

# INTRODUCTION

The investments we make in women, children and adolescents will build a stronger, more resilient world for everyone. That means leaving no one behind. Together, we must reach women, children and adolescents everywhere but especially those who are hardest to reach; they form the last mile in vulnerability but the first mile in our response.

**H.E. Elhadj As Sy**

Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Member of the High-Level Steering Group for *Every Woman Every Child*

The *Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (EWEC Global Strategy)*<sup>1</sup> was launched by world leaders in September 2015 alongside the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to build momentum for women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being and, in so doing, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>2</sup>

The human rights-based EWEC *Global Strategy* prioritizes meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged and marginalized women, children and adolescents. It takes a holistic approach, focusing on reducing inequities, strengthening fragile health systems and fostering multisectoral approaches to address the wide-ranging determinants of health. In this way the EWEC *Global Strategy* aims to end preventable deaths, illness and injury by 2030 and to unlock the full potential of women, children and adolescents so they can thrive and transform their communities.

The *Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) movement*<sup>3</sup> puts the EWEC *Global Strategy* into practice through country-led, multistakeholder engagement and collaboration. EWEC is a model for transformative

and mutually accountable partnership in a complex and evolving development landscape, bridging sectors and strengthening partner alignment in order to support governments and accelerate sustainable progress for all.

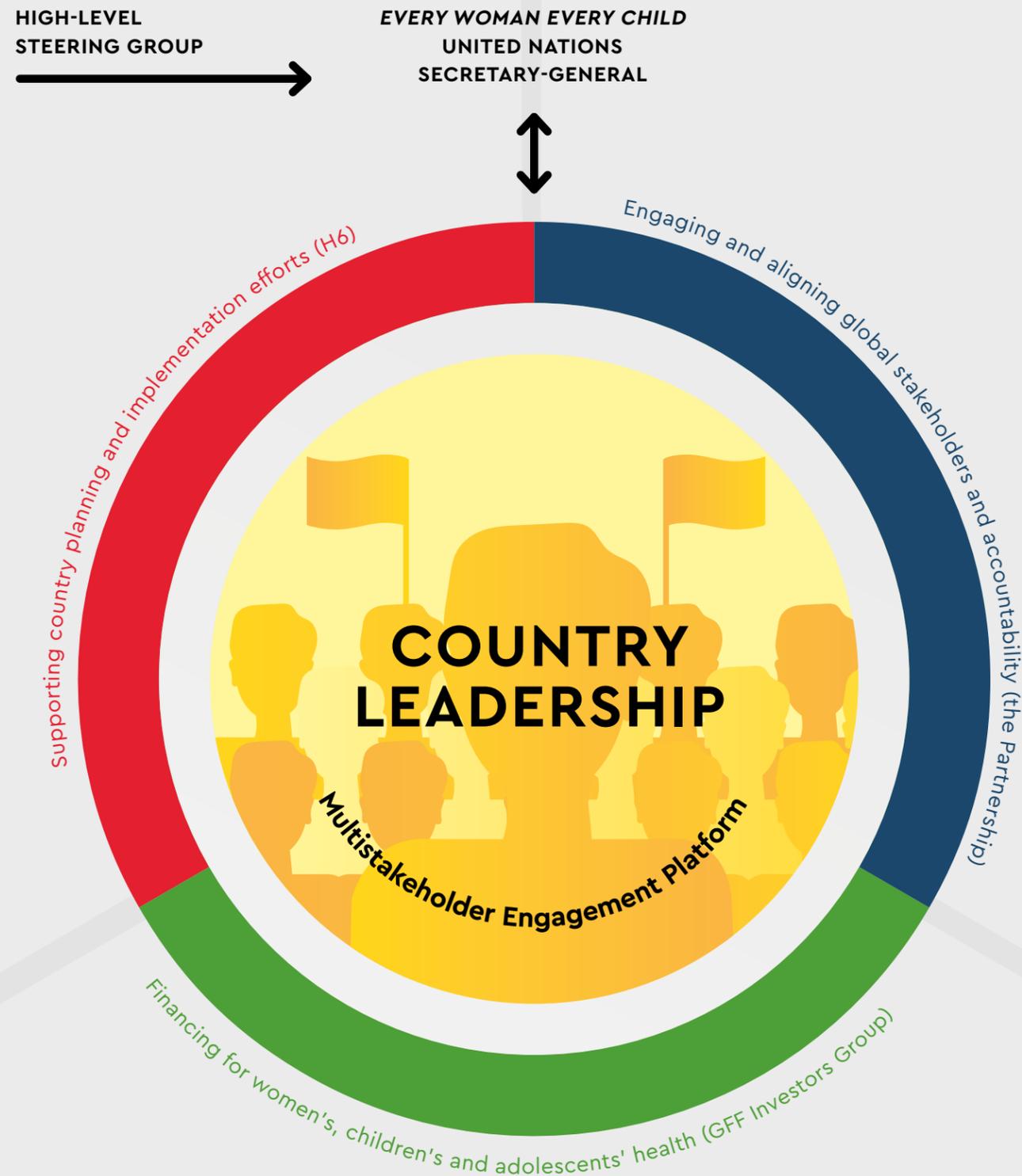
Since the launch of the first EWEC *Global Strategy* in 2010,<sup>4</sup> nearly 650 commitments have been pledged by partners worldwide, and more than US\$ 45 billion has been disbursed to target the needs of women, children and adolescents.<sup>5</sup>

