



«UNWANTED PREGNANCIES» PROJECTS NEWSLETTER #1 MAY 2015

This first newsletter launches a new Convention Programme signed with the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement) regarding Unwanted Pregnancies. The convention program supports four projects: Palestine in Gaza, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo and Peru and concerns two projects for its advocacy cross-cutting activities: the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti. A first exchange was held in Paris in March and brought together representatives of the projects working together for the sexual and reproductive rights worldwide. Due to the different contexts, the start of several projects was slowed down, thereby shifting the calendar set up. However, each project has started by now and has largely initiated the first steps of the program. You will find in this newsletter an infographic of each project. The information used in these graphics were gathered from participants during the workshop or found in different project documents, therefore these data are indicative and might change.

International News

1) **NEPAL:** Tens of Thousands of pregnant women were affected by the earthquake according to the United Nations population fund:

UNFPA: [Tens of thousands of pregnant women affected by Nepal quake](#)

2) During the 48th *Commission on Population and Développement* held in New York from the 13th to the 17th of April 2015, family planning was put at the heart of the discussions:

UNFPA: [Putting human rights at the heart of reproductive health](#)

3) On the importance of Sexual and Reproductive Health in the post-2015 agenda:

The Guardian: [Sustainable development must prioritise women's sexual health](#)

IVORY COAST

Tonkpi, Cavally, Guémon, Gbokle-Nawa San Pedro Grand Abidjan

Target group: Childbearing age women, pregnant women, children under 5 years old

125 health centres

Around 40 staff

FLORENT KEY
Field Coordinator RCI

On his arrival at Médecins du Monde

"The set up is enchanting. MdM offers me a wider opening on the world. I am enriched by the others and try to bring my own knowledge at regional level. Those exchanges are very interesting and rewarding."

On his battles

"I am a convinced, and hopefully convincing, Sexual and Reproductive health rights activist!"

The «Unwanted Pregnancies» Team

The Unwanted Pregnancies program is managed from the headquarters by a team consisting of four members based in the Analyse, Support and Advocacy Service. A new recruit, Elise, just joined the team. Welcome!



In April, the S2AP welcomed Elise Petitpas now based in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) as Coordinator for the Unwanted Pregnancies program. Elise will be responsible for providing support to the projects and advocacy activities of the various partners involved in the Sexual and Reproductive Health program agreement signed with AFD in 2014. With a background in law, Elise has over 6 years of professional experience focused on the issue of gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive rights. She has worked in Brussels for the European office of IPPF and was responsible for the advocacy of the European Campaign END FGM (Stop Femal Genital Mutilation) by Amnesty International. Elise also worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina on a capacity building project related to women's rights.



Sandrine Simon
SRH adviser



Anne Sinic
SRH advocacy officer



Marie Lussier
Project manager AFD CP

Reinforcement of inter-projects exchanges

Following discussions on the strengthening of inter-project exchanges during the unwanted pregnancies Workshop in March 2015, the idea of creating an all-encompassing tool allowing the different field missions to share important tools and information has emerged. Thus, the possibility of setting up this informatics tool is monitored internally from the headquarters. The possibility of a contributory website has notably been discussed, as well as an extension of the existing intranet in relation with Gregory Bousseau in charge of the MdM intranet. We will inform you of the result of these discussions and continue our research about it!

BURKINA FASO

**SAHEL REGION
DJIBO SANITARY
DISTRICT**

EQUIPES CADRE DU DISTRICT

**TARGET GROUP:
442 972**

8 MDM STAFF

SOCIO-ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY

Conducting a socio-anthropological study on the issue of Unwanted Pregnancies and on the socio-cultural barriers limiting women's access to care in Sexual and Reproductive Health.

HUSBAND SCHOOL

Place of awareness raising for men, on the issues related to Sexual and Reproductive Health. A MdM team from Djibo went to Niger in October on a study tour to find out more about these schools, their activities and stakes.

PERU

**LIMA
VILLA EL SALVADOR**

**NATIONAL: District health
authorities
INTERNATIONAL: CLACAI**

**Target group:
129,267**

6 MdM staff

NEWS

July 2014: adoption of a protocol for the implementation of the law on therapeutic abortion awaited since its legalization in 1924
Next step: advocacy for the right to abortion in case of rape

TRAININGS

En 2014: 7 technical and awareness trainings were conducted for health workers. For the first time, the concept of advocacy was introduced in those trainings within the framework of Cairo+20.

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DRC

KINSHASA
5 health zones

HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE (HPP)

TARGET GROUP: 75 000

3 MDM STAFF
8 SUPPORT STAFF
11 HPP STAFF

TRAININGS

2 Trainings have been implemented:
1. Care and STDs prevention
2. Support for victims of sexual violence

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with HPP:
Opening of local representative offices
Meetings with chiefs of administrative districts
Reflections on common information tools

GAZA

GAZA STRIP MIDDLE AREA

Cultural and free thought association (CFTA)

3 CLINICS

4 MdM staff
11 partner staff

CONTEXT

Occupation et guerres Wars and Occupation
Lack of necessary materials supply (manily construction materials)
Regular strikes among the public health staff

COUNSELING

Futur Integration of a 'mental health' approach within the sexual and reproductive health program
Psychological first aid approach for specific cases related to unwanted pregnancies

Sexual and Reproductive Rights Advocacy

A series of negotiations are ongoing to develop and adopt the new framework for sustainable development replacing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by September 2015. If significant progress has been made in terms of sexual and reproductive health, many challenges still lie ahead to ensure women and girls enjoy their rights and access to quality health services. Some aspects of sexual and reproductive health rights remain largely neglected, such as access to safe abortion and treatment for teenagers. While several states expressed their reservations, it is imperative to ensure that sexual and reproductive health rights remain at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.

