



Women's,  
Children's and  
Adolescents'  
Health

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## PMNCH Partner Engagement

### Flagship deliverable for 2022: Preparation of a Global Forum for Adolescents

Tues. 07 December 2021, 12.00 – 14.00 CET and Wed. 08 December 2021, 12.00 – 14.30 CET

**Document Title:** PMNCH-B28-2021-7b, Global Forum for Adolescents (Partner Engagement)

### Background

Since its inception, PMNCH has convened regularly scheduled “Partners’ Forum” events, occurring approximately once in four years (e.g., New Delhi 2018; Johannesburg 2014; New Delhi 2010; Dar es Salaam 2007). The Partners’ Forum serves as a regular global platform for the renewal of commitment to the mission and purpose of PMNCH, for global high-level advocacy and for achieving broad consensus on the strategy and priorities of PMNCH. Participation at the Forum comes from all constituencies and members of PMNCH, and seeks to:

- Consolidates and increases members’ commitment to the objectives of PMNCH and maintains and reinforces high level political commitment to women, children and adolescents. Bearing in mind that 2023 is the mid-point between 2016 and the end of the SDG 2030 – progress on these commitments and actual outcomes will be important to assess.
- Enriches plans and activities through the active exchange of information and experience; Makes use of the Forum meeting for advocacy, communications activities and social mobilization at national and global levels; Provides a forum for dissemination of latest evidence, good practices and experiences.
- Considering the next Partners’ Forum due for 2023, the PMNCH Executive Committee (EC) at its meeting in July 2021 reviewed a [concept note on a “Global Summit on Adolescents”<sup>1</sup>](#), arising from the PMNCH-supported [“Call to Action for Adolescents”<sup>2</sup>](#). The EC took the decision to merge the Adolescent Summit and the Partners Forum, “noting that both are planned for 2023 and the significant synergies in terms of content and messaging, practicalities, and costs”, and mandated the launch of the planning process for the Summit on Adolescents in 2023<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Since the EC decision, the merging of the Global Summit on Adolescents and the Partners’ Forum, partners have suggested that PMNCH host a ‘Global Forum for Adolescents’ encompassing both.

<sup>2</sup> *Call to Action for Adolescents* (2019), Action 3: “Mobilizing efforts towards a first Global Summit on Adolescents in 2023, aiming to increase significantly the levels of commitment and global funding for adolescents and to accelerate action towards 2030”

<sup>3</sup> Taking into consideration the proposals set out in the “EC-07-2021; 02f, Adolescent Well-being Summit” document, the EC approved:

- starting the planning process for the Summit on Adolescents in 2023;





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This discussion note outlines steps taken since the EC decision, and implications for planning and budgeting in 2022.

## Rationale

Meeting adolescents' needs and mitigating the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as school closures and social isolation, requires sustained investment in the high-quality, adolescent-responsive multisectoral interventions espoused by the SDGs to improve adolescent well-being. As such, to achieve the SDG commitments, more must be done to ensure adolescents' right to participate on equal terms with other stakeholders on matters that affect their lives are realized. This is especially important for vulnerable groups (the poor, very young adolescent girls, ethnic minorities, migrants, people with disabilities, those living in humanitarian settings, etc.) who are most at risk of being left behind.

The **Global Forum for Adolescents** in 2023 will garner political and financial commitments in line with the Call to Action for Adolescents. The Forum will serve as a platform to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, share evidence and new programming guidance developed based on the Adolescent Well-being Framework and draw upon the recommendations of the Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Well-being<sup>2</sup> and the Governing health futures 2030: Growing up in a digital world.

In alignment with the EC decision on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021, the Call to Action for Adolescents calls for meaningful engagement of young people in policies and programs, a multi-sectoral response to addressing adolescents' needs, as well as a Global Forum for Adolescents and encourages countries to adopt policies and programmes prioritizing investment in adolescents' well-being through several coordinated sectors.