Achievements since the launch of the updated EWEC *Global Strategy* in 2015 include 215 concrete, time-bound commitments worth in excess of US\$ 28 billion<sup>6</sup> and a World Health Assembly resolution<sup>7</sup> committing to the implementation of the EWEC *Global Strategy* and to reporting regularly on progress to the Assembly. The High-Level Steering Group for EWEC was established in September 2016, co-chaired by the heads of state of Chile and Ethiopia, with the new UN Secretary-General joining as senior co-chair in April 2017. The timeline below lists other milestones.

EWEC is supported by a small secretariat based in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General. Its core partners include the H6 Partnership (UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, WHO and the World Bank Group), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) and the Global Financing Facility in support of *Every Woman Every Child (GFF)* (Figure 1).

This is the first progress report since the launch of the updated EWEC *Global Strategy*. It is the collective effort of multiple partners and serves as a critical accountability tool, complementing country reporting on progress towards the SDGs. Chapter 1 provides a strategic summary of the current status of women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being, and highlights global progress, gaps and strategic priorities requiring action. Chapter 2 compiles and analyses the commitments made by partners and stakeholder groups to the EWEC *Global Strategy* with examples of commitments and how they are being implemented in countries. Building on the preceding chapters, Chapter 3 presents a prioritized agenda for 2018–2020: it describes how EWEC partners will align themselves more strongly in support of country-led action and the actions planned by each stakeholder group in future.

**Figure 1.** Every Woman Every Child architecture



**GFF:** Global Financing Facility; **Partnership:** Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health; **H6:** UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, WHO and the World Bank Group.

This report delivers on EWEC partners' promise to monitor progress and hold each other accountable. To support monitoring, the EWEC *Global Strategy* Indicator and Monitoring Framework sets out 60 indicators across the objectives and targets, with an agreed subset of 16 key indicators to provide a snapshot of progress.<sup>8</sup> The latest available country data and/or regional and global estimates for all 60 indicators are collated from different sources and are available from the open access EWEC *Global Strategy* portal on the WHO Global Health Observatory website<sup>9</sup> (see below for more information). Using data from the portal, Annex 1 provides an overview of the status of the 16 key indicators in 194 countries. EWEC also has an online platform for commitment-makers where commitments can be documented and tracked.

Currently, there are major gaps in data, and a monitoring priorities report reveals that only a handful of the 60 indicators are measured routinely, at scale, and with high quality, adequate frequency and full disaggregation in all countries.<sup>10</sup> Several countries have invested in and strengthened civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems and health information systems, including by implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health (see Annex 2). Significant further investments in data systems are required that allow country comparisons and provide valid regional and global estimates to monitor progress. The Health Data Collaborative<sup>11</sup> and the GFF<sup>12</sup> are helping countries scale up CRVS and health information systems. With appropriate investments, progress towards the EWEC *Global Strategy* objectives and the SDGs can be monitored more accurately, and better reflected in future progress reports.

