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#### INVESTING IN HEALTH: INVESTING IN AFRICA'S FUTURE WORKING LUNCHEON

### Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths

*"For the United States, development and global health will continue to be a strategic, economic and moral imperative. In the 21st century, no child in the world deserves to die from a preventable disease. No mother deserves to die simply from giving birth. No person deserves to die from hunger. These are the lives – the millions of lives – that we can save. Our conscience and our national interests compel us to act and, so long as I am President, the United States will continue to be a leader in this global effort."*

*-President Barack Obama, "Accelerating progress in saving the lives of Women and Children" 2013 Report*

As a result of sustained global commitment and growing country ownership, we stand within reach of achieving goals once unimaginable: ending preventable child and maternal deaths by 2035 and bringing about a grand convergence in life expectancy between poor and rich nations.

#### Progress

- Significant reductions in the burden of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa resulted in a **decrease in malaria mortality by one third since 2000**. USG investments through the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, combined with host country government investments and those of other development partners, have resulted in 3.3 million lives saved through scale-up of malaria control interventions over the last decade. During this time, malaria mortality rates in African children were reduced by an estimated 54 percent.
- USAID focuses on 16 countries in Africa where our efforts have contributed to significant results
- Thanks to our collective efforts, **we have achieved a 50% reduction in child mortality since 1990**, from 190 deaths per 1,000 live births to 96 in 2012.
- While maternal mortality remains high, the **average maternal mortality rate has decreased by 56%** from 1,065 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 467 in 2013.

## Commitments

- This June, we marked the second anniversary of the Child Survival Call to Action: A Promise Renewed, where the world came together to craft a global goal to end preventable child deaths by 2035 and pioneer new approaches to accelerate progress towards child and maternal survival. To date, **13 African countries have launched sharpened national strategies, set national targets, and developed scorecards** to track progress. They have identified target districts and communities where the highest rates of deaths occur and focused resources and energy on reducing those rates.
- Access to family planning has made significant contributions to reductions in both child and maternal mortality on the continent. In July of 2012, the London Family Planning Summit launched Family Planning 2020 which set the goal of enabling an additional 120 million women and girls to use contraception by 2020: **18 African governments made commitments to FP2020.**
- In April 2014, African Ministers of Health meeting at the first Joint African Union (AU) / WHO Conference of Ministers of Health **committed to ending preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths.** In particular, the AU's convening power is vital for tracking progress on domestic spending for health and ensuring mutual accountability around the Common Position for the post-2015 Development Agenda, and ending extreme poverty.

## The Way Forward

- By accelerating the rate of progress, **we can save the lives of more than 8 million children and nearly 350,000 women** in 16 priority African countries by 2020. These investments will have broad social benefits, positioning countries to enjoy sustained growth and development.
- To end preventable child and maternal mortality, **African and U.S. leaders will leverage our collective commitments** by investing in health, developing innovative models and approaches to address human resource and financing challenges, sharing successes and identifying opportunities for enhanced collaboration-to create a better future for Africa.

