

**Bloomberg School of Public Health**

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Michael J. Klag, MD, MPH  
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Dimitry Medvedev, President of Russia

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

Dear G8 Heads of State,

We are heartened by the G8's focus on maternal and child health and believe the new initiative holds great promise to safeguard the lives of the world's most vulnerable families.

As leaders in the field of public health we urge you to use the June 2010 summit to make firm commitments to a comprehensive initiative that addresses the health needs of the developing world. For too long, children have lost their lives to easily preventable and treatable diseases like pneumonia, diarrhea, measles and malaria simply because the political will did not exist to support these programs at a level commensurate with the need. Today, the world recognizes that investing in the lives of mothers and their children pays great dividends in building healthier, more prosperous families, communities and countries.



We urge you to commit to a results-driven initiative that invests in programs to protect the lives of mothers and their children. The global consensus on maternal newborn and child health estimates that an additional \$30 billion is needed between 2009 - 2015 to accelerate progress on Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5. It is critical that funding is dedicated to advance life-saving programs and save millions of lives.

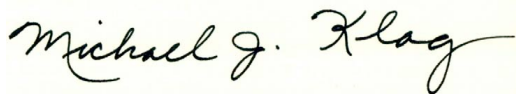
An effective approach to maternal and child health will include proven programs such as those to end mother to child transmission of HIV by 2015, immunize children with new and existing vaccines against pneumonia, diarrhea, measles and other leading killers, provide universal access to bed nets by 2011 and train one million new health care workers in Africa.

The Maternal and Child Health Initiative can do this by:

- fully financing the Global Fund at \$17 to \$20 billion during the next three years,
- providing \$4.7 billion for GAVI during the next five years,
- doubling the funding for maternal and child health from 2009 levels by 2014.

At this summit, you have the chance to improve the lives of millions of children and women around the world. We hope that you'll seize this opportunity and make the commitments they so urgently need and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Klag". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael J. Klag, MD, MPH





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Dean, Yale School of Public Health



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cc.

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Dr. Flavia Bustreo, Director, Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health

