

# UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

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

Every year, more than 350,000 women die in childbirth and from pregnancy-related causes. While 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 (MDGs). We are committed to the achievement of the global goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services by 2015. More than 215 million women in the developing world wish to use family planning but do not have access to modern contraception. Reproductive health supplies, including family planning, are essential to achieving these goals.

The UN Foundation is an active member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition. We fully support the **HANDtoHAND** Campaign to galvanize our community's contribution to the United Nations Secretary General's *Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health*. We 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.

As part of a growing global consensus that improving women's and children's health is the best way to help achieve all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the UN Foundation has announced a commitment of \$400 million, together with its partners, to make motherhood safer, educate and empower more adolescent girls, and protect children from preventable diseases. This commitment will be delivered as part of the UN Foundation's work with UN agencies and partners already underway to address global health priorities and those that will be launched over the next five years.

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

- Stimulating renewed leadership and investment in reproductive health by unlocking new bilateral and multilateral resources to address the global unmet need for family planning by 2015.
- Launching a Maternal and Newborn mHealth Initiative, together with the Innovation Working Group of the Global Strategy; the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; and a host of others, to develop, deploy,

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and bring to scale a set of mobile-based, new information and communication technology (ICT) tools to address MDG 5.

- Launching a web-based global information and experience sharing system for mHealth and eHealth in partnership with the Health Metrics Network, WHO, PEPFAR, the Rockefeller Foundation and many others.
- Creating and strengthening partnerships around immunizations, building on a 12-year investment in measles and polio, to accelerate new resources to fight vaccine preventable diseases.
- Raising awareness and funds to invest in UN programs that support clean water, life-saving health services, safe spaces, and other basic needs of girls in developing countries.
- Contributing to the global elimination of malaria deaths by 2015 through catalytic partnerships and resource mobilization to provide long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets and other malaria prevention tools to women and children across Africa.
- Reducing exposure to harmful cookstove smoke for millions of women and children through the creation of a broad alliance of public and private partners that will invest in research, standards, advocacy, and market-based solutions to mitigate nearly two million deaths annually from the use of traditional open fires, polluting, and inefficient cookstoves.

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. Over the next five years, together with our partners, we anticipate catalyzing at least \$215 million USD in new funding to support efforts related to holistic health for adolescent girls, access to reproductive health supplies and services, improving maternal health outcomes through mobile technologies, and malaria prevention.

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 yours,



Kathy Calvin  
Chief Executive Officer