## EVENTS AND MILESTONES, SEPTEMBER 2015 TO JUNE 2017

### September 2015

The EWEC *Global Strategy* is launched at the UN General Assembly in New York. Initial commitments from 140 stakeholders total US\$ 25 billion.

### February 2017

Nine countries, supported by WHO and UNICEF, establish a government-led Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. The Network aims to halve maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths in participating health facilities in 5 years, and to operationalize a common vision for quality of care, starting around the time of birth.

The GFF Trust receives its first contribution from the private sector: MSD for Mothers commits US\$ 10 million to the GFF in support of EWEC. This will be used for innovative financing and public-private partnerships worldwide to scale up high-impact interventions to help women and children survive and thrive through critical life periods.

### April 2017

UN Secretary-General António Guterres joins the EWEC High-Level Steering Group as its third and senior co-chair. The Steering Group meets in Washington, DC and endorses the EWEC 2020 Partners' Framework to help align action around six focus areas for 2018–2020, and to inspire and facilitate collective political advocacy, accelerate action and streamline efforts across the EWEC movement.

The GFF Investors Group approves the Civil Society Engagement Strategy, which aims to ensure that civil society is meaningfully engaged in the GFF at subnational to global levels.

### July 2017

Policy-makers, donors and advocates from around the world gather at the Family Planning Summit in London to discuss efforts to reach FP2020 goals and ensure that more women and girls around the world are able to plan their families and their futures.

The first annual EWEC *Global Strategy* progress report is launched at the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in New York.

### January 2016

H.E. Ms Michelle Bachelet Jeria, President of the Republic of Chile, and H.E. Mr Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, agree to co-chair the High-Level Steering Group for EWEC. H.E. Ms Tarja Halonen, former President of the Republic of Finland, and H.E. Mr Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, agree to act as the two alternate co-chairs.

The Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) is established to provide an independent and transparent review of progress towards and challenges to the implementation of the EWEC *Global Strategy* to help strengthen the response from countries and the international health community. The IAP is hosted by PMNCH.

### May 2016

A World Health Assembly resolution is adopted on committing to implementation of the EWEC *Global Strategy* and to reporting regularly on progress to the Assembly.

A global dialogue promoting EWEC citizen-led accountability is held at the World Health Assembly.

The EWEC *Global Strategy* indicator and monitoring framework setting out 60 indicators and a subset of 16 key indicators is published.

### September 2016

An EWEC report assessing the worldwide state of readiness to begin monitoring progress towards the EWEC *Global Strategy* is launched. The report highlights the need for early investments in countries' civil registration and vital statistics and health information systems, and in local capacity to compile, analyse, disaggregate, communicate and use data, including in humanitarian settings.

The IAP launches its first report, *Old Challenges, New Hopes*.

### May 2017

An update on progress towards the implementation of the EWEC *Global Strategy* is discussed by 194 Member States at the World Health Assembly.

An open access EWEC *Global Strategy* portal is launched on the WHO Global Health Observatory website.

The GFF annual report is launched alongside the World Health Assembly and discussed by representatives of governments, the private sector and civil society.

The report of the High-Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents is launched, calling on governments to: uphold the right to health in national law, protect people who advocate for rights, and strengthen the collection of rights-sensitive data for better monitoring and reporting.

