

# FP2020 REFERENCE GROUP MEETING REPORT

9-10 July 2018 in Seattle, WA



## MEETING REPORT

The **FP2020 Reference Group (RG)** convened in Seattle, Washington at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on July 9-10, 2018 on the one-year anniversary of the 2017 FP Summit to assess the latest data on FP2020 progress as well as the early impact of commitments made and revitalized in London. The Reference Group discussed challenges and considered evidence-based solutions addressing four meeting objectives to drive toward the high-level outcome “family planning remains at the top of the global agenda as a best-buy for development” outlined below. Looking ahead to the 2020 milestone, Reference Group members reflected upon learnings over the last six years and initiated discussion on how the FP2020 partnership could strategically develop post-2020 in alignment with Agenda 2030.

By the end of the meeting, the Reference Group outlined a course of action for itself, the Secretariat, and partners to enact immediate measures, resolve problems, and accelerate progress.

### **HIGH-LEVEL OUTCOME: FAMILY PLANNING REMAINS AT THE TOP OF THE GLOBAL AGENDA AS A BEST-BUY FOR DEVELOPMENT.**

**Goal 1:** RG members use preliminary data for 2018, including additional users, country progress, changes in method mix, and improvements in quality, to drive toward a clear understanding of opportunities for collaboration and investment to accelerate progress over the next 2-3 years.

**Goal 2:** RG members and FP2020 countries optimize universal health coverage (UHC) policies, programs, and objectives to advance family planning goals and ensure the information and contraceptive needs of women and girls are met through high-quality, voluntary, rights-based family planning programs.

**Goal 3:** RG members and FP2020 countries advocate for family planning, and better align to funding approaches that include a push for domestic resource mobilization, transition, and sustainability.

**Goal 4:** RG members are well-positioned to drive messaging and align the community to advance FP2020 priorities around upcoming global moments, maintaining momentum from the 2017 Family Planning Summit and for the Global Goods.

The agenda and participant list can be found here: <http://www.familyplanning2020.org/about-us/reference-group>.

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS BY SESSION

### **Session 1.1: Welcome & Introductions**

Co-Chairs Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA and Dr. Chris Elias, President of Global Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, formally welcomed the Reference group to the meeting and completed a round of introductions. Ten of the participants in Seattle attended for the first time—including representatives from Bangladesh, which assumed a seat on the Reference Group this year, and two new youth representatives, Mbencho Andrew Millan of Cameroon and Manasa Priya Vasudevan of India. The Co-Chairs also flagged that Melinda Gates would join on Day 2 for an interactive session on the family planning needs of adolescents and

youth as well as the session developed to reflect on learnings from the past to sustain and accelerate gains in family planning as we approach the 2020 milestone.

As part of the orientation for new members, the Co-Chairs highlighted the roles and expectations of Reference Group members and that meetings serve to assess FP2020 progress in detail, discuss and debate the challenges facing us globally and in each country, and converge on next steps.

### **Session 1.2: FP2020 Partnership Update**

The Executive Director of the FP2020 Secretariat, Beth Schlachter, opened the session by acknowledging the significant number of new representatives in the room and outlined the structure of her presentation which would take into consideration varying degrees of understanding about the partnership and the Reference Group. She highlighted the early indications of impact connected to the 2017 FP Summit in London, including the demonstration of increased high-level political engagement and political will; new partnerships and agendas that have emerged with significant focus including with adolescents, humanitarian, and disability communities; and the mobilization of new and more specific family planning commitments, including with corporate sector partners. Beth also announced the creation of a Communicators Community of Practice comprised of senior-level and highly strategic staff (many from Reference Group institutions) to identify immediate challenges to achieving FP2020 goals; discuss target audiences critical to our collective work; work through the language and messages we are currently using to see if we can improve upon them; consider whether we need to reframe the issue; and agree next steps that communicators can take to achieve our goals.

Country partnerships are at the heart of FP2020 and focal point workshops (FPW) are where these partnerships come alive. FPW are organized every six months in one of three regions (francophone countries, anglophone Africa and Asia) and attended by all focal points (government, donor, UNFPA, civil society, and youth) to work together on a range of themes including political will and advocacy, high-impact practices mapped by country, domestic resource mobilization, meeting the needs of adolescents and youth, improving supply chain and delivery systems, addressing social norms that are barriers to women's agency, and incorporating rights-based approaches. This year, resilience and preparedness emerged as important issues for FP2020 support and action.

