responses? What is most needed to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development?
- **Priorities and targets:** To which issues should the next generation global EWEC strategy give priority attention? Which measurable results should it target? How will we track equality of access? How should these best be expressed? How would they best be monitored?
- **Participation and responsibility:** Who are the key stakeholders who could move this work forward?
- **Advocacy and key messages:** What are our key messages and key asks? Who do we need to target to convince and change?

**Profile of Expert Participants**

The meeting will be comprised of members of the *Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises* (IAWG) as well as select multi- and bi-lateral partners whose mandates fall within the terms of the Global Strategy.

The meeting will use a professional facilitator to help focus discussion and will be rapporteur-ed – for the purpose of building an appropriate record of discussion and to capture recommendations.

A small group of technical advisers will work together with HRH Princess Sarah to prepare and support the meeting’s agenda and to draft a report of the meeting’s outcomes for submission to the EWEC Strategy and Coordination group.

**Venue**

This two days-long, experts meeting will hosted by the UAE and held at the St. Regis Hotel Abu Dhabi.

**Additional Steps**

This consultation of experts may be one of a number of steps taken, under the project headed by HRH Princess Sarah, to ensure comprehensive and coherent advice is contributed towards a strategic focus in the next generation EWEC strategy on humanitarian settings. Additional and/or follow up advice may

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4 The IAWG on Reproductive Health in Crises is a broad-based, highly collaborative coalition of 18 Steering Committee member agencies – representing UN, government, non-governmental, research, and donor organizations. Formed in 1995, and currently a network of over 1,500 individual members from 450 agencies, IAWG is committed to advancing the sexual and reproductive health of people affected by conflict and natural disaster (http://iawg.net/)
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be sought on other dimensions than those covered at this consultation meeting, including, for example, in particular relation to children's health.

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