



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON POPULATION DEVELOPMENT AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

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NEWSLETTER No 4

FUNDING

UNFPA Funding

Active in over 140 developing nations, UNFPA is internationally recognised as a leader in the field of population and reproductive health. Their efforts for voluntary family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, safe motherhood and universal primary education are indispensable.

The 3 UK MP's (Christine McCafferty MP, Edward Leigh MP and Norman Lamb MP) that went to China to investigate UNFPA's involvement in coercive FP work in China, have just published their China Mission Report. This has been sent to the Secretary of State for International Development Clare Short, President George W. Bush and Colin Powell.

The report concluded and recommended:

“The work UNFPA does in China, is having a positive effect and is playing an important and catalytic role in the reform of FP/RH services in China. Changing the focus from an administrative family-planning approach to a client-oriented, quality of care approach, where women are given a choice over their own lives.”

“Whilst there are clearly problems with reproductive rights, in some parts of China, the Chinese Government is moving in the right direction, with the support of UNFPA.”

“It is vitally important that the UNFPA remains actively involved in China, with continued financial support from the UK and other Western Governments.”

UNFPA and UK Funding

The UK Government is currently considering increasing its contribution to the UNFPA by 20%. This will mean an increase from £15 million a year to £18 million in year 2002.

UNFPA and USA Funding

President Bush is poised to reject the advice of his own fact-finding team and cut off millions of dollars to the UNFPA, that abortion opponents contend supports forced abortions in China.

The independent team that the US administration sent to China in May, concluded the allegations are untrue and recommended that Bush release \$34 million to the UNFPA, said two officials familiar with the issue.

UNFPA and Belgium Funding

Belgium has agreed to increase its contribution to UNFPA to reach at least € 5.6 Million in 2002. This means that Belgium will become one of the major donors of UNFPA.

EC Budget line for Population/Reproductive Health and Poverty Diseases (Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS)

The EC has allocated:

- €13.95 million to Population/Reproductive Health in developing countries
- €73.35 million for Poverty Diseases (Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS) of which, €35 million has been earmarked for the EC contribution to the Global Health Fund

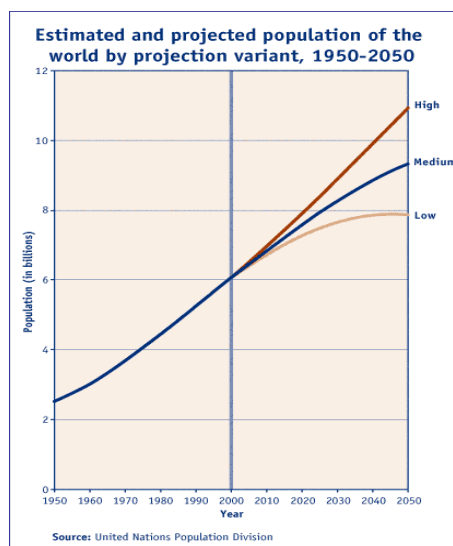
The Global Health Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria has announced its first round of grants. The organisation awarded a total of \$378 million over two years to 40 programmes in 31 countries.

Funding is generally passed through Country Co-ordinating Mechanism's (CCM), however 2 NGO's were given direct funding in this spending round.

SRH NGO's can potentially access funding through CCM for Family Planning and Maternal to Child Transmission (MTCT) programmes!

HUMAN RIGHTS

World Population Day 11th July, 2002



On 11th July 2002, people around the world celebrated the 13th World Population Day.

Key Facts:

- In half a century, the world's population has increased by 58 per cent to become 6.1 billion in 2001.
- The world population is expected to rise by 52 per cent to 9.3 billion in 2050.
- The population will more than double every half a century.
- The less developed regions accounted for 80.5 per cent of the world population in 2001
- The estimated population for the less developed regions in 2050 will account for 87 per cent of the projected world population.
- The world's total fertility rate for 2001 is 2.68
- The total fertility rate in the developing countries is 2.92; almost double the 1.5 fertility rate of the more developed regions.
- The life expectancy for males was 71.9 years and 79.3 years for females in the more developed countries, it was 62.5 years for males and 65.7 years for females during 2001 in the less developed regions.
- The high fertility rate in less developed countries, with its effect on the population growth, contributes to the poverty that these societies experience.

