Developing a Global Investment Framework for RMNCAH-N

FOR IG DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Despite substantial progress, many countries remain off track on maternal mortality, newborn mortality, child mortality, adolescent health, nutrition, and reproductive health targets. At the same time, declining external resources and growing demand for sustainable, country-led health systems create a need for a new investment framework that helps governments and partners prioritize the highest-impact investments across the reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH-N) continuum.

Building on the World Bank's investment framework for nutrition, this proposed framework will provide a globally relevant evidence base linking health outcomes, human capital development, jobs, economic returns, financing strategies, and policy and programmatic implementation pathways. The framework will be grounded in global goals and targets, including but not limited to the health-related Sustainable Development Goals and the World Bank target of reaching 1.5 billion people with quality and affordable health care by 2030. The framework is intended as a global public good to serve governments, civil society, development banks, UN agencies, global health initiatives, other financing partners, academic institutions, and regional stakeholders. Drawing from comparable analytics and taking into account different levels of financing available, the framework will help tier interventions for different contexts and protect the most impactful and cost-effective ones.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The framework will answer five questions:

- Why invest in RMNCAH-N?
- What integrated packages and system reforms have the greatest impact?
- What pathways to progress are most appropriate for different country contexts?
- What financing strategies can sustain progress to 2030 and beyond?
- How should countries prioritize where to target investments under resource constraints and plan for a sustainable future?

PILLAR 1: Why Invest? The RMNCAH-N Continuum and Human Capital

This pillar will emphasize the interconnected life-course nature of RMNCAH-N and the continuum of care, with evidence-based advocacy for the critical importance of investing in RMNCAH-N. Rather than treating reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition as separate silos, it will demonstrate the interlinkages across this continuum as well as how outcomes at each life stage influence outcomes at later stages and long-term human capital formation including intergenerational effects. Key topics include survival, morbidity, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health and right (SRHR), gender equality, learning, productivity and economic and human capital development. This could explicitly refer to the survive-thrive-transform framing as well as recognize that the health sector has been identified as one of the five key sectors with high job generation potential. Global goals and targets will be integrated into the analyses.

PILLAR 2: What Works? Integrated Service Delivery and PHC Systems

The focus will be on comprehensive packages delivered through strong primary health care (PHC) systems. Analysis will cover service packages, workforce, financing, commodities, quality of care, community engagement, data systems, governance and multisectoral action including education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and social protection. This will take into account the vision for digitally enabled PHC systems and evidence-based solutions articulated in the World Bank Health Target Implementation Plan. This pillar will include a focus on delivery of innovations and applications of artificial intelligence and digital technologies as appropriate at subnational and national levels, as part of integrated packages delivered through the PHC system. It will emphasize the importance of integrated, systems-oriented approaches that improve RMNCAH-N outcomes and the continuum of care from home, community, and PHC facilities to referral/tertiary level facilities. It will also explore the role of mixed health systems, in a manner that builds upon the upcoming World Bank flagship report on public/private service provision in education and health.

PILLAR 3: Pathways to Progress

Recognizing there is no single roadmap, this pillar will develop country typologies and scale-up pathways reflecting differences in burden, fragility, fiscal space, demographic transition, system maturity, market conditions and readiness to deliver innovations and high impact solutions. This will build upon existing transition models (e.g., for maternal and newborn health) as well as new transition models in development (e.g., for integrated child health and nutrition). Countries could evaluate ambitious, moderate, and resource-constrained pathways.

PILLAR 4: Financing Transformation and Sustained Progress
This pillar will assess current financing trends — for example, macro level trends related to official development assistance (ODA), and domestic resources for RMNCAH-N, future resource needs and innovative financing mechanisms to achieve global and national goals, and options to achieve greater impact with available resources. Topics will include domestic resource mobilization, efficiency, public financial management, strategic purchasing, private sector engagement, external financing, and multisectoral investments. This pillar will explore the importance of priority setting and benefit package optimization, from both a technical perspective as well as from the standpoint of governance and political economy. This pillar will also account for what is needed to sustain progress into the future.

PILLAR 5: Scenario Planning
This pillar will explore the impact that can be achieved through different pathways and financing scenarios. It will examine positive and negative outliers and take into account what is needed to bend curves. A positive deviance perspective will be adopted to assess how outcomes can be accelerated in different contexts through replication and scale of what exemplars have achieved in specific contexts where large improvements have been made in recent years. This will include consideration of innovations and other solutions that exemplars have delivered at scale as an integral part of their systems.

Cross-Cutting Themes
Gender equality, equity, climate resilience, fragility, human capital, country ownership, technological enablement, artificial intelligence, data needs and use, and accountability will be integrated throughout all pillars rather than treated separately. This will include focus on the role of certain themes as key enablers for delivery of results — for example, strong leadership and political commitment, gender equality, strong health information systems, targeted applications of artificial intelligence and timely data use.

OUTPUTS

- A 25 to 30-page flagship report, plus an executive summary.
- Technical annexes and modeling papers.
- Optional financing and policy briefs.
- Optional country adaptation toolkit.
- Optional curated set of innovations and solutions for integration within country systems where relevant.

Action requested: IG members are requested to provide feedback on the paper outlining the investment framework for RMNCAH-N. Advice is particularly encouraged on the proposed structure and areas of focus as well as on how the IG can support uptake and use of the investment framework.