

**UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD WORKING GROUP  
THEMATIC SEGMENT FOR THE 45<sup>th</sup> PCB MEETING**

***Reducing the impact of AIDS on children and youth***

At its 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) agreed that the theme for its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting will be “*Reducing the impact of AIDS on children and youth*”. The Thematic Segment will take place on 12 December 2019.

The thematic segment provides an opportunity to:

- Analyse the impact of AIDS on children, adolescents and youth through the life course from childhood to adulthood by age range [0-4] [5-10] [11-14] [15-24].
- Identify countries and specific thematic areas where notable successes/progress in HIV-related outcomes for children, adolescents, and youth have been achieved and discuss the key factors that led to those successes.
- Identify the key priority actions that will allow countries, with different epidemiological contexts to scale-up of rights-based HIV prevention, treatment and care and programmes to protect HIV-related human rights by age group, location and population specificities.

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**MEETING SUMMARY: FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP**

DATE: Monday 16 September 2019

**MEETING AGENDA**

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Presentation of the draft outline of the Background Note for the thematic segment
3. Discussion on the draft outline of the Background Note
4. Way forward
5. Any other business

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**SUMMARY**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Mr Morten Ussing, Chief of Governance and Multilateral Affairs, UNAIDS Secretariat, welcomed the PCB Working Group to its first meeting for the preparation of the Thematic Segment of the 45<sup>th</sup> PCB on *Reducing the impact of AIDS on children and youth*.

The Secretariat explained that the thematic segment working group is a mechanism established ten years ago to provide an opportunity to PCB constituencies and stakeholders to shape the thematic segment agenda and the background note. The working group helps make the thematic segment stronger and richer and ensures ownership by the PCB members.

The Secretariat said that the working group usually has three meetings. The first two meetings will focus on the content and structure of the background note. At the second meeting, the agenda for the thematic day will also be discussed and working group members have an opportunity to suggest speakers. The third meeting will focus on finalising the agenda and the format for the day.

Mr. Ussing also recalled the process to select themes for the thematic segments. He explained that a call to propose themes for the PCB meetings of the following year goes out to PCB members in late summer/early autumn. The PCB Bureau then considers the proposals, and finally the PCB discusses the proposals at its December meeting and decides on the themes for the subsequent year.

## **2. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE ON REDUCING THE IMPACT OF AIDS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Ms. Catherine Bilger, Senior Adviser, Fast Track Implementation Department, UNAIDS Secretariat and Ms. Chewe Luo, HIV Section Chief and Associate Director, UNICEF introduced the draft annotated outline of the Background Note.

Ms. Bilger thanked the cosponsors who had contributed to the development of the draft outline. She explained that the outline draws on the 2019 UNAIDS report *Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free* and uses a life-cycle approach. Ms. Bilger said that the outline includes an analysis of impact of AIDS on each age group, highlights where progress has been made and proposes priority actions and game-changers to accelerate progress.

Ms. Luo explained that the outline first reports on the progress to date and the challenges ahead using the Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free framework. The outline then goes on to identify the key opportunities and game-changers for each age group, focusing on those actions and interventions that have proven effective. For the age group from 0 to 5, for example, the key opportunities towards elimination of new infections include increasing access to antenatal care for mothers; primary prevention during pregnancy; retention in care; addressing unmet needs for family planning outside PMTCT services as well as the specific needs of pregnant adolescents. As for paediatric treatment, expanding point of care early infant diagnosis is key as is ensuring that new technologies are available and accessible. Ms. Luo mentioned that other game-changers for this age group in the draft outline include testing of partners of pregnant women, access to PrEP, self-testing and reaching out to men. As for the age group from 5 to 9, game-changers include index-testing as well as school-based interventions to ensure adherence and retention in care. Ms Luo said that as for adolescent girls and young women, addressing multiple vulnerabilities was essential as was integration of HIV with sexual and reproductive health as well as comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school.

## **3. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE BACKGROUND NOTE ON REDUCING THE IMPACT OF AIDS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

The PCB working group welcomed the draft outline of the Background Note. Specific comments included the following:

### **Cosponsors**

- Discussed whether the focus should be on treatment access and on children and adolescents or whether to have a broader focus, including prevention and young people.
- Emphasised the need to link the background note to the broader SDG agenda and the Global Action Plan for health lives and well-being for all so as to take HIV further out of isolation.
- Suggested strengthening the focus on gender inequality and gender-based violence as drivers of new infections for adolescent girls and young women as well as actions on how gender inequality should be addressed.

- Suggested linking the background note to the thematic segment on HIV and mental health and emphasising that mental health is an important element that impacts on outcomes especially for adolescents.
- Emphasised the importance of showcasing the service delivery models that are showing results.
- Suggested including a focus on school-based health interventions.

#### **PCB NGO Delegation**

- Said that the focus should be broad and include prevention and focus on young people in different settings, including schools.
- Emphasised the importance of discussing the needs of young key populations.
- Suggested linking the background note to the discussions on UHC and emphasising the need to include children, adolescents and young adults in the UHC schemes.
- Said that the NGO delegation would send written comments after having consulted with their constituency more broadly.

#### **4. WAY FORWARD**

The Secretariat said that the working group participants had until Friday 20 September to send any written comments on the draft outline of the background note. Any comments on the ToR of the working group or the timeline of work would also be welcome.

The Secretariat also informed the working group that, as usual, a call for submissions of best practice case studies would be sent out to all PCB members and permanent missions soon. The Secretariat explained that the purpose of collecting case studies was to include practical examples into the background note and to inform the thematic discussions. Case studies received are compiled into a conference room paper which is published on the PCB website.

#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

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