

Patron: Emeritus
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Nations Population

More women are in power - roughly 80% of countries have seen an increase in the share of parliamentary seats held by women. However in 2003 women still represented only 15% of the world's parliamentarians.

More girls are in school - In 2004 much of the world reported significant progress toward gender parity in secondary school enrolment. At the half way point for the ICPD PoA despite some improvements, 104 million school aged children, 60% of them girls were not attending school.

More women in the workforce - Globally the percentage of women in the workforce has increased, though they have fewer opportunities to earn comparable wages to their male counterparts.

Too many mothers are dying - despite some minimal improvements in maternal mortality ratios, 525 000 women die from giving birth each year, the majority from the developing world. *One mother in the developing world dies every minute from childbirth.* Country figures are very telling. Pregnancy complications kill one out of every ten women in Ethiopia, compared to one out of every 29, 800 in Sweden. No other health indicator shows such disparity between rich and poor countries

HIV/AIDS - In 2003, five million people became infected with HIV, and another 3 million died from AIDS. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the epi-centre of the pandemic, women in this region account for 55% of all infections. The Asia Pacific region is set to become the new front of the pandemic in the next decade.

Unmet need for family planning and contraception - If all the condoms in Africa were distributed evenly, every man would receive three or four per year. The global shortage of contraceptives and reproductive health supplies is undermining our ability to achieve the ICPD goals. More than 350 million couples still lack access to a full range of family planning services

With the largest generation of adolescents ever - their sexual and reproductive health needs are gaining an increasing amount of attention. Many developing nation in the Asia-Pacific region have half there population under 18. Pregnancy is the leading cause of death for those aged 15 to 19, and every 14 seconds a young person is infected wit HIV/AIDS.

Financial Resources - In the face of all these challenges the response of international donors has been inadequate. Following an initial surge ICPD resources levels have stagnated. Donor countries have made available only half of what they agreed to ICPD. Australia has failed to provide 63% of the funds it committed in Cairo.