

Accelerating Progress in the Lives of Adolescent Girls

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January 11, 2012



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Why Adolescent Girls?

- Approximately 16 million adolescent girls between 15 and 19 give birth every year (95% in developing countries).
- Births among adolescents account for 11% of all births worldwide and account for 23% of the overall burden of disease (DALYs) due to pregnancy and childbirth among women of all ages.
- In low- and middle income countries, complications of pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death in women aged 15–19 years.
- In 2008, there were an estimated three million unsafe abortions in developing countries among 15–19 year olds.



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Opportunities to Accelerate Change in the Lives of Adolescent Girls Today

- Increased U.S. partnership and support needed to implement, through the Global Health Initiative (GHI), the:
 - ✓ ICPD Programme of Action
 - ✓ Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health
 - ✓ WHO Guidelines for Preventing Early Pregnancy and Poor Reproductive Health Outcomes Among Adolescents in Developing Countries



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Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action

- The U.S. should reconfigure its foreign assistance programs to efficiently and effectively:
 - ✓ Promote and protect the human rights of women;
 - ✓ Build stronger health systems with comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services central to the health system and accessible to married and unmarried adolescent girls; and
 - ✓ Ensure that all young people have access to comprehensive sexuality education.



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Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health

- Key priority areas for action include:
 - ✓ Support for country-led health plans;
 - ✓ Integrated delivery of a package of integrated health services and life-saving interventions;
 - ✓ Stronger health systems, with sufficient skilled health workers;
 - ✓ Innovative approaches to financing, product development and efficient delivery of health services; and
 - ✓ Improved monitoring and evaluation.



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WHO Guidelines to Preventing Early Pregnancy and Poor Reproductive Health Outcomes Among Adolescents in Developing Countries

- **To prevent early pregnancy, interventions supported by the U.S. should:**
 1. End child marriage;
 2. Foster understanding and support for preventing early pregnancy;
 3. Increase the voluntary use of contraception among adolescents; and
 4. Reduce coerced sex among adolescents.
- **To prevent adverse reproductive health outcomes, interventions supported by the U.S. should:**
 1. Reduce unsafe abortion among adolescents; and
 2. Increase access by adolescents to skilled prenatal, childbirth and postnatal care.



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Opportunities to Put Girls on the Development Agenda

- Strong U.S. partnership and support for adolescent girls and mothers needed during the upcoming:
 - ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board Meeting, January 2012
 - ✓ Commission on Population and Development (CPD), April 2012
 - ✓ G8, May 2012



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QUESTIONS?



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