

# ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON POPULATION DEVELOPMENT AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



June 2004  
NEWSLETTER No 9

## FUNDING

### International population assistance, by major donor category, 1994-2003

(Millions of US\$)

Donor category	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Developed countries	977	372	369	530	539	411	598	720	180	
United Nations system	107	111	18	49	35	31	77	96	33	
Foundations/NGOs	117	85	141	106	124	240	299	241	470	
Development Bank grants	-	6	8	9	10	9	1	3	2	
Subtotal	201	574	535	694	707	691	975	060	685	
Development bank loans	436	460	509	266	426	540	604	461	328	
Total	637	034	044	960	133	231	579	521	013	

Source: UNFPA, 2003.

### More Funds Needed to Meet Reproductive Health Goals

The long term development benefits of investing in sexual and reproductive health are highlighted in the UNFPA and Alan Guttmacher Institute publication: '**Adding it Up.**'

Adding It Up: found that poor countries are providing over 75% of the money spent worldwide on sexual and reproductive health care. Improved provision by donor nations is essential if the world is to realize the Millennium Development Goals, the global commitment to cut poverty in half by 2015.

The report also found that satisfying the need for contraceptive services in developing countries would avert 52 million unintended pregnancies annually. This would save more than 1.5 million lives and prevent 505,000 children from losing their mothers.

### Spanish ODA

Spanish Socialist Party announced it would commit 0.33% of Spain's GDP to ODA in 2006, fulfilling the agreement of the

Monterrey Summit, and maintaining a sustained increase to reach 0.4% at the end of its term.

### Japan to Help Fund Project to Rebuild Maternal Health System in Iraq

UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid said she is seeking \$20 million for building the maternal health system in Iraq. She hopes Japan will contribute about a third of the amount.

Maternal mortality rate has nearly tripled from 117 per 100,000 live births in 1989 to 310,000 in 2002 due to sanctions and US-led military occupation, with the main causes being maternal bleeding and obstructive labor. There have also been recent increases in infant mortality and in the numbers of miscarriages, unsafe abortions and violence against women.

### US AIDS money

The Bush administration has earmarked 1/3 of its international AIDS prevention funds for abstinence only programmes as part of its efforts to appease the religious right. The administration has removed information about condom use and references to the value of sex education and condom promotion from the Web sites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for International Development, consequently putting millions at risk.

## LEGISLATION/POLICY

### WHO Adopts Its First Global Strategy on Reproductive Health

In May 2004 WHO adopted a resolution endorsing the World Health Organization's (WHO) first Reproductive Health Strategy.

The first global strategy on reproductive health will tackle reproductive and sexual ill-health which accounts for 20 percent of the global burden of ill-health for women and 14 percent for men.

The new strategy targets five priority aspects of reproductive and sexual health:

- improving antenatal, delivery postpartum and newborn care;
- providing high-quality services for family planning, including infertility

services and eliminating unsafe abortion;

- combating sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, reproductive tract infections;
- cervical cancer and other gynecological morbidities;
- promoting sexual health.

The global strategy is an attempt to accelerate progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals and the ICPD PoA. "The strong endorsement of this strategy by the World Health Assembly represents an unequivocal message that countries are committed to do all they can to achieve the goals and targets of the ICPD PoA adopted in 1994," said Paul Van Look, Director of WHO's Department of Reproductive Health and Research.

The US questioned the evidence or data to support the assertions in the Strategy Paper. It said the international community has never agreed to reproductive and/or sexual rights as human rights. It also stressed that the numerous references in the strategy to reproductive health and sexual health services could not be interpreted as promoting abortion services or the use of abortifacients.

The ICPD PoA does not promote abortion the PoA clearly states:

*In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of Family Planning. In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe.*

### ICPD 10 year anniversary

UN and NGO Regional and country conferences are taking place this year.

At all regional UN ICPD+10 meetings the US has consistently undermined the ICPD PoA. The US has been deleting references to "reproductive health services," "condom use" and "unsafe abortions," and adding language asserting full parental control over adolescents' sexual and health education. The US has also sought to rewrite references to a "brain drain" from the region and to the "heavy burden" of external debt.

### Upcoming events are:

ECLAC meeting Puerto Rico 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June (Christine McCafferty MP as Chair of APPG on PD&RH will be on UK Government delegation).



