



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Grand Challenges Canada - Being- a mental health initiative- Annual Report and Review - 2022/2023

Published 2024

NIHR Global Health Research Portfolio

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Annual reporting and review process

This activity has been supported by the UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) as part of the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Global Health Research (GHR) portfolio.

The Annual Reporting and Annual Review templates are part of a continuous process of monitoring, review and improvement within NIHR's Global Health Research portfolio. These are an opportunity for DHSC, which oversees the NIHR, and partners responsible for delivering a funding scheme to reflect critically on the performance and ongoing relevance of awards.

The main sections of the template have been developed in accordance with cross-funder common reporting practice and will be used to provide accountability for the use of public money, meet Official Development Assistance transparency and compliance requirements. The template has three main components:

- Section 1 captures DHSC's and the Delivery Partner's overall assessment of funding scheme performance over the last 12 months.
- Sections 2-3 focus on monitoring progress of awards against planned activities, outputs and outcomes (in accordance with the portfolio Theory of Change and results framework).
- Sections 4-7 focus on the delivery partner's management of value for money, risk, financial reporting, monitoring, evaluation and learning updates.

The process for completing this template involves the following steps:

1. Delivery partners ensure that the relevant monitoring information is collected at the award level (as set out in the NIHR Global Health Research results framework). This information will be collected using existing reporting mechanisms wherever possible, before bespoke reporting is considered.
2. Delivery partners collate a synthesis of the award level monitoring information and present aggregated funding scheme level findings (and award level wherever specified) within this template.
3. This report is then shared with DHSC for comment and feedback.
4. DHSC will then use the annual report and additional information gathered through meetings, field visits and any other documentation to complete the annual review template - relevant sections are highlighted with green boxes. This will include an assessment of overall funding scheme performance over the last 12 months, identify

lessons learnt, time-bound recommendations for action consistent with key findings and will be used as an evidence base for future funding decisions. Please write this summary with a public audience in mind, assuming no prior knowledge of the funding scheme.

5. Annual review signed off and published.

1. Programme Summary and overview

1.1 Description of the funding schemes aims and activities

Being is an international mental health initiative working towards a world where young people feel well and thrive. It is hosted by Grand Challenges Canada, in partnership with the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), using UK Official Development Assistance (ODA), Fondation Botnar, Global Affairs Canada and United for Global Mental Health. Being is working with young people to improve their mental wellbeing through research and innovative youth-focused approaches to create positive, lasting change in local communities and beyond.

Being will fund and support research and innovation in 13 priority countries – Romania, Tanzania, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Senegal, India, Morocco, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Vietnam. The evidence and learnings from the approaches funded through the initiative will seek to influence lasting change in programming, research and policies related to young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Being will support six work streams that comprise a systematic and integrated approach to youth mental health:

Research-focused work streams

R1: Understand the systemic context of mental health of young people

R2: Validate new solutions, promote knowledge transfer and inform implementation and scale-up

R3: Understand long-term mental health impacts on youth and recommend policies which would build resilience in health systems to respond to future pandemics and crises

Implementation-focused work streams

I1: Innovative approaches to prevention, early detection and care and promotion of good mental health for all & I2: Youth-led innovative approaches to mental health prevention, early detection, mental health promotion and/or support solutions.

Being will also benefit from a communication, stakeholder engagement and advocacy work stream although this is not supported through NIHR funding.

The initial phase of Being (November 2022 to March 2024) will result in stakeholder consultations, workshops, and ecosystem-based research reports for each country/context that identify opportunities and priorities for investment. There is wide variability in the mental health ecosystem (i.e., services available, epidemiology, etc.) across and within contexts, and the scope and design of the early activities will be expected to capture this

variability. Findings from these projects will be widely shared with other mental health research and implementation partners external to Being to stimulate coordinated action in the field and any reports will be made available publicly.

1.2 Summary of funding scheme performance over the last 12 months (general progress on activities, early outputs, outcomes, impacts across all awards)

The Being Initiative was launched in October 2022. This annual report reviews the first seven months of the programme. Whilst the programme is still at an early phase, good progress has been made in setting up the programme and it is on track to achieving milestones against a number of workstreams.

