

The Missing Link: Ensuring Access to Quality Reproductive Health Medicines and Supplies

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The Challenge

To ensure that all people, including the youth, have the right to choose, access and use quality affordable reproductive health supplies (RHS) in maintaining a healthy sexual and reproductive life.

The Task Ahead

To generate the necessary political and financial commitment to avoid RH Supply shortfalls in developing countries

RH Supply Shortfalls

- **Increased Demand**: Population growth and successful SRH Initiatives
- Challenging **Policy Environment**
- Fading or stagnant **Donor Funding**
- **Lack of Coordination** and information sharing among donors
- **Weak Infrastructure and Capacity, Planning** in recipient countries
- **Poorly Segmented Market**

Three of the Millennium Development Goals are linked to the availability of RH supplies

- **MDG 4: Reducing Child Mortality**
- **MDG 5: Improving Maternal Health**
- **MDG 6: Combating HIV/AIDS**

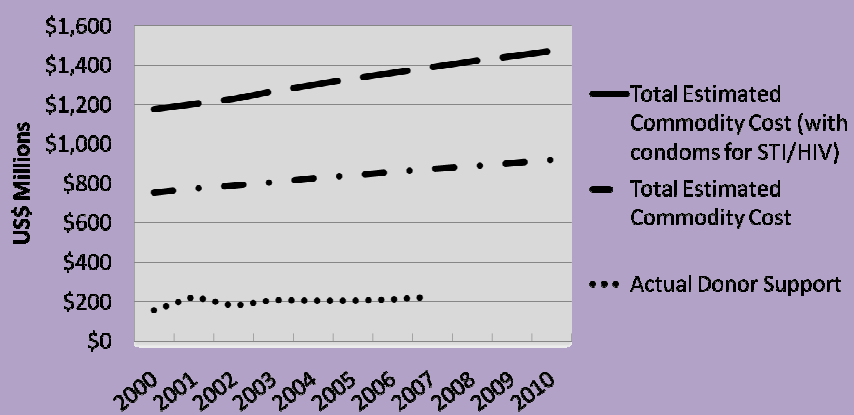
"USAID bans contraceptive supplies to Marie Stopes in Developing Countries including Ghana and Uganda"

Contraceptive Funding Trends



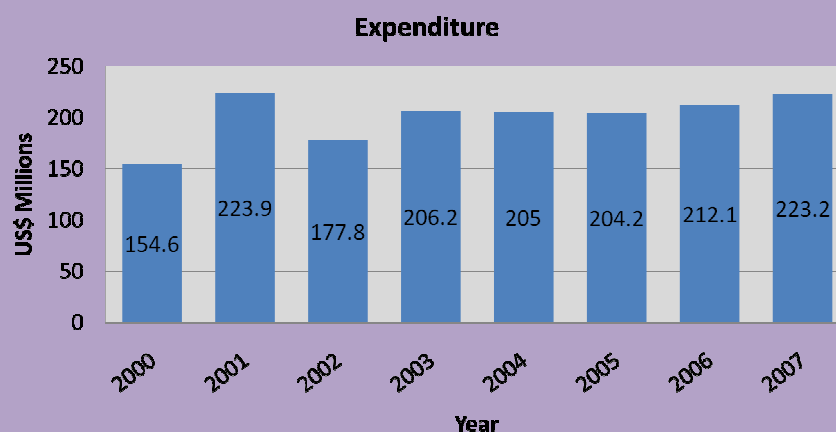
National Medical Stores in Kampala

Contraceptive Needs and Donor Support



Source: UNFPA 2007

Major Donor Support for Contraceptives & Condoms, 2000-2007



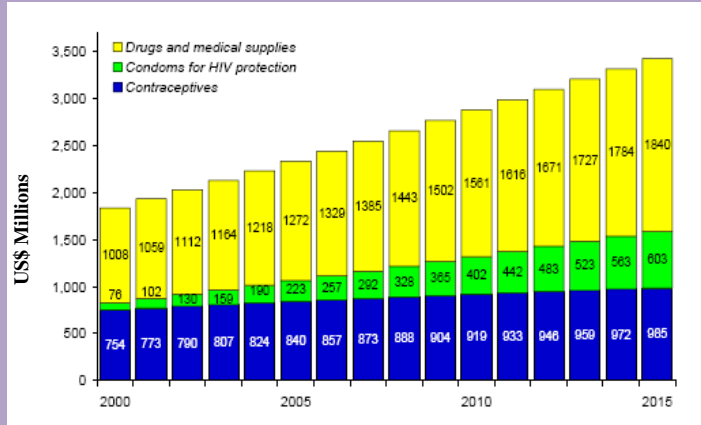
Source: UNFPA 2007

Funding Gap in Context

Every **1\$ million** for RH supplies can prevent:

