

Canada continues to lead the charge, delivering promises for maternal and child health

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. (Sept. 21, 2011)—World Vision welcomes Canada’s continued leadership on maternal and child health and accountability at this year’s meeting of the UN General Assembly. Yesterday at an event for the UN Every Woman Every Child initiative, Prime Minister Harper emphasized the importance of being accountable to the 7.6 million children and 358,000 women who continue to die of preventable causes and announced new projects related to the G-8 Muskoka Initiative.

The following is a statement from World Vision Canada President and CEO, Dave Toycen:

“We are pleased to see Canada continuing to be at the forefront of global efforts to improve the health of the world’s poorest women and children. Canada’s support to the WHO to improve national tracking of progress on health is significant. As a member of the WHO Accountability Commission, World Vision believes countries will need support to better monitor and evaluate the impact of investments in child and maternal health in their country.”

“We’re encouraged to see Canada partnering with development organizations and agencies for 28 new projects that will reach communities where children and families are most in need. We know up to 80 per cent of children never get care beyond their community and one in four mothers give birth at home alone, which makes it even more important to bring health care to their doorstep.”

“The numbers of women and children dying every year are dropping at a faster rate today and this is a result of our ramped up and united efforts to reach the poorest. However, only nine of the 68 countries with the most child and maternal deaths are on track to meet MDGs four and five by 2015. This is not acceptable. Canada’s funding announcements are an important step; millions of women and children are counting on us all to deliver on our promises. Canada needs to take every opportunity to keep the lives of women and children on the front burner for world leaders.”

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