



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

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Population | Family Planning

Include Sexual Reproductive Health in Post 2015 Health Agenda

African Leaders have been advised to ensure that Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHRs) are fused into the post-2015 world health agenda. According to Mr Raphael Godlove Ahenu, a human right activist, the group working on the Post-2015 world agenda (Sustainable Development Goals), had sidelined reproductive health issues, which sought the interest and benefits of Asian and African. Speaking to the Ghana News Agency (GNA) in an interview in Sunyani on Thursday, Mr Ahenu, Chief Executive Officer of Global Media Foundation (GLOMEF), a rights based media advocacy Non-Governmental Organisation, said though the SRHRs was mentioned under Gender in the post-2015 health agenda, it had been shelved. "Per the draft report released so far by the group, it is clear that issues concerning SRHRs which include family planning, maternal mortality and essential medicines, were taken out of the health goal," he said. – GNA

Keeping pace with population growth

July 11 marks World Population Day, calling attention to the crucial part that population growth plays in meeting the health needs of a global population projected to reach 7.3 billion people in 2015 when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to an end. The region of sub-Saharan Africa faces particular challenges, where the population is projected to nearly double from 510 million people in 1990 to 989 million in 2015, driven mainly by high fertility and large cohorts of women of reproductive age. – The Lancet

USAID: \$10.4 Million to 'Empower' Girls in Malawi to Use Birth Control

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) plans to spend up to \$10.4 million to "empower" young girls in Malawi to use birth control. The grant is aimed at preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV - which disproportionately infects young females in Malawi - even though such efforts have failed in the past. As part of USAID's "Girls' Empowerment through Education and Health Activity" initiative, the grant will fund Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Family Planning (FP) education for girls ages 10-19. Sexual and Reproductive Health Services are defined in the grant announcement as "family planning, HIV testing and counseling, volunteer male medical circumcision and HIV treatment." USAID's family planning initiative joins the "global partnership" pushing Family Planning 2020 in its aim "to enable 120 million more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020." – CNSNews.com

Family planning funding needed to save lives in Pacific

Women and newborns are dying in Pacific island nations for a lack of investment in sexual and reproductive health, particularly in family planning, a group of New Zealand Members of Parliament said Friday. In countries such as Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands, less than 30 percent of women of reproductive age use modern contraceptives, it said. Many countries in the Pacific have poor sexual and reproductive health indicators, reflecting a lack of prioritization and investment by governments, the New Zealand Parliamentarians Group on Population and Development (NZPPD) said in a statement to mark World Population Day. – Shanghai Daily

Stay Up Late? It Could Hurt Your Fertility?

Women who want to become pregnant or are expecting a baby should avoid light during the night, a new report suggests. Darkness is important for optimum reproductive health in women, and for protecting the developing fetus, said study researcher Russel J. Reiter, a professor of cellular biology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. In a review of studies published online July 1 in the journal Fertility and Sterility, Reiter and his colleagues evaluated previously published research, and summarized the role of melatonin levels and circadian rhythms on successful reproduction in females. The evidence shows that "Every time you turn on the light at night, this turns down the production of melatonin," Reiter said. [7 Ways Pregnant Women Affect Their Babies] – livescience.com

Packard Foundation Civil Society Fund for SRHR

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of a new civil society fund for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Following a competitive selection process, MannionDaniels Limited, an international public health consultancy and training group, was awarded a two-year grant of \$500,000 to manage the fund in partnership with the African Women's Development Fund and the Global Fund for Women. The fund will support advocacy for the most neglected SRHR issues including access to abortion care, sexuality education for young people, contraception for unmarried women, protection of sexual minorities, and support for women who have experienced stigma and sexual violence. Grants will be provided to civil society organizations primarily from sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and, more opportunistically, in areas of the Middle East, Central Asia and South America. The fund will also seek to extend its influence beyond its core grant-making function to ensure a focus on strengthening and sustaining networks, sharing knowledge, increasing visibility and resources for SRHR, and creating a social movement for change. – Packard.org

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Message for Leaders

Our heartfelt condolence

"The Foundation for Leadership Initiatives deeply mourn the unfortunate & untimely death of three hundred innocent passengers including high level HIV-Aids experts on way to International AIDs conference in Melbourne. All members and associated organizations of FLI join in sending our deep sense of condolence to friends and family." Shiv Khare. CEO, FLI



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