## Expected Outcomes of the Global Forum for Adolescents

1. Greater consensus and alignment among PMNCH's 1,200+ partners and 10 constituency groups on priorities, strategies and technical approaches to accelerate implementation on adolescent well-being;
2. Greater knowledge of good practices, innovations and "doing more with less" to support required action and accountability, across sectors, supporting the five domains of the [Adolescent Well-being Framework](#);

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- merging the Summit with the planned PMNCH Partners' Forum, noting that both are planned for 2023 and the significant synergies in terms of content and messaging, practicalities, and costs;
  - encompass aspects of digital innovation, marketplace and private sector engagement, as well as significant involvement of the AYC in the planning and organization of the Summit; and
  - development and presentation by the Secretariat of the following to the EC at its meeting in December 2021:
    - o a full Concept Note for the Summit including a workplan plan and budget; and
    - o a resource mobilization plan with guidance from the newly established Standing Committees.



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3. Improved political attention and prioritization of adolescents' well-being, concrete commitments, with strengthened accountability, with concrete action plans, allocations of roles and resources;
4. Increased and meaningful adolescent and youth engagement, driving all aspects of the Global Forum 2023 and showcasing the [Global Consensus on Meaningful Adolescent and Youth Engagement](#) and relevant tools to ensure practical implementation of the MAYE approach in policies and programs.

Through this multi-pronged approach, PMNCH and partners aim to kick-start a process of institutionalizing adolescent well-being as a priority area of action and review at the global and national level for sustainable results and making a difference to the well-being of adolescents across countries and regions. This approach will ensure sustainable impact and tangible results, linked to the high-level policy, financing and services related outcomes in the PMNCH Results Framework. Efforts will also be made to look at progress of MNCH and SRHR among adolescents and youth, and highlight necessary strategies to accelerate relevant SDG target achievements.

## Goals

This Global Forum for Adolescents will:

1. Foster and register additional pledges to increase policy, financing and/or service-related commitments;
2. Provide a platform for governments and other partners to share new evidence on multisectoral responses, including country solutions, innovations and compelling stories from young people about their fight for rights and a better future, not only for themselves but for generations to come;
3. Showcase people-centered accountability to ensure commitments translate to action, bringing forward the voices of adolescents and their lived realities and reflect how the duty bearers and we as community have responded to their needs and asks;
4. Foster a space for young people, including AYC members, to strengthen their capacities and engage with partners at country level;
5. Link and facilitate opportunities for innovative partnerships, including hosting an innovative market place between constituencies for increased collaboration for implementation and impact.

## Form and Structure

Following the recommendations of the [PMNCH 2021-2025 Strategy](#), the Global Forum for Adolescents will make full use of virtual formats to increase participation and inclusion. The Forum will be organized as a highly inclusive and decentralized event, operating in local languages and leveraging the community-based power of PMNCH's digital advocacy hubs to unite PMNCH partners within and across countries and regions. In total, this event will seek to engage more than 1 million people online and in person, from communities to the global level.



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All Forum events will be concentrated over two days in September 2023 and operating on three main platforms – country digital hubs, the PMNCH global digital hub, and an in-person UN SDG Summit in New York held alongside the UN General Assembly. Each platform will be linked to the other in real time through digital technology. Efforts will be made to capitalize on the existing in-person presence of partners, champions and political leaders in New York for the UNGA, thereby avoiding unnecessary travel costs.

This Forum will unite PMNCH partners in every country and region, leaving no one behind. Massive participation will be enabled and powered by the PMNCH digital platform, centering on the creation of a virtual global “mainstage” linked in real-time to a network of parallel events hosted by country advocacy hubs supported by PMNCH partners. Global Forum and related country/regional events will be amplified by social and online media, including in local languages. Under the umbrella of the ‘Global Forum for Adolescents,’ the three platforms are the following:

