

The W P F *Alert*



February 2021

International *Zings* — Good News from the Field

Women's Plans Foundation recognises and supports these organisations with enthusiasm for:

- sharing knowledge
- galvanising commitment to family planning
- addressing our linked global challenges.

The International Conference on Family Planning #NotWithoutFP was held on February 2- 3, focussing on making family planning a priority when coping with a pandemic. Read the Youth summary focussing on what young people want, on page 3.

In January, **FP2020's** organisational leap into **FP2030** was spectacular. Called **The Arc of Progress**, it reports that as a result of collaborative work, 60 million more women have access to family planning than in 2012, which is more than the population increase. The significance of data collection is powerful (**Melinda Gates' and Microsoft's emphasis from the London Summit**). Read the summary on pages 2,3.

The Population Media Centre December 29, 2020 issue ran the article, **CLIMATE CHANGE: Why women's empowerment is paramount**

It argues that access to education also helps to increase the resilience of women and girls to climate disasters. Project Drawdown's report estimates that girls' education as well as family planning, could reduce carbon by 85 gigatons by 2050.



UN Women's International Women's Day Celebration

March 5th, 11:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

UN Women's International Women's Day celebration will be a Lunch, with speaker **Grace Tame, Australian of the year**. Assisted via the #LetHerSpeakCampaign created by journalist and sexual assault survivor advocate Nina Funnell in partnership with

Marque Lawyers and End Rape On Campus Australia in 2019, Grace obtained a court order enabling her to speak out publicly, under her real name, as an abuse survivor. She has continued to use her media profile to advocate for vulnerable groups in the community.



FP2020: The Arc of Progress

From Beth Schlachter, retiring Executive Director:

“I hope you had an opportunity to join us earlier today as we celebrated the FP2020 partnership, launched the 2019-2020 annual report FP2020: The Arc of Progress, and started our journey as FP2030, energized to expand the FP movement and galvanize greater commitments to support the rights of women and girls who wish to use contraception.

The resonant message I hope you will take away from the celebration is that our partnership has power. By knitting our strengths together, we have been able to accelerate access to family planning for all people who need and want it, increasing the number of women and girls using family planning by 60 million since 2012.

Along the way, we have learned together: how to better measure our progress and use data so that countries can make improvements to family programs more quickly. We have worked to center rights in all that we do. And we have learned that the most successful commitments build on and bring together interdisciplinary networks including governments, civil-society and youth organizations, measurement experts, other health partners, and so many more.

With these lessons in mind, today we started our transition to FP2030, a new partnership that we’re building together on the foundation of FP2020.

As I shared in the last newsletter, what distinguishes this new partnership from FP2020 is the degree to which the

ultimate shape of this partnership will be driven by the commitment-making partners themselves. We will expand our governance structure from four core conveners and a Reference Group to a broader Governing Board that will include country, civil society, multilateral, and donor representation with clear, transparent, and shared decision-making authorities. Our Secretariat will be expanded to hubs spread out across five regions, including Asia, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America/Europe.”

FP2020 FINAL REPORT FINDS MORE WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING THAN EVER BEFORE

Family Planning 2020 was launched with a simple premise: that every woman and girl, no matter where she lives, should have the opportunity to use lifesaving, life-changing modern contraception. The leaders who gathered at the London Summit in 2012 agreed on an ambitious goal and a tight timeframe for achieving it: to reach an additional 120 million users of modern contraception in the world’s 69 lowest-income countries by 2020.

That initial eight-year period is now drawing to a close. We didn’t reach 120 million, but we did bend the curve of progress upward. See the story of our partnership and progress, including the latest data, in FP2020’s final Annual Progress Report, [The Arc of Progress](#).

The Arc of Progress, the final report of the FP2020 partnership, reveals 320 million women and girls are now using modern contraception, an increase of 60 million additional users since 2012.

What data can show

Core indicator 5, number of unintended pregnancies, a measure of the work that remains to improve reproductive health, indicates that from July 2019 to July 2020, there were more than 48 million unintended pregnancies across the 69 FP2020 focus countries. Most of these unintended pregnancies were due to women and girls not using contraception despite not wanting to get pregnant, while some were due to women and girls experiencing a contraceptive failure.

The number of unintended pregnancies occurring each year has not declined, despite increasing contraceptive use, because the number of women of reproductive age has grown.