Beth noted that in 2017 alone, there were 30.6 million new internal displacements associated with conflict and disasters across 143 countries and territories. Currently, of the 14 FP2020 focus countries with the lowest mCPR, six are fragile contexts and 10 have an active emergency. She outlined the intersection between crises, the ability to cope with and rebound from disaster risks, and resulting progress toward FP2020 goals and the achievement of the SDGs. Building upon the momentum of the 2017 Summit and in response to country requests, the Secretariat is intensifying efforts around resilience building through: a partnership with CARE that created a fellowship for a Senior Advisor on Emergency Preparedness and Response; new collaborations and conversations with key global actors (IAWG, PMNCH, Women Deliver); monitoring the roll-out of family planning within the MISP and continuing to bring global attention to the family planning needs of women and girls affected by crises; and importantly, working at the country-level focusing on resilience building and preparedness efforts. 10 of the 15 action plans developed in the March 2018 francophone FPW incorporated some language around reaching refugees/internally displaced persons and/or improving emergency preparedness or response.

Finally, Beth presented a draft of a new FP2020 Accountability Framework that specifically outlines the Secretariat's role in commitment and outcome tracking for feedback by the Reference Group.

The following points and action items surfaced during Reference Group discussion:

- Members endorsed the new approach and emphasis on resilience building and working on humanitarian settings as a core part of the leave no one behind agenda, and provided critical insights on the experiences of refugees, IDPs, and others in their countries along with implications for health systems and service delivery.
- Members debated whether FP2020 would really challenge the status quo in terms of accountability and if the indicators we are tracking are reflecting the voices and needs of women and girls.

- Acknowledgement of a rising tide of conservatism in governments around the world and what that means for how people think about women, girls and reproductive health and rights, including the ways investments are made and programs are designed.
- Reiteration of support for FP2020's proactive collaboration within the global accountability architecture including with EWEC/PMNCH and noted there could be cost and efficiency gains if GFF and UHC2030 were involved as well to amplify existing efforts on commitment mobilization/tracking, outcome tracking, financial resource tracking, and validation of data.

The FP2020 partnership update can be found on the [FP2020 website](#), along with other materials from the meeting.

### **Session 1.3: Measuring Progress – Part A & B**

Emily Sonneveldt, Director, Track20 and Jason Bremner, Director of Data & Performance Management, FP2020 led a deep dive into current data on contraceptive use and access across countries and identifying opportunities for further investment. The data presented marks a critical milestone representing months of work by different FP2020 partners, including data collection efforts, analysis by Track20 Monitoring and Evaluation Officers in country, and data consensus workshops in FP2020 commitment making countries. Some data is still being reviewed thus this presentation was preliminary and confidential. Finalized progress data will be released in November at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) with the launch of FP2020's Annual Progress Report for 2017-2018.

Reference Group members discussed the data presented and proposed additional areas of work to expand the measurement agenda or related to performance management and evidence for the partnership to consider:

- Take these critical analyses and translate into clear advocacy messages/communications efforts – build the bridge between analysis and information sharing to action and utilization, and outline the factors that have contributed to faster growth in countries and disseminate lessons.
- Discuss new ways to assess progress for countries that have matured along the S-curve and are now reaching slower growth rates or are in a plateau phase, and how FP2020 is tailoring strategies and approaches for these countries accordingly.
- Increase focus on measuring and understanding social determinants that will influence progress and improve chances for sustainability.
- Work with countries on improved methodologies for refining goals and targets to a range that is ambitious but feasible.
- Explore links between the fastest growing countries where there is high incidence or increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS and understand implications.
- Review whether countries/regions with increased availability of abortion (especially medical abortion) are influencing youth/adolescent data.
- Identify ways qualitative research could supplement quantitative efforts that are currently underway by FP2020 – capture what we are learning regarding efficacy of existing surveys.
- For countries with sub-national processes, ensure data are equally available given its game-changing nature.