**1. Country PMNCH Forums:** PMNCH will support country-based partners in hosting a national online Partners’ Forum over two days to exchange knowledge, resources, information, and advocacy skills and strategies on adolescent well-being with MNCH, SRHR, intersection of impact of climate change, equity and rights as underlying themes. Country Forum events will be hosted (“livecast”) on country-based digital advocacy hubs and will drive increased partner engagement at country level in these digital hubs before and after the Partners Forum, supporting the digital development of stronger national multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs). Multiple countries will be supported by PMNCH to operate national Forums in parallel during these two days in September 2023. For example: “The PMNCH 2023 Forum Nigeria” will convene state-level partners from all PMNCH constituencies to share ideas, experiences, strategies and resources to accelerate commitment-making and accountability. Discussion will take place in local languages, organized by local partners, and supported by local champions, and hosted by the Nigerian country advocacy hub belonging to PMNCH’s network of digital advocacy hubs (see concept note: [PMNCH Digital Advocacy Hubs](#)). A wide range of locally organized events will be organized and webcast from these hubs, e.g., community hearings, parliamentary discussions, and launch events for local resources, etc. Up to 30 country digital hubs can be envisaged, mirroring the 30 LMIC commitments sought under the PMNCH Results Framework during 2021-2025. Each national Partners’ Forum will be supported by a robust social media and earned media effort to amplify messages and outcomes further into communities, and to attract the contributions of community members.

**2. Global PMNCH Forum:** Scaling up from the successful experience of the PMNCH “Lives in the Balance” e-summits, PMNCH will produce a major global digital Global Forum for Adolescents event over two days, including broadcasting of events taking place on country digital hubs, as well as purpose-built global programming to drive partner knowledge, skills, networks, product launches, and the results of joint advocacy efforts. The 2023 Global Forum for Adolescents will include the launch of new country, regional and global commitments and resources, and will include a specific focus on regional policy dialogue for intensified advocacy in LAC, Asia and Africa. Content from the national PMNCH Forums will be woven into the programming of the Global Forum and vice versa – similar to a festival “mainstage” and satellite stages operating in parallel.



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**3. Live from New York:** In addition to digital programming, the PMNCH Global Forum for Adolescents will include an in-person component in New York on the sidelines of the UN SDG Summit hosted under the auspices of the UN General Assembly. This in-person gathering will include a high-level policy dialogue on adolescent well-being involving national and global policymakers and champions. This event will be part of the programming of the Global Forum for Adolescents, which will be webcast through the global advocacy hub and in translation on each of the country digital hubs. As noted above, discussion and events from the country Forums will be brought into the Global Forum and Live New York event powered by young people and the PMNCH AYC constituency, and will include arts and entertainment performances, champion statements, and will be supported by a robust social media and earned media effort to amplify messages and outcomes further.

## Governance

A Global Organizing Committee (GOC) will be established by PMNCH at global level to oversee the planning and execution of the Global Forum for Adolescents. The GOC will be guided by the PMNCH Executive Committee (EC), and will report to the Board through the EC. The GOC will be co-chaired and/or appointed by Co-chair of Strategic Advocacy Committee (SAC) and Co-chair of Partner Engagement in Countries Committee (PECC).

## Budget

The 2018 Forum was costed at USD 2.5m, including a USD 1m travel budget and excluding secretariat costs. The 2023 Forum should be costed on par with at the least the 5 million USD given the scope, multi-dimension (including multiple country forums) and ambition.

## Discussion Questions

1. Recognizing that this is the first time PMNCH will host a Forum on a particular thematic area, adolescent well-being, how can we link and elevate the visibility of other two PMNCH priority areas, SRHR and MNCH?
2. To ensure increased inclusivity, there would be a significantly greater use of digital technologies for partners to participate in the multi-prong Forum. What are the pros and cons of this approach?
3. How can the Forum align with other global convenings in 2022-2023, e.g Align MNH Conference (May 2023); and Women Deliver (July 2023); International Conference for Family Planning (August 2023); UHC2030 progress during UNGA?

## Next steps

- 2-3 December 2021: PMNCH Committee and Working Groups will discuss note ('Preparation of a Global Forum for Adolescents').
- 7-8 December 2021: PMNCH Board discusses this note and task the Strategic Advocacy Committee (SAC) to lead concept development for EC discussion in February, in



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consultation with Partner Engagement of Countries Committee (PECC) and working groups.

- End-Jan 2022: SAC hosts a workshop for the development of the 'Global Forum for Adolescents' concept note.
- End-Feb 2022: SAC presents concept note to the EC.
- March 2022: The GOC holds first meeting to oversee planning and execution of the Global Forum for Adolescents'.