Increased contraceptive use is, however, having an immense impact on the lives of women and girls. **Core Indicators 6, 7, and 8** (unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and maternal deaths averted) provide estimates of the impact of modern contraceptive use. As a result of contraceptive use by more than 320 million women and girls, more than 121 million unintended pregnancies, 21 million unsafe abortions, and 125,000 maternal deaths were prevented in the last year alone.

The International Conference

#NotWithoutFP

was held in Bangkok and via Zoom on February 2-3.

In the session on AYRHS (Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health Service) speakers raised the potential for a toolkit for adolescents in humanitarian settings, and a tracker system to see if promises were fulfilled, measuring government effectiveness.

Peer engagement was stressed as being most successful, with young people more prepared to listen to people their own age, and taking ownership, eliminating waste by stressing what they need. The great need is information, about their bodies, their sexuality, about relationships and support systems.

The **Global Gag Rule**, that political football, was repealed by President Biden. It had been instated by Presidents Reagan, Bush and Trump, repealed by Presidents Clinton and Obama. Very simply, it took away funding for contraception where there was any connection with abortion advice or provision.

Definition: a U.S. government policy that requires foreign non-governmental organizations to certify that they will not "perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning" with non-U.S. funds as a condition for receiving U.S. global family planning assistance.

Shocking reasoning. Family planning saves lives, and reduces incidence of abortion.

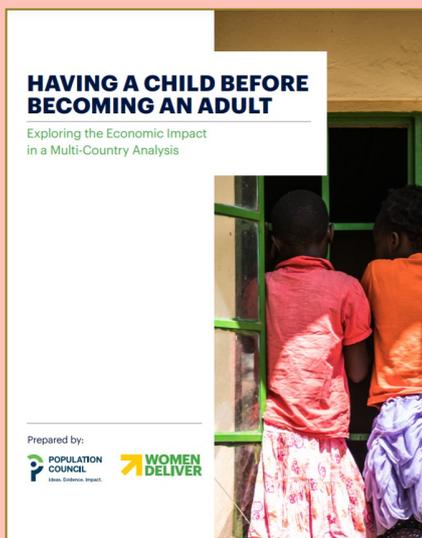
From ACFID (the Australian Council for International Development):

Aid oversight bodies shut amid push for budget savings, DFAT minute:

The Sydney Morning Herald reported this week on DFAT's decision to close down two key bodies (the ODE [Office of Development Effectiveness] and the IEC [Independent Evaluation Committee]) that scrutinised the nation's overseas aid programs partly over a "need to find departmental budget savings".

Bridi Rice, director of policy and advocacy at ACFID commented: "Effective development is a key foreign policy tool. Never before has it been more important to make sure scarce taxpayer money is spent for maximum impact. ODE and IEC's key role was to do just that – measure impact, and make sure our development dollar goes further."

OVERVIEW



This report, prepared by the **Population Council** and **Women Deliver**, presents findings from one of the first multi-country analyses to examine the short- and long-term impacts of having a child before 18 on employment and monetary compensation (cash earnings).

Cash earnings (as opposed to in-kind payments and unpaid work) play an important role in economic empowerment, as research suggests women receiving cash are more likely to be able to make decisions about their own healthcare and education.

The study dives further into women's economic empowerment by analyzing married women's sole control over her cash earnings. A woman's power to make her own decision over her health, income, and life choices is a marker of empowerment and a core elements of gender equality.

FUNDING PROPOSALS

The time for WPF's requests for Funding Proposals is coming around again

Each year WPF funds a small number of DFAT accredited Australian NGOs with Deductible Gift Recipient status to deliver contraception and family planning projects in developing countries in the Asia Pacific Region. Proposals are by invitation and will be due on April 1, 2021.

The overriding purpose of WPF's grants is to make contraceptives available to people who have limited or no access to family planning services and to provide education about and advocacy for family planning. Education and advocacy could be for girls, women and the community at large or in the form of capacity building for health care workers. WPF funds both projects that improve access to and supply of contraceptives and projects that create increased demand for contraceptives that is so critical to take-up of contraceptives.

Our geographical focus

Our focus is on the Asia Pacific area because:

- More than 50% of 10 year-olds on Earth, the source of the next generation, live there. Countries with larger cohorts of 10 year-olds tend to be poorer (UNFPA State of World Population 2016 Report pp 14-16).
- We have commitments to our immediate neighbours.
- We do not want to spread our limited resources too thinly.

As the most disaster prone area in the world, Asia Pacific presents particular risks. Amongst the humanitarian impacts of disasters and conflict are those relating to reduced access to contraceptives. Sexual assault is common in disaster-struck areas, and the victims may end up dealing with unwanted pregnancies as a result of rape.

