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World Vision

# PRESS RELEASE

## Sarkozy baby wins geographic roulette

World Vision has heard the news that President Sarkozy and Carla Bruni are expecting a baby this year and offers congratulations to the family at this exciting time. Baby Sarkozy will be privileged to be born to such parents—and in France where (s)he is 52 times more likely to celebrate a fifth birthday than a baby born this year in the former French colony of Chad. Carla Bruni is 150 times more likely to survive pregnancy and childbirth than a woman in Chad. Their chances of survival are simply based on country of birth. As G8 leaders gather this week in Deauville, France, their congratulations to the Sarkozy family should be coupled with renewed efforts to tackle the unacceptable inequities in child and maternal health.

France spends \$4,966US on health per person and Canada spends \$4,445US, but Chad only manages to provide health services of just under \$49US per person. As one of the least developed countries in the world, Chad is the perfect example of a country in greatest need of G8 support. It is one of five countries where child mortality rates have worsened since the G8 made Millennium Development Goal promises in 2000.

Children in Chad are dying of things children in France rarely die of—diarrhea, malaria and pneumonia. With approximately half of all children in Chad being malnourished, they also die of minor childhood illnesses because they don't have the strength to recover. About two-thirds of children could be saved with simple things like better nutrition, mosquito nets and immunizations—things that have reduced child deaths globally by more than four million a year since 1990.

Carla Bruni will likely give birth in a hospital with a doctor who specializes in childbirth and will have regular medical support before, during and after the birth of her child—just like most French women. Mothers in Chad often don't have skilled birth attendants and lack health support during pregnancy and in the critical days following childbirth. This results in many losing their lives, making Chad's the second highest maternal mortality rate in the world. It's estimated 80 per cent of these deaths could be prevented if women had access to simple things like better nutrition, emergency care and a trained health worker during childbirth.

Children and mothers will continue to die unless leaders ensure simple and affordable measures reach their doorsteps in developing countries.

### Facts:

- More than eight million children die before their fifth birthday every year.
- Children who have lost their mothers are 10 times more likely to die prematurely.
- In France only four children in every 1,000 die before age five. In Chad, 209 children in every 1,000 die before age five (this is one in five children).
- More than 340,000 women die each year during childbirth or from pregnancy-related complications.
- The maternal mortality rate in Chad is 100 times that of Canada.

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World Vision is a leading Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

**"When Prime Minister Harper arrives in France for the G8, he will congratulate the Sarkozy family on the upcoming arrival of their baby. While they celebrate in France, many families in developing countries will grieve the loss of their own child. 22,000 children under five die from preventable causes every day. Canada can be proud of its part in reducing child deaths and taking leadership on child and maternal health—and it's critical Canada keeps this momentum within the G8. We want all children to have the same chance of survival the Sarkozy's baby."**

- Caroline Riseboro,  
Vice President, World  
Vision Canada

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