



E-news from the Foundation for Leadership Initiatives (FLI)

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Population | Family Planning

Post 2015 Agenda: SRH Disappeared From Health Goals

The latest version of the zero draft report from the Open Working Group developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hit the internet late Monday evening. It still has the same 17 goals. Overall, there are fewer targets, but both the targets and the process are becoming increasingly convoluted

How have sexual and reproductive health and rights fared?

- Sexual and reproductive health has disappeared from the Health Goal. While a target on sexual and reproductive health was previously included under both the Health and Gender goals, it now only appears under the Gender goal as “ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action.” This is problematic for two reasons:
- Without SRH under the health goal, family planning is in jeopardy of not being recognized in this new development framework. SRHR is a major component of overall health not only for women and girls, but also for men and boys. It is therefore critical to be included within a discussion of health.
- The qualifier of ICPD and Beijing is unnecessary and weakens the human rights frame of the target. Nowhere else in the Open Working Group’s draft document is such a caveat introduced. As such, it undermines the principle of arriving at a forward-looking set of SDGs. There is no need to qualify universal access to sexual and reproductive health or reproductive rights. With a reference to ICPD and Beijing already in the introduction, we hope to see this qualifier removed. – populationaction.org/blog

Still Sex Talks is Taboo in Fiji

TAVEUNI women's group representative Nanise Tabua said talking openly about sex in the villages and rural communities they visited on the island was a challenge as discrimination against those who tried to talk about sex was rife in village settings. It was the village headmen who would not allow workshops on family planning issues, sexual reproductive health and sexually transmitted infections in their villages or rural communities, Even trying to share information of using condoms as teenage pregnancy was high in Taveuni village was a taboo. – Fiji Times

Casual sex boosts your overall well-being

Do not let that depression mount over your head if you have had a casual fling recently. Casual hookups are actually good for your overall well-being, researchers say. "If you want to have casual sex, you definitely should. If you do not want to have casual sex, you should not," said researchers from New York University and Cornell University. The effects of casual sex depend on the extent to which this behaviour is congruent with one's general personality tendencies, they explained. For the study, they chose a group of students who kept a weekly diary over the course of 12 weeks documenting casual sex and its effect on their overall well-being. The team found that socio-sexually unrestricted students reported higher well-being after having casual sex compared to not having sex. The research appeared in the journal Social Psychology and Personality Science. – Daijiworld

Text and voice messages help close Bangladesh health gap

Bangladesh is moving to boost maternal health services in poorly-served rural areas by targeting voice and text messages at expectant and pregnant mothers and their families. The aim is to educate and support mothers in places where health services are weak. “There is a gap between rural and urban areas in terms of maternal health services. Government and non-governmental organizations must address the gap to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). However, experts warn, a rural service gap lurks. In 2012 the government partnered with Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action (MAMA), a network of public health organizations, to launch a project called Aponjon, which delivers timely health information to new and expectant mothers by SMS text and voice messages. – IRIN

The Growing Pains that with Changing One-Child Policy in China

(Beijing) – A new policy that allows couples to have a second child if one parent was an only child is gradually being implemented in all but two areas. The new policy was passed by the central committee of the National People's Congress, the country's top legislative body, in December. Now provincial governments must figure out how to implement the new rules. The changes are important to families having children around this time because a nuance in interpretation could determine whether their child is deemed legal, which is essential for education, health insurance and household registration purposes. For example, a second child born just before the policy goes into effect is deemed legal in the eastern province of Anhui, but not in the southwestern province of Sichuan, where the parents are subject to a fine. – Caixin.com

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Message for Leaders

“Many developing, and particularly the least developing countries (LDCs), will face a continuous increase in the demand for services, specifically in education and health. That means there will be an increasing need for social investment just to catch up with population growth, giving fewer opportunities to increase the quality of services, which is needed to generate the changes requested to attain the MDGs.”

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