



CHANGE Matters

Dear Advocate,

First and foremost, let me thank you for your continued support this year. You've helped us create opportunities for some [extraordinary women](#) to advocate for their rights with U.S. policy makers in Congress and the Obama administration. We've also seen clear, tangible results of our work. Last month, USAID released its first guidance around the female condom, citing CHANGE publications among the suggested readings ([link](#)). The lack of access to female condoms demonstrates the lack of attention to women's prevention needs today. They are a critical tool for women to both protect themselves from HIV and plan their families, and with your help, we've been able to elevate them as a priority for women's prevention in U.S. global health policy.

As you plan your end of year giving, please consider a gift to CHANGE. Your gift, no matter what size, helps us work with women like Evelyn, Jesca, and Teresia ([links to testimonials](#)), and amplify their voices in policy discourse in Washington. It also helps us get our gender- and rights-based analysis in front of policy makers so they recognize the importance of global women's sexual and reproductive health and rights for poverty eradication and sustainable development. And it helps us engage fresh voices in the U.S., committed advocates eager to join in a growing movement making the connections between Congress' war on women at home and abroad. Your gift will help us to put women at the heart of policies that have critical consequences for their health.

I hope you will take time to view photos and read descriptions of CHANGE's 2010-2011 accomplishments in our newly-released annual report ([link](#)).

We hope we can count on your support this year through an online donation, or you can send a check directly to CHANGE. Federal employees can find us in the Combined Federal Campaign, #62113 ([link](#)).

Many thanks for all you do, and have a healthy, joyful holiday season.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Serra Sippel".

Serra Sippel
President, Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)

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Prevention Now!

USAID, CHANGE, and newly-released Female Condom Guidance

USAID recently released its first guidance on female condom programming, citing CHANGE as a major resource (link). Our 2008 publication, *Saving Lives Now: Female Condoms and the Role of U.S. Foreign Aid*, and the 2011 follow-up, *Female Condoms and U.S. Foreign Assistance: An Unfinished Imperative for Women's Health*, along with the Prevention Now! website are listed as three of the five additional resources for the page (all linked).

We're continuing our female condom advocacy by distributing *Choosing Prevention*, (link) a 15-minute documentary by Martha Dodge on female condom use in Malawi, and supporting short-term female condom advocacy projects in Swaziland, Uganda, Malawi, and Zambia.

National Female Condom Access and Advocacy Meeting

"If we want to give girls an education, we have to reduce teen pregnancy."—Daisy Nyamukapa, the HIV Prevention Program Analyst from UNFPA Zimbabwe

With generous support from the MAC AIDS Fund, the National Female Condom Coalition hosted a meeting in October 2011, in Washington, D.C., and brought together representatives from U.S. jurisdictions with local female condom campaigns, donors, and other stakeholders to strategize for advancing access and use of female condoms here in the U.S. The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss the innovative programs being implemented by public health departments and community-based organizations in [Chicago](#), [Houston](#), [New York](#), [San Francisco](#), and [Washington, DC](#) to increase consumer interest in female condoms. Meeting participants also worked to chart a collaborative path forward that will result in greater attention to the female condom through expanded advocacy.

CHANGE facilitated the participation of Daisy Nyamukapa, the HIV Prevention Program Analyst from UNFPA Zimbabwe to provide the global perspective to U.S. domestic partners at the meeting. Daisy shared information from her experience working on HIV prevention and the female condom in Zimbabwe and lessons learned from Zimbabwe's successful country program.

"Prevention, Pleasure and Protection" International Female Condom Conference

On November 17th and 18th, more than 140 people from all over the world gathered in The Hague, the Netherlands to discuss the only woman-initiated prevention option that protects both against HIV and unintended pregnancy: the female condom. The ["Prevention, Pleasure and Protection" International Female Condom Conference](#) was organized by the [Universal Access to Female Condoms \(UAFC\) Joint Programme](#) in co-operation with Population Services International-Zimbabwe and CHANGE. CHANGE helped organize and facilitate the sessions in the advocacy track of the conference.

In the opening plenary session, Kunyima Banda from Zambia reminded us about the importance of full investment in female condom supplies and programming, "Human life is not a project that has to be piloted then scaled up. Sex is not a project. Let us have a sustained female condom supply and sustained programming for female condoms. This is about human life and human dignity."

Presentations covered information on new technology, the use of social media for female condoms, latest news in regulatory developments, mobilization of gatekeepers, and the sustainability of the global advocacy movement. Conference participants included government representatives and other policy makers, donors, manufacturers, leading scientists and researchers, female condom programmers and advocates.

