



**DFID** Department for  
International  
Development

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From the Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP  
Secretary of State

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Members of the Executive Committee  
of the Reproductive Health Supplies  
Coalition  
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12<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Dear Executive Committee,

Following the successful launch of UN Secretary-General's *Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health* at the September Summit side-event "Every Woman, Every Child" we are currently seeing unprecedented momentum globally to improve women's health. The Global Strategy aims to save the lives of 16 million women and children by 2015, and an important part of this will be our ability to meet the current unmet need for family planning.

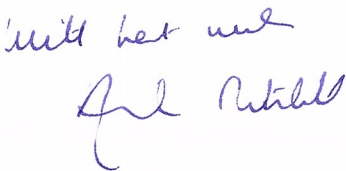
I am therefore delighted to be able to offer the support of the UK Government to the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition's "Hand to Hand" Campaign. This aims to galvanize the family planning community in support of the UN Secretary General's *Global Strategy* and the Coalition's ambitious new goal of achieving 100 million new users of contraception in low-income countries by 2015. I fully subscribe to your challenge to us all, that we must address the family planning needs of at least 80% of women in these countries by 2015, and reduce the number of women who die giving birth.

A demonstration of our support to the "Hand to Hand" Campaign, was the announcement at the UN Summit side-event of a new 5 year public/private Alliance on Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health between the UK, the Government of the United States, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Government of Australia. The centrepiece of the Alliance announcement was our commitment to work together to contribute to the RHSC 100 million new users of family planning by 2015.

The UK's forthcoming Business Plan for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health will set out how we intend to use our aid programme to save the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth, 250,000 newborn babies, and allow 10 million couples access to modern methods of family planning over the next five years.

The UK government will also continue to show international leadership on this important issue and encourage other partners to play their part in contributing to this goal.

We see the successful achievement of our commitments as having a significant impact on the lives and well being of women and families across the developing world. We applaud the Coalition for the "Hand to Hand" Campaign and its effort to rally the family planning community in support of the Secretary General's *Global Strategy*, and we look forward to working with our Coalition partners in bringing family planning to 100 million new users by 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of two lines of cursive script. The first line appears to read "with best wish" and the second line is a more complex signature, likely "Andrew Mitchell".

**ANDREW MITCHELL**