



UNFPA Mission Statement

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every young people is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

UNFPA – because everyone counts

A NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

Worldwide, around 200 million women, particularly in the developing countries, say they want to delay or prevent pregnancy but are not using effective contraception. To meet their needs would cost about US\$ 3.9 billion a year, and could prevent 23 million unplanned births, 22 million induced abortions, 142,000 pregnancy-related deaths (including 53,000 from unsafe abortions) and 1.4 million infant deaths (UNFPA, 2004).

Being able to plan how many children to have and when to have them is a recognized human right.

Demand for family planning is expected to soar in the next 15 years as millions of young people become sexually active and smaller families become the norm in many countries. But funding for family planning is declining and has been doing so for years.

If the Millennium Development Goals are to be met, the international community must restore family planning to the top of the development agenda. That will require both political and financial commitment.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

- In Viet Nam, 68% of women aged 15-49 use modern contraceptives, such as the condom, birth control pills, sterilization, etc. (GSO, 2007 Population Change Survey).
- In Viet Nam, the population is projected to grow to 88 million by 2010 and to 94 million by 2015, with the number of women of reproductive age (between 15 and 49) increasing from 24 to 26 million.
- In Viet Nam, 85% of the cost of contraceptives is covered by donors, but this support will be phased out by 2010, leading uncertainly regarding the availability of contraceptives to meet the needs in Viet Nam. The country is estimated to need US\$132 million to meet its contraceptive needs for 2006-2015, and a US\$ 77.3 million shortfall is foreseen.

WHAT MUST BE DONE?

- Family planning should be an issue in the Population Strategy for 2011-2020.

- Young people should access to contraception education and materials, as well as to counselling in sexuality, health and reproductive rights. Behaviour change communication interventions should increase and sustain men's involvement in promoting family planning.
- Mass media campaigns should be organized to educate people on the benefits of smaller families.
- Access to a range of safe and effective contraceptive methods in health facilities, as well as promotion through social marketing and local outreach, is needed.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Being able to plan how many children to have and when to have them is a recognized human right.
2. Family planning is important so that every pregnancy is a wanted pregnancy.
3. Access to effective family planning services is the best means of preventing unwanted pregnancy which leads to abortion.
4. Communities should support/encourage all individuals, including adolescents and unmarried women, to access quality family planning services.

WHAT IS UNFPA IN VIET NAM DOING?

UNFPA supports the health care network to improve and maintain the quality of family planning services, including counselling. It also advocates for individual choices and a broad range of contraceptive methods.

LINKS

Family Planning: so that every pregnancy is wanted
<http://www.unfpa.org/rh/planning.htm>