



modern forms of contraception and nearly 20 million unsafe abortions take place every year, putting women at risk of death and long-term illness.

Recent research from UNFPA and the Guttmacher Institute shows that fully

addressing the unmet need for family planning and ensuring that pregnant women and their newborns receive the recommended standard of care would enable most countries to achieve MDG 4 and 5 targets.

As we agreed in Cairo, it is also vital to provide the largest youth generation in world history - some 1.5 billion young people who are now of reproductive age - the comprehensive information, education, and services they need and want to deal positively with their sexuality.

The United States is taking concrete steps to address these critical reproductive health needs. We provided \$55 million to UNFPA in 2010; the PEPFAR program is making linkages between reproductive health services and HIV/AIDS programs. We have increased support for efforts to combat violence against women. And we have revitalized our engagement in the multilateral arena, including here at the UN Commission on Population and Development.

Most notably, President Obama has demonstrated commitment to strengthening U.S. leadership in global health – in particular in the areas of maternal and child health and family planning through the Administration’s Global Health Initiative.

This Initiative will also ensure that all of our global health programs, including our nutrition, malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS programs, address the social and economic factors that have a negative impact on women's health, including gender-based violence, lack of education, pervasive gender discrimination and poverty, among others.

To highlight this administration's commitment to MDGs 4 and 5, President Obama has requested \$715.7 million for bilateral and multilateral reproductive health, including family planning, in 2011. If approved later this year by Congress, this amount will represent the single largest U.S. contribution in history for international reproductive health programs. And to scale up and deliver health interventions that reduce maternal and child mortality and improve nutrition, the administration has requested \$1.186 billion for 2011, a 48% increase over 2010.

The hundreds of thousands of deaths each year among women due to

