The Work Group on Women, Children and Adolescents (WCAWG) was approved by the WFPHA General Council at the February 2015 meeting in Kolkata, India. The group will address the health issues of these populations through advocacy, advancing public health practice through research and education, and expanding partnerships to reach women, children and adolescents. The WFPHA has not had a maternal and child health (MCH) working group and had very few policies addressing MCH. The need is clear—the only 3 MDGs that won’t be reached are MCH related. The name of this WG emphasizes women’s health including, but not exclusive to reproduction and parenting, newborn and children’s health and adolescents. This lifespan approach predated the UN/WHO Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030) which was launched in September. Our work will support and expand The Strategy’s roadmap to ensure that all women, children, and adolescents survive, thrive, and transform their societies for a healthy and sustainable future. This means eliminating inequity.

Founding WG members represent 10 countries (Mexico, Nigeria, Egypt, India, Sudan, Uganda, South Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the United States) and have extensive experience in practice, research and education in women, children and adolescent health. Four members of this group presented a well-attended concurrent session at the WFPHA meetings in Kolkata (pictured above). The WG is reviewing WFPHA policies and will write one or more. We will work with planning committee for next World Congress to include WCA topics and voices. We are creating a sustainable structure for long-term contributions to WFPHA. Prof. Lewis will be representing the WG at the workshop “School-based and School-Linked Health Services”, December, 2015 in London. Members of WFPHA who would like to contribute to the WG activities should contact Prof. Lewis. We are aiming for broad global representation.