

**For over three decades**, UNFPA programmes have addressed sensitive issues such as gender relations and sexuality in various cultural settings, often among the most vulnerable populations in some of the least-developed countries. Working with and in partnership with governments, nongovernmental organizations and civil society, UNFPA is a strong partner in condom programming for HIV prevention, combining prevention education with access to condoms for those who need them.

**WORLDWIDE** In just one year (2001), UNFPA helped procure and distribute more than \$27.4 million worth of condoms. That's over half a billion condoms for pregnancy and HIV/STIs (sexually transmitted infections) prevention.

**ALBANIA** Following extensive training, peer educators reached more than 1,500 young people with prevention messages as part of a UNFPA project that also sold 1.3 million condoms.

**CHINA** A UNFPA social marketing pilot project in Beijing and Shanghai saw more than 800,000 condoms sold from over 300 outlets including newsstands as well as vending machines in public toilets, on campuses, in clinics and shops.

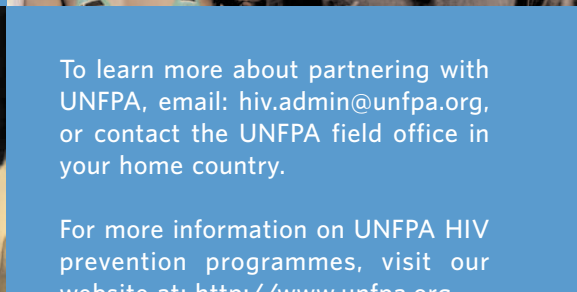
**ERITREA** More than 1.5 million condoms were supplied to defence forces in conjunction with peer education and training.

**GHANA** A UNFPA-backed condom campaign of street theatre and rap performances triggered an 80 percent rise in condom use in just six months.

**INDIA** Working with an NGO, UNFPA supports a project to empower sex workers to protect themselves from HIV infection. Essential components include information on basics of HIV/AIDS and provision of condoms to both the sex workers and their clients.

These are a few examples of UNFPA support.

UNFPA: A 30-YEAR RECORD OF SUCCESS



UNFPA supports more than 140 countries in HIV prevention programming.

prevent HIV now



UNFPA'S FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC CONDOM PROGRAMMING

**Condom programming** requires a dynamic, appropriate interaction between supply and demand within a supportive environment. To reduce risk of HIV infection, it is essential to both procure sufficient quantities of high-quality and affordable male and female condoms and to identify and remove barriers to their correct and consistent use. UNFPA's supportive programming strategy targets both fronts.

- Appropriate channels for condom distribution – providing access and privacy – are key. For example, non-conventional venues such as bars, restaurants, and nightclubs, coupled with privately accessible vending machines, help overcome embarrassment and reluctance to obtain condoms from sources that require personal contact.

- Cost can influence acquisition and use. Some potential users cannot afford to purchase condoms at full commercial prices. On the other hand, in some cultures, charging a nominal fee is crucial as it invests the condom with a greater sense of value.

- Myths, misperceptions and fears can hinder access and use and are important to correct. Condoms are sometimes associated with promiscuity, or feared to be ineffective against HIV.

UNFPA programmes work to discover underlying behaviour motivations and to create effective solutions to motivate healthy behaviour choices, as well as to educate communities and to train professionals.

Condom Programming entails orchestrating a range of interrelated elements including:

- Assessing and meeting diverse user needs.
- Promoting consistent and correct use.
- Creating a supportive political and socio-cultural environment.
- Ensuring product acceptability, availability, affordability and quality.
- Logistics management systems including transportation and storage.
- Making condoms available through channels appropriate to user needs.
- Forecasting, financing and procuring condoms according to internationally accepted standards and specifications.
- Overcoming barriers to access and use including individual's misperceptions and fears, often through behaviour change communication.
- Monitoring the impact of programming on condom use and ultimately HIV prevention.



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## UNFPA'S UNIQUE EXPERTISE

Building on its expertise and experience, UNFPA is uniquely placed to assist in the full range of condom programming, from procurement to educating those who are sexually active on correct and consistent use of both male and female condoms to help safeguard their sexual and reproductive health.

### UNFPA PROVIDES QUALITY CONDOMS

Quality control is top priority for UNFPA. We follow internationally recognized specifications. Manufacturers must be pre-qualified using strict technical, manufacturing, and financial standards. Pre-shipment sampling and testing of condoms is a requirement for each and every batch.

