



Trends in U.S. Support for Global Female Condom Procurement, Distribution, and Programming

Background

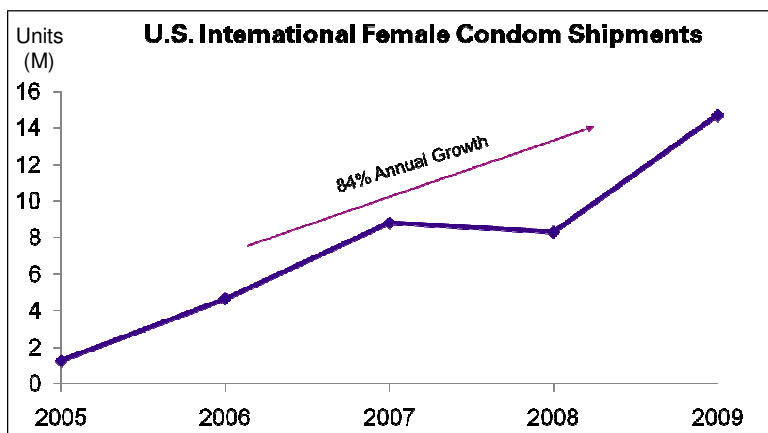
Historically, the U.S. government has shown strong support for international female condom procurement and distribution. However, U.S. leadership for female condom commodities has not extended to programming.

Methodology

Literature review and interviews with USAID and PEPFAR, including field staff, implementers, NGO leaders, and other stakeholders.

Findings

The U.S. government is the leading bilateral donor for female condom procurement and distribution.



Recent developments foster increased commodity support

- ◆ PEPFAR law now recognizes the importance of both male and female condoms for HIV prevention among women and men.
- ◆ New PEPFAR Country Operational Plan Guidance now asks country teams to describe availability of, and USG commitment to, male and female condom supply when assessing their condom needs.
- ◆ USAID I DELIVER currently purchases the USFDA-approved FC2 at a unit cost of US\$0.55, compared with the 2008 FC1 unit cost of US\$0.80 -US\$0.86.

The U.S. government is not investing robustly in female condom programming.

Several factors hamper support for programming

- ◆ There is no clear tracking mechanism or oversight at PEPFAR or USAID regarding financial support for female condom programming.
- ◆ Negative attitudes of USAID Missions and U.S. Embassies toward the female condom curtail U.S. support for programming.
- ◆ PEPFAR funding restrictions continue to promote abstinence and fidelity prevention programs, sometimes to the exclusion of programs that include condom information or commodities

Multi-sectoral female condom strategy

Civil society participation

Innovative social marketing

Well-functioning supply chain and distribution

Support of national government

Sustained resources from donors (USAID, UNFPA, DFID, GFATM)

Coordination among stakeholders

Monitoring and evaluation

Successful Female Condom Program

Effective female condom programs are complex. Commodities, while straightforward, are just one piece of an effective program. Donors must recognize that while funding for commodities is important, funding for female condom programming is essential for the success and sustainability of female condom efforts.

Recommendations

1. USAID and OGAC should issue policy guidance promoting female condom procurement and programming within U.S.-funded development programs.
2. The U.S. government should increase investment in female condom programming, and create a system for tracking such funds.
3. U.S. Congress should remove all funding directives for abstinence and fidelity prevention programs and fund comprehensive, integrated, and evidence-based HIV prevention programs that include female condoms and promote women's health.