Access to safe abortion and contraception: policy and program challenges in developing countries

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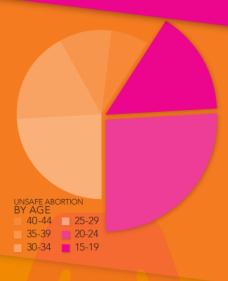


Globally 85 million unintended pregnancies every year



44 million end in abortion. 47,000 women die.

YOUNG WOMEN BEAR THE GREATEST BURDEN FROM UNSAFE ABORTION



21.2 MILLION WOMEN

worldwide have an unsafe abortion each year, almost all in developing countries.

Almost **50%** are young women ages 15–24.



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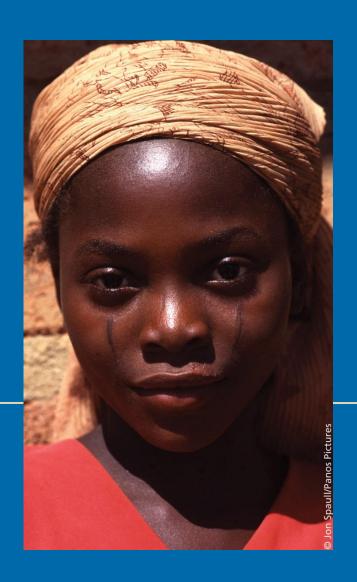
of all women hospitalized for complications of unsafe abortion are INDER AGE 20

Shah, I. H., & Ahman, E. (2012). Unsafe abortion differentials in 2008 by age and developing country region: High burden among young women. Reproductive Health Matters, 20(39), 169-173.

Plan. (2007). Because I am a girl: The state of the world's girls 2007. London: Plan.

"Unsafe abortion has eaten into our society, gradually destroying the lives of young women, as people have closed their eyes at the issue hoping it will disappear; but on the other hand they are also directly and indirectly worsening the situation."

-- Young woman in Nigeria



Policy and Program Challenges: Legal Status



- Restrictive laws do not reduce the number of abortions
- The legal status and availability do affect the safety of abortion

Ethiopia: Trends in safe abortion v. postabortion care procedures after legalization



Policy and Program Challenges: Stigma and Competing Priorities

The ability to obtain a safe abortion may mean the difference between life and death for women all over the world.



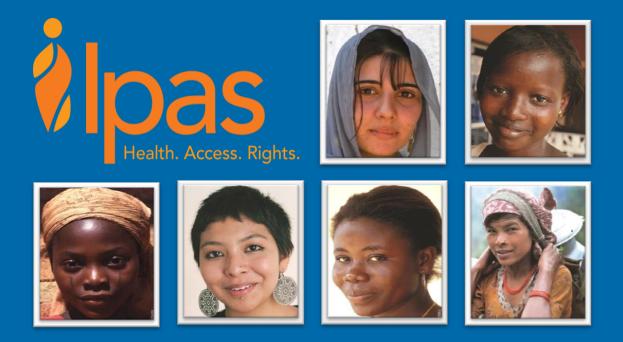
Policy and Program Challenges: Equipment & Commodities, Staffing











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