



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 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.

PATH is an international nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. PATH improves health by assessing needs and designing and developing affordable and appropriate health, immunization, nutrition, diagnostic and reproductive health technologies to meet those needs. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, we help provide appropriate health technologies and vital strategies that change the way people think and act.

PATH recognizes the broad range of reproductive health issues throughout the life cycle and applies approaches that meet individual needs. PATH promotes implementation of multi-component programs that cut across sectors and reach diverse populations, including the underserved. Our approach is based on health and development promotion, social and behavior change theories, and attends to the health, social, and economic needs of those most at risk, as well as general populations seeking services.

PATH is a founding member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, actively leading and participating in Coalition activities since 2004. PATH is honored to have hosted the Secretariat since the outset of the Coalition and the establishment of a Secretariat office in 2006. 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 the lowest-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 PATH are proud to commit ourselves to the following:

Improving contraceptive choice by supporting development, introduction, and scale-up of safe and effective family planning technologies specifically designed for users in low-resource settings. By 2015, PATH will work with governments and key stakeholders to introduce three new family planning methods in at least ten low- and middle-income countries to expand contraceptive choice and meet women's needs. Between 2010 and 2012, PATH will work with public, private, and NGO partners in a minimum of five Sub-Saharan African countries to introduce and scale-up use of depo-SubQ provera 104™ in the Uniject® device. This product is expected to increase access to injectable contraceptives for millions of new family planning users through community-based distribution and other modes of non-clinical delivery. By 2015, the PATH Woman's Condom will be launched in China and three additional low- and middle-income countries. PATH also aims to launch the SILCS diaphragm in the lowest-income countries by 2014. Both the woman's condom and the SILCS diaphragm are woman-initiated contraceptive options offering critical protection against sexually transmitted infections and are easy to use, offering women powerful protection against unplanned pregnancy and disease.

Increasing equitable access to family planning services and ensuring the poorest members of a country's population have access to low or no-cost family planning commodities. Specifically, PATH will increase the adaptation of total market approaches to family planning service delivery through government partnerships in Vietnam and Nicaragua. PATH will support the governments in each country in establishing total market coordination groups and developing operational plans to segment the family planning markets and to increase the government's role as a steward to the total family planning system.

Ensuring the effective procurement and distribution of contraceptives by providing ongoing support to the USAID | DELIVER Project. Continuing our twenty-five year partnership with John Snow, Inc., PATH will provide procurement technical assistance to over 20 USAID-supported low- and middle-income countries and promote procurement excellence by developing long-term commodity procurement strategies for contraceptives supplied by USAID.

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. Specifically, introduction and availability of a reusable, one-size-fits-most diaphragm and a better-designed female condom will increase women's options for discreet barrier protection, help address unmet need for birth spacing, and could reduce levels of unprotected sex. Expanded availability of injectable contraceptives could reduce unmet need in hard to reach and underserved regions, especially in sub-Saharan Africa where unmet need is significant and injectables are the preferred contraceptive choice. Finally, improved

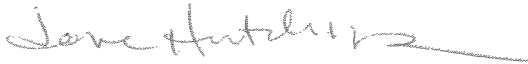
procurement systems will allow these exciting new methods to reach more users efficiently and reliably. Moreover, a more efficient and cost-effective procurement process will ultimately result in lower costs and increased volumes of commodities being purchased and distributed on behalf of USAID.

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 "Chris Elias", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher J. Elias, MD, MPH
President and Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Hutchings", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jane Hutchings
Director, Reproductive Health Global Program