The R1 context mapping projects are now underway, with service agreements signed with six lead organisations in 12 of the 13 priority Being countries. For the remaining priority country, Morocco, a request for proposals (RFP) was relaunched in February 2023 as an appropriate lead for that country had not been identified in the first RFP. For the R3 scoping and research capacitation, Science for Africa has been selected and due diligence is anticipated to be completed in Q1 23/4.

Being has also secured representation at key events including Women Deliver 2023 and the Global Adolescent Forum which will build strong foundations for ensuring the programme is visible to key actors in the global mental health space and has appropriate channels and networks in place to facilitate knowledge dissemination and exchange.

It is still too early to assess the programme’s contribution to the outputs and outcomes in the NIHR GHR theory of change. However, in this initial set up phase, the programme has laid strong foundations for generating impact and we look forward to hearing about progress in the next annual report.

1.3 Delivery Partner and DHSC to summarise action taken against key recommendations from previous annual reviews over the last 12 months.

Recommendation	Owner	Timeline
N/A - first review		

1.4 Performance of delivery partners.

The GCC team have engaged very well with DHSC on the development of this new initiative. The team have incorporated lessons learned and feedback from the Global Mental Health programme both in interaction with the awardees but also in cross partnership management. This became clear in the initial set up of the Being programme, for example through the development of proportionate MEL systems for the proof-of-concept grants which meet DHSC ODA transparency requirements.

The GCC team also incorporated Sierra Leone and Pakistan as priority countries in the Being Initiative, following DHSC's recommendation based on analysis of existing mental health investment through the NIHR in both countries highlighting an established unmet need within the health systems infrastructure to support further research.

The team also worked very closely with DHSC in developing the grant agreement and were very consultative and collaborative across functions to reach a mutually beneficial agreement.

In addition, it was particularly valuable to be invited to the Being Partners meeting in London, along with Science for Africa and Fondation Botnar. It was encouraging to hear the early results of the R1 context mapping projects and plans for increased stakeholder engagement and advocacy work. We look forward to continued engagement with all partners as the work progresses.

1.5 What are the key lessons identified over the past year for wider NIHR global health research?

It is still too early to draw lessons from the Being Initiative. Nevertheless, the consultative and collaborative approach of the partnership throughout the development of the initiative can be deemed a success and a blueprint for future similar work with other partners.

We also look forward to hearing about the lessons gathered through the Being learning and support provider, and welcome GCC's reflections on this approach to programmatic learning, which will be helpful as NIHR continues to consider similar approaches on other programmes within the Global Health Research portfolio.

1.6 Key recommendations/actions for the year ahead, with ownership and timelines for action.

Recommendation	Owner	Timeline
GCC to keep DHSC informed of Being Initiative cross-partner meetings for future attendance	GCC	Ongoing
GCC to share lessons learned through the Being learning and support provider, and any reflections on this approach to programmatic learning	GCC	Q2, 2024

2. Summary of aims and activities

2.1 Delivery partner's assessment of progress against milestones/deliverables

Award	Agreed milestone dates	Current status of progress against milestones/deliverables	If the award is not on track to contribute to expected outcomes and impacts, why not? What are the potential impacts of this and how have plans been revised to accommodate this?
R1 context mapping projects underway	Year 1 (November 2022 - September 2023)	<p>On Track</p> <p>R1 partners were selected based on an RFP issued in October 2022. GCC received more than 100 applications of which we shortlisted 6 lead organizations for 12 countries. These leads are supported by additional sub-contractors specific to each country.</p> <p>After internal and external reviews in addition to basic due diligence, GCC signed service agreements with the lead organizations in 12 of the 13 Being priority countries in Feb-March 2023. The work is underway, including prioritisation of investment opportunities in Being countries through literature review, stakeholder consultations and consensus building activities. We were unable to source an appropriate lead for one country, Morocco. We relaunched the RFP in February 2023 with additional targeted outreach and have several high-quality bids currently under review.</p>	

