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## **New Commitments in support of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health**

(22 September, 2016)

Twenty-three new commitments, corresponding to over \$2 billion in pledges for women's, children's and adolescents' health and wellbeing were announced on the margins of the UN General Assembly. The new pledges, which will be monitored and reported upon every year as part of broader SDG follow-up and review processes, will help improve the health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents in all settings.

### Joint Partnership

Sumitomo Chemical Co. is increasing its commitment to protect women, children, and vulnerable refugee families from malaria. They will have helped Nothing But Nets and its UN partners protect more than 2 million beneficiaries with 80,000 nets distributed to refugees in Niger and Chad in 2015, and aim to distribute 800,000 nets across multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa before the end of 2016. Sumitomo will enable Nothing But Nets to double the amount of nets raised by grassroots malaria advocates by the end of 2017, for a total of 700,000 nets. This commitment is estimated at a value of \$1,225,000.

The BabyWASH Coalition includes World Vision International, WaterAid, FHI360, the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and Action Against Hunger. The coalition commits to support SDG 17 and to increase the integration of programmes for children and their caretakers in the first 1,000 days of life, especially in the areas of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); nutrition; early childhood development; and maternal, newborn, and child health.

### Inter- Governmental

CARICOM is a commitment made by 14 Heads of Governments in a communique issued at their 37th Annual Conference July 2016. The commitment comes as part of ongoing activities by CARICOM to develop an "Every Caribbean Girl, Every Caribbean Woman" initiative. This commitment focuses on opportunities for the Caribbean region to improve the lives of women and children by promoting partnerships, coordination and coherence. More specifically it will identify benchmarks and targets designed to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, gender-based violence, cervical cancer, adolescent



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pregnancies and eliminate mother to child transmission of HIV. This will begin with a pilot study in Jamaica and will accommodate other country specific priorities.

### NGOs

LTBLI commits \$50,800 towards alleviating energy poverty in off-grid areas of Uganda and to improving health, safety and wellbeing outcomes for women, children, and adolescents. Through the provision of basic lighting systems to 12 unelectrified, off-grid clinics serving rural communities in low-resource settings, LTBLI will improve health services for approximately 100,000 people by the end of 2018.

The Centre For Public Health commits \$3 million through September 2018 towards eliminating the financial and geographical barriers towards accessing quality healthcare. The objective is to facilitate the registration of 1 million people into the Community Based Social Health Insurance in Nigeria. This will also be combined with the upgrading of 500 primary health centers in the rural areas and training of 1000 health workers.

IPU has renewed its commitment to elevate women's, children's and adolescents health to the top of parliamentary agendas and help parliaments employ their core prerogatives to deliver better health outcomes in the spirit of the Global Strategy. The IPU will support parliaments to play a strong role in accountability at the national, regional and international levels for the commitments made in the Global Strategy and the SDGs.

Rad Impact is working with partners in Africa, to commit an estimated \$96,164 through December 2018 to increasing access to ultrasound imaging in antenatal clinics and expanding training for midwives in rural Uganda.

Save the Children pledge to invest \$2 billion in global health and nutrition work, in both development and humanitarian settings, for the period 2017-2021. They will work towards equitable outcomes in their health and nutrition programmes, by: promoting policy, budgetary, and normative changes in health and nutrition; strengthening health systems; mobilizing civil society to hold governments accountable for their SDG commitments. They also commit to protect mothers and newborns and prevent stillbirths in 12 priority countries; training and advocating for sufficient and appropriate health workers; engaging with multi-sector partners to deliver life-saving programming. Save the Children will further advocate and support governments to develop programmes to end child marriage and early childbearing.



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The American Public Health Association (APHA) commits \$500,000, through September 2017, towards targeted advocacy for evidence-based issues and policies that support the health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents in the United States. APHA will also identify and disseminate information about promising strategies and implementation.

#### Academic/Research Institution

ISGlobal, the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, commits to help develop and promote a multidisciplinary and coordinated global research agenda in the context of the Global Strategy. ISGlobal additionally commits up to \$10 million until December 2020 towards researching malaria and HIV in connection with RMNCAH to prevent malaria in pregnancy and newborns. ISGlobal also commits to strengthen the capacity of health professionals and researchers through the provision of high quality training and technical assistance globally, with emphasis in creating capacity in LMICs.

#### Private Sector

Banka BioLoo commits \$10 million to providing accessible, affordable and sustainable sanitation solutions to 200,000 women and girls in homes across India, and to reaching 3,000 Indian schools by 2020 in order to provide access to adequate sanitation for 120,000 girls from low-income families. BioLoos will additionally enable girls to complete their education, who often drop-out of school due to lack of adequate sanitation and hygiene in schools.

