

Launch of the WHO report
"*Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda*"
9 November 2009, Geneva, Switzerland

Statement by Julian Schweitzer, Acting Chair
The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

As 2015 arrives in view, the WHO's new Women & health report offers a welcome new collection of evidence and argument. The report reminds us of the importance of staying the course on the Millennium Development Goals and in insisting on much greater political commitment to protecting the health of women and girls. Greater financial investment is a key expression of that commitment: We need more money for health systems; more money for stronger coverage of essential interventions like family planning, safe abortion and skilled delivery and newborn care; and more money for scaling the barriers that prevent so many women and girls from accessing basic health services.

Women & Health underlines the importance of an integrated approach to investing in health. In taking a life-course view, Women & health adds to our understanding that healthy girls and adolescents are more likely to become healthy women with healthy babies. The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health stands firmly behind this Continuum of Care approach. It is urgent that we unite our efforts as partners on the MDGs, so that investments in nutrition, gender, education, reducing child and maternal mortality, and preventing HIV/TB/malaria can all play their part in promoting greater health, particularly for women and children, who have been so often left behind. As Women & health demonstrates, stronger health systems with robust workforces are absolutely key to delivering these entitlements.

The Partnership congratulates the World Health Organization and Dr Margaret Chan for providing this contribution to our knowledge, and for providing even greater evidence for our call to action on these important issues.