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Gender Equality and Adolescent Girls' Health: A Post-2015 Framework for Action

Tuesday 4 February 2014, 8:15 - 9:30 am
UN Delegates' Dining Room

Context

While significant progress has been made toward the implementation of the Beijing +20 platform of action (BPFA), the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), inequalities between and within countries and populations persists. As we aim



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to accelerate the implementation of BPFA and ICPD PoA, and to define the post-2015 development framework, gender equity must remain a top priority in order to close the equity gap worldwide and contribute to development across all three dimensions – economic, social, and environmental.

A key entry point for promoting gender equity in the post-2015 framework is by developing a health- and gender-sensitive framework that promotes the health of young women. The challenges faced by girls in this critical stage of life are multi-faceted, and play a key role in determining future social, economic, and physical health and wellbeing.

Focusing on the empowerment of young women, including ensuring health protection and promotion, access to information and services, improved nutrition and education, reduction in adolescent adoption of and exposure to risky behaviours, and protection under the law will be critical to the success of the next development framework. In low- and middle-income countries, complications from pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among girls aged 15-19 years. Adolescent pregnancy is closely linked to newborn health. Infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases (NCD), and injuries in this stage of life all threaten to undermine equitable development. Child marriage lies at the intersection of a broad set of deeply rooted cultural and social inequalities facing girls.





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Session objective

This session, convened in support of the UN Secretary-General's *Every Woman Every Child* initiative, will:

- Highlight why healthy adolescent girls matter for sustainable development
- Examine the current situation around adolescent girls' health
- Share successful strategies for improving adolescent health

Agenda

Moderator: Jill Filipovic, Independent Journalist

Overview of session objectives and speaker introductions

8:15 - 8:20 Welcome/ Breakfast

8:20 - 8:25 Welcome remarks, H.E. Professor Nila Moeloek, President's Special Envoy on MDGs

Presenter to welcome participants and provide the context in which this session is taking place (post 2015 development agenda setting process with an overview of Indonesia's role within this process). Intervention will provide an overview of how youth related issues are framed in current Post 2015 discussions with a focus on the high level panel recommendations.

8:25 - 8:35 Making adolescent health a priority in the Post 2015 framework, Prof Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA

Presenter to provide an overview of the case for investing in adolescent health and an overview of the state adolescent health (including of key health and non-health factors that impact adolescent health). Presenter also to provide recommendations on how the Post 2015 framework should integrate adolescent girls' issues - see attached background document "A framework for improving the health of adolescent girls"

8:35 - 8:55 Panel

Deputy PR H.E. Mr. Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi, Permanent Representative of India to the UN





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(TBC)

Overview of India's recently launched adolescent strategy: Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram. The programme envisions enabling all adolescents in India to realise their full potential by making informed and responsible decisions related to their health and wellbeing and by accessing the services and support they need to do so. The strategy is based on principles of participation and leadership, equity and inclusion, gender equity and strategic partnerships with other sectors and stakeholders.

H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN
(TBC)

In the past two decades, Brazil has made significant progress in reducing gender inequality. Brazilian women and girls are more educated, with women surpassing men in years of schooling. Brazilian women have also increased their labour force participation and decreased their fertility rate. While progress has been made more remains to be done. Presenter shares successful strategies that have empowered girls and women in Brazil and discusses renewed efforts to improve gender equality. Presenter also touches on the impact of social, economic and environmental policies on the health of adolescent girls.

Ms Chongo Mwila, Advocacy, research and communications officer, YWCA Zambia
Presenter provides an overview of global, regional and national accountability tools. Presenter discusses the role of CSOs and in particular youth serving organizations in promoting accountability. Presenter also provides an overview of tools for lobbying such as citizen report cards

Dr Jeni Klugman, Director of Gender and Development, World Bank Group
Availability and appropriate use of quality data in planning, monitoring and evaluation is critical for improving adolescent health outcomes. The Commission on information and accountability for women's and children's health calls for improvements in civil registration and vital statistics and monitoring of results and resources as key strategies to improve health outcomes. Presentation provides an overview of key data related challenges as they pertain to gender disaggregation and adolescent specific indicators and recommendations for addressing these challenges.

8:55 - 9:25 Discussion

9:25 - 9:30 Closing remarks, Ms Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary General, UN WOMEN

