The View from Africa

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Disparities between the rich and poor have expanded in the past decade

- Richest Quintile
  - 1990s
  - Latest

- Poorest Quintile
  - 1990s
  - Latest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Average number of children (TFR)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Burkina Faso</td>
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<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>Tanzania</td>
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TFR, CPR & Unmet Need: Differences Across Socioeconomic Groups in Kenya

Source: African Population and Health Research Center, Nairobi
Why does unmet need exist?

- Lack of access and availability
- Poor quality of services/medical restrictions
- Limited contraceptive choice
- Lack of knowledge/misinformation
- Social & cultural opposition
Barriers to fertility regulation

- Prices are too high.
- Outlets are unreachable.
- Medical rules make getting contraception difficult.
- Misinformation – the dangers of contraception.
- Community workers are not permitted to provide contraceptives.
- Method choices are limited
- Gov’t services are poor.
- Pills are on prescription for reasons not evidence-based

- EC using existing birth control pills: No one has bothered to inform most women.
- Advertising about family planning isn’t allowed.
- Religions constrain providers
- Mothers-in-law are in charge.
- Young brides lack power.
- Unmarried young females are excluded from services.
% Who Cannot Afford Family Planning (assuming 1% income rule)

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Arab States/Europe
- Latin America
- Asia
- All aid-dependent nations

Chart showing the percentage of who cannot afford family planning, with green bars indicating 'full cost' and purple bars indicating 'only commodities'.
How to make family planning access easier

- Better information
- Take pills off prescription
- Affordable prices
- Choice of methods
- End unrelated medical rules
- Delivery systems - be creative
An appropriate approach
Too many restrictions on who can provide family planning methods
What can be done

- Focus on programs to fulfill the unmet need
- Let people have what they want
  - correct information
  - choice of contraceptive
  - Realistically affordable and accessible contraceptives
- Complete the job half done