### **Session 2.1: Global Financing Landscape for Family Planning and Implications of FP2020 Goals and the UHC Agenda**

This session featured a range of presentations from four perspectives, focusing on 1) understanding the UHC agenda and understanding family planning within this context; 2) estimates of family planning expenditures in 69 countries; 3) a review of Kaiser Family Foundation's preliminary findings on 2017 donor expenditures; and 4) assessing impact of the Global Financing Facility as a source of financing for family planning. Some data is still being reviewed and therefore the data presented in the session were preliminary and confidential. Finalized progress data will be released in November at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) with the

launch of FP2020's Annual Progress Report for 2017-2018 and the Kaiser Family Foundation report on Donor Government Funding for Family Planning in 2017.

Dr. Ian Askew, Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research for WHO, served as a discussant for this section and structured his remarks around four key areas: arriving at a common understanding for what we mean when we talk about UHC; discussing the specifics of how family planning fits into the broader UHC agenda; outlining the global framing for the issue and implications for FP2020 and Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus' vision as the leader of WHO and ways WHO is orienting its work institutionally to achieve this vision.

John Stover, Vice President of Avenir Health, followed the opening remarks to discuss work on total family planning expenditures looking at calendar year 2016 data for 69 countries, as well as an analysis of whether FP commitments add up to what is required to achieve FP2020 goals by 2020. The Annual Progress Report for 2017-2018 should include validate data for up to 32 countries on domestic government expenditures on family planning in 2016, which is a significant achievement given our collective inability to report on Core Indicator 12 on domestic expenditures in past reports. John presented an estimate of global family planning expenditures in 2016 with a breakdown of percentages from domestic governments, international donors, out-of-pocket expenditures, and other sources, and this will be included FP2020's Annual Progress Report for 2017-2018. John discussed the various methodologies for estimating donor expenditures and recommended FP2020 utilize the following compilation of sources:

- KFF estimate for all donor government expenditures,
- Add major foundation FP2020 self-reports (specifically BMGF),
- Add IHME estimates for other foundations and NGOs.

Next, Jason Bremner followed up with a read-out on preliminary figures on donor government expenditures for 2017 which will be included in FP2020 annual reporting efforts in November 2018 as well as and some initial analysis on progress regarding original 2012 commitments.

Finally, Miriam Claeson, Director of the Global Financing Facility (GFF) presented an updated analysis of family planning within GFF investment cases and links with country CIPs as well as 2018 replenishment details. The World Bank/GFF presentation can be found on the [FP2020 website](#), along with other materials from the meeting.

The following points and action items surfaced during Reference Group discussion:

- Request to disaggregate expenditure analyses by commodities and services.
- Request that GFF provide deeper insights regarding contributions to FP2020 additional users goals, and how countries are using debt to finance commodities.
- Recommendation to develop a communications strategy around FP and FP2020's role in PHC and UHC that can be used outside of technocratic audiences, including to engage constituencies currently excluded from UHC discussions.
- Request to explore opportunities to increase demand side investments through GFF funding.

## **Session 2.2: Domestic Funding for Voluntary Family Planning: Country Commitments, Opportunities, and Challenges**

Building upon the global and donor picture presented in Session 2.1, Martyn Smith, Managing Director of FP2020, provided an overview of financial commitments across the FP2020 focus countries, an assessment of the strengths of the commitment process, and areas of improvement. At the time of the meeting, 38 of the 42 commitments made by FP2020 countries included a financial commitment. Each of these commitments can be categorized to demonstrate specificity: expressed in absolute terms with a baseline articulated; expressed as a percentage increase with no baseline articulated; establishment of FP budget line item; and through a broad statement with no specifics. FP2020's annual country self-report process, where countries share an update on progress against commitments, is an important element of the FP2020 accountability framework. These efforts, along with those outlined by John Stover in the prior presentation, can provide critical insights on how countries are progressing regarding their domestic financing commitments and domestic financing for family planning. 58%

of the 38-financial commitment-makers are either on track to meet their financial commitments or are close to being on track. We have received self-reports from 32 countries to date. Martyn concluded his overview with lessons learned by the Secretariat regarding the financial commitment process, which include the following: how financial commitments are formulated at the outset has a big impact on ability to track and support accountability efforts – specificity is critical; all domestic financial commitments are not equal, therefore being on track to a financial commitment does not always imply the same level of impact; the Secretariat's relationship with FP2020 focal points has enabled much more rigorous approach to tracking financial commitments; the availability of annual self-reports has been important to the advocacy community; and events can derail the best laid financial commitment planning (for example the 2015 earthquake in Nepal).

