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Global Health NOW: Uterine Prolapse In Nepal, Fake Condoms in Vietnam and Kenyan Bikers for Family Planning

1 message

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Tue, Jun 10, 2014 at 8:31 AM

Global Health NOW

Uterine Prolapse In Nepal, Fake Condoms in Vietnam and Kenyan Bikers for Family Planning

MATERNAL HEALTH

Uterine Prolapse In Nepal

Tens of thousands of Nepalese women in their 20s suffer alone and in silence from uterine prolapse. While the U.N. Population Fund estimates 2% to 20% of women younger than 45 suffer from the condition worldwide, it is more common in Nepal. The painful and embarrassing condition is caused by overwork, a short time between pregnancies or giving birth at a young age. The condition occurs when the ligaments and muscles in the pelvic floor are too weak to hold the uterus, allowing it to slip into the vagina.

"In Nepal a perfect storm of factors has come together to create a human rights crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of women and girls. Women and girls are in essence denied control of their own bodies and lives. Many are unable to decide if or when to marry or have children, whether to use contraception or how many children to have," says Audrey Gaughran, Amnesty International's director of global issues.

[Al Jazeera](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS

The War Continues for Women in Liberia

The brutal legacy of Liberia's 14-year civil war, which ended in 2003, lives on in the country's shocking rates of sexual violence against women, some of the highest in the world. A 2013 study from the London-based Overseas Development Institute found that 26 percent of women and girls had been raped outside of marriage, and 74 percent had suffered marital rape in northern Nimbia

County.

Women who were victims of sexual violence during the conflict now fear the same fate for their daughters. Experts say that many men who became powerless to protect their families during the war responded with violence toward women and girls as a way to regain a sense of control. "Over a decade on, men no longer face the threat of being killed, but women and girls still face the risk of rape and sexual assault. For them, the war continues," said Janice Cooper of the Carter Centre Liberia, which works with survivors of sexual violence.

[All Africa](#)

CONDOMS

Fake Condoms Cover Half of Vietnamese Market

Nearly half of the commercially available condoms in Vietnam are considered either fake or of such poor quality that health officials are worried the country's safe sex gains could be at risk.

Condoms are free in clinics or sell as cheaply as 2 cents each at kiosks, cafes, hotels and massage parlors. But the UN Population Fund says oversight controls have failed to prevent poor quality condoms from reaching the market. HIV cases have declined, but health experts are concerned that could reverse if people doubt the effectiveness of condom use.

"If the condoms available to users are not of high quality, even if people use them consistently and correctly, they may become infected, or pass on infection to their partners," said Kristan Schoultz, the Vietnam country director for UNAIDS.

[IRIN News](#)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Report: U.S. Has To Lead On TB

The U.S. has to better lead, coordinate and prioritize its efforts to fight tuberculosis if it doesn't want to see its domestic and international goals compromised, as worldwide resources cannot keep pace with the pandemic's spread, according to [a report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies](#).

The report examined U.S. approaches to global TB that sought to identify needs in fighting MDR-TB, HIV and TB's coinfection impact, and limited resources. Four U.S. interests could be at risk due to the growing epidemic of global DR-TB:

- efforts to fight domestic outbreaks of TB;
- the continued economic development essential to global prosperity;
- the success of the new Global Health Security Agenda;
- the success of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

"The challenges we face are really growing in urgency and complexity before they grow beyond our ability to control, and I think that's a realistic possibility," said Tom Kenyon of CDC.

[Science Speaks](#)

Buddhist Compassion for Vietnam's HIV Population

Buddhist monks in Vietnam have come to play a vital role in providing care, counseling and shelter to HIV/AIDS patients. In 63 cities and provinces across the country, pagodas are places of refuge where HIV-positive people can have a meal, find someone to talk to, or simply have a moment of peace.

While Vietnam has had success in containing the spread of HIV and reducing AIDS-related deaths, challenges remain. Health officials point to the high risk of outbreaks in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, a shortage of screening programs in remote areas; limited patient access to needles, syringes and condoms; and insufficient funds for antiretroviral therapy.

