

Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight

RUSS CARNAHAN (D-MO), CHAIRMAN

Achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals:
Progress through Partnerships

Testimony from:

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Good morning Mr. Chairman and Committee members.

On behalf of Johnson & Johnson, I would like to thank Chairman Carnahan and Ranking Member Rohrabacher for calling this important hearing and for inviting me to be here to provide perspectives on achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and, in particular, how public-private partnerships can play a significant role. Your leadership, Mr. Chairman, in supporting efforts to address the MDGs is noteworthy and appreciated.

The challenges we face as a global community relative to achieving the MDGs – particularly in maternal and child health – are great. The MDGs that relate to women and children's health are lagging furthest behind. A woman in an underdeveloped country, for example, is 300 times more likely to die during childbirth or from pregnancy-related complications than her counterpart in a developed country. Bold, focused, and coordinated action is required to accelerate progress on the MDGs related to health.

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has initiated a global effort on women and children's health titled "Investing in Our Common Future: Joint Plan of Action for Women's and Children's Health." Johnson & Johnson was one of two representatives of the private sector initially selected to participate in the Secretary General's Initiative joining others from throughout the UN, member states and key civil society actors.

I co-chair the Innovation Working Group of the UN Joint Plan of Action along with Tore Godal, Special Advisor on Global Health to the Prime Minister of Norway. This group includes representatives from USAID, the UN, Canada, Rwanda, India, Harvard University, the Rockefeller and Gates Foundations and others. The Innovation Working Group has published draft papers that promote ideas that should catalyze future opportunities for the MDGs. They are available on a website and will be published with the Joint Plan of Action later this year.
(http://www.who.int/pmnch/activities/jointactionplan/jap_innovationswg/en/index.html)

We know that without innovation, hundreds of thousands of women and girls will continue to die in pregnancy or childbirth every year, with 10 to 15 million more suffering long-lasting disabilities.

We know that progress in delivering healthier pregnancies and healthier babies is possible. Some of the poorest countries are now making significant reductions in maternal and neonatal mortality. Country-led as well as global innovations can achieve further reductions, enabling health services to produce better outcomes at the same cost. These range from financial incentives to promote performance and results to innovative use of mobile phones and other communication tools.

These working papers – with a broad scope of innovation to achieve better and more effective services for women and children – include improving health literacy, the development and use of new technologies such as mobile phones, as well as innovations in the delivery of services through an array of public-private partnerships.

Johnson & Johnson has as long legacy of engaging in public-private partnerships focused on maternal and child health initiatives in many developing (and developed) countries ... all with a focus on making life-changing, long-term differences in human health, and tied to advancing one or more of the MDGs. Our approach focuses on working with community-based partners that have the greatest insights into the needs of local populations and the strategies that stand the greatest chances of success.

Some examples of our activities include contributions in microbicide development for HIV prevention, helping children attain their utmost potential by treating and preventing intestinal worms, efforts to halt the scourge of tuberculosis, and initiatives to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT).

1. In 2004, our affiliate Tibotec established a first-of-its-kind partnership with the **International Partnership on Microbicides (IPM)** to provide a royalty-free license and technology transfer to develop, manufacture and distribute its compound TMC120 as a topical vaginal microbicide to help protect women from infection with HIV in developing countries. This effort spearheaded other pharmaceutical companies to follow suit with further contributions of their compounds to the IPM.
2. Since 2006, we have partnered with the Task Force for Global Health on **Children Without Worms**, the first and only entity to focus specifically on global treatment and prevention of soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH), or intestinal worms. STH contributes to general weakness, malnutrition, iron-deficiency anemia, and impaired physical and intellectual development in school-age children.

The program is treating approximately 20 million children with mebendazole, a drug from our pharmaceuticals business, and is working to stop the cycle of re-infection through health education, access to clean water and improved sanitation

infrastructures. The partnership is active in eight countries with high prevalence rates: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Uganda and Zambia. We collaborate with country governments and local NGOs to create sustainable treatment and control programs.

3. As new drugs for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis are in dire need, Johnson & Johnson formed, through its affiliate companies Janssen Pharmaceutica and Tibotec, **a landmark collaboration with the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development (TB Alliance)**, a not-for-profit, product development partnership, to accelerate the discovery and development of new drugs to fight tuberculosis. The collaboration is maximizing the expertise and resources from both the public and private sectors with the intent to improve the treatment of one of the world's oldest and most deadly diseases. We are sharing expertise and resources in the development of a novel Johnson & Johnson compound in development (TMC207), which could become the first TB drug with a new mechanism of action in 40 years.
4. A final example contributes to a UN goal to eliminate mother-to-child vertical transmission of HIV by 2015. Johnson & Johnson has played a leadership role in **preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)** for several years with partnerships with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) and mothers2mothers. Since 2003, our partnership with Glaser has reached more than 1.9 million women with counseling; provided more than 1.7 million with HIV testing; and administered antiretroviral (ARV) prophylaxis to nearly 140,000 HIV-positive mothers at approximately 1,450 sites across 11 countries. Johnson & Johnson became mothers2mothers' first corporate partner in 2006 and continues to be one of its largest supporters. Last year alone, the partnership reached over 3,500 new HIV+ mothers per month in facility-based sites in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Each of these examples demonstrates how actors in the public and private sectors drive innovative solutions to address some of the world's most pressing global health issues affecting women and children. These partnerships call for a shared vision, strategic thinking and collaboration to be successful. Healthy partnerships leverage the unique skills that each partner brings to the table to affect change.

We believe the best value comes when the UN and other governmental bodies involve the private sector to catalyze efforts, and when the private sector leverages government investments. We see this in our engagement with the UN and other key stakeholders including the U.S. Government on health literacy initiatives. We believe our efforts in global health diplomacy drive new ways of thinking that can help shape stronger, more sustainable approaches benefiting mothers and fathers around the world.

The recent resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases stresses the need for a multisectoral response to combat

non-communicable diseases. In the resolution, the UN recognizes the enormous human suffering caused by non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, and the threat they pose to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

We see this challenge of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and support the multisectoral input being developed by the United Nations and World Health Organization. Johnson & Johnson represents the pharmaceutical industry with our seat on the World Health Organization's NCDNet, the global non-communicable disease network. We further contribute through our leadership with the World Economic Forum, leading the chronic disease and wellness activities. Given the threat of NCDs to economic and health well-being, we would welcome further engagement with the U.S. Government, the UN and other interested parties in this effort.

The UN's Joint Plan of Action for Women's and Children's Health offers renewed hope for the future as the varied participants explore ways to build upon, revitalize and secure new commitments from a range of influential partners, as well as provide organization and accountability for delivery at the highest levels. During the formative stages, participants agreed that a "Joint Plan of Action" should focus on increased political commitment and accountability, integrated delivery, and enhanced financing for women's and children's health.

Global health and development are too important to relegate to any one group. Congress has an important opportunity to support and encourage more public-private partnerships in health literacy, maternal and child health and other related areas that can help address the MDGs. Additionally, it is critically important to foster public-private partnerships that build more integrated program offerings that focus less on trying to solve just one issue and more on using holistic approaches to address the many challenges facing women and children in resource-poor settings.

Thank you.