### In London activities include:

- SRHR NGO global roundtable with 500 delegates 30<sup>th</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September;
- World Population Day celebration 6<sup>th</sup> July. Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Benn MP will launch DfID's Reproductive Health Position paper;
- CALLED TO ACCOUNT Bill event 1<sup>st</sup> July. Giant Bills will be presented to European Governments. In the UK to No 10 Downing Street. The Bill will draw attention to shortfalls in funding in support of SRHR around the world.



Graphic simulated media event

### Abortion to Remain Illegal in Poland

Abortion is still illegal in Poland, where 95 percent of people are Catholic, despite earlier promises by the ruling left to liberalize the law. "Between 80,000 and 200,000 women have abortions in Poland, often in questionable hygiene conditions, at a risk to their health and life.

### Abortions Outnumber Births in Romania

Romanian health ministry said abortions continued to exceed live births in 2003, although the number of terminations declined in comparison with previous years. In the first nine months of 2003, there were nearly 170,000 abortions—about 8,000 more than the number of births. Abortion and contraceptives were both banned under the communist dictatorship that ended with the execution of President Nicolae Ceaucescu in late 1989. The ban was revoked, and in 1990 more than three abortions were recorded for each birth.

The rate has gradually declined since then, but because reliable contraception is difficult to obtain, abortion remains the main means of minimizing pregnancies for many women.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **European Parliament report on Human Rights/Reproductive Health finally adopted**

The de Keyser report on human was finally adopted in April 2004.

The report was the subject of great opposition, mainly from the EPP-ED group: Mr Van Orden (UK), Michael Gahler (D) and Jose Ribeiro e Castro (PT, UEN Group) who fiercely opposed the parts on reproductive health.

### **In South Africa, Male Violence towards Women Boosts HIV Risk**

The Lancet medical journal reported that women who are beaten by their partners are more likely to become infected with HIV than women in non-violent households.

"Women with violent or controlling male partners are at increased risk of infection," said the authors, led by Kristin Dunkle, a University of Michigan epidemiologist.

"Abusive men are more likely to have HIV and impose risky sexual practices on partners." AFP noted that feminists have long warned that gender violence and inequality are tragically unpublicized factors in spreading the AIDS pandemic.

### **Year of the Family Conference**

Anti-family planning groups are getting ready for the upcoming conference on the family in Doha, Qatar, this November.

This conference culminates a year-long series of events commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

According to the World Congress of Families (WCF), "The Doha International Conference for the Family follows upon the celebration of the International Year for the Family and will highlight and collect the family-related efforts of governments, academicians, faith-based organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and members of civil society during a year-long series of events."

WCF is the largest international gathering of "pro-family" groups, organizations and activists supported by such anti-family planning fringe groups as Focus on the Family, Family Research Council (FRC), Christian Coalition, Population Research Institute (PRI), Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (C-FAM) and the American Family Association, among others.

These groups have given the impression that the Doha meeting is an inter-governmental conference being held under the auspices of

the UN. However, this is not correct. This is not a UN-supported or sanctioned event.

### **Rights Watch's**

The Human Rights Watch in the Philippines said that the Philippine government bans the use of national funds for condom supplies. Some local authorities, such as the mayor of Manila City, prohibit the distribution of condoms in government health facilities. School-based HIV/AIDS educators told Human Rights Watch that schools often prohibited them from discussing condoms with students.

## **SRHR PROGRAMME WORK**

### **Adolescent sexual health statistics**

- HIV/Aids is most likely to effect the young and sexually active;
- There are 5 million new cases of HIV infection every year half those affected are the young;
- 6,000 young people are infected every day (1 every 14 seconds);
- 50,000 Britain's have HIV - a 20% increase on last years figure;
- The number of young people reaching their reproductive years is 1.2 billion – higher than ever before;
- Nearly half the world's population is aged under 25 and 20 per cent are adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19;
- Some 14 million girls aged between 15 and 19 give birth each year. For this age group, complications of pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death worldwide;
- Over 300,000 15-19 year olds worldwide contract an STI every single day;
- Sexually transmitted infections such as Chlamydia, Syphilis and Gonorrhoea are on the increase amongst young people in Scotland and untreated STIs can increase vulnerability to HIV ten fold;
- Teenage pregnancies are higher in the UK than anywhere else in Europe – Scotland has more than 9,000 every year.

