



Global Reproductive Health Diaries

diaries

Real Challenges,
Real Reproductive
Health Needs



“Imagine a world where women and girls are **empowered** to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.”

Using a multi-disciplinary approach, the **Coalition Advancing Multipurpose Innovations (CAMI)** works to empower women and girls around the world to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

CAMI is the Secretariat for the international **Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (IMPTs)** which helps reproductive health researchers, health care providers, policymakers, advocates, product developers, and donors work together to advance the development and introduction of multipurpose prevention technologies to protect women against unintended pregnancy, illnesses and infections. IMPT representatives can be found across the globe helping to raise awareness and support for MPTs in countries that need them the most.

The consequences of unsafe sex are among the greatest public health challenges of our time.

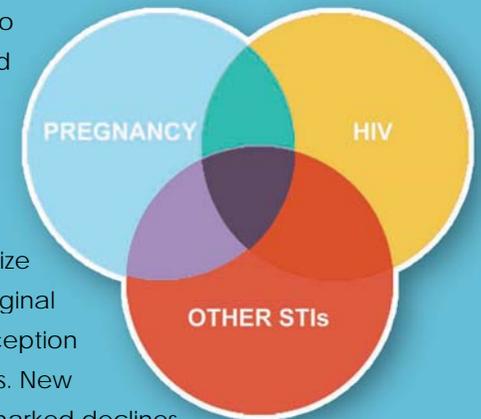
Women and their families risk unintended pregnancies, as well as HIV and other infections, leading to maternal mortality, low rates of child survival, and poor quality of life.

Today's technologies are not meeting women's health needs.

Women face obstacles including access, cost, knowledge and partner cooperation that can hinder their ability to use methods that prevent unintended pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (MPTs)

are some of the most innovative health products under development to simultaneously prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.



Promising MPTs include a single-size diaphragm and easier-to-use vaginal rings that would provide contraception plus protection against infections. New microbicide gels could lead to marked declines in HIV and sexually transmitted infections. Effective, affordable and widely available MPTs would save lives and money and improve the health of women and their families.

From Kenya to Kentucky, women often struggle to meet their reproductive health needs and ensure the well-being of their families. While their needs may vary according to where they live and their stage of life, read here about how women around the world could all benefit by improved prevention methods for reproductive health.



Sohni Sohni, age 30, India

"People are afraid of getting pregnant because there is this real fear of unsafe delivery. Mothers really can die in childbirth; my sister, Roshni, died while delivering her fifth baby in just seven years. I am married with two children. My husband wants more children, so he doesn't think we need to use contraception. I want to have more children, but I want to space them out; it will be safer for all of us. I don't think I am at risk for AIDS, but I can't be sure; my husband travels a lot and is often out late for 'work'. I know he would be angry if I asked him to get tested. I wish there was something that could protect me, and my family, against unintended pregnancy and diseases."

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Everyday 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, 99% of which occur in developing countries.



Helene, age 33, Ivory Coast

Helene

"I have six children, and that is enough. I go to the local health center to get the Depo injection so that I won't become pregnant again. That is what I have to focus on, not getting pregnant. I don't feel comfortable asking my husband to wear condoms because he doesn't like them, and he asks me why? I know he is with other women, but he denies it. I can control when I get pregnant, but don't know what to do about other infections."



RISK AMONG MARRIED WOMEN

Young, married women are the fastest growing group of HIV-positive people worldwide.



Lian Lian, 28, China

"My husband and I are moving into the city with our 2-year-old son, Minsheng. My husband got a job at a factory and I will help my cousins at their restaurant. We don't want to have another child and I have heard from friends about chlamydia being common in the city and I am nervous. I think my husband has always been loyal to me, but I am unsure about what may happen when we move. He would be against using a condom because we are married. I wish there was a way I could avoid pregnancy and keep from getting Chlamydia or something else."

UNINTENDED PREGNANCY

222 million women want to use safe and effective family planning methods but are unable to do so because they lack access to information and services or the support of their partners and communities.



Gabriela, 31, Guatemala

Gabriela

"I have HIV, but have received good treatment that has allowed me to stay healthy. I am dating a nice guy who is very supportive of me. I am so nervous about giving him HIV, so I ask him to use condoms. I can tell that he does not like it and I admit that a couple times we didn't use protection. We have been lucky those times, but I have always been afraid afterwards. I think someday we would like to have a family, but not now. I wish there was an easier way to keep from getting pregnant and protect him from my HIV, but all we have are condoms."



HIV IN WOMEN

16.8 million women are living with HIV.

