

## **Eradicating Poverty – Leaving no one behind**

Submitted by: Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC)  
NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC and DPI

Poverty is reduced when economic and social policies, institutions and political arrangements are mutually supportive. Current poverty reduction approaches that separate poverty from the broader process of economic growth and development are unlikely to succeed and could leave about 1 billion people destitute by 2020. The pursuit of policies in one social development domain while neglecting others is likely to undermine efforts to combat poverty and inequality. Investing first in health and education of the world’s most disadvantaged women, children, adolescents and communities can save millions of lives, and help spur progress towards achieving internationally agreed development targets.

Given the breadth of global health, it is imperative that academic and field practitioners recognize as strategies the interactions of information and communication technologies (ICTs), advocacy and social capital (networks, norms, mutual goals). “Education for All” and United Nations Literacy Decade have included health education activities as strategies for goal attainment and involved schools as academic partners and venues for service delivery, thereby illustrating such synergy.

What people see, hear and experience is often what derives passionate commitment to changing the public health. The basis for advocacy is not limited to what we count and the statistics we derive. ICTs allow us to transcend limitations of space and place and can enhance students’ ability to feel connected and act on issues that may otherwise seem far from everyday reality. We have also advocated it as a tool for enhancing research in resource-poor settings. The Women’s Health and Education Center (WHEC), Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Partnership # SDGAction 1212, has also illustrated the need for advocacy by pointing out that an estimated 10% of health resources are used for research into 90% of the world’s health problems, so called “the 10/90 gap”.

Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=1212>

There are many examples that can be used to illustrate the need for using ICTs and social capital in global health education and action, further exploration into best practices, key strategies and emerging trends, is the next logical step.

Our alliance with The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (The Partnership, PMNCH) represents the communities from: academic, research and training institutions, adolescents and youth, donors and foundations, healthcare professional associations, multilateral organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), partner countries and the private sector.

The Partnership of The WHEC was formed in 2005 to bring together the reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health with the mandate to strengthen alignment and consensus building to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially MDGs 4 and 5, calling for the reduction of under-five child mortality and maternal mortality. The Partnership focused particularly on the importance of delivering the full continuum of care spanning sexual and reproductive health needs and rights of women and adolescents, pregnancy care, safe delivery, the first weeks of life and the early years of life.

Our contributions have played an important role in the Every Woman Every Child movement since the launch of the first Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health (2010-2015) by the UN Secretary-General in 2010. In 2015, The Partnership championed the consultation process and mobilized a broad range of stakeholders from countries, regional bodies and global partners for the creation of an updated Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents Health (2016-2030), coinciding with the adoption of the SDGs.

Advocacy and knowledge dissemination are central to our efforts to improve maternal and child health. Working with partners, [WomensHealthSection.com](http://WomensHealthSection.com) | WHEC Global Health Line produces knowledge summaries that synthesize recent scientific evidence in a concise and user-friendly format to support advocacy, policy and practice on issues related to the continuum of care for the full spectrum of women's, children's and adolescent's health. While most of advocacy work in 2016 was focused on Post-2015 development agenda and consultations to develop the updated Global Strategy and the Global Financing Facility (GFF), its knowledge generation and dissemination work continued, both to support these activities and to inform broader advocacy efforts to strengthen the continuum of care for women's, children's and adolescent's health.

Promoting accountability for resources and results remains focal point of our efforts and it continues to produce evidence and knowledge to develop new initiatives. We will continue to work in the year ahead to ensure that the new foundations for progress laid in this eventful year will result in achieving the world we want by 2030. We hope our efforts accelerate efforts to improve the health and the lives of every woman, child and adolescent, everywhere. Developing Strategies to Deliver 2030 Agenda, is our mission.