

improve the health of women and children in sub-Saharan Africa. Twenty research teams, linking African and Canadian researchers and African decision-makers, will develop practical, cost-effective solutions to health system challenges in 14 countries, with a focus on reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality.

In November 2014, Canada launched the Partnerships for Strengthening Maternal, Newborn and Child Health call for proposals, designed to fund initiatives from Canadian partners that contribute to improving maternal, newborn and child health. The call for proposals closed in January 2015 and 107 applications were received. As a result of this process, 36 initiatives—awarded a total DFATD contribution of up to \$421 million—were selected for their proposed work in 31 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Also in November 2014, Canada announced an early and increased pledge of \$500 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for its 2016-2020 Strategy, which aims to immunize 300 million more children by 2020, saving as many as 6 million more lives. This significant contribution helped ensure Gavi reached its \$7.5 billion target during its last replenishment conference in January 2015. At the conference, Canada announced an additional \$20 million to support La Francophonie countries, further demonstrating the importance of immunization to the delivery of Canada's forward agenda for MNCH.

Furthermore, at the end of November 2014, Canada renewed its commitment to the Micronutrient Initiative by providing \$150 million from 2014 to 2019. This investment is expected to support the delivery and administration of an estimated 200 million vitamin A and zinc supplements twice per year to children under the age of five, as well as increase the production of iodized salt to reach an estimated 120 million people each year. This support will also allow the Micronutrient Initiative to administer iron and folic acid supplements to approximately 80 percent of pregnant women in the regions targeted by the initiative, primarily sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

GLOBAL FINANCING FACILITY IN SUPPORT OF EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD

Improving civil registration and vital statistics systems (CRVS) across the developing world is critical to ensuring the health of newborns and children, and an important component of the Muskoka Initiative. By strengthening national CRVS registries, countries can improve the planning and delivery of maternal, newborn and child health-related services. A legal identity and a birth certificate for each child helps reduce their risk of being exploited, provides access to education and, later in their lives, helps them to get jobs and exercise their democratic rights. However, despite the importance of CRVS, more than 100 developing countries still lack well-functioning CRVS.

At the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014, Canada joined the World Bank Group, Norway and the United States in announcing the Global Financing Facility (GFF) in Support of Every Woman Every Child. Canada then announced a contribution of \$200 million to the GFF. The GFF was officially launched in July 2015 at the Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The goal of the Global Financing Facility is to accelerate efforts to end preventable newborn, child, adolescent and maternal deaths and improve the health and quality of life of women, adolescents and children. The GFF will focus on strengthening national-level systems to collect the data development planners and businesses need to design effective programs and services in health, education and economic growth, and could prevent up to 3.8 million maternal deaths, 101 million child deaths and 21 million stillbirths in 63 high-burden countries by 2030. The Global Financing Facility will include specific support for civil registration and vital statistics systems in developing countries, to which \$100 million of Canada's total contribution will be dedicated.



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