The Co-Chairs then moderated the main portion of the session, which was a deep dive with each of the Reference Group countries on how they are growing domestic resources for family planning, how they are tracking domestic family planning expenditures, and how they are living up to their FP2020 financial commitments. Where appropriate, countries reflected on family planning investments made through GFF funds and considered the impact of financing mechanisms that are being put in place or planned to advance UHC.

The following points and action items surfaced during Reference Group discussion:

- Despite the emphasis on resilience and humanitarian settings during the morning sessions, these points did not feature strongly during discussions on financing.
- Members reflected on past experiences with Alma Ata and primary health care and cautioned the family planning community not to make the same mistakes given the momentum at present around UHC, particularly during discussions on selective versus comprehensive primary health care.
- There was a request to have a more serious discussion about transition planning given shifts from donor to domestic funding and how the group can align around short-, medium-, - and long-term scenarios to effectively reach FP2020 milestones and FP2020 goals.
- There are opportunities to bring different people to the table as champions for family planning, but the family planning community needs to be savvier about what tables to visit.
- The Secretariat can leverage the Communicators Community of Practice established in 2017 to move these messaging conversations forward

Links to FP2020 Reference Group country self-reports, which include details on domestic expenditures, can be found on the [FP2020 website](#), along with other materials from the meeting.

### **Session 3.2: Adolescent & Youth Data: What We Know and How Countries are Responding**

Melinda Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, joined the Reference Group for the morning sessions. She opened by acknowledging the Foundation's unwavering commitment to family planning and recalled her impressions from the field about the importance of family planning to women and girls' lives.

The Co-Chairs introduced Jason Bremner and Emily Sonneveldt to provide a short overview of demographic and health data from FP2020 countries, looking at youth and adolescent demographics, pregnancies, and sexual and reproductive health behaviors. They highlighted the diverse needs of different groups of adolescents and youth and the steps countries are taking to reach adolescents with improved information and services. Key points include:

- Women of reproductive age 15-49 make up 925 million of the 3.6 billion people in the FP2020 countries.
- In most FP2020 countries the incoming cohort of those 10-14 year old are 2 to 3 times larger than the outgoing cohort of 45-49 year olds.
- In Asian countries, unmet need is mostly among married women aged 20-24 with at least one child, compared to African countries where there is a little more variation. In DRC, unmarried, sexually active 15-19 year old adolescents have the largest unmet need compared to Burkina Faso and Uganda where married women with at least one child have the largest unmet need.

- The types of methods used, and where women receive them, vary substantially by country. In the 7 countries represented on the Reference Group, the most common methods for youth are female sterilization, injectables, and condoms.
  - Female sterilization is only for married youth in India.
  - In Bangladesh, married youth go to the private facility and use injectables.
  - In Myanmar, married youth go to public facilities and the most common method is injectable (there is virtually no sexual activity or contraceptive use reported by unmarried women).
  - In Burkina Faso, married youth go to public facilities and use injectables while unmarried women go to the pharmacy and use condoms.
  - In DRC and Nigeria, both married and unmarried youth go to pharmacies and use condoms.
  - In Uganda, married youth go to the public facility and unmarried youth go to private facilities, but they both get injectables.
- At the 2017 Family Planning Summit, 35 of 36 FP2020 focus countries renewing their commitments, made youth specific commitments. This brings the total number of FP2020 focus countries who have made commitments to adolescent and youth to 39.
- These commitments vary in terms of activity and priorities, which, again, highlights the diversity of the needs and potential programmatic and policy responses.
- Achieving the aspiration and promise of the 2017 renewed commitments and the CIPs will require thoughtful investments, strong technical assistance, and improved tracking of data on progress for adolescents and youth.
- Because adolescents and youth are such a large proportion of the population of women of reproductive age, their reproductive intentions, choices, and behaviors are critical for progress toward FP2020 goals and our path to the SDGs.

