

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to address some of the world's biggest challenges: ending extreme poverty, ensuring health and well-being, reducing inequalities and tackling climate change, among other issues. This 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a plan for people and the planet, and prioritizing the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents is central to its achievement. Healthy, educated and empowered women, children and adolescents are the critical change-makers needed to unlock the ambition envisioned across the SDGs and create a more sustainable, peaceful and inclusive future for all.

The *Every Woman Every Child* movement seeks to see by 2030 a world where every pregnancy is healthy and planned, every birth is safe, children live to celebrate their 5th birthday, and women, children and adolescents are empowered to thrive and realize their full potential. For the first time in history, this vision is within reach and we stand to benefit from an historic demographic dividend from our investments. But, despite progress in recent years, millions of women, children and adolescents still don't have access to the life-saving information, services and supplies they need. Shifting political agendas, coupled with financial constraints, further threaten to turn the tides on continued progress to expand the health and rights of women and girls, particularly. Success will require smart investments that deliver concrete results at country-level. Additional focus must also be placed on adolescents, as the "SDG Generation." As our future leaders, they carry the hope of a more sustainable and peaceful tomorrow.

*Every Woman Every Child* unites stakeholders across sectors to bring to life its *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health*. In a historically complex development agenda, with rising levels of conflict, humanitarian crisis and migration, EWEC provides a transformative model of partnership and helps to bridge the nexus between the health, development and humanitarian sectors. In this context, EWEC's value will also be in its ability to ensure linkages across sectors and with emerging platforms to ensure women, children and adolescents not only survive, but that they also obtain their full rights so they can thrive and transform their communities, in all settings. The replenishment of the Global Financing Facility (GFF) in support of EWEC—as well as other replenishment efforts and budget cycles—provides a critical opportunity for EWEC to elevate messaging and advocate for increased and sustainable financing that prioritizes the health, well-being and empowerment of women, children and adolescents.

Successful implementation of the *Global Strategy*—which provides a roadmap for governments to begin implementing the SDGs, using health as an entry point to deliver on an integrated agenda—will require ambitious commitments from governments, businesses, academia, civil society and all sectors of society to address social determinants of health and well-being, overcome critical financing gaps and maximize operational gains. Sustainable financing, human rights, strong accountability and country implementation will be crucial underpinnings. Only by working together—within and between sectors—with bold ambition will we be able to identify the innovative solutions necessary to address the un-finished business of the MDGs and ensure every woman, child and adolescent realizes their rights to physical and mental health and well-being, has social and economic opportunities, and is able to participate fully in shaping sustainable and prosperous societies.

## WHAT DO WE NEED FOR PROGRESS?

- Increased awareness that women's, children's and adolescents' health is central to the achievement of the SDGs; High-level commitment to the *EWEC Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health* (e.g., government, G7, G20), including at regional level (e.g., ASEAN, AU)
- Cross-sectoral collaboration to deliver on an integrated agenda through multi-stakeholder engagement, including linkage to the UHC and Peace & Security agendas
- Sustainable and flexible financing that prioritizes the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents, in all settings—including a fully funded GFF replenishment
- Strengthened governance, information and accountability at all levels
- Improved capacity and management systems at country-level
- Better data, disaggregated by sex and age at a minimum

## TOP LINE MESSAGES

**Healthy and empowered women, children and adolescents are the heart of the SDGs, delivering transformational change to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.** Investments in women's and children's health have been among the most impactful of our time, with some 2.4 million lives saved between 2010 and 2015 alone.<sup>1</sup> When we invest in women, children and adolescents, we build healthier communities, vibrant economies and more prosperous, peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies.

***Every Woman Every Child* fosters impactful action to address major health challenges facing women, children and adolescents, everywhere.** In a shifting development landscape, with complex challenges, rising levels of conflict and unpredictable politics, the EWEC movement provides a model of a transformative and effective partnership for development. As a global multi-stakeholder partnership, *Every Woman Every Child* unites stakeholders across sectors for collective advocacy and action that breaks down the traditional siloes of development and accounts for social determinants of health to support governments and deliver concrete results at country-level.

**The *Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030)* offers countries a blueprint to begin implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.** Through a health lens, the *EWEC Global Strategy* accelerates progress against an integrated agenda for women, children and adolescents, touching on 9 of the 17 SDGs and 20 associated targets. The *Global Strategy* places women, children and adolescents at the center of the SDGs, helping to ensure they not only survive, but also thrive and transform their communities.

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<sup>1</sup> "Saving Lives, Protecting Futures." Progress Report on the Global Strategy for Women's & Children's Health. 2015.



