

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: FINANCING



350 million women worldwide still lack access to reproductive health supplies and every single minute a women dies of pregnancy related causes, usually due to lack of supplies. There is a massive gap between the demand for reproductive health and its supply, due to part to the largest ever generation of young people, the increased risk of sexual HIV transmission and decreased donor support for sexual and reproductive health and rights programming.

Interact Worldwide is the UK partner of Countdown 2015 Europe a NGO campaign concerned with achieving universal access to reproductive health. We call for action in 10 critical areas to address both the supply and demand for reproductive health supplies. These are centred on the overall aim of achieving universal access to reproductive health services and supplies by 2015¹. Reproductive health supplies covers more than condoms and contraceptives. UNFPA states that supplies refer to “all the essential equipment, commodities and medicines required for sexual and reproductive health, maternal and neonatal health and for effective responses to HIV and AIDS”.

How much would providing Universal Access to Reproductive Health cost?

It is estimated that \$23.6bn will be required between 2008 and 2015 to provide contraceptives, condoms and reproductive health supplies¹. If this is expanded to include prevention responses to HIV and AIDS and improving maternal health then the current best available estimates for providing universal access to reproductive health and the SRH components of HIV and AIDS prevention services are US\$ 29.8bn by 2010 rising to US\$ 35.8bn by 2015².

Given the limit of domestic resources available in developing countries for health responses international donors are asked to provide at least a third of these funds or – **US\$ 9.9bn by 2010 and US\$ 11.9bn by 2015.**

The UK's fair share

An analysis of global need relative to the UK's fair share is shown in the table below. The methodology uses the UK's share of donor adjusted GNI to calculate the fair share, and deducts resources projected to be available from domestic spending. This analysis recommends

¹ UNFPA (2005) Achieving the ICPD Goals: Reproductive Health Commodity Requirements 2000-2015

² Countdown 2015 Europe (2007) Strategic Options for Greater European Investment in Reproductive Health Supplies and Bernstein and Vlassoff (2006) Summary of an analysis of Resource Requirements for Reproductive Supplies

that the amount necessary from the UK to achieve universal access to reproductive health and achieve the objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action is **£ 2.5 billion from 2008 – 2015.**

Year	Global need (bn)	Donor share(bn)	UK fair share	UK fair share (million)	UK fair share (million)
2008/2009	\$26.90	\$9.0	5.7%	\$511.10	£365.07
2009/2010	\$29.22	\$9.7	5.7%	\$555.18	£396.56
2010/2011	\$30.70	\$10.2	5.7%	\$583.30	£416.64
2008-2011				£1,178.27 million	
2011/2012	\$31.90	\$10.6	5.7%	\$606.10	£432.93
2012/2013	\$33.10	\$11.0	5.7%	\$628.90	£449.21
2013/2014	\$34.30	\$11.4	5.7%	\$651.70	£465.50
2011-2014				£1,347.64 million	
2014/2015	\$35.50	\$11.8	5.7%	\$674.50	£481.79
Total need 2008-2015				£2,525.91 million	

Financing both Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Universal Access to AIDS Services

There is a linkage between spending on reproductive health and HIV and AIDS. These estimates include the sexual and reproductive health related portion of the prevention aspect of the HIV/AIDS spend (using the 2007 UNAIDS estimates for achieving universal access to prevention³; the UK's fair share of global

³ UNAIDS (2007) Financial Resources Required to Achieve Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support

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prevention need would be £125 million in 2009 and £ 161 million in 2010⁴).

The additional financing within the estimates for achieving universal access to reproductive health includes antenatal care, obstetric complications, other maternal conditions, newborn interventions, the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and family planning.

It is important that the need for funds for reproductive health services and supplies is recognised in addition to the need for continued funding for HIV and AIDS and health systems strengthening. This was reiterated in a speech by the Chair of the APPG on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, Christine McCafferty MP. She highlighted the need for dedicated funding commitments for reproductive health in addition to HIV and AIDS⁵.

Falling Funding for Sexual and Reproductive Health

As was shown in the Interim Evaluation of the Taking Action Strategy, the number of projects with some focus on sexual and reproductive health or family planning has fallen since the mid 1990's. The number of projects and programmes that specifically focus on sexual and reproductive health has halved between 2003/04 and 2005/06, with a related fall in funding⁶. In addition, with the move toward increased funding through general budget support the interim evaluation highlighted that unless an area is explicitly referenced in the country's PRSP then there is the risk that budget support may not

address it⁷. Explicit coverage of HIV and AIDS activities in these is low, thus it is likely that coverage of sexual and reproductive health is extremely low.

This reduction in funding dedicated to reproductive health is indicative of a need to scale up support. **Without increased resources the gap between the supply and demand for reproductive health supplies and services will continue to grow, making the achievement of the MDG's impossible.** Increasing funding to reproductive health is a moral imperative to halt the HIV epidemic and in ensuring reproductive health for all by 2015.

Recommendations:

The amount necessary from the UK to achieve universal access to reproductive health and achieve the objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action is £ 2.5 billion from 2008 – 2015.

⁴ Total Global Need for Prevention in 2009 is estimated at £6,601.4m (\$ 9,242 million), of this one third can be estimated as being needed from donors or £2,200.5m. 5.7% of this equates to a UK share of £125 million. The same assumptions were applied to the 2010 estimates.

⁵ Christine McCafferty MP, Chair All Party Parliamentary Group Population, Development and Reproductive Health, House of Commons debates Thursday, 15 November 2007.

⁶ DFID (2007) Interim Evaluation of Taking Action: The UK Governments Strategy for Tackling HIV and AIDS in the Developing World, Measuring Success: Indicators and Approaches, p. 31 and 34

⁷ DFID (2007) Interim Evaluation of Taking Action: The UK Governments Strategy for Tackling HIV and AIDS in the Developing World, Measuring Success: Indicators and Approaches, p. 58