



September 20, 2010

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

Every year, hundreds of thousands 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 contraceptives, 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.

John Snow, Inc. (JSI) is a leading international public health consulting firm, working with underserved communities in the developing world and in the United States. In the area of health supply chain management, JSI works to build capacity and increase policymakers' and program managers' recognition of the need to ensure availability of quality products for public health programs. The corporate logistics group's slogan, "No Product? No Program," reminds stakeholders that improving the health of individuals and communities is dependent upon managing the global supply chain to ensure that contraceptives and other health products reach all the way to customers, even in remote villages and urban slums.

JSI was a founding member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, and has been active in it and its predecessor working groups since 1999. 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 at JSI are proud to commit to the following:

- Supporting the availability of contraceptives in low-income countries through the provision of supply chain management technical assistance and training for national, regional, and global programs;
- Collecting accurate, timely information about the status of supplies, program requirements, and supply chain operations in over 20 countries, and sharing that information widely with stakeholders to raise awareness and improve decision-making.

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, because it will help ensure the availability of needed supplies; since 2005, for a variety of major programs, JSI has managed \$1.17 billion in public health commodities (including contraceptives).

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 blue ink that reads "CHart". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Carolyn Hart  
Director, JSI Washington