

**Women Thrive Worldwide Meeting: Synergy, Not Silos: Post – 2015 MDG Priorities Across Sectors**

On December 5<sup>th</sup> Women Thrive Worldwide hosted a roundtable discussion on how different sectors approach the post-2015 agenda and the importance of forging and leveraging cross-sectoral linkages at the Brookings Center for Universal Education. Participants included representatives from the health, environment, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), gender and education sectors.

Jenny Perlman Robinson of the Center for Universal Education (CUE) provided welcoming remarks highlight the post-2015 agenda as a topic CUE is looking intimately at with the goal of the next developing agenda including an education target that looks at the quality of learning and not just access to education. Ritu Sharma of Women Thrive Worldwide moderated the discussion, noting that Women Thrive Worldwide is focused on advocacy around the substance of the post-2015 development agenda, with a particular focus on girls' education and ensuring that global south voices are amplified in consultations and debates.

Presenters included John Norris, executive director of the Sustainable Security and Peacebuilding Initiative at Center for American Progress, who outlined the work of the U.N. high level panel convened to create a first draft of the post-2015 development agenda and present it to the United Nations secretary general in June 2013. Heather Hanson, vice president for public policy at the World Food Program USA, discussed her hopes that the next development agenda will include targets to reach the secretary general's zero hunger campaign. Maureen Greenwood-Basken, executive director of the Women and Population program at the United Nations Foundation, spoke about how the secretary general has asked the U.N. Foundation to explore how we can accelerate progress on meeting the current Millennium Development Goals while at the same time defining the poverty agenda for the post-2015 agenda. John Oldfield, chief executive officer of WASH Advocates, discussed the importance of pursuing an integrated agenda by linking issues, such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), to complimentary efforts such as education, food, peace and security, and women's issues. At the conclusion of the meeting Women Thrive Worldwide offered to convene another meeting to continue the discussion and to look at examples of cross-sectoral goals.