<p>R3 scoping and research capacitation</p>	<p>Year 1 (November 2022 - September 2023)</p>	<p>On Track</p> <p>The research partner has been selected after a thorough technical and financial review of proposals sourced through an RFP. We are working with the selected partner to complete due diligence and expect to have the partner organization on board by early Q1 23/24.</p> <p>The research partner will design and implement a research funding call to better understand and estimate the long-term impacts of emerging stressors (e.g., climate change, COVID-19, urbanization, emergency situations) on young people’s mental health and wellbeing.</p>	
<p>Global stakeholder engagement in Being</p>	<p>Year 1 (November 2022 - September 2023)</p>	<p>On Track</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement for Being is supported by United for Global Mental Health (UGMH) and aims to build networks, strengthen advocacy, and engage in ongoing communications to key actors at national and international levels. Broadly, our aim is to continuously drive the research, programmatic and policy agenda for the mental health of young people. Being specific country level communities of practice will be launched in Q3 23/24 alongside consensus building activities.</p>	
<p>Being representation at key ecosystem events</p>	<p>Year 1 (November 2022 - September 2023)</p>	<p>On Track</p> <p>Being representation is secured in key moments for concerted communications such as Women Deliver 2023, Global Adolescent Forum, SDG summit, Global Mental Health Action Network meeting, Grand Challenges Annual meeting etc.</p>	

		<p>Additional stakeholder groups as part of Being are a) Being Youth Advisory Group b) Being PWLE Advisory Group c) Being Council (representatives from UNICEF, WHO, Wellcome, IAMHRF, GMHPN, MHI) d) GCC Program Advisory Council e) Global Mental Health Action Network f) Grand Challenges Network Partners</p>	
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2.2 Delivery partner’s assessment of how individuals/communities (including any relevant sub-groups) have been engaged and of the extent to which award holders have changed their plans to reflect individuals/communities needs when identifying research priorities, design/planning, implementation, analysis, and reporting and dissemination.

The Being initiative particularly focuses on youth, specifically vulnerable or marginalized groups who are affected by or at risk of developing mental health issues in the country of focus. These groups include Indigenous populations, people with disabilities, domestic workers, migrants, women and girls, people who use a substance, LGBTQI, ethnic / religious minorities, young parents.

GCC and UGMH have also formed two advisory groups to support the initiative, a Youth Advisory group and a People with Lived Experience Advisory group, respectively to represent the voices of young people in all Being activities and processes. Each of the group consists of 8 members who represent different organisations who work in the mental health sector within Being priority countries. The first meeting of the groups happened in March 2023 wherein GCC and UGMH provided orientation on the Being initiative and initiated the process of developing Terms of References (TORs) with the groups.

3. Outputs and outcomes

High quality policy/practice relevant research and innovation outputs

3.1 Aggregated number of outputs by output type. *Note that we are interested in a broad range of outputs*

Output type	Total number across all NIHR funded awards (cumulative number since funding began)
Assay/cell line/antibody/biomarker	-
Book chapter	-
Whole book	-
Checklists/scales	-
Cochrane review	-
Conference abstract	-
Conference poster	-
Database	-
Diagnostic test	-
Feature article	-

3.2 Externally peer-reviewed research publications.

	Total number across all NIHR funded awards (cumulative number since funding began)	% of total number of externally peer-reviewed research publications
Number of externally peer-reviewed research publications that are open access	-	

	Total number across all NIHR funded awards (cumulative number since funding began)	% of total number of externally peer-reviewed research publications
Number of externally peer-reviewed research publications with a lead or senior author whose home institution is in an LMIC	-	
Number of externally peer-reviewed research publications with a female lead or senior author	-	

Informing policy, practice and individual/community behaviour in LMICs

3.3 Delivery partner's summary of the most significant outcomes of any award level engagement and/or influence of policy makers, practitioners and individual/community behaviour.

Not applicable at this time, activities related to this question kicked off in March 2023.

LMIC and UK researchers trained and increased support staff capacity

3.4 Aggregate level summary across awards of individual capacity strengthening supported by at least 25% NIHR award funding

Training level	Total number who are currently undertaking or have completed during the award period	% LMIC nationality
BSc		
MSc		
MD		
Mphil		

Training level	Total number who are currently undertaking or have completed during the award period	% LMIC nationality
PhD		
Postdoc		
Professional training for non-research support staff (e.g., research manager, finance, admin, community engagement practitioners etc)		
Other		

LMIC institutional capacity strengthened

3.5 Delivery partner's summary of evidence of activities and outcomes from across awards demonstrating how NIHR funding has helped to strengthen LMIC institutional capacity to contribute to and lead high quality research and training within a national research ecosystem.

