The Alliance support and endorsement of the UN Secretary General’s Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health – September 2010

The International HIV/AIDS Alliance (‘the Alliance’) is a partnership of organisations working together to strengthen community responses to AIDS. Established in 1993, the Alliance has a secretariat in Brighton, UK, and works with partners in 40 low- and middle-income countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe. In 2009, the Alliance family of organisations reached over 3.2 million people through programmes and service activities, for example 1.9 million participants in prevention activities and 319,500 people living with HIV were provided with care and support, of these 1.6 million were women and girls and over 90,000 were orphans and other vulnerable children.

The Alliance is pleased to endorse the UN Secretary General’s Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health. We feel that the Global Strategy strongly complements that of the Alliance. Through our current strategy, HIV and Healthy Communities: Strategy 2010-2012, the Alliance will lead community action on HIV with direct impact on MDGs 4 and 5 through greater integration and linkages of programmes to support a continuum of care and support for women and children. There is significant overlap between the countries where we work and those that have the highest levels of maternal and child mortality. This includes programming to reach over 300,000 women living with HIV by the end of 2011 in Zambia, Uganda, Sudan and Kenya to decrease maternal mortality.

We address women and girls’ vulnerability to HIV by promoting gender equality and empowering women (MDG 3) through active community mobilisation. Our programmes involve women in planning, providing essential outreach services, and forming inclusive networks that lead to more effective advocacy, policy change, and increased community awareness. The Alliance is utilising national level civil society platforms which create a space for most vulnerable communities, such as women and girls, to build their capacity to use strategic information for more effective
policy change to improve women and girls’ health and socio-economic status.

Additionally, the Alliance has lobbied for more and better financing for HIV and health. To address the huge funding shortfall to meet the health-related Millennium Development Goals, we worked with others to lobby for sustainable financing solutions. Including, campaigning for a Currency Transaction Levy for health, with strategic coordination in Washington, Brussels and the UK. We hope that these efforts will result in additional funding for achieving the health-related MDGs.

Like many others in the NGO sector, the Alliance is unable to pledge a financial contribution to the Global Strategy. What we do offer is a commitment to support maternal and child health through our HIV integration work, continue to increase access to health services and addressing structural barriers which prevent women and children’s realization of their health and rights. We are looking forward to further contributing to the success of the Secretary General’s Global Strategy.

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