

IPPF side-event at the third Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa July 2015

Monday, 13 July 2015, Evening (6.15 pm – 7.45 pm) at Hotel Elilly, Classic Hall (70 seats)

Title: The Addis Ababa Accord: Making it meaningful for Women and Girls

Objective: This event will explore the implications of the new Financing for Development agenda for women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). SRHR underpins the empowerment of women and girls and while policy makers recognise the important role of SRHR in achieving sustainable development, and make political commitments to address SRHR, the funding often falls short. If the proposed goal on Gender Equality and Women's empowerment and the overall goal of sustainable development is to be achieved, it is critical that the financing framework is inclusive of all populations and that the most marginalized women and girls are not left behind. The speakers will review the Addis Ababa Accord through a lens of achieving SRHR for all, and assess whether the new Accord will ensure the necessary funding and look at the current gaps in the aid architecture for SRHR. The event will provide commentary on how the Accord can be operationalised at a national level, both in terms of domestic spending and also ODA allocation as well as exploring the impact that effective and consistent financing of SRHR could have on empowerment of women and girls and on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Background: While global policy makers recognise the important role of SRHR in achieving sustainable development, and make political commitments to address SRHR issues, these are not sufficiently reflected in commitments of Official Development Assistance (ODA) or domestic government spending. The vast majority of funding for SRHR comes from out of pocket payments¹. Out of pocket payments act as a significant barrier, preventing underserved and vulnerable people, particularly women and girls from accessing sexual and reproductive health services. This in part explains the lack of progress globally on MDG5 "Improve Maternal Health", and in particular target 5b "Achieve by 2015 Universal Access to Reproductive Health".

Proposed panellists and content

Chair: Tewodros Melesse, Director General, International Planned Parenthood Federation

While speakers and content are currently being finalised we anticipate:

- *The Addis Ababa Accord and SRHR: Gaps, Opportunities and the way forward:* a civil society perspective on the importance of prioritising funding for SRHR as a precondition to achieving all the other development goals including commentary on the new Global Financing Facility.
- *The role of international financing* (Bouwe-Jan Smeding, First Secretary, Health at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ethiopia): how international partnerships can be used to support SRHR, including through aid programmes and other mechanisms.
- *Supporting and empowering Middle Income Countries (MICs) (LAC Government invited):* the specific needs of MICs in financing SRHR, and how to manage financing through different stages of development, ie the transition to domestic resource mobilisation, and the impact of "graduation".
- *Strengthening national implementation (Namibia invited):* a perspective on the draft Accord, and the opportunities and challenges that it presents, including how it will support the country in prioritising and protecting funding for SRHR.
- *Closing Statement:* including how young people will be affected by the next development framework and have a unique stake in ensuring that the long term funding needs are realised. Looking ahead to the importance of funding for SRHR to support progress on achieving sustainable development.

¹ Data from the UNFPA resources flow project, available at: http://www.resourceflows.org/sites/default/files/UNFPA%20FRFPAR%202011_0.pdf