Integrating HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health Roundtable

In November, CHANGE partnered with Pathfinder International to host a roundtable discussion with 13 Congressional offices, including Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL), Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-FL), and members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, to discuss the importance of integrating HIV, family planning, and maternal health programming, as delineated in the Obama administration's Global Health Initiative. Martha Sichone-Cameron, originally from Zambia and member of International Community of Women Living With HIV—Global, provided a perspective that demonstrated the urgent need for program integration globally and here in the U.S. as she has been pregnant both in the United States and in Zambia. Other speakers included **Dr. Halida Akhter**,

deputy project director and senior technical advisor of Management Sciences for Health and CHANGE president Serra Sippel. Ann Starrs, president of Family Care International, moderated the event.

As the Obama Administration furthers implementation of Global Health Initiative principles, CHANGE will continue to educate Members of Congress on the factors, such as integration, that are critical to its success.

World AIDS Day: CHANGE Responds to Sec. Clinton's AIDS Statement

World AIDS Day was preceded this year by a speech from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the future of global HIV policy—which sidelined women and sexual and reproductive health and rights. CHANGE responded with an op/ed that ran in *Women eNews*: (link) Women are more than half of the world's population living with HIV, and we cannot impact the HIV epidemic without putting women at the center of the response. The op/ed marked the beginning of our work in preparation for the International AIDS Conference, to be held here in Washington, D.C., in July, where we'll be advocating for woman-centered HIV prevention and treatment programs.

Supporters like you provided the highlight of our World AIDS Day activities—we delivered to the Office of Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) approximately 1,700 postcards signed by supporters in nearly 115 countries asking for woman-centered programs. Our continued advocacy with OGAC is now strengthened by 1,700 voices in support of women around the world.

New CHANGE Publications

- *Sexual and Reproductive Rights and the U.S. Global Health Initiative* (fact sheet) and
- *The U.S. Global Health Initiative and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Integration* (policy brief)

With the introduction of the Global Health Initiative (GHI) in 2009, CHANGE launched a series of policy briefs examining the strengths of the GHI, and recommending best practices for ensuring those strengths translate into tangible policy and program change. We are also currently visiting key countries to assess the GHI's progress, and will release country GHI report cards in early 2012.

In October, we released the second in the series: *The U.S. Global Health Initiative and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Integration*. This brief focuses on the critical need for integration of family planning, maternal health, and HIV programs and services. It will be followed by a policy brief discussing country ownership, and was preceded by *A Woman-Centered Approach to the U.S. Global Health Initiative*. We've also developed a fact sheet, *Sexual and Reproductive Health and the U.S. Global Health Initiative*, which discusses the GHI as it relates to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Please use these education tools to support your work.

Action Council for Women's Health and Rights

Global and domestic policy regarding the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls are intrinsically linked, as demonstrated by this year's attacks on access to abortion services and contraception both at home and abroad. It is essential that global and domestic women's organizations support each other's efforts to counteract the current assault. CHANGE has launched an Action Council on Women's Health and Rights that provides a joint forum for global and domestic groups to support and strengthen each other's efforts. To be included in updates on the Action Council, please submit your organization's information [here](#). If your organization is interested in joining the Action Council, please email Ellen at eboneparth@genderhealth.org

Washington Update

Budget

The House and Senate have not been able to pass a budget bill. With the current continuing resolution that keeps the government running set to expire on December 16, if the committee doesn't pass their bill by the deadline, there will likely be another continuing resolution to extend the deadline. As a result, global health spending will be lumped into one large spending bill. Details of the bill have not been made public yet.

Legislation

Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) continues to push forward the foreign assistance reform agenda by soliciting community feedback on his draft Global Partnership Act of 2011 legislation. This legislation intends to modernize foreign assistance by replacing the 50 year-old Foreign Assistance Act that currently governs U.S. foreign assistance. The Global Partnership Act draft currently includes rights-based language and elevates family planning by identifying it as one of the four pillars of global health. However, there are still many gaps to be filled. CHANGE is working with other advocates and members of Congress to improve the language, including by integrating family planning and reproductive health into other global health language, mentioning unsafe abortion and comprehensive sexuality education, removing the language re-affirming the Helms Amendment, and bolstering investigation of reproductive rights violations. As the drafting process continues, advocates will stay engaged to ensure this important piece of legislation doesn't leave behind comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women.

CHANGE in the Media

Women's eNews: Hillary's AIDS Plan Missed a Key Idea: Women

IRIN Plus News: HIV/AIDS: Clinton sets out new US focus

Monday Developments: Female Condoms: Overlooking the Obvious?

Women's Health Issues: Integration as a Holistic and Rights-Based Response to HIV/AIDS

Huffington Post: Ribbons Without Rights Don't Save Lives

Huffington Post: Why Women Leaders Must Be Authentic and Fearless

Women Deliver 2015+: Achieving Universal Access Requires More Than Health Services

Support CHANGE

As we move toward the end of 2011, we hope you will consider [supporting CHANGE](#) with a financial contribution. Any way you choose to contribute, your support strengthens our efforts to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls worldwide through U.S. foreign policies and programs. . For federal employees, CHANGE is part of the Combined Federal Campaign, #62113.