Not applicable at this time, activities related to this question kicked off in March 2023.

3.6 Aggregated distribution of support staff (collected for the purposes of understanding how wider research support responsibilities are divided between LMIC and HIC institutions)

	Total number of FTE support staff (research managers, finance, admin, community engagement practitioners, other) in post during the last 12 months - <i>note that this may not be a whole number depending on institutional employment policies*</i>
Employed in LMICs	-
Employed in HICs	-
*e.g., if an institution employs 5 support staff, of which 3 work full time for 12 months, 1 works full time but leaves after 6 months, and 1 works 1 day/week for 12 months, the total reported would be: $3 + (1 \times 0.5) + 0.2 = 3.7$ FTE	

Equitable research partnerships established or strengthened

3.7 Delivery partner's assessment of the extent to which this NIHR funding has contributed towards building or strengthening equitable research partnerships/collaborations (where applicable, including engagement with communities).

Not applicable at this time, activities related to this question kicked off in March 2023.

3.8 Aggregated HIC/LMIC spend across all awards

	Total committed amount (GBP) allocated to:	% of total committed amount to all institutions:
UK/HIC institutions	£ 0 GBP	0%
LMIC institutions	£898,262 GBP	100%
All institutions	£898,262 GBP	100%

4. Value for money

- Delivery partner's summary of evidence from across awards demonstrating activities during the past year to ensure value for money in how the research is being undertaken. This must include narrative on:
- Economy - how are you (the delivery partner) ensuring that funding is being spent on the best value inputs?
- Enhanced efficiency - how are you (the delivery partner) maximising the outputs (research and innovation outputs, knowledge exchange, strengthened researcher and support staff capacity, strengthened partnerships/networks) for a given level of inputs?
- Effectiveness - how are you (the delivery partner) assessing that the outputs deliver the intended outcomes?

We have implemented several mechanisms to ensure that funding is spent on the best value outputs, this includes but is not limited to;

- a) The Request for Proposals that yielded the signed contracts were competitively rendered, where each application was screened for eligibility, and reviewed by 3 people, including at least 1 external reviewer with country knowledge.
- b) During contract negotiations, we co-created the Scope of Work and Milestones related to the project with the contractor. This provided us with a schedule to review, monitor and evaluate the accomplished work activities.
- c) The contract signed with each team includes contractual requirements such as invoice submissions for each milestone submitted that clearly highlights what the payment is going towards and GCC has the right to conduct spot check audits on each project.

While the Being Initiative is still at an early phase, we have already managed to gather all 12 teams working in the priority countries, including lead organizations and their subcontracted counterparts, for a Relational Wellbeing (RWB) Workshop to ensure they are all well equipped to use RWB framework when conducting the context analysis work. The RWB approach goes beyond the experience of wellbeing to address the underlying

conditions that promote healthy environments and happy lives. It targets three forms of underlying drivers of wellbeing to achieve systemic change:

- a) Personal drivers generate variability between individuals. They include factors such as personality, personal history, direct interactions with others and the immediate context
- b) Societal drivers generate variability between social groups. They include factors such as the organisation of the economy, social difference and inequalities, policy and politics, technologies, social norms and culture.
- c) Environmental drivers recognise the interdependence of all living beings and the earth. They draw attention to issues such as space, place, built environment, climate and biodiversity, pollution and ecological sustainability.

GCC will also have frequent cross-learning events virtually to gather and share their learnings, and results.

Our Knowledge Management and Programmatic teams consistently monitor the outputs of the project using a subset of indicators, including meaningful youth engagement, ecosystem engagement, etc. Our impact evaluation approach is currently being finalized to ensure we are well placed to measure the unique impact of Being funded projects.

The research partner (SFA) was also selected through an RFP process followed by rigorous financial and technical review. Several meetings were conducted between GCC and the partner to align on the budget which is commensurate with the proposed activities. GCC is in the process of completing due diligence which involves comprehensive review of their annual financial reports, policies related to safeguarding, money laundering, procurement etc.

