

FAMILY PLANNING: The Smartest Investment We Can Make

Funding for international family planning and reproductive health is a proven and cost-effective way to meet a broad range of international development goals. Increased access to contraception for women in developing countries is critical to improving maternal and newborn health, preventing HIV/AIDS, and reducing unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion. Family planning programs yield improvements in other key development areas such as education, water and sanitation.

INVEST IN FAMILY PLANNING, SAVE IN DEVELOPMENT COSTS

Analysis by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) shows that family planning investments save money in other development areas including education, immunization, water and sanitation, maternal health, and malaria. Data from seven countries across three continents shows that for every dollar invested in FP/RH, there is significant savings across sectors. Every dollar invested in family planning has shown savings in other development areas ranging from \$2 in Ethiopia to more than \$6 in Guatemala and Bangladesh, and up to \$9 in Bolivia.

INVESTING IN FAMILY PLANNING SAVES LIVES AND MONEY

Investing in family planning and reproductive health is also a cost-effective way to improve maternal and newborn health. Analysis from the Guttmacher Institute demonstrates that fully funding maternal and newborn health and meeting unmet need for family planning would result in a net savings of \$1.6 billion, as compared to investing in maternal and newborn health alone. In other words, investments in family planning services reduce the overall costs of maternal and newborn healthcare, and save more lives.

INTEGRATING FAMILY PLANNING AND HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS MAKES GREATER PROGRESS

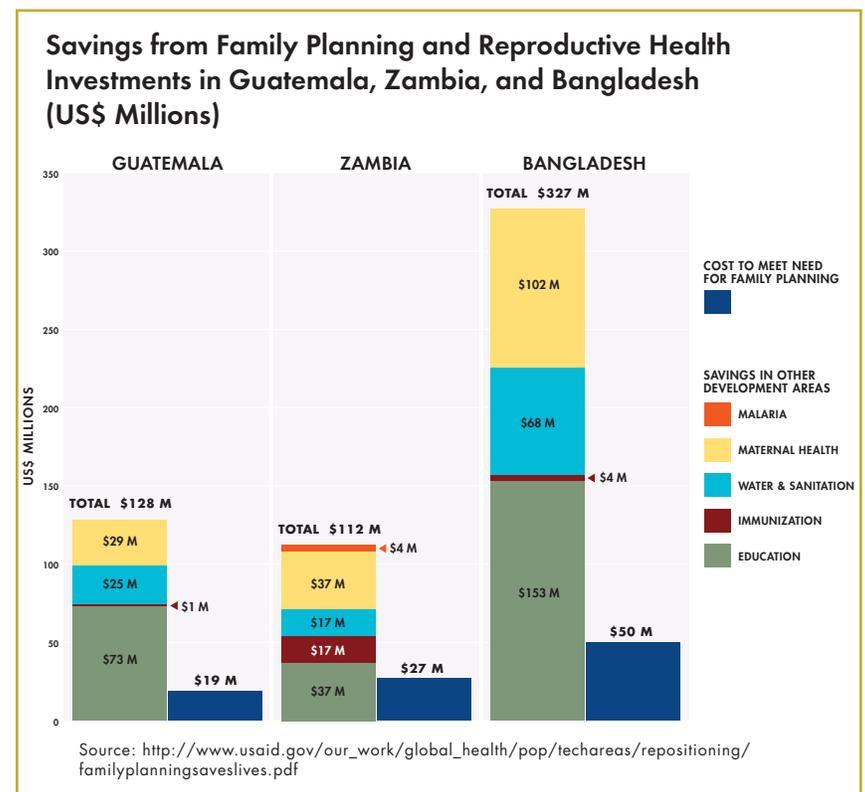
Preventing unintended pregnancies among HIV-positive women through voluntary family planning is cost-effective and saves lives. World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines state that this is one of four

essential components of preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. One model demonstrated that, for the same cost, increasing contraceptive use among women who are not currently using it and who do not want to get pregnant will avert almost 30 percent more HIV-positive births than HIV counseling and testing coupled with pharmaceutical treatment.



“Investing in the health of women, adolescents, and girls is not only the right thing to do; it is also the smart thing to do... we understand there is a direct line between a woman’s reproductive health and her ability to lead a productive, fulfilling life. And therefore, we believe investing in the potential of women and girls is the smartest investment we can make. It is connected to every problem on anyone’s mind around the world today.”

— Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton





U.S. FAMILY PLANNING INVESTMENTS DELIVER REAL RESULTS

The U.S. has long been a global leader on international family planning and reproductive health. Investments have shown significant improvement in health outcomes for women and children in developing countries. According to the Guttmacher Institute, the U.S. investment of \$610 million in international family planning and reproductive health programs in FY2012 made it possible for:

- 31.6 million women and couples to receive contraceptive services and supplies
- 9.4 million unintended pregnancies and 4.1 million unplanned births to be averted
- 4 million induced abortions to be averted (3 million of them unsafe)
- 22,000 maternal deaths to be averted
- 2.8 million fewer healthy years of life (DALYs) to be lost among women
- 96,000 fewer children to lose their mothers.



U.S. INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING FUNDING IN CONTEXT

U.S. funding for foreign assistance makes up just over 1 percent of the entire federal budget. Of that amount, only a small fraction is allocated for family planning and reproductive health programs. Despite the relatively low level of funding compared to other global health areas, it yields significant results for the health and well-being of women, families and communities around the world. Still, the global need for contraception remains high, and more investment in this area is critical to improving health and development outcomes.

GLOBAL NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING REMAINS

There is a large and growing need for family planning in many developing nations. An estimated 222 million women in developing countries want to avoid pregnancy but do not have access to or information about family planning services. While the demand for contraception has consistently increased, U.S. support has decreased, when adjusted for inflation. The FY 2012 funding level of \$610 million represents more than a 30 percent cut from what the U.S. spent on these programs in 1995. It is estimated that the total cost of fulfilling

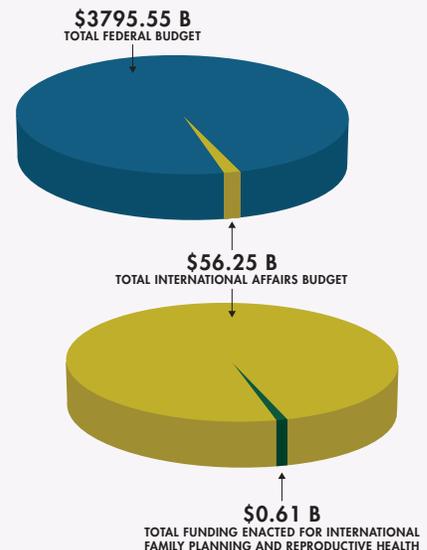
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U.S. Family Planning and Reproductive Health Funding in Context, Fiscal Year 2012 (US\$ Billions)



global need for family planning would be \$8.1 billion. Of that amount, the United States' "fair share" would be approximately \$1 billion. Meeting this level of funding would improve the lives of millions of women and aid global health and development efforts.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Work toward Increasing U.S. Annual International Family Planning Assistance to \$1 Billion

This smart investment is supported by Members of Congress, the Obama administration, and diverse civil society coalitions. Supporting family planning programs is an effective way to improve maternal and child health and reduce unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion. Investments in FP/RH can also help meet critical development goals and yield additional benefits in areas including health, education, livelihoods, climate change resilience, and security. This cost-effective intervention is critical to the health and well-being of women, families and communities, and should be integrated across the spectrum of U.S. development efforts.