

**The Alliance for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health,
Access for All,
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I am here to talk to you today about the Alliance for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health, which we heard described earlier by Andrew Mitchell and my colleague, Scott Radloff.

The Alliance is a partnership between the US Agency for International Development, UK Department for International Development, Australian Agency for International Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It was launched at the UN General Assembly's MDG Summit in September 2010 by US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton; the UK's Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg; Australian Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd; and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's co-Chair, Melinda Gates.

In concert with selected high-need countries in Africa and South Asia, the Alliance partners are committed to accelerating progress in averting unintended pregnancies and reducing maternal and neonatal mortality. It is time to address the key elements of MDGs 4 and 5 where progress has been especially slow. The timeframe of the Alliance is 2010-2015, coinciding with the MDG end-point.

The goal of the Alliance is similar to HANDtoHAND. It is to help 100 million women in low-income countries satisfy their need for modern family planning. It also seeks to increase skilled-birth attendance and facility-based deliveries. And it aims to ensure that women and newborns receive quality post-natal care.

Development partners who share this commitment and are providing resources to support these program areas in Alliance countries are encouraged to join this partnership at the country level.

The Alliance is pursuing initially partnerships in 10 countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and Pakistan. Additional countries will be added in subsequent years.

The partnership will bring added-value, not only through more resources, but through smarter application of those resources through joint planning, coordinated implementation, joint problem-solving, and joint learning at the country level.

What does all that mean? I'll give you an example. Some of us can procure and some of us cannot. In Nigeria, we are working with USAID which can help procure commodities in support of our Urban Reproductive Health Initiative. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in turn, will support demand creation and advocacy.

So we are delighted to be part of this partnership. Thank you.