



## The World Bank

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

**Julian Schweitzer**

Director, Health, Nutrition and Population  
Human Development Network

1818 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
U.S.A.

Tel.: (202) 458-0314  
Fax: (202) 522-3234

March 23, 2009

Ms. Theresa Shaver  
President and Executive Director  
White Ribbon Alliance  
One Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shaver

Thank you for your letter March 9, 2009 to Mr. Zoellick. He has asked me to respond to your correspondence on his behalf.

I would like to thank you for bringing forth a key development issue – that of maternal health. The High Level Task Force on Innovative Financing for Health Systems has been charged with the vital job of identifying ways to use existing scarce resources for best results. The Task Force is committed to lessening the financial gaps for achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals which include improving maternal health outcomes. This was also brought up in the Doha meetings as an important area of focus for the Task Force and is embedded in the Doha Development Agenda.

Thank you as well for the efforts of the White Ribbon Alliance in addressing maternal mortality and disability. We hope that in working together, the international community, partner agencies and countries can achieve the MDGs, especially the MDG 5.

Sincerely,

HDN Ref: HDNVP-2009-00040

Drafter's name and extension: S. Chowdhury, ext. 81984

Contact person and extension: V. Arias, ext. 32402

bcc: MChawla, JSchweitzer, EGunawan, JTeodosio, SKhan (HDNHE), KKhusnutdinova, YHensley, TNawaz, SSebastian (HDNVP)