Family Planning: a Smart Investment

Family planning is a best buy for global development.

When women and young people are able to choose if, when and how often to have children, more girls can stay in school and more women can decide to enter or remain in the workforce; ultimately entire families, communities and countries thrive. For every $1 spent on family planning, governments can save up to $6 — making voluntary family planning one of the most cost-effective investments available.

Yet 214 million women and girls in developing countries who do not want to get pregnant are not currently using modern contraceptives because they cannot afford them, they cannot access them at their local clinics, they are not aware of their options, or they face stigma and other cultural barriers.

This needs to change — and urgently.
UNFPA Supplies provides over 40 per cent of donated contraceptives worldwide, reaching approximately 20 million women and young people every year. Because of the high volume of commodities we purchase, we can get the lowest prices on the market — meaning every dollar donated can go further.

Unfortunately, UNFPA Supplies is currently facing a funding gap of nearly US$700 million from 2017 to 2020* — and without products, there will be no progress.

If we do not fill the UNFPA Supplies funding gap, the effects will be devastating. But if and when we do, the benefits will be enormous.

*As of 1 January 2017

By filling UNFPA Supplies’ funding gap, we will...
- **Avert 116 million** unintended pregnancies
- **Prevent 45 million** abortions
- **Avoid 2.2 million** maternal and child deaths
- **Save families and nations $5.5 billion** in health-care costs
Necessary to Achieving Global Targets

- In 2012, global leaders committed to the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) goal of providing 120 million more women and girls with access to contraceptives by 2020. Approximately one third of women using contraceptives in the 69 FP2020 focus countries are using commodities provided by UNFPA Supplies.

- Through the Sustainable Development Agenda, world leaders agreed to the goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, by 2030.

Working Where the Need is Greatest

- Around half of UNFPA Supplies’ focus countries have ongoing humanitarian crises. We work to ensure that contraceptive access is integrated into emergency response, providing women and adolescent girls with reproductive health kits, emergency obstetric care, contraceptive choice and other needs. The Programme reached 1.3 million women and adolescent girls in humanitarian settings with reproductive health kits in 2016 alone.

- One of UNFPA Supplies’ top priorities is ensuring that young people in their reproductive years — one fifth of the world’s population — have access to the contraceptives they want and need. By 2015, all of UNFPA Supplies’ focus countries had implemented interventions to reach young people — an increase from 33 countries in 2013 and 41 in 2014.

Ensuring Long-term Sustainability

UNFPA Supplies provides capacity-building support to help countries transition from donor support to nationally funded family planning programmes. 34 focus countries have already created national budgets for contraceptives. As a next step, UNFPA Supplies is working to ensure all countries spend the allocated budget on family planning products — and that those budgets continue to rise.

UNFPA Supplies works in 46 low-income countries with high maternal death rates, low contraceptive use and growing unmet demand for family planning.
Donors recognize the value of investing in UNFPA Supplies to ensure that family planning commodities reach women and girls around the world. In 2017:

- **10 more donors** contributed to UNFPA Supplies than in 2016, including — for the first time — a social impact investment fund
- **5 former donors** returned to reinvest in the Programme
- **2 donors** have doubled their commitments to UNFPA Supplies
- **3 new donors** contributed

Now, we are calling on other donors from around the world to join us. When donors make multi-year commitments to UNFPA Supplies, they are committing to the long-term sustainability of the Programme — and to improving the health and well-being of women and girls everywhere.

Everyone, regardless of who they are or where they live, should have the opportunity to plan their families and their futures. If we act now, millions more women and young people around the world will be able to reach their full potential — helping entire communities and countries thrive.