


Countdown 2015

EUROPE

Campaigning for universal access
to reproductive health

“Meeting reproductive health supply needs is a key element of the global effort to save the lives of women and men by protecting their reproductive health.”

Thoraya A. Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director

Countdown 2015 Europe brings together 10 leading European non-governmental organisations working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, advocating for increased donor support for reproductive health supplies.

What are Reproductive Health Supplies¹?

Reproductive health supplies range from family planning methods (e.g. female and male condoms and contraceptives), to HIV testing equipment and safe motherhood equipment. More than 350 million couples worldwide do not have access to modern family planning methods or reproductive services. As a result, they cannot decide on the timing or spacing of their children, women do not have access to adequate supplies to ensure safe deliveries – thus putting their lives at risk, and people cannot protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections including HIV.

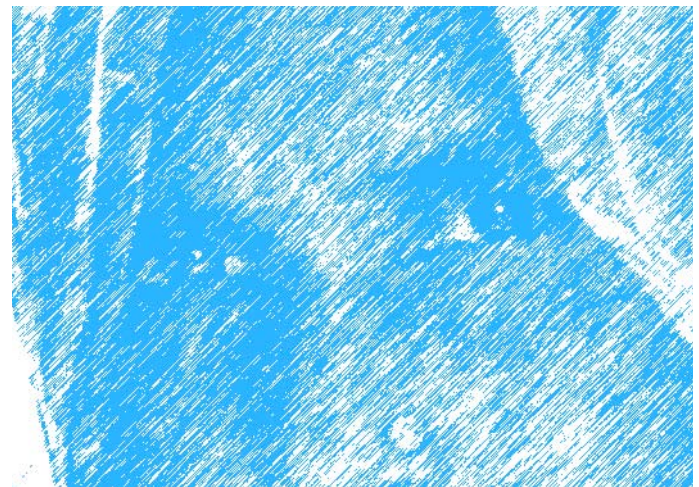


We need more reproductive health supplies because...

- more than one-third of all pregnancies in developing countries are unwanted, and two-thirds of those are the result of sex without any use of modern contraceptives. Pregnancy and delivery-related complications are the leading cause of death among women in developing countries.

- every year 3 million people become infected with HIV. The only available known means of full protection when sexually active is correct and consistent use of condoms. Condoms are also the only contraceptive method that prevents both sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancies.

- they are crucial in order to achieve the millennium development goals (MDGs). The MDGs are composed of eight development goals that are guiding the development work of the international community and aim to eradicate poverty by 2015. In order to fulfill MDG 5 and its target on universal access to reproductive health, donors need to invest in reproductive health supplies.



Donors and recipient countries must invest in reproductive health supplies because...

- there is a clear shortfall between the needs/demand and the actual availability of reproductive health supplies in developing countries. Successful information campaigns and initiatives conducted during the last decades have led to an increase in demand for reproductive health supplies.

- the largest ever generation of young people is already or will soon be, sexually active, thus putting more pressure on demand for access to reproductive health supplies. The gap between supply and demand for reproductive health supplies is therefore expected to grow quickly in the coming years, unless donors take action now.

- US\$ 1 million in contraceptive supply funding can avoid:

- 360 000 unintended pregnancies,
- 800 additional maternal deaths,
- 11 000 additional infant deaths. ²

¹ As defined by in Interagency List of Essential Medicines www.who.int/reproductive-health/publications/essential_medicines/index.html

² United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA www.unfpa.org/supplies/funding.htm

The following organisations are on the Countdown 2015 Europe Steering Committee. Countdown 2015 Europe also includes other partners that work to fulfil the goals of the campaign:



The International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN)
www.ippfen.org



Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) in Germany
www.dsw-online.de



Equilibres & Populations (E&P) in France
www.equipop.org



The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF)
www.iefpd.org



Interact Worldwide in the United Kingdom
www.interactworldwide.org



Marie Stopes International (MSI) Brussels Office
www.mariestopes.org.uk



Sex & Samfund (the Danish Family Planning Association) in Denmark
www.sexogsamfund.dk



The Swedish association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) in Sweden
www.rfsu.se



Väestöliitto in Finland
www.vaestoliitto.fi



World Population Foundation (WPF) in The Netherlands
www.wpf.org
