



FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION

CHOICES CAMPUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

WORLD'S LARGEST PRO-CHOICE STUDENT NETWORK

GLOBAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

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ONE WOMAN DIES EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY...

“Global rates of maternal mortality remain perilously high; one woman dies every minute of every day in pregnancy or childbirth, and for every woman who dies, another 20 suffer from injury, infection, or disease every minute.”

– FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON

KNOW THE ISSUE

- The Problem: Women and girls around the world face many barriers between themselves and basic family planning services, resulting in hundreds of thousands of women dying needlessly every year.
- Factors negatively impacting women and girls:
 - **Access to Birth Control:** An estimated 222 million women around the world wish to either delay or prevent pregnancy, but lack access to contraceptives.
 - **HIV/AIDS and other STIs:** Globally, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age and the need for adequate and accessible sexual reproductive health services and education has not been met. Abstinence-only education does not reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, STIs or unintended pregnancies.

KNOW WHAT IT MEANS FOR REAL WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' LIVES

- Every day, almost 800 women die in pregnancy and childbirth. Each year, an estimated 287,000 women die and 10 million suffer from injury, infection or disease during pregnancy and childbirth.
- Almost all abortion-related deaths occur in developing

nations. 70,000 women and girls die every year from botched abortions in developing nations, mostly where abortion is illegal. That's 7 women per hour, and approximately 8 million more women suffer complications and injuries from unsafe abortions.

- The leading cause of death for girls 15-19 in poor countries is complications from pregnancy and childbirth.
- The risk of maternal death for girls 14 and under is double that of adult women living in low- and mid-income countries, and they also face higher rates of obstetric fistula.
- 99% of maternal deaths takes place in the developing world. More than half occur in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF MATERNAL DEATHS AND INJURIES ARE PREVENTABLE

- Only 1% of maternal deaths occur in industrialized nations.
- The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality among industrialized nations.
- In the US, African American women are nearly 4 times more likely than white women in the US to die from complications with pregnancy and childbirth.

KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO SAVE WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' LIVES

“Women cannot be empowered until they are in control of their reproduction. It is critical to break the barriers women around the world face in accessing adequate reproductive healthcare so that women can determine the number of children they have, and truly attain empowerment.”

– 1994 ICPD, CAIRO



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SOLUTION: WOMEN AND GIRLS MUST BE EMPOWERED

- **Women and Girls' Empowerment:** ensuring access to reproductive health services must be accomplished to alleviate poverty and ensure a sustainable environment and future.
- **Access to Basic Education:** When a woman or a girl is educated, she is empowered to make informed decisions about her life. Providing basic education for every woman and every girl gives her the ability to exercise healthy reproductive choices.

PROMISES MADE TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

- 1994 International Conference on Population & Development (ICPD) in Cairo
 - 179 countries agreed to provide universal access to education and reproductive health services by 2015.
 - Meeting the current estimated need for contraception in the developing world would cost \$8.1 billion.
- 2000 United Nations Millennium Development Goal #5
 - Improve maternal health around the world
 - Reduce maternal mortality rate by three quarters by 2015
 - Achieve universal access to reproductive health and family planning by 2015

ACHIEVEMENTS MADE TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

- USAID & Family Planning/Reproductive Health Aid
 - The US Congress appropriated and President Obama approved \$648.4 million for family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) aid for the developing nations in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 budget. This amount was actually above the President's request of \$593 million. In 2011, President Obama requested \$716 million, but the request was slashed by the Republican controlled House and increased by the Democratic controlled Senate. The compromise was \$615 million. In 2012, the President requested \$769 million and received only \$610 million for FP/RH. In 2013, President Obama requested \$642.7 million and received only \$610 million. In each instance, the House dramatically reduced the appropriation request.
 - In total, with increases in 2009, 2010, and 2011, this represents a 30% increase on the average in FP/RH funding between FY 2008, the last fiscal year of the Bush Administration, and FY 2013.
 - In 2014, President Obama requested only \$635.4 million - and although US funding for global health increased generally, funding for family planning and reproductive health remained at \$610 million.
 - Without House opposition since 2011, the funding for FP/RH would have increased by some 56% between 2008 and 2013 on the average.

U.S. FAMILY PLANNING ASSISTANCE, FY 2008 - 2013¹

Family planning/reproductive health budget; millions of current \$

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bilateral Aid	457.2	522.4	593.4	575.0	575.0	575.0	575.0
UNFPA	0.0	50.0	55.0	40.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
Total	457.2	572.4	648.4	615.0	610.0	610.0	610.0

¹Congressional Research Service, "International Family Planning Programs: Issues for Congress," Luisa Blanchfield, Specialist in International Relations. February 21, 2013.



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- UNFPA Funding
 - President Obama reinstated US funding of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), providing \$50 million for maternal health in 2009 and \$55 million in 2010.
 - For the last 7 years of the Bush Administration, UNFPA funds were totally withheld.
 - In FY 2011, the Obama Administration requested \$50 million for UNFPA.
 - In 2011, the House of Representatives voted to prohibit all funding to UNFPA.
 - In 2011 through 2014, with a hostile House, UNFPA funding was decreased to \$35 million.

HOPES YET TO BE REALIZED

- Annually, providing contraceptives to 222 million women in developing nations who want to prevent pregnancy would prevent:
 - 54 million unplanned pregnancies
 - 79,000 maternal deaths
 - 1.1 million infant deaths
 - 26 million induced abortions, of which 16 million would be unsafe.
- Achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health is essential to achieving:
 - eradication of poverty
 - universal access to education
 - gender equality
 - reduced maternal and child mortality
 - reduced incidence of HIV/AIDs
 - ensuring environmental sustainability

WHAT MUST BE DONE

KNOW WHAT THE US MUST DO

- The US must be a global leader in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity.
- The US must also provide its fair share of international reproductive health aid to developing nations.
- Every \$1 spent on family planning saves \$4 in other costs.
- Currently, the pro-choice community is demanding at least \$1 billion annually in US international sexual reproductive health and rights funding.

KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Host a die-in representing the needless deaths of women and girls and speakOUTs with informational handouts
- Host a film screening and public forum (i.e. Walk to the Beautiful or Not Yet Rain)
- Launch an email campaign to decision makers such as the Secretary General of the United Nations, President Barack Obama, and members of the United States Congress. Urge them to do their share in ensuring that women and girls all over the world are empowered to make their OWN choices!