1. What are the objectives of the 3rd ICFP?

The conference has the objective of celebrating the successes that have been achieved in family planning around the world, share recent evidences of effective programs and discuss the challenges that still need to be addressed. Discussion will be held on various issues of family planning, achievements, challenges and the way forward in addressing the gaps. This conference is preceded by those which took place in Uganda, Kampala and Senegal, Dakar in 2009 and 2011 respectively.

2. Why is Ethiopia selected to host this international event?

Ethiopia was chosen to host the conference in recognition of the tremendous achievement it registered over the last decade. As a result of a collaborative work between the government and development partners, the country has registered a 100% increase in the contraceptive prevalence rate from around 15 % in 2005 to 29 % in 2011. Moreover, unmet need for family planning has declined from 34% to 25% during the same period, which has led to a decline in total fertility rate from 5.4 to 4.8 children per woman in her reproductive age.

Ethiopia’s flagship Health Extension Program takes the lion’s share of the credit for these remarkable results. Ethiopia would take advantage of this international conference to share its experiences on this innovative program and learn new advancement in the field from the rest of the world.

3. What does the theme of the conference, “Full Access, Full Choice,” signify?

The theme chosen for the conference, Full Access, Full Choice, reflects the desire for people, regardless of nationality or socioeconomic status, to have access to a variety of family planning resources and their rights to make informed decisions about their families.

5. How does the conference contribute to the family planning agenda?

The conference will be taking up quite a number of issues by exploring the link of family planning to sustainable development, health benefits, new advances in the contraceptive technology, among other important topics. The discussion and the outcomes of the conference are expected to enrich the family planning agenda both at a national and global level.

6. Who are the major partners in organizing the conference?

It is the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at John Hopkins University that organized the conference. The conference is co-organized by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs; international organizations like USAID, UNFPA, IPPF, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation; and NGOs working on family planning and reproductive health such as Marie Stopes International-Ethiopia, Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia, DSW, Pathfinder International, DKT international and Population, Health and Environment consortium, among others.

Media training held on issues of family planning

Journalists who participated in media training on family planning issues indicated that it was an enlightening experience and their commitment to promote the upcoming 3rd International Conference on Family Planning which is taking place in Addis Ababa in November. The two-day training which took place in Adama between October 17 and 18, 2013 had the aim of strengthening the publicity around the conference and building the understanding of journalists around the issues of the conference so as to enable them provide an informed coverage.

Opening the training, Ato Ahmed Emano, Director of the Public Relation and Communication Directorate at the Ministry of Health said that the media had a pivotal role to play in building publicity around this international event. He noted that "the conference will be an ideal occasion to show Ethiopia’s endeavor in the area of family planning and other development activities and a lot is expected from media people in this regard."

The journalists were oriented by a team of experts on the theme and the various issues that will be taken up by the upcoming international family planning conference. They also discussed the role of the media in serving as a change agent in promoting family planning issues and dwelled at length on the reporting of family planning issues.

Around 4,000 political leaders, policymakers, scientists, healthcare professionals, advocates, and young leaders from around the World will be meeting at the conference which will be the largest gathering on family planning after the historical London Summit held last year.

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Message from H.E. Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, Minister of Health (FMOH), Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Patron of the 3rd International Conference on Family Planning for ICFP 2013

The Federal Ministry of Health has undertaken several important measures towards the achievement of the health related Millennium Development Goals and Ethiopia has made substantial progresses on most of them.

Ethiopia has achieved the goal of reducing child mortality three years ahead of the target date. The under-five mortality rate has declined from 204 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 68 per 1,000 live births in 2012. A very significant progress has also been observed in reducing the prevalence of HIV and AIDS and Tuberculosis as well as in the decline of morbidity and mortality associated with malaria and other communicable diseases.

Appreciable progress has been made toward the achievement of the goal of improving maternal health and meeting the target of reducing maternal mortality, though we have a hard work ahead of us in reaching the MDG target.

Modern contraceptive methods have immediate impact on decreasing unintended pregnancies, whose outcome could be unsafe abortion and its associated hemorrhage – which contributed to the high level of maternal mortality. Due to the relentless efforts the contraceptive prevalence rate has doubled between 2005 and 2010 (from 14.7% to 29%), with a corresponding decline in fertility during the same period from 5.4 to 4.8 children per woman. This is a phenomenal achievement by any standards, anywhere in the world.

ICFP will be an opportunity for Ethiopia to join hands with the rest of the world to enable more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020. The conference will help us not only to share our successes with the international community, and learn from the experiences of others, but will also be an ideal venue to showcase the progress of overall development in Ethiopia. I would like to thank the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and other development partners who are exerting their utmost effort in organizing the conference with us.

Verbatim

Modern contraceptive methods have immediate impact on decreasing unintended pregnancies, whose outcome could be postpartum hemorrhage or unsafe abortion – both major causes of maternal mortality.

- H.E. Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu, Minister of Health of Ethiopia

“Contraceptives unlock one of the most dormant but potentially powerful assets in development: women as decision-makers”

- Melinda Gates, Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

To prevent harm arising from pregnancy and childbirth and in order to safeguard their health, women have the right of access to family planning education, information and capacity.

- Constitution of Ethiopia (Article 35)

“Women who have access to family planning can contribute enormously to economic development. The accumulated effect of these highly personal decisions can influence entire countries and regions.”

- Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UNFPA

Quick facts on Ethiopia

The contraceptive Prevalence rate has doubled over the past five years from 15 % (2005) to 29 % (2011) increase in Contraceptive Prevalence

66% - Ethiopia’s target on Contraceptive Prevalence Rate in 2015

34 % to 25 % - decrease in unmet need on family planning

5.4 to 4.8 – decrease in unmet need on family planning (2005-2011)

2.6% - annual population growth rate