



This report describes opportunities for engaging and supporting a well managed and effectively regulated private sector to improve the region's health. We hope that governments, donors, investors, nongovernmental organizations, and health care providers will find this research a useful addition to traditional public sector approaches.

Message from the Executive Vice President and CEO

Sub-Saharan Africa has about 11 percent of the world's people, but it carries 24 percent of the global disease burden in human and financial costs. Almost half the world's deaths of children under five take place in Africa.

This challenge is significant but not insurmountable. There is a tremendous opportunity to leverage the private sector in ways that improve access and increase the financing and quality of health care goods and services throughout Africa.

In a region where public resources are limited, the private sector is already a significant player. Around 60 percent of health care financing in Africa comes from private sources, and about 50 percent of total health expenditure goes to private providers. Just as important, the vast majority of the region's poor people, both urban and rural, rely on private health care. A poor woman with a sick child is as likely to go to a private hospital or clinic as to a public facility.

This report describes opportunities for developing, engaging, and supporting a well managed and effectively regulated private sector to improve the region's health. We hope that governments, donors, investors, nongovernmental organizations, and health care providers will find this research a useful addition to traditional public sector approaches. We look forward to exploring partnerships with African companies, banks, and investors, as well as policy experts and other stakeholders in health care. Despite the scope of Africa's health challenge, I am optimistic about what can be achieved in the next few years.

I want to thank the partners and colleagues who made this report possible. Their diverse contributions are a powerful example of the value of collaboration.



Lars H. Thunell

Executive Vice President and CEO