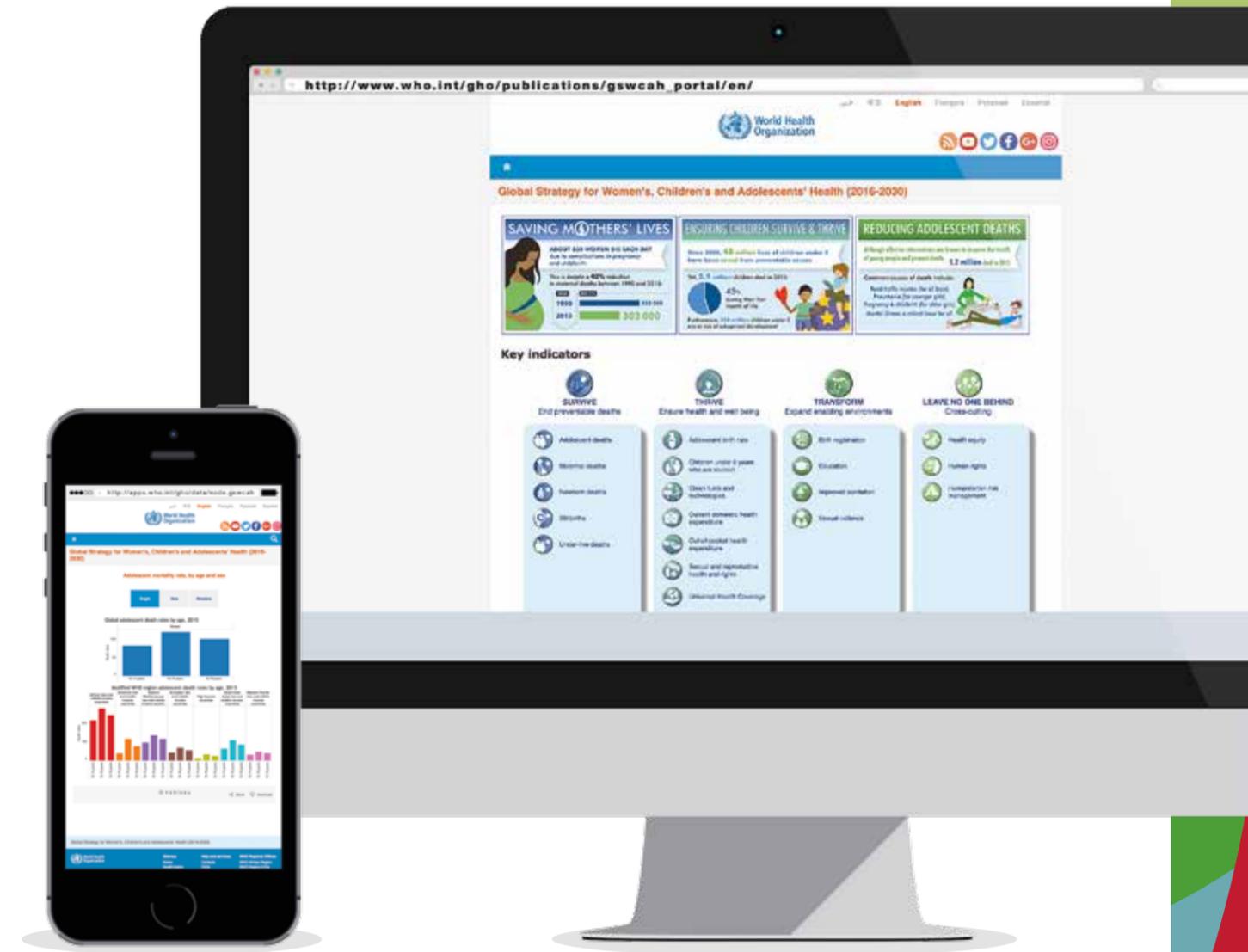
Several tools are launched in support of EWEC at the Global Adolescent Health Conference in Ottawa, Canada, including the Advocating for Change for Adolescents Toolkit and the Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!): Guidance to support country implementation, reflecting the increased focus on adolescent health.

# DATA PORTAL FOR MONITORING PROGRESS ON WOMEN'S, CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS' HEALTH

The *Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) Global Strategy* indicator and monitoring framework includes 60 indicators: 34 from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 26 from related global monitoring initiatives. Of these, a subset of 16 key indicators is highlighted to provide a snapshot of progress. With indicators across health and other sectors, this framework represents a new multipartner, multisector approach to health and SDG monitoring.



WHO has built a dedicated EWEC *Global Strategy* portal linked to the Global Health Observatory to provide public access to the latest available data and estimates – across all countries and for all the EWEC *Global Strategy* indicators. Development of the portal, and updating of the associated data, has involved collaboration across WHO departments, United Nations and multilateral organizations (the UN Statistics Division, H6 agencies – UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO and the World Bank Group – UNESCO and others) and global monitoring partnerships, including Countdown to 2030 and academic institutions. The portal can be accessed at: <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.gswcah>.



**Regular monitoring and accountability are vital to assess progress and to assure that all people at all ages are getting the quality care they need for their health and well-being. We must find where gaps exist and act to ensure universal health coverage. If we collectively invest the amount that is needed, we can save and improve the lives of millions of women, children and adolescents by 2030.**

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Director-General of the World Health Organization