

December 3, 2015

Dear Partners of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition,

Thank you very much for your November 3, 2015, letter to World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and the members of the GFF Investors Group, regarding the Global Financing Facility and the importance of rights-based investments in sexual and reproductive health being part of the country investment cases and service delivery. We would like to respond on their behalf to the important points you have raised.

We appreciate your recognition of our commitment to ensuring that the GFF is the key mechanism for scaling up financing for the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health. Please be assured that we greatly value CSO involvement in the GFF and the current representatives of civil society on the Investors Group are actively engaged and provide a strong voice for civil society issues in our discussions. In order to be functional, the membership of the Investors Group has been set at the current balance with a total of 23 members. The composition and length of appointment of Investors Group Members will be reviewed by the members after its initial year of operation in order to refine the model so additional CSO representation can be considered at that stage.

While the representation of civil society in the Investors Group is important, the main locus of activity for the GFF is at the country level. You rightly point out that it is CSO involvement in the country platform which is essential to ensure meaningful engagement in the planning, prioritization, implementation and evaluation of the programs. Discussions on how exactly to organize and constitute the country platforms are ongoing and this will be a key agenda item at the next Investors Group in February 2016. The GFF principle of country ownership is significant in this regard; wherever possible the GFF is trying not to create new entities, new requirements or centralized hurdles that will impede rapid progress in country. We will need to be thoughtful about how we balance this principle with the equally important principle of equity, and ensuring that we reach the most underserved and vulnerable with RMNCAH services. Robust discussions with all stakeholders on prioritization and 'best buys' at country level will be needed to ensure we really are investing in the most impactful interventions. The recent CSO consultation meeting in Nairobi and the subsequent CSO participation in the GFF learning event has been a good opportunity to discuss these issues and integrate the recommendations in the design process of the first round of GFF countries.

One of the main deliverables of the GFF is indeed, the tracking of financial flows to RMNCAH and the broader investments in health at the country level. The GFF emphasis on data and data monitoring, civil

registration and vital statistics (CRVS) and other mechanisms to strengthen data collection and analysis will be crucial to its success. We are also completely committed to transparency and are working on a new website which we intend will become the repository of all information related to GFF investment in country. Exactly what will be tracked, with what frequency, and what mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure this data is available, will be part of the discussion at the next Investors Group meeting and will be a regular agenda item for that Group.

Again, thank you for your letter. We will continue to strive to improve our communications with stakeholders and ensure that important elements of the GFF model are properly explained, transparently shared and responsive to stakeholder concerns. We encourage you to engage with the civil society representatives on the Investors Group, Joanne Carter, Executive Director of Results (carter@results.org), and Dr Mesfin Teklu Tessema, VP, World Vision (mesfin_teklu@wvi.org) with your recommendations and proposals. In the GFF Secretariat, we would suggest you contact Ms. Dianne Stewart (dstewart4@worldbank.org) should you have any additional questions.

We continue to be committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights which must be addressed for us to make progress on RMNCAH, including addressing the challenges in meeting the needs of adolescents and the gaps in reproductive health commodity supply. With your support we hope to make a difference.

With best regards,



Diane Jacovella
Chair, Investors Group
Global Financing Facility



Tim Evans
Senior Director
Health, Nutrition & Population Global Practice
The World Bank Group

Cc:

Ms. Joanne Carter
Executive Director, Results

Dr. Mesfin Teklu Tessema
Vice President (Partnership Leader)
Health and Nutrition
World Vision International