### UNFPA PROVIDES THE BEST PRICES

Low cost is essential for government public sectors and social marketing programmes, which provide condoms free or at subsidized prices to potential users who cannot afford to purchase condoms at full commercial prices. UNFPA procures condoms at the lowest prices. How? Because UNFPA is the largest public-sector procurer of condoms in the world. Cutting-edge methods, unique expertise, and exceptional procurement volume give UNFPA access to the best international pricing.

*\*Indicative pricing for UNFPA international procurement of condoms is between 1.8 cents and 2.3 cents per male condom and approximately 57 cents per female condom before shipping.*



### UNFPA PROVIDES THE CHOICE OF BOTH FEMALE AND MALE CONDOMS

Because of the difficulties many women face negotiating the use of male condoms, the female condom is an important additional option to assist women in protecting themselves and their partners from HIV infection, other STIs and unwanted pregnancy. In addition to condom procurement, UNFPA provides a variety of commodities and supplies for prevention of HIV infections including HIV/STI diagnostic kits, drugs for STI treatment, and Clean Delivery kits.

### UNFPA SUPPORTS EMERGING MARKETS

UNFPA works with vendors from all over the world – proactively soliciting suppliers from emerging markets. Currently, 100 percent of all male condoms are procured from suppliers in developing countries.

### UNFPA HELPS FORECAST GLOBAL & LOCAL NEEDS

Forecasting need is a core part of condom programming. A ready and dependable supply is critical to the successful transformation of high-risk behaviour. UNFPA can help determine a country's current and forthcoming needs for condom supply, distribution, and support. And UNFPA has the tools to help foresee significant supply gaps for other reproductive health commodities and to address potential shortfalls before they develop.

### UNFPA IS DEPENDABLE AND READY TO MEET BASIC NEEDS AND EMERGENCIES

Reliability in delivery of commodities is important and UNFPA has mechanisms already in place. Emergency situations causing displacement, overcrowding and inadequate living conditions increase vulnerability to HIV infection. Whether responding to conflict or natural disaster, UNFPA's established emergency response system enables the Fund to ship needed quantities of condoms and other commodities within a few days of receiving a request.



## A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO HIV PREVENTION

Prevention can include a wide range of strategies. UNFPA's approach to HIV/AIDS prevention in the context of reproductive health encourages voluntary abstinence, delay of onset of sexual activity, faithfulness to one partner, and condom use. Three core areas frame UNFPA action: HIV prevention in young people; HIV prevention in pregnant women; and condom programming.

### YOUNG PEOPLE MOST AT RISK

Half of the world's new HIV infections occur among young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Each minute six more young people – often adolescent girls – are infected with the HIV virus. Evidence shows that young people make responsible sexual choices when empowered with information and life skills. UNFPA helps develop programs that are youth friendly, culturally sensitive, build on positive values and encourage young people to practice healthy and safe behaviours.

### PREVENTION FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

Globally, almost 99 percent of pregnant women are HIV negative. Furthermore, many women, especially those in developing countries, access the health care system only when pregnant. UNFPA recognizes pregnancy as a strategic opportunity to provide women and their partners the information, education and means to prevent HIV infection.

### CONDOM PROGRAMMING

Condoms, both male and female, are universally recognized as one of the most effective ways to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Comprehensive condom programming addresses demand and supply of good quality male and female condoms and the related support to enable women and men, youth and adults to protect themselves from HIV, other sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy.



UNFPA strategies include:

**ADVOCACY:** Building awareness; strengthening political commitment; mobilizing resources; condom programming with a focus on young people and pregnant women; special attention to vulnerability of women and girls; building male involvement.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Offering a strong network of government; UN agency and civil society partners; a strong country presence, including local technical resources and expertise; HIV/AIDS advisers in place in regional, multidisciplinary Country Technical Services Teams.

**KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT:** Identifying barriers to access and use, and employing innovative strategies to address them; monitoring and evaluating preventive interventions; adapting best practices; conducting needs assessments.

**CAPACITY BUILDING:** Building national capacities in collection and analysis of population-based data for policy and programme development; strengthening technical knowledge and skills of programme planners, managers and service providers, especially in health and education sectors; developing logistics management systems; forecasting future needs for reproductive health commodities.

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