4.1 Equity

Please summarise any activities that have taken place to ensure everyone is treated fairly as part of the application process and within funded research teams, regardless of gender, gender identity, disability, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital status, transgender status, age and nationality.

How are you (the delivery partner) ensuring that the funded research benefits vulnerable groups to improve health outcomes of those left behind?

The application review process to select R1 organizations followed the Request for Proposal (RFP) process wherein potential applications were reviewed by external reviewers who have expertise in the mental health contexts under consideration as well as GCC's internal staff. A similar review process was followed for R3 to select the research partner as mentioned in point no. 4, Sciences for Africa, above. The application review process to select this R3 partner similarly followed the RFP process where applications were screened for eligibility and then reviewed by GCC internal reviewers.

The applications were also assessed on the basis of the engagement of relevant stakeholders, including a specific focus on people with lived experience and young people with appropriate safeguarding mechanisms in place. Moreover, there is a special focus in the project to identify vulnerable groups who are at the most risk of having mental health issues.

5. Risk

5.1 Delivery partner to summarise the five most significant risks (both in terms of potential impact and likelihood) across awards within the last year.

Risk	How is the risk being managed/mitigated?	Current status
<p>Competition for attention from other ecosystem priorities may deprioritise implementation of mental health interventions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Branding communications to include information on interdependency of mental health/health and downstream impacts of mental ill health. 2) Socialize Being at high level global health events in the ecosystem (Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, World Health Summit, Women Deliver). 3) Advocacy and national engagement built into budget and program structure from conceptualization. 4) Being partner specifically focused on stakeholder engagement (United for Global Mental Health) 	<p>GCC is proactively working on creating momentum around mental health priorities at global and country levels.</p> <p>Through United for Global Mental Health, we are ensuring that mental health is integrated in important global forums such as Women Deliver, PMNCH, Skoll etc.</p> <p>Through our R1 partners, the buzz around mental health is being created amongst relevant stakeholders through workshops, one-to-one consultations, consensus building events etc.</p>
<p>Insufficient linkages into target countries may impact our ability to generate the necessary in-country buy in creating challenges for sustainability</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) GCC, and other Being partners, to leverage existing partnerships and stakeholders in countries of interest. 2) Socialize Being at high level global health events in the ecosystem (Grand Challenges Annual Meeting, World Health Summit, Women Deliver). 3) Advocacy and national engagement built into budget and program structure from conceptualization. 4) Being partner specifically focused on stakeholder engagement (United for Global Mental Health) 5) Create Advisory Councils (Youth and People with Lived Experience) with organizations representative with established in country networks from priority geographies 	<p>GCC has formed three advisory councils to ensure Being's process and activities are informed by diverse group of stakeholders:</p> <p>Being Council: This includes members from donors, academic institutions, UN organisations etc.</p> <p>Youth and People with Lived Experience Advisory committees are created to ensure these advisors can provide contextual feedback and</p>

Risk	How is the risk being managed/mitigated?	Current status
		act as brand ambassadors for Being in their respective countries
Lack of high-quality applications received for Being funding opportunities	1) Country scoping activities to inform stakeholders / potential applicants about the mechanics of Being and opportunities it presents. 2) Being partners to mobilize existing contacts in countries of interest.	GCC's proactive outreach and strong connections in some countries ensure that we reach out to potential high-quality organisations for the applications. Moreover, our approach to select partners through internal and external review mechanisms make sure that the selected organisations are reputable and have the required capacities to deliver the activities

5.2 Fraud, corruption and bribery. Delivery partner to summarise:

- their approach to handling accusations of fraud, corruption and bribery (if not covered in previous reports)
- any changes in the last year to the anti-corruption strategy applied to managing NIHR funded awards

GCC is committed to promptly informing its funders of accusations of fraud, corruption and bribery. We take these situations seriously and are committed to independently verifying any allegations we receive and to rectifying any adjustments that arise as a result of such investigations. We are committed to keeping funders up to date on the findings of our investigation. We have developed an Allegations and Adjustments Reporting Framework which establishes our process to flag, investigate and resolve accusations of fraud, corruption, and bribery. In summary, the framework covers the areas below:

