Reflecting on 2007

2007 saw a number of significant events take place which moved the political global agenda forward for maternal, newborn and child health. Achievements include: increased high-level political attention to MNC health, partners working more closely together, constituencies becoming more fully integrated and a rise in civil society involvement in MNC health.

- Starting with the development of the Global Business Plan and the Global Campaign for the Health MDGs to the Deliver Now Campaign for Women + Children, a "Network of Global leaders" on MNC health, the International Health Partnership, the global conference Women Deliver and major announcements to support MNCH from Norway, the Netherlands and Britain in particular;

- From the emergence of the "Health 8" Group in the UN system, an independent Technical Review of Costing Tools for the health MDGs to a new emphasis on support for one national health plan in developing countries and the inclusion of maternal and newborn health indicators in the critical tracking initiative for measuring progress: The Countdown to 2015 in MNC Survival;

- The concept of the continuum of care is now increasingly widely accepted by the global public health community as the foundation for maternal, newborn and child health policy and advocacy messages now more consistently integrate mothers and their newborn, shown in action at the Women Deliver conference in October 2007;

- The NGO community played a prominent leadership role in the October 2007 Women Deliver conference and other recent policy and advocacy venues;

- New research findings were made available through a survey on NGO Advocacy Capacity and Messaging in six countries, carried out by Options Consultancy for The Partnership.

Looking forward to 2008

Each of these developments brings with it clear opportunities for The Partnership’s work to support improved MNC health outcomes at country, regional and global levels. A range of proposed activities for each are presented in detail in The Partnership 2008 Value Added Work Plan, including:

- The “Deliver Now for Women + Children” campaign is an advocacy drive that promotes maternal, newborn and child health as one. Deliver Now aims to develop advocacy and leadership skills, build media capacity to report on MNCH and conduct social mobilization training. A national campaign is going ahead in India. In Tanzania, national partners are working to develop a proposal for a country campaign.

- The Women Deliver Conference agreed on three pillars to save women and newborn lives and further work is under way to reach consensus regarding the essential package of services for maternal, newborn and child health;

- Japan is the host of this year’s G8 Summit and has expressed its intention to put maternal, newborn & child health on the agenda, in the context of the Health Millennium Development Goals. The MNCH community is working towards a common advocacy position for this crucial event;

- The Effective Interventions Working Group is working on a landscape review of partners’ priorities in regards to MNCH and reproductive interventions, to be
**Board meeting December 2007**

The first Partnership 2008 Value-Added Work Plan and Budget were approved by the Board in December. Based on the Strategic Objectives mapped out in the Ten-Year Strategy, the Work Plan identifies both Secretariat and partner activities and is a guiding document for working groups and constituencies. Please find all documents from the December 2007 Partnership Board meeting, including the Director's Report on the website under Partnership Information: Board meetings.


**Thank you Kul!**

Mr. Kul Gautam presided over his final meeting as Chair of the Board of The Partnership in Addis Ababa. Mr Gautam acted as the first Chair of The Partnership, first to the Interim Steering Committee, and then to the Board, from September 2005 until December 2007.

Mr Gautam has passed the Chairship to Mrs Joy Phumaphi, Vice-President and head of the Human Development Network at the World Bank.

Read the full tribute to Kul Gautam from The Partnership and watch an interview with him on The Partnership website.

**Meet our members!**

**AED: Academy for Educational Development**

AED is a non-profit organization working globally to improve education, health, civil society and economic development. In collaboration with local and national partners, AED fosters sustainable results through practical and comprehensive approaches to social and economic challenges. AED implements more than 250 programs serving people in all 50 U.S. states and more than 150 countries.

Highlight: The AED-SATELLIFE Center for Health Information and Technology publishes four regular newsletters that each bring the most relevant news from peer reviewed medical and public health journals.

People: Doyin Oluwole
Director, Africa's Health in 2010, AED, is the Co-Chair of The Partnership’s Advocacy Working Group.

**The Countdown to 2015- MNCH initiative**

A number of partners are taking a leading role in publishing the Countdown to 2015 Report-2008, a survey of progress in reducing maternal and child deaths in high-burden countries and coverage of proven interventions. The report will be launched at the conference to be held in conjunction with the 118th assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Cape Town in April 2008. Contact is being made with Ministries of Health in 68 high-burden countries for three senior decision-makers to attend.

For full details, visit the new website: www.countdown2015mnch.org
Countdown to 2015 MNCH

Looking forward

**Coming events**

- March 2008- Senegal will host the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)
- 26-29 March 2008: Health Care Professionals Workshop, Burkina Faso - et en français
- 24 March - 4 April 2008 World Bank Institute Course to help countries achieve MDGs-

**Request for Proposals**

Strengthening media capacity and positive public behaviours in support of maternal, newborn & child health in Orissa, India  Deadline: 17 March 2008. Full details: The Partnership RFP

Recent additions to The Partnership website: www.pmnch.org

**News and events**

-07 February 2008- New Norway-India programme to save mothers and children
-January 2008-Meeting with Senegal's Prime Minister and Ministers of Health and Budget
-8-10 January 2008 Costing tools Technical Consultation- Senegal
-Kul Gautam- former Chair of The Partnership, chairs his last Partnership Board meeting

**Meetings and reports**

-January 2008- Costing Tools Review meeting in Senegal
-Health Care Professional Multi-country workshops:-
- Malawi- 2007- Associations des professionnels de la santé

**New MNCH resources + links**

-New Partnership Advocacy video: "We will deliver!"
-Maternal and child undernutrition: global and regional exposures and health consequences
-Five 2020 Focus Briefs IFPRI (2008)
-"Images from Darfur" UNFPA photo-exhibit January 2008
-New maternal mortality website launched by IMMPACT
-Newborn Research e-Updates

Share your news, events + resources

**www.pmnch.org**

The Partnership Website

We constantly update our website with MNCH News, meeting reports, Partners actions and resources.

SHARE your latest News and Resources and highlight them on The Partnership website. To do that, fill in the: Members’ Contribution Form on the website or send the details by e-mail to pmnch@who.int

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