The following points and action items surfaced during Reference Group discussion:

- Sub-regional data and information are critical given the variation in circumstances
- Members appreciated the focus on 15-19 year olds but requested a deeper dive on 10-14 year old data in future presentations and acknowledged data gaps related to unmarried youth who are sexually active. Members emphasized the importance of programming for this age group to train and empower them in advance of sexual activity.
- Country partners discussed interventions and investments that are leading to positive change among these cohorts, including increasing age of marriage.
- Increased focus on social and behavior change to influence society/cultural norms to create an enabling environment for young people needs to be discussed more in the next meetings.
- Members stressed the critical need for country to country exchanges like these to advance learning and promote positive outcomes.

The Adolescent & Youth Data Presentation can be found on the [FP2020 website](#), along with other materials from the meeting.

#### **Session 4.1: Learning from the Past to Sustain and Accelerate Gains in Family Planning – Part A**

During an interactive discussion, the Reference Group had the opportunity to share their perspectives with Melinda Gates on the impact of FP2020. Six years into the partnership—and as we advance ever closer to December 2020—an assessment of the impact of FP2020's goals, framework, initiative, and partnership will help determine the path we take to 2030 and realizing the vision and ambition of the SDGs and UHC. The Reference Group discussion was an important first step in the process, with more opportunities for community input to come in the months ahead. Some of the key reflections include:

- Changes in FP landscape since 2012:
  - High-quality, more frequent, and locally owned data for decision-making to guide investments, programming choices, bridge-building/advocacy/partner mobilization. Acknowledgement to

- continue to build local capacity for utilization and strengthen data collection approaches (including what we measure) on adolescents and youth.
- Mobilized within the family planning community to continue building bridges to others, but there is still work to be done to have this issue “owned” by other movements and players.
  - While the goal – determined in advance of the SDGs may have been contentious when FP2020 was created – it was fundamental to identifying two ways to accelerate: it’s specificity in terms of what it wanted to achieve and, in doing so through a focus on country commitment and leadership.
- Strengths of FP2020:
    - Convening power at every level through established governance and global discussions as well as organic processes at sub-national level. High-quality partnerships at the country-level, particularly with the focal points and the ability for FP2020 to unify a range of country-partners around the pursuit of country-led commitments (which are a hook for advocacy and investment). Pushing forward FP2020 mechanisms for coordination and collaboration even further needs to be considered in the future, including determining how this would work in practical terms.
    - Increased visibility of the issue and in some countries for the first time, family planning is understood as a critical intervention for addressing maternal mortality and Ministers of Health are equipped with arguments through better data to make the case for areas of investment (ex. PFPF, young people, DD, demand creation, PHC). Not only has FP2020 had an impact on financial decisions and the creation of budget lines and FP commitments, but also fast-tracked policy decisions, for example around task-shifting for introduction and uptake of Sayana Press.
    - FP2020 as a go-to mechanism to disseminate critical resources, such as normative guidance from UN organizations and High-Impact Practices (HIPs), to the right people at the right time including directly to key decision-makers.
    - The value of the CIP at national and sub-national levels for family planning but also as key contributors to GFF program design and financial requests (ex. WB example in Pakistan).
    - FP2020 remains strong in outcome and commitment tracking efforts (including increased visibility into domestic expenditures) and has built collaborative relationships across the global accountability architecture.
  - Themes/areas to continue strengthening:
    - Be clearer about FP2020’s approach to address the tensions between cost effectiveness and universality of rights (differentiation and intentionality behind capitalizing on immediate opportunities and actions that will take more time to yield identifiable outcomes).
    - Step up political and economic sophistication to energize grassroots, make the case, and influence voters and political agendas.
    - Local ownership, male engagement, and faith-based groups/religious leaders.
    - FP2020 has encouraged multi-sectoral discussions at country-level and this will continue to be a platform for advocacy and lead to new policies. Will continue to be important to focus on multi-sectoral approaches.
    - Learning platforms and opportunities established through focal point workshops at the regional level or country to country support to increase capacity – providing forums for solidarity of learning and talking about complex and difficult topics related to sexuality. Sharing within regions destigmatizes challenges and allows for a focus on solutions.
    - Mobilizing and integrating young leaders themselves into the architecture of FP2020 at global and country levels. Currently at the stage of meaningful engagement but need to start providing spaces to set the agenda.
    - Identify the nexus between HIV/AIDS and GBV within FP.
    - Seizing the PHC/UHC moment to ensure that FP remains a central component of the broader agenda.