- **360,000** unwanted pregnancies
- **150,000** induced abortions
- **800** additional maternal deaths

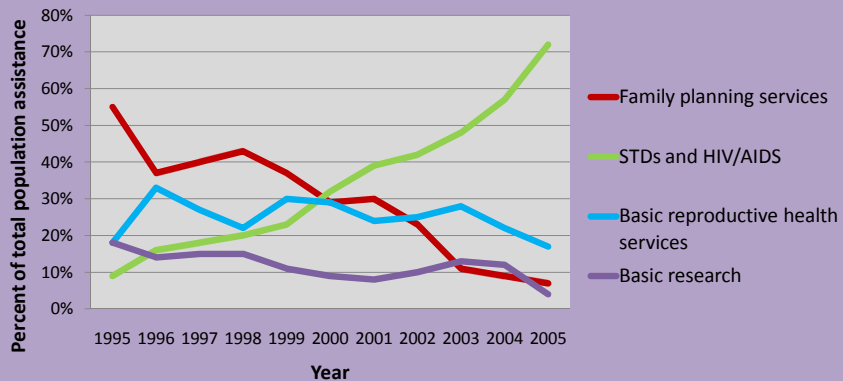
...and contraceptives are only part of the picture



Source: UNFPA 2005

Family Planning as a Share of Population Assistance is Falling

Donor Population Assistance by Activity, as a Percent of Total Donor Population Assistance, 1995 - 2005



Source: UNFPA/NIDI forthcoming

What does this mean for Sub-Saharan Africa?

- **Funding for contraceptives is not guaranteed**
- **Family planning often low government priority**
- **Education and service constraints lead to lack of demand**
- **Poor logistics systems and contraceptive services undermine quality, demand**
- **Medicalization of services inhibits access**

What are the Current Advocacy Efforts?

- **PRMA**
- **RHSC**
- **Countdown 2015**
- **UNFPA Global Program**

Project Resource Mobilization Awareness (PRMA)

Partnership of NGOs working to create an environment conducive to increased political and financial support for reproductive health supplies on 3 levels:

Global
Regional
Country

Take Action!



Here's How...

Donor Governments...What can you do?

- Provide funding to build the technical capacity of national governments.
- Support further research on supplies and funding needs and gaps.
- Increase funding for supplies. Bilateral, multilateral other sources
- Make consistent, longer term funding commitments.
- Ensure that HIV/AIDS funding is additional, not detrimental to supplies.
- Participate in the RHSC <www.rhsupplies.org>

Developing Country Governments... What can you do?

- Ensure that supplies are part of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, Country Strategy Papers and other poverty reduction instruments.
- Submit proposals to the Global Fund that include SRH and supplies.
- Create a national budget line for contraceptives and condoms and allocate the necessary resources
- Ensure that the National Essential Drug List includes condoms and other RH supplies
- Create a coordination mechanism at country level on RH supplies

NGOs... What can you do?

- Join networks active on advocacy around supplies issues.
- Urge all donors to increase their funding for supplies and to ensure that is reflected in national budgets of developing country governments.
- Call for the Global Fund (GF) to include SRH and supplies in its funding guidelines.
- Call for full accounting of condoms purchased by the GF and the WB
- Urge the US government to change restrictive earmarks
- Call for PRSP, SWAPS, CPS, CCMs to include SRH and supplies.
- Monitor that all stakeholders are included in above financing mechanisms.
- Push for greater financial accountability and transparency by governments regarding financial allocations for SRH and supplies.

Conclusions

- Supply availability important, but ensuring access to quality services even more important.
- Quality Access includes services that are:
 - Available to meet demand that has been created
 - Respond to clients desires on how and where they are delivered.
 - Flexible and responsive to client needs & concerns and free of unnecessary barriers legal medical or other
 - Quality access therefore includes geographic, financial and socio-cultural aspects operating together

Thank you!

