The Acting Administrator

September 24, 2015

His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
405 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Mr. Secretary General:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama. The United States is a steadfast partner to the Every Woman, Every Child movement, and is unwavering in our support of your updated Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health.

As the world’s largest donor to global health, the United States has made unprecedented commitments in support of countries as they invest in the health of their own citizens—giving every woman and every child the opportunity to lead a healthy, productive life. During the course of the Obama Administration (2009-2015), the Department of State and USAID have provided over $59 billion to end preventable child and maternal deaths, create an AIDS-free generation, and protect communities from infectious diseases. This includes $15.6 billion to accelerate progress towards reducing preventable child deaths to fewer than 20 per 1,000 live births and maternal deaths to fewer than 50 per 100,000 live births by 2035.

The Administration’s commitment to achieving these goals in partnership with the international community, partner countries, and civil society is unwavering. The Administration has requested $8.4 billion for 2016 and anticipates that this level of commitment will continue in the future, contingent on the strong bipartisan support in Congress that has characterized this area of work. This includes $2.3 billion to accelerate progress towards ending preventable child and maternal deaths.

Ongoing commitments include USAID’s $1 billion pledge to the GAVI Alliance, the Vaccine Alliance, as well as a contribution of $50 million to the Global Financing Facility in support of the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health, announced in July during the Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Ending preventable child and maternal deaths will not be achieved by any one nation, or as an outcome of narrowly defined programs in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health.
Rather, improvements in mortality outcomes are the result of increasingly effective efforts to link diverse health programs—in maternal and child health, malaria, and family planning’s contribution to the healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and improvements in sanitation and hygiene. All of these efforts contribute to ending preventable child and maternal deaths.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alfonso B. Lenhardt

Attachment:
Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescents’ Health (Embargoed until 09.26.15)