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**GPOBA**  
The Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid



International  
Finance Corporation  
World Bank Group

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Yemen: GPOBA Grants US\$6.23 million to Make Motherhood Safer in Poor Districts of Sana'a**

**Sana'a, Yemen – June 10, 2008** – The World Bank, acting as an administrator for the Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA), today signed a grant agreement for US\$6.23 million with two private healthcare providers in Yemen—the Saudi Yemeni Healthcare Company and the Al Mawarid Company for Educational and Health Services—and a Yemeni non-governmental organization (NGO), SOUL for the Development of Women and Children, to improve maternal care for women in some of the poorest districts of Yemen's capital, Sana'a.

Under the “Queen of Sheba Safe Motherhood Project,” up to 40,000 women of reproductive age in Sana'a are expected to receive a “Mother-Baby package” of essential good quality health services as defined by the World Health Organization, such as antenatal care, birth attendance by skilled birth attendants, postnatal care, and complicated care services.

The GPOBA project will boost Yemen's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of reducing child mortality and improving maternal health by targeting poor women who have limited access to basic health services.

The project is introducing an innovative Output-Based Aid approach, designed to target aid to the poor, link payments to performance, and encourage innovation, efficiency, and public-private partnership. GPOBA will subsidize 90 percent of the cost of the Mother-Baby package of services per woman. All services will be provided by the Saudi Yemeni Healthcare Company and the Al Mawarid Company for Educational and Health Services mainly through community-based satellite clinics and hospital facilities for complicated care services. GPOBA will reimburse these companies only after they have actually delivered the healthcare services. GPOBA will also reimburse a portion of the costs incurred by SOUL, which is responsible for program promotion in the communities.

Yemen has a ratio of 570 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births (according to 2000 estimates), with only 27 percent of births attended by skilled birth attendants, as well as a high fertility rate (average of seven children per woman). Poor women often go through

pregnancy and deliver at home without seeking any medical care, due to factors such as poor access to quality health services, distrust of healthcare providers, lack of female doctors, and the price of care.

*“The GPOBA program will seek to address some of the barriers to safe motherhood by improving healthcare services and working with poor communities to increase use of these services,”* said **Patricia Veevers-Carter**, Program Manager for GPOBA.

This GPOBA project will draw on contributions from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, and will build on IFC’s existing partnerships with the Saudi Yemeni Healthcare Company and the Al-Mawarid Company for Educational and Health Services. **Guy Ellena**, IFC Director for Health and Education, said, *“We are happy to support our project partners in developing a scheme that can serve as a model — for private businesses in Yemen — of how to make socially responsible investments that contribute to the health of poor communities.”*

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### **About GPOBA**

The Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA) is a global partnership administered by the World Bank. GPOBA was established in 2003, initially as a multi-donor trust fund, to develop output-based aid (OBA) approaches across a variety of sectors including infrastructure, health, and education. OBA subsidies are designed to create incentives for efficiency and the long-term success of development projects.

GPOBA’s current donors are the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which is a member of the World Bank Group, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation (Sida). For more information, visit: [www.gpoba.org](http://www.gpoba.org).

### **About IFC**

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, fosters sustainable economic growth in developing countries by financing private sector investment, mobilizing private capital in local and international financial markets, and providing advisory and risk mitigation services to businesses and governments. IFC’s vision is that poor people have the opportunity to escape poverty and improve their lives. In FY07, IFC committed US\$8.2 billion and mobilized an additional US\$3.9 billion through loan participations and structured finance for 299 investments in 69 developing countries. IFC also provided advisory services in 97 countries. For more information, visit [www.ifc.org](http://www.ifc.org).