The theme for this year's World Population Day was "Action Against Poverty: empower, protect, educate" focussed on women. The day highlighted that the implications of poverty are more bitter for women than men, as poor females have less access to education, land ownership, credit and employment opportunities. The consequences are far worse for women living in the least developed countries, whose population is expected to triple in the next 50 years to 1.8 billion and whose natural resources are damaged.

UNFPA Executive Director, Thoraya Ahmed Obaid said on the occasion: 'Today on World Population Day, as we focus on "Reducing Poverty-Improving Reproductive Health," let us pledge once more to support women around the world and free them from poor health and illiteracy. When women are educated and healthy, their families, communities and nations benefit. Eight years after the historic International Conference on Population and Development, we must renew our commitment to universal access to education and reproductive health services by the year 2015.'

- The rapid growth of the world population, according to experts and UN officials, has

serious consequences, resulting in greater constraints on the environment and natural resources.

- The world uses 54 per cent of all the available fresh water, of which about 60.6 per cent is used in agriculture. With the growth of population, the use of available fresh water could reach 70 per cent by 2025.
- By 2050 about 4.2 billion persons will not have access to the basic human requirements for water, which is supposed to be 50 litres per person per day.
- The impact on the environment is severe. Population growth has led to higher rates of energy consumption. This, in turn, has led to larger emissions of carbon dioxide and, as a result, the world's climate is becoming warmer.
- Carbon dioxide emissions have risen 12 times during the period 1900-1997, to become 6.59 billion metric tons.
- Climate change will have serious consequences, including increased storms and floods, extinction of plants and animals, and shifting agricultural lands.

The UN has been advocating policies and recommendations, which it says, will stabilise the world population and reduce its growth rate.

These policies include ensuring that people have the right to choose their own family size, have access to reproductive health services, and proceed towards gender equality, empowerment and education of women, thereby conserving the environment and eradicating poverty.

Yet, at the WSSD Prep Com's, governments still shy away from discussing the issue of reproductive health, population, environment and sustainable development!

International Poster Contest 2002 "Poverty, Population, and Development"



CEDAW Treaty for the Rights of Women

It was reported in June, that the USA is in the company of countries like Afghanistan, Iran, Sudan and Somalia, as it has still not joined 169 other nations, that have ratified the CEDAW Treaty for the Rights of Women.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has since then scheduled a vote on the CEDAW Treaty for the Rights of Women for the 18th July 2002.

Uganda and women's leadership

- Critical elements of Uganda's national AIDS strategy are political and economic empowerment of women and girls through universal education, women's political leadership, and economic opportunity.
- Uganda has introduced laws stating women must comprise 1/3 of the Ugandan Parliament, including the appointment of a woman vice-President and to other key Cabinet posts. Such laws reinforce national gender equity policy, and are a great step towards gender equality.

POLICIES

The USA administration is halting the expansion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights globally at UN Conferences.

The Bush administration has appointed antiabortion activists to key positions on US delegations at UN conferences on global economic, social and environmental policies.

At UN conferences conservative U.S. Christian organisations have joined forces with Islamic governments to halt the expansion of sexual and political protections and rights for gays, women and children.

Conservative Christians have set aside their doctrinal differences, cemented ties with the Vatican and cultivated fresh links with a powerful block of more than 50 moderate and hard-line Islamic governments, including Sudan, Libya, Iraq and Iran.

This partnership has been and is of great detriment. They are trying to undo some of the landmark agreements that were reached in the 1990s, particularly on women's rights and Family Planning. President Bush said: abstinence is the only sure way of avoiding STI's, premature pregnancy, and the social and personal difficulties attendant to non-marital sexual activity!

This month's question is:

Is president Bush an ostrich or a horse? (Danish Joke ☺) Answer:

A horse: As ostriches do not put their heads in the sand as commonly believed, but horses can wear blinkers when it is suitable!

Adrienne Germaine, President of the International Women's Coalition said: 'This alliance shows the depths of perversity of the US position, on the one hand we're presumably blaming these countries for unspeakable acts of terrorism, and at the same time we are allying ourselves with them in the oppression of women.'

