Major new study identifies key interventions to reduce maternal, newborn and child deaths 15 DECEMBER 2011 | GENEVA - Global consensus has now been achieved on the key evidence-based interventions that will sharply reduce maternal and child mortality. *Essential Interventions, Commodities and Guidelines for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health*, a three-year study led by the WHO, the Aga Khan University for PMNCH is designed to facilitate decision-making in low- and middle-income countries about how to allocate limited resources for maximum impact on the health of women and children. Download the Study, List of Interventions and read the joint press release.

Parliamentarians meet to discuss women’s and children’s health 5-6 and 11-12 DECEMBER 2011 | NAIROBI and KAMPALA - Kenyan and Ugandan parliamentarians gathered in Nairobi and Kampala respectively to discuss how they can best support the improvement of women’s and children’s health. Kenyan parliamentarians have agreed to follow-up with a policy dialogue to develop legislation promoting healthy women and children and work to increase financing for RMNCH. In Uganda, parliamentarians have committed to produce an advocacy strategy on the implementation of the Roadmap for accelerating the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. The events were organized by the national parliaments of Kenya and Uganda in partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and were supported by PMNCH and partners. More information on the Kenya parliamentary meeting and Link here to the report from Uganda’s parliamentary meeting.

29 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2011 | LONDON UK - More than 60 parliamentarians from 40 countries participated in a session on the role of parliaments in keeping the promises on women’s and children’s health at the International Parliamentary Conference on the Millennium Development Goals, hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK). WHO Assistant Director-General and PMNCH board member Flavia Bustreo spoke about the role of parliamentarians in ensuring women’s and children’s health.

Red Cross resolves action on women’s and children’s health 29 NOVEMBER 2011 – The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has passed a Resolution calling on member states to reduce the health inequities for women and children. The Resolution - passed at the Organization’s recent 31st International Conference - coincided with the publication of a special report in partnership with PMNCH, *Eliminating health inequities: Every woman and every child counts*, which calls for urgent action to eliminate all health inequities.
Next steps in improving accountability for women's and children's health
21-22 NOVEMBER – The first meeting of the independent Expert Review Group (iERG) was held in Ottawa to discuss terms of reference for its work and the development of its 2012 report, due in September 2012. PMNCH was asked by the iERG to produce a 2012 report on the Global Strategy commitments to feed into the production of the iERG report. The iERG meeting, chaired by Lancet editor Richard Horton, was held alongside an International Stakeholders Meeting on Implementing the Recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health (COIA), co-hosted by Canada and WHO. The outcome of the meeting was the development of a high-level action plan to implement the COIA recommendations, in which PMNCH is to play a lead role in regard to advocacy and action for accountability. The meeting was opened by WHO Director-General Margaret Chan and Canada’s Minister for International Cooperation Beverley Oda. More info

Options for Action: Strengthening the Global Financing Architecture for RMNCH
10 NOVEMBER 2011 | GENEVA - Responding to the need to facilitate the mobilization and channelling of financing and the rapid scale-up of interventions for women's and children's health, PMNCH commissioned a review of options to strengthen global financing channels for RMNCH. The report, produced by SEEK Development and the Global Health Group, was presented to the PMNCH board in October. PMNCH has not taken a position on the options presented. Further discussions will be led by a new PMNCH task team on RMNCH financing early in 2012. Link here download the Report

Global Strategy: Ban Ki-moon tours Asia for women's and children's health
12-15 NOVEMBER 2011 | BANGLADESH, THAILAND, INDONESIA - The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, undertook a three-country visit to Asia to Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia to showcase the progress and leadership of these countries in advancing women's and children's health in the context of the Every Woman Every Child effort. During the trip, he undertook several key meetings, including an address to the GAVI Board, a dinner with private sector leaders and the RMNCH community in Dhaka, and an address at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Bali. Full details on the Every Woman Every Child website.

PMNCH urges member input on human rights policies and actions regarding maternal mortality
07 DECEMBER 2011 - As a follow-up to the September 2011 resolution of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) on human rights and preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is now seeking input to prepare technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce preventable maternal mortality and morbidity.

Member news, campaigns & events

GAVI takes first steps to introduce vaccines against cervical cancer and rubella 17 NOVEMBER 2011 | DHAKA – Responding to demand from developing countries, the board of the GAVI Alliance will take the first steps towards the introduction of human papillomavirus (HPV) and rubella vaccines, the GAVI Board has announced. The GAVI Board also agreed to open a funding window for vaccines to prevent the rubella virus which threatens pregnancies and child health. The plan is to reach 588 million children with rubella vaccines by 2015.

Roundtable: "Policies for Promoting the Private Sector’s Role in Development" 8 NOVEMBER 2011 | BRUSSELS - The high-level roundtable debate brought together some 30 senior stakeholders from the private sector, civil society as well as from European and international institutions to discuss the changing landscape of Europe's cooperation, and the private sector role in that landscape. The Development Policy Forum of the Friends of Europe - an independent think tank for EU policy analysis and debate – organised the session in collaboration with France, Germany and the European Union to look at potential synergies
between traditional aid and the new breed of private actors, and explore ways in which their cooperation could improve development effectiveness. [More info]

**Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health launched in Ottawa**  
22 NOVEMBER 2011 | OTTAWA – The new “Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health” was launched in Ottawa to support Canada’s efforts to improve maternal, newborn and child health by increasing coordination and collaboration among partners.

**CIDA supports Johns Hopkins University to improve reporting of reduced child mortality in Africa**  
21 NOVEMBER 2011 | OTTAWA, Ontario—The Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, is supporting phase two of the Johns Hopkins’ Real-Time Results Tracking project, which will allow CIDA to track the results of its child health interventions.

**Conference on Family Planning in Dakar, Senegal**  
29 NOVEMBER 2011 | DAKAR, Senegal – Thousands from around the world gathered in Dakar, Senegal, for the International Conference on Family Planning. This is the largest meeting of its kind aiming to push forward an agenda for broad family planning access and support around the world.

**Mobile technology leaders from 48 countries convene at third annual summit**  
5-7 DECEMBER 2011 | National Harbor, Maryland USA – The 2011 mHealth Summit kicked off with 3211 attendees from 48 countries. Several sessions addressed mhealth in relation to women’s and children’s health, including a special session on mhealth in the African context. [More info]

**UNFPA: World at 7 Billion Report & Campaign**  
As of October 31 2011, seven billion people inhabited the earth. The 2011 UNFPA State of World Population report, People and Possibilities in a World of 7 Billion, looks at the dynamics behind the numbers, explaining trends which define our world of 7 billion. UNFPA launched its 7 Billion Campaign, and dozens of PMNCH members marked the population landmark.

**Global Fund Board establishes transitional funding to replace Round 11**  
22 NOVEMBER 2011 - In light of current resource constraints, the Board of the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria has decided to replace its next funding round – Round 11 -- with a Transitional Funding Mechanism.

**GAPPS: New Preventing Preterm Birth Initiative**  
10 NOVEMBER 2011 - The Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS) is now accepting letters of inquiry for a new grant program, the Preventing Preterm Birth initiative (PPB). Deadline: 31 January 2012.

**UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women: 2011 call for proposals**  
8 DECEMBER 2011 - The United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women is accepting applications for its 16th grant cycle (2011) from government authorities, civil society organizations and networks and UN Country Teams. DEADLINE: 19 JANUARY 2012