For women in their reproductive years (15-49), HIV/AIDS was the leading cause of death and disease worldwide in 2009.

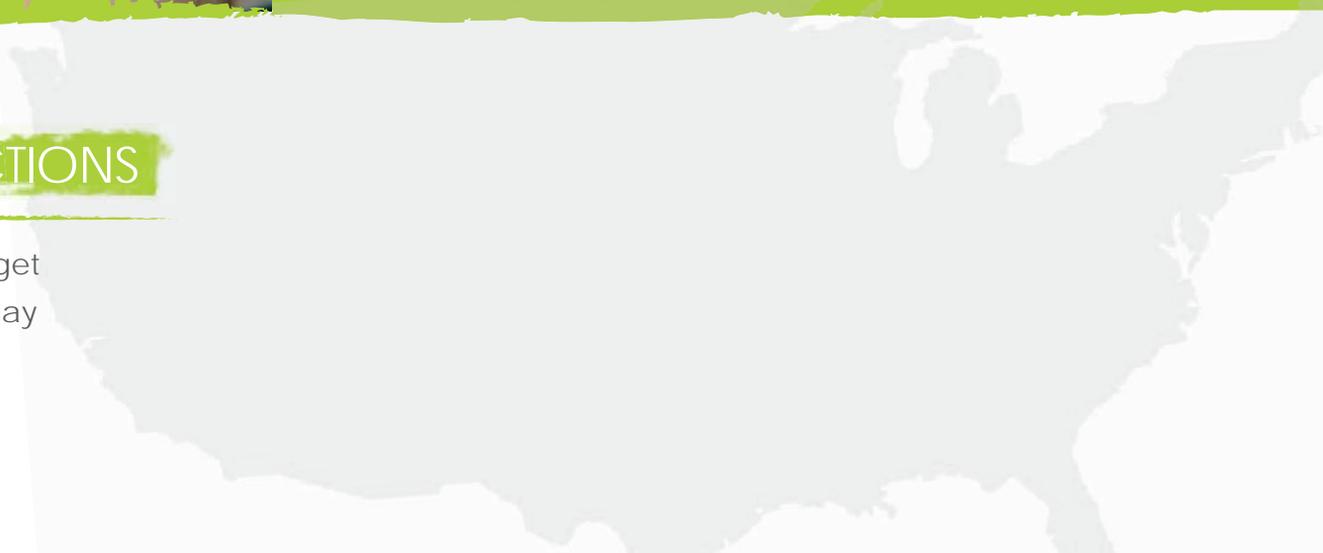


Rachel Rachel, age 23, USA

“Ever since I became sexually active, I’ve had to deal with some partners trying to convince me that we don’t need to use a condom. And sometimes, I have been swayed. I’m lucky that I never had to deal with the consequences of that decision. I can’t imagine how many women out there don’t feel comfortable insisting on using a condom—guys can be persuasive. I mean, your safety should come first, but in the moment, it doesn’t always.”

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Worldwide, women are five times more likely to get sexually transmitted infections than men. Each day about 500,000 young people, mostly women, contract a sexually transmitted infection.



One Product. Multiple Health Needs. Lives Saved.

Convenient and easy to use products that simultaneously prevent pregnancy and disease can help women overcome many of the challenges they face in meeting their health needs. Such products are in development and will empower women to simultaneously prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. These technologies will help to:

- Decrease maternal mortality
- Improve child survival and health
- Enable women to attain higher education levels
- And improve economic opportunities for women

SOURCES FOR STATISTICS:

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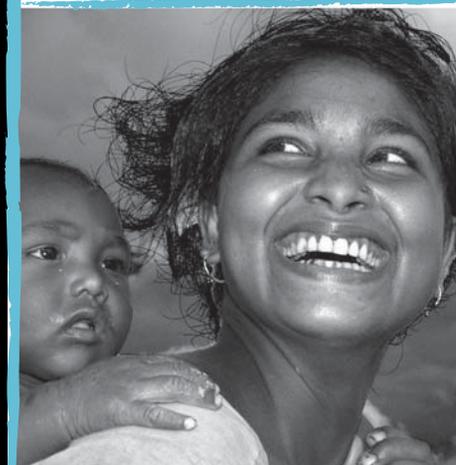
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What Can You Do?

To learn more and get involved, including ways to include Multipurpose Prevention Technologies for reproductive health into fundraising, research, advocacy agendas, and policy priorities, please visit www.cami-health.org.



The Time for **MPTs** is **NOW!**

We are very grateful to the women and providers who shared stories for this project. While the personal identities have been altered, these stories represent real issues faced by real women around the world.

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