IFPW and the IFPW Foundation, is partnering with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, to provide technical assistance and financial support towards improving availability and reach of life-saving essential medicines, health commodities and vaccines. The commitment, worth over \$1.5 million for the next 3 years, intends to provide in country technical advice and financial support, initially focused on 2 supply chain management training centers in East and West Africa.

Embryo Technologies Private Limited commits to building a novel and sensitive tool for predicting intra-uterine growth retardation during antenatal care in the community. This commitment, equivalent to \$60,000, is for establishing the tool's clinical efficacy and its possible inclusion in intervention packages during antenatal care by March 2017.

Ayzh, Inc. commits to invest \$150,000 to developing a "Healthy Newborn Kit" to provide innovative, affordable, and accessible new technology for women giving birth and to



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EVERY CHILD



strengthen workforce capacity through mobile phone-based educational messages targeting healthcare workers. Ayzh, Inc.'s initiative focuses on impacting several objectives of the Every Newborn Action Plan, and are in the process of piloting 1,000 kits in the market.

Johnson & Johnson (J&J) commits \$30 million to improve newborn health and increase newborn survival through 2020. This commitment will support programs in at least 20 countries with high newborn mortality. It will build on the progress made since their original commitment back in 2010. Johnson & Johnson will work with partners and governments to implement evidence-based interventions and innovative technologies or training methodologies. This partnership will overall increase the number and skills of birth attendants; reduce newborn mortality from birth asphyxia; increase the percentage of newborns at-risk for HIV who undergo early infant diagnosis; and expand the use of mobile phones to deliver health information for safe pregnancy and birth.

The Working Parent Support Coalition, a coalition of leading companies spearheaded by Danone US and including EY, Nestlé, Barclays, and KKR, commit to implementing, between 2016 and 2018, a range of parental workplace support practices that improve health, development, and economic outcomes for both families and companies in the United States. This commitment will enhance children's nutrition through improving access to lactation rooms in the workplace, and enhance the socio-economic empowerment of women. The Working Parent Support Coalition commits to impacting an estimated 64470 employees (Danone: 2270; Barclays: 10.000; Nestle: 51.000; EY: 1200).

DSM commits, by December 2017, to invest up to \$200,000 to develop a framework for scale-up of MMS in countries with high burdens of under-nutrition and neonatal mortality, investing in capacity development for policy development and advocacy, and contributing in-kind research.

Sustainable Health Enterprises (SHE) is improving access to affordable hygiene by sourcing a locally produced eco-friendly product. SHE commits \$1,122,250 to improve girls' menstrual hygiene through its cost-effective innovation of locally made go! pads, behaviour change communication campaigns, and last-mile distribution in the rural and peri-urban areas of Rwanda. As a result, by the end of 2017, 250,000 girls will gain improved access to a low-cost method of managing menstruation effectively and hygienically, resulting in improved wellbeing.



EVERY WOMAN  
EVERY CHILD



In 2014, Vestergaard launched the ongoing LifeStraw® Follow the Liters program. Through this initiative, a portion of the purchase of LifeStraw filters and purifiers by consumers in developed countries, is used to provide sustainable access to safe water to school age children in developing countries. In 2016, Vestergaard commit to support 2,500 purifier installations in Kenya, and 100 filter installations in India. Overall, Vestergaard aim to impact an estimated 600,000 children before October 2018.

Medela renews its commitment of \$1 million until September 2017, to build and deliver education packages on the value of breastfeeding for all newborns in India. It will focus on lactation support for mothers when separated from their new-born and enhancing and standardizing hygiene safety as well as sustainable solutions surrounding the provision of human milk in the NICU. Their overarching goal is to collaborate with in-country organizations, communities and education providers to foster and support the mind frame of breastfeeding as a public health imperative.

The Sanofi Espoir Foundation is dedicated to reduce healthcare inequalities. Its actions revolve around three major objectives: controlling childhood cancer in developing countries, fighting against maternal and neonatal mortality and ensuring access to healthcare for the most vulnerable people in France. The Foundation will allocate \$3 million through 2016 to continue all running programs with the objectives of reducing maternal and newborn mortality, and ensuring access to SRHR.

Blue Marble Microinsurance is a consortium of eight insurance companies with a mission of creating a market for microinsurance. The objective of the Agriculture (Africa) venture is to address a largely unmet insurance need in Africa among smallholder farmers for protection against adverse weather that affects their livelihood. Blue Marble commits \$1.5 million to support establishment of a two year pilot impacting 40,000 farmers and their families, using a weather index insurance solution that will insure smallholder maize farmers against seasonal drought in Zimbabwe.

BSR commits an estimated \$6 million towards promoting women's SRHR through workplace training programs in global supply chains to reach 5 million women by 2020. HERhealth, is a public-private partnership initiated by BSR, which commits to improving the availability of SRHR information and services for women workers in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, and Vietnam. This includes increasing the capacity of locally-based community organisations to be able to implement these programmes.