



## **ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON POPULATION DEVELOPMENT AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

December

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**NEWSLETTER No 1**

### **FUNDING**

#### **UK Overseas Development Aid**

In 1994 at ICPD 179 countries agreed for their **Governments to work towards an agreed target of 0.7% of GNP for overall ODA**. Governments should allocate, 20% of ODA and 20% of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes (gradually increase funding for population, development and reproductive health)

Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and now Luxembourg have achieved or exceeded their promise of 0.7 % of GNP to ODA. USA, Italy, Greece, Spain and Canada all contribute less than 0.25% of GNP on ODA

#### **UK's ODA is currently 0.31% of GNP**

##### ***Action urgently needed by group members:***

- Early Day Motions No 386 - please sign!
- Specific indicators are needed for us to monitor our ODA on sexual and reproductive health and right! Written questions were tabled 15<sup>th</sup> November to obtain information on ODA specifically allocated for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights inclusive/exclusive HIV/AIDS - UN-bilateral-International/National NGO's!

*\*ODA expenditure for industrialised countries can be obtained from Advisor!*

### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### **UNFPA's State of the World Population 2001 Report 'Population and Environmental Change' November 2001 and edited article 'For a better world invest in women's rights':**

- Current population is 6.1 billion. Projected population for 2050 is 9.3 billion
- 50% of the world still exists on less than \$2 a day

- Consumption expenditures have more than doubled since 1970
- Rising consumption, pollution and waste and persistent poverty -with lack of resources and technology to use them and lack of power to change these circumstances - are putting increasing pressure on the environment
- In developing countries 90-95 % of sewage and 70 % of industrial wastes are dumped untreated into surface waters where they pollute water supply. In industrial countries, chemical run-off from fertilisers and pesticides, and acid rain from air pollution deteriorate water quality.
- USA with only 4.6% of the world's population produces 1/4 of global greenhouse gas emissions. The climate change have serious impact including increased storms, flooding, soil erosion, extinction of plants, animals, shifting agricultural zones and a threat to public health due to increased water stress and tropical diseases.
- **Global policy or the lack of it affects local communities**

Investment in women, especially their education and reproductive health care, works wonders for anaemic economies.

#### **Investing in women is the fastest road to progress in economic, political and social indicators.**

In developing countries, one year of schooling makes a woman a better mother, nutritionist and caretaker of family's health and environment.

Education gives a woman options beyond childbearing; it often gives her access to reliable, affordable family planning and the right to make decisions about her sexual behaviour. This makes her space her children to coincide with her family's ability to support them. The country's population growth slows, easing strain on the environment and on governments struggling to meet their people's needs.

At present consumption is a problem of the wealthier countries as 20% of the richest 6.1 billion people consume 86 % of natural resources, draining them from every corner of the planet (water, food, minerals etc.) the poorest 20% of people account for only 1.3 % of consumption. A child born today in an industrialised country will consume and pollute more in a lifetime than 30-50 youngster born in a developing country.

The recently UNFPA State of the World report verifies for us that the environmental situation seems certain to get worse. The vast bulk of consumption and environmental pollution 'footsteps' are caused by industrialised nations, but it is rising fast elsewhere as incomes grow.

**Measures to conserve energy, curb pollution and promote sustainable use of natural resources are essential for sustainable development.**

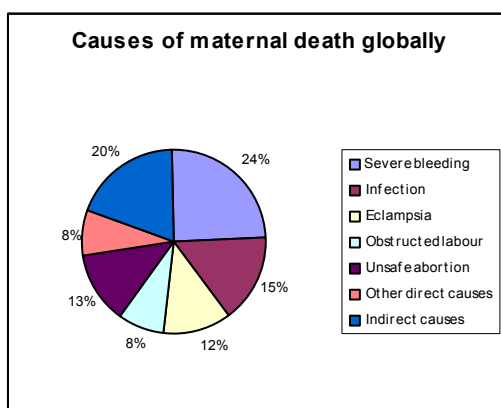
The report states that if we begin to fulfil the commitments our governments made in 1994 at ICPD, investing in education of girls and women, family planning and reproductive health care programmes world-wide, we can foster a new cycles of success. We can promote the rights of women as half of humankind who must be able to make their decisions about work and family, knowing that their decisions will help to save us all!

\*UNFPA report and full article can be found on websites: [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org) and [www.planetwire.org](http://www.planetwire.org)

**POLICIES**

**Mexico City Policy (Global Gag Rule)**

Unsafe abortion is one of the five major causes of maternal death globally. Annually 20 million women seek abortions under unsafe conditions, over 70,000 die every year, and hundreds of thousands more suffer serious complications.



U.S President Bush imposed restriction (Mexico City Policy) on local NGO funds in January 2001, prohibiting non-U.S.A NGOs from using their own or non-U.S.A funds received from other sources to lobby their governments for law reform concerning abortion, to provide accurate medical counselling or referrals regarding abortion or provide legal abortion services.

**This policy undermines the freedom of speech in 60 countries around the world** (including India, Bangladesh, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda - UK's biggest bilateral ODA countries), often countries where such rights are new and fragile. **NGOs can not advocate to decriminalise abortion, support laws to make abortion safer or more accessible.**

**The Mexico City Policy undermines foreign policy goals** - the promotion of democratic participation, the building of civil society, and the enhancement of the status of women within democracies. Empowering NGOs to participate freely in their societies is central to fostering democracy.

IPPF can not receive funding from US Government due to the Global Gag Rule!

\*The Centre for Reproductive Law and Policy are fighting the Gag Rule, further info on website: [www.crlp.org](http://www.crlp.org)

**COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

**What do we mean by quality reproductive health services!**

- Accessibility and availability of services close to where people live
- Acceptable and responsive to culture, social norms, privacy and confidentiality
- Essential supplies and equipment
- Referral system when needed
- Staff technically competent who refer to evidence based guidelines and protocols
- Continuity and follow up
- Respectful and non-judgmental care
- Information and counselling on health and health needs
- Involvement of client in decision making

- Economic and social support to health care provider

Why is quality of care paramount? Cost efficient, equitable and effective services, and good staff moral - **QUALITY SERVICES SAVES LIVES**

*\*[www.who.int](http://www.who.int) for more information on quality reproductive health services*

### **Interesting points and New websites**

#### ***Microbicides:***

*This topical preparation will prevent STI's and/or HIV infection being transmitted during sexual intercourse - expected to be available in 2007*

#### ***Exclusive breastfeeding:***

*If all babies were breastfed in the UK for first 4-6 mths. of life the NHS would save £ 35 million!*

*[www.epolitix.com/forum/marie-stopes](http://www.epolitix.com/forum/marie-stopes) : A resource for politicians interested in reproductive health issues in UK and Internationally*

*[www.likeitis.org.uk](http://www.likeitis.org.uk) : A resource for young people on puberty, emergency contraception, contraception, sexuality, peer pressure, sex, periods, love bugs, help and advise and teenage pregnancy*

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