



September 15, 2010

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

Every year, millions of women die in childbirth and from pregnancy-related causes. While excellent progress has been made in reducing maternal mortality rates in some countries, more remains to be done to achieve the targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals. Reproductive health supplies, including family planning, are essential to achieving these Goals. However, more than 215 million women in the developing world who wish to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy are not using modern contraception. With the announcement of the Secretary General's *Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health*, we see unprecedented momentum in the global development community to improve women's health.

Since our beginning in 1971, FHI has made major contributions to global health through family planning research and services. Our clinical trials and applied social science research have helped define global norms for family planning services. FHI has evaluated the efficacy, safety, or acceptability of nearly every contraceptive method on the market in the United States since the 1970s. Collaborating with a wide range of partners—from international normative bodies and ministries of health to community-based organizations—we have investigated a wide range of contraceptive technologies and helped bring more than a dozen female contraceptives to market in over 30 countries. We identify and address the most essential research questions, while introducing innovations that improve access to services and quality contraceptives, prevent unintended pregnancies, and save lives.

FHI has been an active member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition since **2008**. 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 these countries, and reduce by 110,000 the number of women who die giving birth.

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To demonstrate our support to the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign, we at **FHI** are proud to commit ourselves to the following:

FHI is committed to the quality assurance of contraceptive commodities. By 2015, FHI will evaluate more than 10,000 lots of condoms representing over 4 billion condoms and quality assurance testing representing more than 50 million IUDs, female condoms, OCs, injectables, and implants annually.

We see the successful achievement of our commitment as having a significant impact on the lives and well being of women and families across the developing world. **FHI is committed through its quality assurance program to help ensure the safe use of a wide range of contraceptive methods. For example according the MSI Impact Calculator, the safe use of 2.2 million Sino-implant (II) contraceptive implants will avert:**

- **4.4 million unintended pregnancies;**
- **1.3 million abortions; and**
- **15,573 maternal deaths.**

We applaud the Coalition for the **HANDtoHAND** 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marjorie Newman-Williams', written over a horizontal line.

Marjorie Newman-Williams | FHI Chief Operating Officer