



WHO Topic Update

Reproductive Health in Women

Since June, there have been several controversial happenings concerning women's reproductive health. Africa passed a bill prohibiting U.S. aid from funding any group involved in anti-abortion work. Known as the global gag rule or the Mexico City Policy, it has not reduced abortion rates but has instead driven women to seek abortion from unskilled providers. Moreover, in May, the House of Representatives passed an act that would cease federal subsidization to insurance plans that include abortion services. Among those who would be affected by the proposed policy are women on Medicaid, women in federal prisons, and women serving in the armed forces; their insurance plans would exclude abortion services in the future. Moreover, in response to a court decision upholding new abortion restrictions in August, Planned Parenthood has slashed 70% of its abortion services in Arizona, rendering 200,000 Arizona women without abortion services at a reasonable distance. On a positive note, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) targets women in its rescue efforts in Africa by delivering reproductive health services to refugees in the Horn of Africa, where 298 women die out of every 100,000 births. In October, UNFPA and Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER) will hold a conference in the Philippines on adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights. Sexual and reproductive health and rights, along with HIV and AIDS, is also an urgent issue in other Asia Pacific countries.

In what ways will the overall tightening of abortion laws affect reproductive health in women? What were the objectives of Africa's global gag rule, and how do they compare with the results? What is the outlook for reproductive health for women given the current economic and political situation? How are youths like yourself involved in such issues, and how can you make changes to the current situation?

Reproductive Rights Restricted Across the Country –

<http://www.cityonahillpress.com/2011/09/29/reproductive-rights-restricted-across-the-country/>

Proposed federal bill to defund all subsidized health insurance plans inclusive of abortions

Map of Abortion Laws Around the World -

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/29/AbortionLawsMap.png>

Map showing the variations of abortion laws in the world, from completely illegal to legal on request.



Where Are Women Winning? –

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/09/22/women-winning-map.html>

An interactive guide to the twenty best and twenty worst countries in the world for women, with statistics and scores on justice, health, education, economic, and power.

UNFPA Worldwide –

<http://www.unfpa.org/worldwide/> and <http://www.unfpa.org/public/countries>

Updated Country Profiles, Statistics and Indicators for Population and Reproductive Health from the United Nations Population Fund

HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa

This past summer, UNAIDS and the Global Fund convened in Senegal to act on the need for risk management and accountability when it comes to funding for HIV. Risk factors such as limited availability of qualified personnel and poor financial management standards were assessed. Participants at this meeting decided that in order to optimize resources for HIV, governments would need support in financial management, as well as capacity development initiatives that are specifically tailored to each individual country. To succeed in attaining these elements, education for government leadership in sub-Saharan Africa is necessary to ensure that funds can be procured and are used effectively. HIV programs will need to have better systems for preventive risk management and accountability. Additionally, this past September, the United States launched a new bi-partisan caucus to strengthen American response to HIV/AIDS particularly through PEPFAR.

How can support in dealing with funding to combat HIV be effectively provided and tailored to each individual country? How can we ensure that governments will be willing to let others help them handle their financial accountability issues? What kinds of measures can be put in place so that current preventive risk management systems can be improved? What are some ideas and methods that could be used to help build a country's leadership in dealing with handling funding for HIV/AIDS? How can we make the United States' new addition to its fight against HIV/AIDS as effective as possible?

UNAIDS and Global Fund support countries in west and central Africa to optimize resources for HIV-

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2011/august/20110802riskmangmt/>

UNAIDS and Global Fund come together to assist sub-Saharan African countries in managing their funding to combat HIV/AIDS.



Global Fund Round 11: UNAIDS support countries to strengthen proposal-

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2011/august/20110819agfresourcekit/>

WHO and UNAIDS help countries develop high quality proposal to submit to Global Fund.

United States Congress launches new bi-partisan caucus to strengthen the US's response to AIDS-

<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2011/september/20110916hivcaucus/>

The United States sustains its reputation as the country with the largest commitment to combating HIV.

Bipartisan representatives Launch Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus-

<http://www.hivandhepatitis.com/hiv-policy-advocacy/3241-bipartisan-representatives-launch-congressional-hivaids-caucus>

The United States creates a caucus to advocate for more funding on the war against HIV/AIDS.