Every Woman Every Child Fact Sheet for Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60)

This Every Woman Every Child high-level event during the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), co-organized with UN Women, will focus on the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health with its three thematic pillars: Survive, Thrive and Transform. A stronger emphasis on gender equality and rights can help to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of women, children and adolescents and Transform our world into a prosperous and sustainable society.

EVENT DETAILS: “The Roadmap to Realizing Rights: Every Woman Every Child’s Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health”—March 15th from 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. in the Trusteeship Chamber at UNHQ-NY

ABOUT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Commission on the Status of Women is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The sixtieth session of the Commission will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 24 March 2016. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world will attend the session.

The Commission will address as its priority theme ‘Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development’. In addition, it will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session (2013) on ‘The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls’. The session will include a ministerial segment with round tables and other high level interactive dialogues, a general discussion, as well as interactive dialogues and panel discussions. Stakeholders will organize many side events to draw attention to critical aspects of the work on gender equality.

See CSW60 Brochure for more information: Download [Arabic] | [English] | [French] | [Spanish]

WHAT IS EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD?

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. Every Woman Every Child is the fastest growing public health partnership in history. Since its beginning in 2010, the partners of the Every Woman Every Child movement have contributed to saving the lives of millions of women and children and supported them to achieve their full potential.

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL STRATEGY?

The Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health launched in September 2015 under the umbrella of the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) movement provides a roadmap for ending preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents by 2030 and helps them achieve their potential for health and well-being in all settings. Its three objectives—Survive (end preventable deaths), Thrive (ensure health and well-being) and Transform (expand enabling environments)—are fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 17 targets spanning nine SDG goals.

Implementing the Global Strategy, with increased and sustained financing over the next 15 years, would yield tremendous returns:

- An end to preventable maternal, newborn, child and adolescent deaths, including stillbirths.
- At least a 10-fold return on investments from social and economic benefits.
- At least 100 billion dollars in demographic dividends from early childhood development and adolescent health and well-being.
- A “grand convergence” in health giving all women, children and adolescents an equal chance to survive and thrive.
HOW DOES THE GLOBAL STRATEGY AND ADDRESSING GENDER EQUALITY RELATE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)?

Tackling inequalities and discrimination that negatively affect health will be essential to the success of the SDGs, and vice-versa. Evidence presented during CSW will demonstrate why we need more cross-sectoral interventions to improve women’s health outcomes, and ultimately transform our world.

Interventions outside of the health sector which address gender inequalities—such as secondary education for girls including comprehensive sexuality education, construction of safe roads, women’s economic empowerment and women’s political participation—have positive spillover effects on improving women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health outcomes and will enable attainment of other SDGs.

Only a comprehensive human rights-based approach will overcome the varied and complex challenges facing women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health. To succeed, countries and their partners will have to take simultaneous action in nine interconnected and interdependent areas: country leadership; financing for health; health systems resilience; individual potential; community engagement; multisector action; humanitarian and fragile settings; research and innovation; and accountability.

HOW IS THE GLOBAL STRATEGY BEING IMPLEMENTED?

An Operational Framework (OF) accompanies the Global Strategy and serves as a resource for national governments and the wide diversity of stakeholders within countries whose contributions are vital to improving the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents—including civil society, the private sector and development partners. Over 40 countries and over 120 multi-stakeholder partners have already made commitments to the Global Strategy, totalling over $25 billion.

The OF will be available shortly on the EWEC website and will be updated with new tools and resources as they become available.

To find out more about the Global Strategy, Every Woman Every Child, and how you can make a commitment—please visit www.everywomaneverychild.org and for advocacy resources visit www.EWECHUB.org.

FACTS TO SHARE

**GENDER EQUALITY:**
Closing the gender gap in workforce participation by guaranteeing and protecting women’s equal rights to decent, productive work and equal pay for equal work would reduce poverty and increase global GDP by nearly 12 per cent by 2030.

**PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE:**
A 10% reduction in child marriage could contribute to a 70% reduction in a country’s maternal mortality rates and a 3% decrease in infant mortality rates.

**VIOLENCE:**
1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence—mostly by an intimate partner. Besides physical and emotional trauma, abused women suffer higher rates of depression, alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted infections and more.

**FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION:**
133 million girls and women have experienced female genital mutilation in 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where the practice is prevalent. Besides trauma, FGM can cause infection, infertility and even death.