



Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for  
Population and Reproductive Health



September 27, 2010

Dear Members of the Executive Committee of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition,

We applaud the Coalition for the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign and its efforts to rally the family planning community in support of the Secretary General's announcement of the *Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health* at the MDG Summit in New York. With this announcement we see unprecedented momentum in the global development community to improve women's health.

Advance Family Planning (AFP) is an evidence-based, three-year effort designed to help developing countries achieve universal access to reproductive health (MDG target 5b). It aims to revitalize family planning programs through increased and more effective funding and improved policy commitments at the local, national, and global levels. AFP is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The AFP Consortium includes the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health and Center for Communication Programs), the African Women's Development Fund, Partners in Population and Development and Futures Group International.

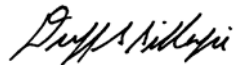
Though a new member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, members of the AFP Consortium have extensive experience in advocating for greater national and global investment in ensuring that women and couples have quality reproductive health supplies, most notably family planning supplies. We fully support the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign to galvanize our community's contribution to the Secretary General's *Global Strategy* and endorse the Coalition's ambitious new goal of achieving 100 million new users of contraception in low-income countries by 2015. Success at meeting this challenge will address the family planning needs of 80% of women in the developing world, and reduce by 110,000 the number of women who die giving birth.

To demonstrate our support to the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign, we in Advance Family Planning are proud to commit ourselves to the following:

- **Mobilize and strengthen sustainable family planning/reproductive health advocacy** through catalytic investments in Tanzania, Uganda, and Indonesia—countries with potential to foster wider replication of the AFP approach in other developing countries;
- **Strengthen existing family planning/reproductive health advocacy investments** in India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Senegal by providing cutting edge and highly specialized technical assistance;
- **Leverage the voices of global South champions** regionally and globally in demanding revitalization of the family planning/reproductive health agenda and enable greater South-to-South cooperation.

We see achievement of our commitment as having a significant impact on the lives and well-being of women and families across the developing world. We look forward to working with our Coalition partners in bringing family planning to 100 million new users by 2015.

Sincerely,



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