

Preface

Reproductive health conditions – including HIV/AIDS – are the leading cause of death and illness in women worldwide (15–44 years of age). 40% of the world’s women do not have access to basic reproductive health services. Only one-fourth of the 12 billion condoms needed around the world are available.

Every minute, a woman dies from a pregnancy-related cause. At this moment, 300 million women suffer from illnesses related to pregnancy and childbirth. 99% of maternal deaths during child birth occur in the developing world. If we could describe the number of maternal deaths that occur each year, it would be as if 1288 Boeing 747s full of pregnant women crashed. In ‘European terms’ that is 966 Airbus-380s.

Globally, 20 million people have died of HIV/AIDS and 33.2 million people are HIV infected. The pandemic spreads at a rate of 2.1 million new infections per year. Surveys indicate that half of the women and girls living in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa do not have basic information about how HIV/AIDS is transmitted.

Worldwide, there is a high demand for reproductive health and family planning services. Reproductive health and population affect every development sector, and directly address the cross-cutting issues of HIV/AIDS and gender. The European Commission (EC) is rightly lauded for supporting these concerns in its policies and declarations. However, most EC country strategies, proposals and development programmes are inadequate in the articulation of these linkages and do not emphasize the importance of sexual and reproductive health and population.¹

A strength of the Commission’s approach is the extensive process of ensuring that EC development co-operation priorities are drafted in close co-operation with partner governments. This dialogue represents an important strategic opportunity for the Commission to ensure effective inclusion of reproductive health and population issues into EC strategies, sector support, budget support and programmes.

This guidebook is designed to help EC delegation staff – working in a variety of sectors – to easily integrate reproductive health and population into their existing portfolios including general budget support and sector

development programmes, but also to assist with financing proposals and agreements, calls for proposals, tenders and other documents. It is an easy-to-use reference and offers recommendations within existing policy and programme frameworks.

What this book contains

The *Introduction* clarifies the interface between reproductive health, population, poverty and development, and shows how these links are currently reflected in EC development policy.

Chapter 1 gives recommendations for operationalising the integration of reproductive health and population provisions into development co-operation.

Chapters 2–9 each address a different development topic – from environment to transport, agriculture to human rights – outlining the links between each topic and reproductive health/population. The material in these chapters – in particular the *Quick facts* and *What you can do* sections – is designed to provide practical guidance for Delegation staff in developing and drafting Country Strategy Papers, general budget support, sector development programmes, calls for proposals or tenders.

Annex 1 is a list of reproductive health indicators that have been developed and accepted by international organisations and agencies. These indicators are used to monitor countries' development progress and effectiveness. They are used in agreement with partner governments and reviewed in regular policy discussions, which offer opportunities to integrate reproductive health issues.

Annex 2 is a glossary of key terms.