### **America's virgin soldiers are on their way into the UK - ignoring the dangers of abstinence for teenagers**

The abstinence campaign - the Silver Ring - has so far received \$700,000 from George Bush, as part of his campaign to replace sex education with Victorian values. In terms of participation, his programme is working. In every other respect it's a catastrophe.

The two western countries at the top of the disaster league are the US and the UK, in which conservative campaigns are among the strongest and sex education and access to contraception are among the weakest.

The US, the UNFPA figures show, is the only rich nation stuck in the middle of the third world block, with 53 births per 1,000 teenagers - a record worse than those of India, the Philippines and Rwanda. The UK comes next with 20. The nations the conservatives would place at the top of the list are clumped at the bottom. Germany and Norway produce 11 babies per 1,000 teenagers, Finland eight, Sweden and Denmark seven and the Netherlands five.

UNICEF's explanation is pretty unequivocal. Sweden, for example, radically changed its sex education policies in 1975.

"Recommendations of abstinence and sex only within marriage were dropped, contraceptive education was made explicit, and a nationwide network of youth clinics was established specifically to provide confidential contraceptive advice and free contraceptives ... Over the next two decades, Sweden saw its teenage birth rate fall by 80 per cent." Sexually transmitted diseases, in contrast to the rising rates in the UK and the US, declined by 40% in the 1990s.

### **Condom Campaign in Afghanistan**

Population Services International (PSI) will begin a major condom campaign in conservative Afghanistan—without using the word 'sex'.

Nearly 400,000 condoms have been sold in four months," said PSI's Andrew Miller. But because of the cultural context "we must adopt a soft approach so as not to offend Afghan sensitivities." Although no longer bound by the Taliban, Afghan society remains profoundly conservative and sexually repressive. "It has been a real headache to translate the instructions (inside the packet) and to design packaging which doesn't shock," said Emmanuel de Dinechin of Altai Consulting, which advised on the product. "Afghans' ignorance about sexuality is abysmal; the work of educating them is immense." With hardly a dozen cases of HIV/AIDS officially registered in Afghanistan, the promotion of condoms is not about safe sex or fewer pregnancies but more about encouraging couples to better space the births of their children and fight the country's alarming maternal mortality rate, one of the highest in the world.

### **The "Baby Hatch" Alternative**

German women confronted with an unwanted pregnancy now have alternatives to abortion, anonymous childbirth at clinics where they can safely abandon their newborns in "baby hatches".

The baby hatch is an appealing option for those against abortion. Clinics provide a means of identifying babies—a foot or a hand print—that the woman can use to get news of her child or to reclaim it. If no request is

made by the mother after eight weeks, the child is put up for adoption.

Abandoning a baby is punishable under German law but only if it is left without assistance. The "hatches" have gained acceptance with local governments and the major churches. Germany now has 65 nationwide, primarily operated by the SKF social services organization of Roman Catholic women and other Christian charity groups

### **FACTS**

#### ***Emergency Contraception in UK***

12 per cent of girls aged 16 and 17 have used emergency contraception at least once.

#### ***Condoms4Life campaign***

Using the message that "Good Catholics Use Condoms," the campaign presents a positive message to sexually active Catholics about responsibility. The ads appeal to people of faith noting that: "We believe in God. We believe that sex is sacred. We believe in caring for each other. We believe in using condoms." The campaign aims to counter the message sent by Catholic bishops worldwide that condoms are immoral and unsafe.

#### ***Study Finds No Link between Abortion and Breast Cancer***

Sweden's Karolinska Institute found that having an abortion does not increase a woman's risk of developing breast cancer. Christine Fogg, joint chief executive of Breast Cancer Care, said: "Current research has consistently failed to show any link between induced or spontaneous abortions and breast cancer risk." She said "scare stories" which claimed to show a link increased the anxiety of many women. "We want to reassure women that there is no proven link between abortion and the risk of breast cancer and that age remains the strongest risk factor for breast cancer.

#### ***UN population award***

John C. Caldwell, and the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, a pioneer in the treatment of childbirth injuries, have won the 2004 UN Population Award. The Award is given annually for outstanding work in the field of population.

#### ***YouAct, a European Youth Network on SRHR, was officially launched in Lisbon, Portugal.***

Thirty-seven young people from 20 European countries gathered in Portugal to participate in a youth conference organised by YouAct to celebrate its launch.

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