-Definitions of accusations of fraud, corruption, and bribery

-Process to deal with accusations of fraud, corruption, and bribery, including steps when a flag is raised, external investigation conducted by external audit firms on-site (where possible)

-Process to address unresolved issues with spot-check audits and unrectified audit adjustments

-Funder reporting

5.3 Aggregated credible allegations

	Total number of credible allegations:
Made against any NIHR funded awards	0
Made against any NIHR funded awards and investigated by delivery partner	0
Made against NIHR funded awards and reported to NIHR/DHSC	0

5.4 Safeguarding

Please detail and highlight any changes or improvements you (the delivery partner) have made in the past year to ensure safeguarding policies and processes are in place in your project and your downstream partners.

GCC has a fully documented due diligence process for downstream partners which include sections covering key areas for NIHR such as Safeguarding, Money laundering, Anti-terrorism and recording assets.

Aggregate summary of safeguarding issues that have arisen during the reporting year

	Total number of safeguarding issues
Raised against any NIHR funded awards	0
Raised against any NIHR funded awards and investigated by delivery partner	0

	Total number of safeguarding issues
Raised against NIHR funded awards and reported to NIHR/DHSC	0

5.5 Please summarise any activities that have taken place to minimise carbon emissions and impact on the environment across this funding call.

Not Applicable for this reporting period

6. Delivery, commercial and financial performance

6.1 Performance of awards on delivery, commercial and financial issues

GCC is a milestone-based funder and continues to release subsequent payments based on individual grantee progress and projected financial needs on a quarterly or semi-annual basis, depending on the reporting schedule set on an individual project level basis. GCC has signed service contracts with 6 lead organisations of which 4 are supported by NIHR and the remaining by Fondation Botnar. GCC also released the first tranche payment as part of signing the agreement and is in the process of releasing subsequent payments based on the deliverables.

6.2 Transparency - this question applies to funding schemes which include transparency obligations within their contracts.

Delivery partner to provide the percentage of awards that are meeting International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) obligations (please refer to <https://iatistandard.org/en/iati-standard/>).

If not 100%, please outline the reasons why.

GCC's IATI obligations have been met: <https://iatiregistry.org/dataset/hgc-activities>

7. Learning from Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1 Learning

GCC has set up several mechanisms to monitor activities and do course corrections.

a) GCC has set up a monthly meeting cadence with R1 partners, working on the context analysis, to provide strategic guidance, seek updates and resolve issues. GCC is also planning for field visits to Being focused countries to assess the stakeholder consultations workshops and consensus building activities conducted by the partners. To ensure that the reports are standardised across all countries, we shared a reporting template with the partners to submit findings from literature review.

b) In consultation with Fondation Botnar and NIHR, GCC is working on developing a Being Learning Agenda and measurement framework which includes impact and outcome indicators for each workstream and learning questions across the lifespan of Being. This framework will guide Being activities and process to achieve desired objectives.

c) GCC is also planning to launch an RFP in May 2023 to select a Being learning and support provider who will a) provide technical support to funded projects, including specific offerings to support youth-led organizations and research initiatives b) facilitate the sharing of lessons and best practices arising from the Being community c) track and disseminate the individual and collective impact of Being.

7.2 Key lessons

The Being initiative is still at an early phase and emerging lessons will be recorded as the programme progresses.

7.3 Key milestones/deliverables for the awards for the coming year

Award	Key milestones/deliverables for coming year
Year 1 (November 2022 - September 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1 context mapping projects will continue to assess investment opportunities in focused countries to improve mental health and wellbeing of young people
Year 2 (October 2023 –	

Award	Key milestones/deliverables for coming year
September 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R3 selected partner will undergo research prioritisation exercise followed by launch of RFP to select local partners for implementing longitudinal cohort studies focusing on emerging stressors in relation to mental health and build research capacities. • Global stakeholder engagement in Being will continue to create a momentum around focusing on youth mental health. We will also initiate engagement at national levels in focused countries with local partners. • Being representation at key ecosystem events includes Global Mental Health Action Network in June 2023, Women Deliver in July 2023, Grand Challenges Annual Meeting and PMNCH in October 2023 etc.

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