- Moving from outcome and commitment tracking to a framework that is inclusive of indicators and responses that come directly from women and girls themselves, and increasing capacity to measure social determinants.
- Critiques debated by the group:
  - Calling it a “family planning” movement when young people and adolescents don’t identify with the issue through this framing.
  - Isolating family planning from a broader SRHR/SRMNCAH agenda while others see value in mobilizing new resources and attention for FP to look at essential interventions and best-buys across the continuum of care, including abortion.
  - Not moving forward as quickly as we need as a community on issues related to agency and demand generation.
- Goal setting: the 2020 goal was extremely ambitious and while we are not technically on track, when you review the data there is much to be proud of given the range of success stories within and across countries. When considering goals for the FP community in the future, it is important to consider the achievement of 2030 goals and what milestones need to be crossed to ensure we are on the right trajectory. Fair amount of consensus on the need for clear goals, that the goals remain ambitious, and can be clearly measured with bench-marks and aren’t defined by a “top-down” decision-making approach.

#### **Session 4.2: Learning from the Past to Sustain and Accelerate Gains in Family Planning – Part B**

As a follow-on to Session 4.2, the Co-Chairs acknowledged that when the community reconvened and went into the 2017 Summit, the progress we have made together was recognized and celebrated—more than 309 million women and girls across 69 of the world’s poorest countries are using modern contraceptives—but it was clear that this achievement was not enough to meet our ambition of 120 by 2020. Recalling the discussion from the prior session, the Co-Chairs conceded that while we may not reach our goal by 2020, we will reach it much sooner than we would have without all our combined efforts and, as demonstrated by the feedback in 4.1, there is need, energy, and momentum to do more.

On the May 1 teleconference, many of the Reference Group members asked the question “What’s next for FP2020?” and session 4.2 began with the Core Conveners initial brainstorming on this question and on what it means to be a part of the FP2020 partnership. The Core Conveners:

- Remain committed to the principle of a focused, global partnership to accelerate progress and ensure voluntary family planning is prioritized within the SDGs.
- See this initiative as critical for advancing women’s and girls’ empowerment, and equity – the leave no one behind agenda.
- Commented that the FP2020 partnership has been valuable to inspire, coordinate, and hold all of us accountable to our commitments.

In terms of a proposed process for any forward-looking, post-2020 planning, they envision the process:

- To be inclusive—informed and shaped by many stakeholders and to be transparent, objective and focused.
- To use existing FP2020 platforms and processes: for example, the FP2020 website, Reference Group meetings, and Focal Point Workshops, etc.
- To ensure broad outreach and help ensure that we build on what we have accomplished and are open to new ways of doing business.
- To take advantage of upcoming milestones to gather input and feedback from diverse stakeholders.

Reference Group members responded in agreement with the principles and process outlined above. There were also several specific recommendations for consideration:

- In addition to existing FP2020 platforms, opportunities such as ICFP and Women Deliver should be used to get input from the family planning and broader development communities.
- Voluntary National Reviews should be assessed and considered to understand country plans to achieve the SDGs.

- Targets set for the future should remain aspirational and will be valuable as a means of creating common ground and mobilizing resources – there should also be clarity on plans to operationalize the way toward achieving the goal as there are “many paths” for getting there.
- The value proposition should be clearly defined so that as countries have more resources and spend more on health, family planning is not left disproportionately behind when rolling out PHC/UH.C
- Consider “universality” as a core tenet of the SDGs in discussions of eligibility for FP2020 as well as Reference Group membership.
- Financial strategies should be thought-through – should there be a fund for family planning established as there are for other health interventions?
- Focus on who we are missing – the adolescent girls and young people as well as those incredibly large numbers affected by humanitarian crises – and why we are missing them.

The Co-Chairs closed the session by stating that they would report back to the group in due course on next steps based on this inaugural discussion on post-2020 planning. Feedback or additional thoughts and considerations can be submitted to the Secretariat.