Objective 2 of the Convention Program on Unwanted pregnancies aims to bring the values, ideas and to make the voice of Médecins du Monde heard to the decision-making capacities able to act for this cause. As part of this program, advocacy plays an essential role because it helps to promote access to contraception and safe and legal abortion in our countries of intervention. In 2015, 225 million women who would prefer to avoid or delay their pregnancies still do not have access to safe and effective contraception. Coverage of these unmet needs would reduce significantly maternal mortality. It is to help to this global advocacy effort that we are

mobilizing today to participate in two international conferences, in 2015 and 2016. These conferences are important visibility areas. They allow us to meet with existing partners as well as potential partners and thereby to strengthen our network. They are also an opportunity to share experiences and to reinforce our skills.

The two selected conferences meet our priorities for action and are highpoints for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health rights related to the post-2015 agenda. We will be present at the [International Conference on Family Planning](#) to be held from 9 to 12 November 2015 in Nusa Dua, Indonesia. We have proposed an Abstract to present the socio-anthropological survey «Cross-cutting study and comparative analysis of sociocultural and community determinants of unwanted pregnancies and abortions «currently taking place in Burkina Faso and DRC.

Then we will participate in the 4th [Women Deliver](#), conference to be held in Copenhagen from 16 to 19 May 2016. A global mobilization of all projects is expected to strengthen our chances of participation as an engaged actor in the fight for SRHR.



Sexuality and the Catholic Church: Interview of Father Nicolas, Head of the Saint Leu Saint Gilles Parish in Paris

We work in various international context in which contraception and abortion are very sensitive topics, especially due to religious factors, as a priest, what do you think of this?

I know that many countries are “blocking” on condoms, they are held between superstition and religion. A Church man in those countries is also subject to these superstitions (condoms are bad, they make you sterile ...) which is reinforced by an education within the Church strongly against condoms. However, there are important members of the Church who spoke in favor of condom use in some cases, such as Cardinal Lustiger. In fact, we are faced with a moral choice between evil and the lesser evil. For the Church, contraception does not bring life.

In the Church there is a teaching on marriage and the act of love within relationships. Today, when preparing a young couple for marriage, there is less and less taboo on sexuality.

For me, sharing pleasure is a sign of harmony and wellbeing in a couple. God blesses this pleasure as long as we do not treat each other as a sex object. The problem in a country where inequality between men and women is very significant is that the pleasure should be under the control of men. In fact, it is considered somehow that if a woman takes pleasure, she becomes autonomous and independent and thus undermines the man. I believe that change is possible, that we can come out of this regime of submission. In the Christian sense, the emancipation of women will restore and bring back their autonomy and freedom.

This is where the problem lies: the fight against the contraceptive lies in these perceptions of dominance and submission of women. Raising awareness and working with religious communities is a first step, before we can start talking about contraception.

What is the position of the church regarding contraception?

There is a ranking of the contraceptives, from least to more reprehensible:

- 1- blocks fertilization
- 2- blocks ovulation
- 3- impact the fertilized egg

The «least worst» are mechanical contraceptives that block any possible fertilization. According to the teaching of the Church, the use of condoms is not what God wanted. But the modern man does not listen to himself, everything must be fast and safe.

The problem for the Church in the evolution of this behavior is that sex becomes an object of consumption, whereas in religion, sex is made for the encounter, enjoyment and knowledge of the other. The Church condemns the selfish use of sex and pleasure. So the use of contraceptives for these purposes is condemned. The use of contraceptives must be a response to a vital need, or a lesser evil. The Vatican admits that contraception can serve as a mean of encounter for the couple when necessary, as the sexual act is a place of humanization where men come out of their bestiality.

To read

1) Adding it up, the costs and benefits of investing in sexual and reproductive health

Gutmacher Institut et UNFPA 2014

2) Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Are Key to Global Development: The Case for Ramping Up Investment

Gutmacher Policy Review Hiver 2014

3) Contraception Is Not Abortion: The Strategic Campaign of Antiabortion Groups to Persuade the Public Otherwise

Gutmacher Policy Review Automne 2014

HAITI

PORT AU PRINCE

Promoteurs Objectifs Zero Sida (POZ)
Solidarite Fanm Ayisyen (SOFA)

Target Group: 500 000

20 STAFF

CONTEXT

1. High numbers of gender based violence acts
2. The 'stay with' phenomenon: Youth from precarious families are sent to the cities to become servants and often suffer physical and sexual violence.

BLUE LINE

Call center available 24h / 24, 7/7 and sms peer communication system on preventing abortions, contraception and the risks of early marriage (set up by POZ)