

STATEMENT

World Vision comment on Canada's announcement of new maternal, newborn and child health projects

May 27, 2011

Today at the G8 Summit in Deauville, France, Prime Minister Harper announced where some of the Muskoka Initiative funding will be spent and how many people it will benefit in five different countries. Here are comments from Caroline Riseboro, vice president of Public Affairs for World Vision Canada:

"World Vision commends the Canadian government for clearly being first out of the gate on accountability and on getting money out the door for the Muskoka Initiative on child and maternal health. Canada's leadership has paved the way for the G8 to improve the transparency of their reporting, but the G8 still has a long way to go. What is needed is clear baselines and targets measured in lives saved."

"These projects, some of which are new, announced by Prime Minister Harper at the G8 today, total about \$210 million. They are further proof Canada is leading the G8 on child and maternal health. It's great to see Canada's focus on strengthening health systems, especially at the local level. In World Vision's projects in nearly 100 countries, we have seen how critical access to health services in the communities is. Nutrition is essential to the health of children, so we're encouraged to see community-level nutrition programs as part of these projects."

"The next step is for Canada to move forward with civil society aid agencies already working at the community level to bring health to the doorsteps of mothers and children. NGOs, like World Vision, are close to the communities and already have existing relationships with community leaders and have their finger on the pulse of the unique health challenges of each region."

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