### **Session 5.1: Private Sector Solutions to Cross-Sector Challenges**

The Co-Chairs invited a panel of private sector partners based on the West coast to join the Reference Group to share insights on how organizations based in Seattle keep customers at the center of their decision making to ensure high-quality, data-driven customer experiences. In advance of the session, Reference Group members submitted real-world country challenges to be addressed by the panel ranging from issues on supply chain and decision making in service to customer satisfaction, including tracking inventory, end-to-end visibility, innovations for last mile distribution, monitoring and acting on customer feedback, and high-quality customer interactions.

The Co-Chairs acknowledged that one element that came through strongly in preparation for the London Summit last year was the need for greater engagement and involvement of the private sector in the FP2020 movement, building on long-standing commitments to the MDG and SDG agenda by many in the corporate community. Specifically, 10 pioneering companies from a variety of sectors ranging from Lindex, a Swedish apparel company; to Twinings, a tea company; to MTV and Viacom, announced FP2020 commitments to reproductive health and family planning programs at the FP Summit in London last July. Dozens of other companies are partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments, and others to create and implement health and empowerment programs designed to improve women’s health while also improving business outcomes.

Panelists included: Dani Harder of the Plaster Group (moderator); Lindsey Douglas of Boeing who covered issues regarding supplier management and the logistics of parts arriving from suppliers around the world; Loren VandenBerghe of Nordstrom who covered omni channel, future of retail, no inventory stores and store design impact on supply chain; and, Edgar Blanco of Amazon covered issues regarding reaching the last mile and data science.

### **Session 6.2: Outstanding Items and Next Steps**

Beth Schlachter thanked the Reference Group for fruitful discussions and debate and acknowledged the significant contributions from members to co-create the agenda and develop content to feed into each session. She reflected on the evolution of the group itself – from 18 to 25 members strong – and the dynamic of the dialogue over time, which now is clearly led by country partners, includes different voices and perspectives from faith groups, SRHR/women’s movements, and of course, the dynamic and experienced youth leaders.

She reflected on the summary of themes that came through over the course of the two days:

- Challenge the partnership to have a bold agenda on adolescents and youth.
- Continue to increase emphasis on resilience planning efforts and building bridges between health/development and humanitarian sectors to support the rights of women and girls to use family planning in fragile settings.
- Increase political leadership and salience through strategic communications and movement building, using data for vigorous advocacy.
- Build upon efforts to mobilize, track, and support the implementation of sharpened commitments and maximize efficiency gains through collaborative tracking efforts, including on domestic expenditures
- Maintain a focus on family planning within the UHC agenda, leveraging PHC as a pathway.
- Sit at other tables and invite others to sit at ours, including through male engagement, outreach to faith-based partners, people living with disabilities, movements such as She Decides and others focused on

women's empowerment and gender equality, and through directly reaching groups who don't have easy access to the existing FP2020 systems created at the country level.

As always, there were specific requests for the Reference Group members/institutions, the Secretariat, Track20 and the PME WG to consider and take forward. It is expected that progress against these requests will be woven into discussions at the next Reference Group meeting. Many of the country partners around the table made bold commitments during the meeting and the Secretariat will follow-up directly on those. Finally, the Secretariat outlined a robust agenda for 2018 and looking ahead to 2019, including the following:

**Performance Monitoring & Evidence Working Group Meeting – Washington D.C. from September 5-7**  
**FP2020 Focal Point Workshops – 2018-2019**

- Asia Workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal from October 1-3 with CSO and youth day October 4, and meeting with Nepal CSO community October 5
- Anglophone Workshop (spring) and Francophone (fall) in 2019 TBC

**International Conference on Family Planning – Kigali, Rwanda from November 12-15**

- Special session of the Reference Group on November 12 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Launch of the FP2020 Annual Progress Report for 2017-2018
- Participate in FP2020-led events, including panels, side-events, and booth activities
- Support the flagship plenary on the 3rd day of the Conference

**IPCI 2018 – Ottawa, Canada from October 22-23**

**PMNCH Partners Forum – December 12-13, New Delhi, India**

**2019 Reference Group Meetings – Spring and Fall 2019**

**Women Deliver – Vancouver, Canada from June 3-6**

- Concurrent session organizer of humanitarian and SRHR tracks
- Exploring additional opportunities through our partnership agreement with Women Deliver