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

ICPD +10

The political environment within which sexual and reproductive health and rights are framed has become distinctly more hostile due to changes in government leadership in certain key countries, resulting in:

- Renewed attempts to remove all reference to abortion from international consensus documents;
- Unsuccessful efforts to include retrograde content on reproductive health for adolescents in the document for the World Summit for Children+10;
- The removal of the overarching reproductive health goal from the Millennium Development Goals, leaving HIV/AIDS, contraceptive prevalence and maternal mortality goals as separate items and most recently (it is rumoured) attempts to omit indicators for contraceptive prevalence in measuring progress towards these goals;
- Attempts to water down the need for sexual and reproductive health 'services' to 'care' in deliberations during the most recent session of the Commission on Population and Development and at the World Summit for Children +10 and WSSD Prep Com's;

These represent serious threats to the agreements and commitments made in 1994 and 1999.

Governments need to challenge these threats!

UK SRH NGO recommendations for ICPD +10 in 2004

The UK NGO Group believes it is crucial to call international attention to the ICPD Programme of Action and the 'Key Actions' for the Further Implementation of the PoA as agreed at ICPD+5.

The Group is opposed to the holding of an inter-governmental meeting with a negotiated text in 2004 because the PoA is a 20-year programme

and 2004 is the mid-point, not the end of the programme period.

Instead, the Group proposes the following:

A technical review be carried out by each country – based on available information – to determine which services are being provided, whether through public, private or NGO providers, the extent of coverage and quality, and what funding is available for these nationally from governments and through bilateral, multilateral and other donor support.

These reviews will provide an essential framework for monitoring progress during the second ten years of the PoA.

The results of the technical review should be fully discussed at national level and national meetings/events should be held to mark 10 years of ICPD either on the International Day of Action for Women's Health (28 May) or World Population Day (11 July).

A global technical meeting should be held, with the aim of putting sexual and reproductive health back on the policy agenda in countries and particularly at the international level.

Interesting points

Global contraceptive use

About 2/3 of all couples around the world or some 650 million people, use some form of contraception, according to new UN statistics. There are however great variations among regions.

Medical abortions in FP Clinics UK

The UK Government is proposing to offer women access to medical abortions in FP clinics. The RU486 pill, also known as mifegyne, has previously been available only from hospitals. The DoH is planning to pilot the scheme in an attempt to eliminate the wide variations in waiting times for surgical abortions faced by women in different parts of the country.

Sexual advice in UK Schools

The Government is encouraging as opposed to making it a statutory requirement for schools to provide pupils with clinics to obtain confidential advice about sex as recommended in last year's independent advisory group on Teenage Pregnancy report. Free condoms and contraceptives, including the morning after pill, will be available from nurses and doctors based in these school clinics. The 2 year media campaign on sexual health will be launched in the autumn.

UK Teenage pregnancy facts

The under 18 conception rate fell by 2.4% between 1999 and 2000, consolidating a 3 year decline. The under 18 rate is now over 6% below

the 1998 rate- well on course to meet the target of a 15% reduction by 2004

Christine McCafferty MP in June launched a motion in the Parliamentary Assemblée of the Council of Europe (CoE) to establish a European Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health for the 43 countries of the CoE

Tony Worthington MP was one of the European Parliamentarians who in June spoke out in Congress against the US Government's Global Gag, Rule, which has cut US funding to FP organisations world-wide.

Italy and donor sperm and eggs

The Italian Parliament has established that couples who undergo assisted reproduction in Italy will not be allowed to use donor sperm or eggs.

Switzerland and abortion

Switzerland voters has agreed to ease the country's abortion laws, among Europe's strictest, and bring them closer to the rest of the continent's laws.

Reminder, please sign EDM

1130 - it calls for mandatory reporting of financial, social and environmental implication of corporate activities.

1604 - it calls attention to the world population day

World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 26th August - 4th September 2002

- *Social progress*
- *Economic Progress*
- *Environmental protection*

A Parliamentary side event is being organised by the APPG on PD&RH in collaboration with the IEPFPD!

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