



ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON POPULATION DEVELOPMENT AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

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FUNDING

UK SRHR funding (£ thousand)

Name/Year	2001/02	2000/01	1999/00	1998/99	1997/98
UNFPA	24,213	40,050	15,000	13,120	11,500
WHO	41,348	75,110	20,300	8,091	12,099
UNICEF	28,000	2,269	29,143	10,461	9,241
UNAIDS	3,052	3,000	3,000	2,750	2,300
IPPF	4,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,850
MSI	2,554	5,132	4,945	4,235	3,103
Pop. Concern	476	-	649	114	400
IFH	329	508	773	1,151	1,175

- Core funding to UNFPA has steadily increased (US \$ 25.000 million in 2000/2001 was for commodity supply only)
- Funding to UK SRHR NGOs continue to decline
- Details of sectoral funding to multilateral organisations is not held centrally in DFID

EC Funding to UNFPA and IPPF

Poul Nielson, Commissioner for Development publicly signed the new partnership agreements with IPPF and UNFPA for € 32 million in July 2002.



"The gap left by the withdrawal of US funding must however still be filled," says Ms. Obaid. The EU Funding does not replace the withdrawal of US funding.

The '34 Million Friends' of UNFPA campaign has gained some momentum in the USA-US \$ 70,000 has been donated. People are logging unto UNFPA's web-site under '34 Million Friends' to donate their US \$ 1.

Swedish Funding to UNFPA

The Swedish Government has increased its funding to the UNFPA for the year 2002 with US \$ 2.15 million. The total Swedish fund for 2002 to the UNFPA will be US \$ 20 million.

The Swedish Minister of Development Co-operation, Mr Jan O Karlsson, said in a press release: "We cannot accept that the important work of the UNFPA to improve women's rights and reproductive health is undermined because of the US decision not to fund the organisation."

Canadian Funding to UNFPA

Canada pledged to double the aid it gives to poorer nations by 2010. This pledge is in addition to US \$ 6.3 million already committed to the UNFPA.

HUMAN RIGHTS

WSSD and Women's Rights

At the tail end of the WSSD women's health and rights issues emerged as a bone of contention.

The WSSD Plan of Implementation did not balance reference to national laws, and cultural and religious values, with assurances of basic human rights for all, which opened the door to practises such as forced marriages, gang rapes and honour killings.

The Bush administration, the Vatican and some right-wing Islamic countries opposed reference to human rights and especially women's rights on the ground that this could be interpreted as women having the right to abortions.

Delegates from Canada and the EU eventually succeed in re-opening negotiations to ensure that human rights language, to guarantee women's rights and especially their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), were added to the document.

UK ministers and delegates worked very hard within the EU to make this happen.

Nepal passes abortion and property rights law

Nepal approved a new law legalising:

- most abortions
- criminalising paedophilia
- giving women property rights this September.

This law is a major achievement in the fight to end gender discrimination against women in Nepal. All abortions were previously prohibited and violations were punishable by three years to life imprisonment.

Nearly 20 percent of the women in prison in Nepal have been convicted of having an illegal abortion. Abortions performed beyond the time limits in the new law are still punishable by one to five years in prison. Nepal has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in Asia.

POLICIES

The Bush Administration is 'turning back the clock' on women's health and rights

The Bush administration has intensified its battle to infuse its anti-abortion stance into international policy.

During the UN Commission on Population and Development (ICPD+10) conference in Bangkok in October, a State Department official said, the US would not reaffirm its support for the 1994 PoA adopted in Cairo by 179 nations. Louise Oliver, a special assistant in the State Department's population office, also said the Bush administration objected to such terms as "reproductive services" and "reproductive health care" because they imply a right to abortion.

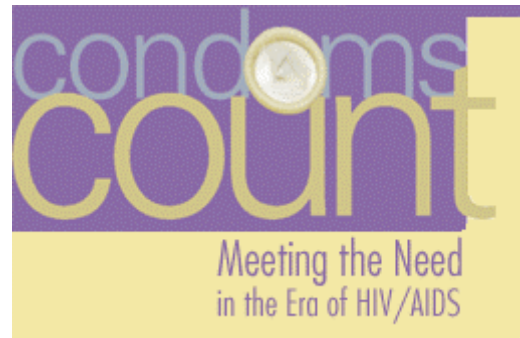
The administration is pushing for a new international campaign promoting sexual abstinence, particularly among adolescents.

Agnes Van Ardenne, the Dutch minister for Development Co-operation, who was represented at the first regional meeting on ICPD +10 in Bangkok said that: "Poverty reduction will not be successful without reproductive health and without women being able to make their own choices."

Martyn Jones MP will with support from the Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, attend the Asian parliamentary meeting on the ICPD Implementation on 12th - 13th December 2002 in Bangkok. Parliamentarians will make a statement at the Asian UN Population Conference.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Condoms Needed



The world's poorest countries need between 8-10 billion condoms a year to help stem the spread of the AIDS virus, which newly infects 14,000 people each day. They receive less than 1 billion condoms.

Many factors create the condom shortfall:

- shifting foreign aid priorities
- laws that drive up prices
- little public discussion of the situation
- distribution problems in poor countries
- religious opposition.

Along with billions more condoms, poor countries need another US \$1.2 billion to help distribute them and teach their use. Illiteracy and unfamiliarity are major barriers to condom use, and even now, two decades into the epidemic, it is difficult in many societies to talk about condoms.

PAI's Vice President, Terri Bartlett, argued, "Cigarettes can get to the most remote corners of the world-so should condoms."

For every US \$1 million not spent on condoms, the United Nations estimates, there are:

- 360,000 unwanted pregnancies
- 150,000 abortions
- 800 maternal deaths
- 25,000 deaths of children under age 5

Dr Steven Sinding, director-general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, said: "It is appalling that such a simple, inexpensive, life-saving aid cannot be made freely available to all in need. There is simply no excuse - economic, social or otherwise - for the lack of attention to saving lives."

The international wholesale price is just 2p each, but in many countries so few people can afford even that. Family planning clinics close because they are no longer able to supply condoms to those who ask for them.

Peru and sterilisation

Sterilisation was legalised in Peru in 1995 despite opposition from Peru's Roman Catholic Church.

Conservative officials within the Peruvian government are attempting to ban sterilisation, the fourth most popular birth-control method for women in the country.

Peruvian Congress members and the Ministry of Health called for the ban this summer after government reports revealed an untold number of women were sterilised without their consent between 1996 and 2000. About 450 cases have been documented, although the country's minister of health, Fernando Carbone, had told the press the number of actual cases are 200,000.

Brazil and sterilisation

About 40 percent of Brazilian women of childbearing age are sterilised.

Interesting points

UK Sexual Health

A contraceptive patch for women has just won licensing approval from the European Commission and could be available in the UK within a year.

The Express reported that the Department of Health's mobile medical centres are touring schools and providing condoms and the Morning-after-pill in an effort to target teenagers who will not normally attend family planning clinics. The paper reports that Family groups have criticised this service.

A survey by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit found that 1 general practice in 4 in England includes a family doctor who will not give consent to abortion.

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