The Buddhist pagodas aren't equipped to address these issues, but they serve some often-overlooked needs of Vietnam's HIV/AIDS population. "We do not have money to offer, but we are able to improve people's lives through implementing the Buddhist spirit of mercy, fraternity, and salvation," explained Buddhist monk, Thich Thanh Huan.

[VietNamNet](#)

MALE ENGAGEMENT

This Father Knows Best

A poor Egyptian farmer near Bani Sweif, Hany Aseel saw his first two children suffer bouts of gastritis and diarrhea. The second child was born underweight and had severe malnutrition. So he became depressed after his wife said she was pregnant with a third child.

Then she attended neonatal and maternal health classes sponsored by USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Health Program (MCHIP). At the SMART classes, she learned that the small amounts of soft bread and powdered milk they had fed the children at three months were not good for them. Soon after, Hany Aseel began attending classes and then convinced his brother, cousin and uncle to attend with him. He "even held informal classes in front of his house for neighborhood men in order to share what he had learned."

Back home he became an advocate for his pregnant wife's health and insisted the third baby be breastfed and wouldn't allow the nurse or his mother to give the child water, sugar and herbs, as is commonly done."

"I feel I must tell people about this. I think all the men must know what their wives should do to be strong," Aseel said.

[USAID](#)

Kenyan Bikers for Family Planning

They may be bikers, but the Kenyan motorcyclists in the Kitui Riders Association are also outspoken advocates for family planning in a community where men or women rarely talk about the issue.

Club leaders Steven Mumbu and Josephat Mutinda first approached USAID's APHIAplus KAMILI integrated health service delivery project in 2012. They wanted family planning advice they could share with their members and spouses. Since then they have spoken out about using condoms properly, STDs, HIV/AIDS, malaria and drug abuse. They work with the Jhpiego-led APHIAplus KAMILI program and Kenya's Ministry of Health to educate men on their role in reproductive health issues like birth spacing.

Since the Riders began working with APHIAplus KAMILI in the eastern and central provinces, condom distribution has jumped from 7,400 a month to more than 37,000 a month.

"I was excited to work with men as we are a patriarchal community and what they say is what goes," said Dorcas Khasowa, a behavior change communications officer. "I knew I would reduce negative perceptions on reproductive health needs as well as increase the uptake in family planning [for both genders]," she said.

[Jhpiego](#)

TOBACCO

East Timor's Marlboro Man

Why does East Timor have one of the highest smoking rates in the world? Men comprise nearly two-thirds of daily smokers in the country, where about 30 percent of the population smokes, according to [a recent JAMA article](#).

Cigarettes are sold cheaply and usually singly on the sides of roads. While packs carry warnings, half the adult population is illiterate. So advertising like the Marlboro Man, which hasn't been banned in East Timor, reaches everyone. Reportedly, the government isn't serious about addressing the problem. Even the prime minister smokes.

"They can make it seem like [smoking] is something that's a pleasure, something that adds to your life and puts meaning on your life. You're up against a propaganda machine - for cigarettes, smoking and the image. And that's a tough battle," said Dan Murphy, a physician who runs a hospital and clinic in Dili.

[BBC News](#)

REALLY?

Oklahoma Company Markets Bullet-Proof Blanket for Kids – [TIME](#)

Oh l'amour: Paris bridge rail collapses under weight of too much love – [The Guardian](#)

Fashion For The Germophobe – [NPR](#)

QUICK HITS

Unknown unknowns hamper global malaria fight – [IRIN News](#)

Tanzania: Lead Three Zanzibar Enhances Efforts to Eradicate Malaria - [allAfrica](#)

Can anything stop West Africa's outbreak of Ebola? [Washington Post](#)

Growing Ebola Outbreak Threatens to Overwhelm Volunteers – [NBC News](#)

Chikungunya rises in Caribbean as US notes imported cases – [CIDRAP, University of Minnesota](#)

The Mental-Health Consequences of Unemployment – [The Atlantic](#)

Pot-Related Traffic Deaths on the Rise – [The Daily Beast](#)

USDA announces multi-million dollar investment in fight against pig disease - [Global Meat News](#)

WHO Launches Campaign for Blood Donation - [Prensa Latina](#)

Vaccine Hesitancy: When Fear Is More Powerful Than Facts – [The Boston Globe](#)

Issue No. 110.

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