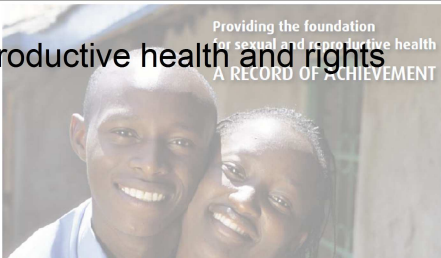


Reproductive health and rights



Sources:

1. WHO (2007) "The WHO Strategic Approach to strengthening sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes" http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2007/WHO_RHR_07.7_eng.pdf

2. UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/WORLD BANK: **Special programme of research, development and research training in human reproduction (HRP) (2008) "Providing the foundation for sexual and reproductive health: A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT"** http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2008/WHO_RHR_HRP_08.13_eng.pdf

HRP

- Established in 1972 by WHO
- The only body within the UN to lead research in human reproduction
- As the interim evaluation of MDGs in 2005, world leaders resolved to ensure universal access to reproductive health services and information by 2015, but the challenges remain daunting.

The principal area to be improved

- antenatal, delivery, postpartum and newborn care
- provision of high-quality family planning and infertility services
- elimination of unsafe abortion
- prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and cervical cancer, and of other reproductive tract infections and gynaecological diseases
- promotion of sexual health and reproductive rights

The necessity of research

- Evidence must underlie the sound policy-making
- Research is needed to improve the technologies protecting and promoting sexual and reproductive health
- Research is needed to understand how best to provide such technologies (esp. in poverty)
- Already existing data must be reviewed by a single body with the authority to achieve consensus.

Reducing maternal death

- 536,000 women die each year from preventable complications of pregnancy
- Achievements
 - HRP established a model of antenatal care that halves the time and money women spend in accessing services, without compromising the quality of care. At least 15 developing countries use the model.
 - HRP established MgSO₄ as the most effective treatment for eclampsia (convulsion/unconsciousness related to PIH) and 1.5mg/day Ca suppl. to reduce severe complications of pre-eclampsia
 - HRP found high rate of caesarian section in Latin America, which may be associated with harm and poorer health for mothers and newborns
 - HRP's expert group reviewed new ARV drugs for their safety and efficacy and updated the guidelines for optimal use

Promoting the health of adolescents

- 1.2 billion adolescents are preparing to enter adulthood
- Achievements
 - Senegal Ministry of Health used results from HRP's research to make the action plan for adolescents
 - HRP in Shanghai found young people considered a dedicated website to be a responsive, effective means to improve their knowledge about sexual and reproductive health
 - Panama national education policy changed by the finding that a significant proportion of adolescent girls is sexually active, leading to unintended pregnancies and withdrawal from school, then teachers are now trained to discuss sexuality issues. Pregnant schoolgirls can continue their studies
 - Empowering married adolescents in Bangladesh to make informed decisions about sexual/reproductive health

Strengthening the health and welfare of women and their families

- At least 120 million couples have an unmet need for family planning
- Achievements
 - HRP found no scientific foundation in "women at high risk of HIV infection increase their risk when they use pills": No need to change current guideline
 - Long-term use of hormonal contraception products does not increase the risk for heart disease/cancer
 - Chinese Government started to change the IUD from stainless steel to Cu, because HRP showed high efficiency of Cu
 - HRP with industry developed the new, effective emergency contraception regimen (more than 100 countries)

Helping men take responsibility

- When engaged and provided with opportunities, men will seek out sexual and reproductive health care
- Achievements
 - HRP led to a policy belief to the Kenyan Ministry of Health, advising that men want access to information and services yet are often ignored
 - HRP's studies in South Africa and Uganda showed that men and women make decisions about condom use with a marriage, at higher percentage than expected
 - HRP's clinical trials showed monthly injection of steroid for men had high efficacy without any serious side-effect
 - WHO manual for semen and sperm examination was first published by HRP in 1980, now 5th ed. is world standard

Protecting women from harm

- 42 million pregnancies are terminated each year by induced abortion --- 20 million in unsafe conditions
- Between 100 million and 140 million women have undergone genital mutilation
- Achievements
 - HRP led the development of safe, acceptable options for medical abortion for 30 years
 - HRP's measure improved the quality of post-abortion care with acceptance of contraception in Buenos Aires
 - HRP revealed DV against women and its impact on sexual/reproductive health in 10 countries
 - HRP showed that women having genital mutilation (FGM) had more complications at childbirth and greater risk for death of the newborn: WHO stated new Interagency Statement on the Elimination of FGM.

Working in partnership with countries

- 3.7 million newborns each year die in the first month of life
- Achievements
 - HRP developed tools enabled Indonesian Ministry of Health to engage with many stakeholders to align laws and policies
 - HRP publishes "The WHO Reproductive Health Library" on the Internet/CD-ROM
 - HRP examined the impact of performance-based payment on provider's behavior in Egypt, the fairness of reforms in women's health care in the Philippines, interactions of changes in China
 - HRP helps the public sector to promote public-private partnership through policy formulation and implementation