

New structure for RHSC Advocacy and Accountability Working Group

RHSC AAWG

In November 2016 the co-chairs of the AAWG have presented a proposal to the AAWG members to restructure the AAWG. All the suggestions were taken into account and led to this new structure for the AAWG. All of it will be reviewed and if necessary adapted in June 2017.

As the number of workstreams (5) set up in 2016 was experienced as too many for all to be active and effective, it was decided to reduce the number of work streams to two. This should encourage more involvement of the members and more clear results coming out of the working group activities.

The new work streams are:

- 1) RH financing workstream (co-led by Erica Belanger & Angeline Mutunga)

This workstream will focus on:

- Global Financing Facilities
- Global RH funding gap
- National RH financing

- 2) Last mile advocacy workstream (co-led by Aliyu Aminu Ahmed & Amos Mwale)

The objective of this workstream will be to strengthen policies that increase the availability of a full range of quality reproductive health supplies on the shelves in the clinics, pharmacies and hospitals, or in the hands of community health workers. This would involve global advocacy with pharmaceuticals to continue reducing contraceptive prices, while at national level - striving to engage all those concerned to address barriers to access at the last mile.

Immediate next steps for both of these groups are to define SMART objectives, clarify activities, appoint a responsible and set a concrete timeline.

In both work streams members can volunteer to be a focal points on specific issues that are not as much of a focus to dedicate a full work stream to it but still it is important to have them included in the discussion. The focal point should ensure information sharing and learning about the topic. Proposed issues to appoint a focal point on (but open for discussion):

- Accountability
- Quality
- SDGs
- Youth
- A liaison focal point for the each of the other two working groups

Work stream calls

The two work streams will have bi-weekly or monthly calls. The AAWG will still have its monthly calls in the first quarter of the year but might graduate to quarterly calls if that is seen as more useful by the group. These AAWG calls will include:

- Updates from the two work streams
- Updates from members
- Discussions on emerging issues
- External speakers' issues related to our work
- Discussions on ideas for Innovation Fund grand proposals