Examples of people with special needs that our funds might target

These include but are not limited to:

- People who want to plan their pregnancies or discontinue expansion of their families but have limited or no access to contraceptives (e.g. rural communities; language and cultural barriers).
- Those most at risk of unwanted pregnancies and for whom unwanted pregnancies can cause the most problems (e.g. young girls, those in disaster prone areas).
- Women and girls who are not using any form of contraception because of perceived barriers (e.g. side-effects experienced with a particular type of contraception that deter them from using any type; myths and misunderstandings about contraceptives, cultural factors that may in some cases constitute an abuse of human rights).

Accountability and Sustainability

WPF wishes to fund projects that are themselves sustainable or lay the foundation for further advances towards the overall objective of increased take-up of contraceptives and family planning.

Funded projects are required to provide some evidence that they have contributed to increased take-up of contraception either directly by providing contraceptive services or indirectly by, for example, showing that they have affected the contraception intentions of target groups receiving advice or education; or that they have built capacity to deliver better targeted, higher quality contraceptive and family planning services. We ask that projects show how WPF funding has made a difference.

Further information is provided in WPF guidelines for funding available on request.



WPF BRIDGE & MAHJONG

Wednesday, 5 May at 10.30 a.m.—2.30 p.m.

The Women’s Club, 4th Floor, 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

Bring friends to make or join a table for social bridge or mahjong. Enjoy welcome coffee and a delicious light lunch. Please bring your own cards, scorers and pencils. Limited number of tables available.

Bookings essential. Payments, \$75 per head, on-line at WomensPlansFoundation.org

Donations support WPF’s vital work, providing contraception in the Asia Pacific region

Enquiries to Natalie at WomensPlansFoundation@bigpond.com; Jane M. 0408 167301



NON-CONTRACEPTIVE HEALTH & LIFESTYLE BENEFITS



WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD OF THIS BEFORE?



Many women often discontinue or don’t adopt a contraceptive method because of real or perceived negative side effects. FHI360 and the John Hopkins Centre for Communication Programs have developed a new video, titled *Exploring Potential “Side Benefits” of Contraceptive Methods*, that asks “What if instead of only focusing on side effects, we also consider potential ‘side benefits?’ The video discusses the non-contraceptive health and lifestyle benefits that contraceptive methods can offer women.



Attitudes can be hard to overcome And methods complex...



SUMMER MUSIC – CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Michael Leonardi, Hannah and Hester Fraser sang wonderfully, accompanied by Benjamin Burton

We held a very successful concert, **Summer Music**, on December 5th, when the heavens conspired for the conjunction of magical performers, a perfect venue and an audience glad to be able to be an audience again. Held in All Saints Church in Hunter's Hill, which had much higher permissible numbers than a home, we gained a magnificent setting, acoustics fitting for both opera and Christmas music, and warm hosting by the parish.

2020 has brought Hannah Fraser back to Australia from her opera career abroad, performing with Bach Akademie in their *Weihnachtsfreude* concert series, The Song Company in Handel's *Messiah* and their *Burdon of Truth* program and finishing off the year with Luminescence as part of the revised Canberra International Music Festival.

Visually and sonically arresting, flower crowned song-writer Hester Fraser (aka. GOLDHEIST) tells tales of love, life and adventure through her music, painting vibrant pictures of the Australian bush, current affairs and events.

Michael Vaiasinni (stage name: Michael Leonardi) was born in 1990 to Sicilian parents in Sydney. His career as tenor singer started at the young age of 15, with his debut as the hero of the "Les Miserables" musical in the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA). Michael Leonardi was the opening act of Elisa's "Diari Aperti Tour - 2019" tour. His latest single, "Fade way" (produced by Kina) was released on 6th December 2019.

As accompanist, Benjamin Burton has performed all over the country, and has worked for Opera Australia, Sydney Conservatorium and the Australian Institute of Music, while also working as a freelance accompanist.



At interval, people stayed seated due to Covid-safe restrictions, enjoying refreshments and talking in small groups

Follow us on Instagram



or FaceBook



Join today!

WA CELLARS wine for Women's Plans Foundation

Place your order at the following link:

<https://wacellars.com.au/fundraising/womens-plans-foundation-wine-fundraiser/>

RED & WHITE WINES— \$13.50 per bottle

Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2019, Margaret River—tropical fruits and fresh citrus aromas with citrus finish

Sauvignon Blanc 2019, Margaret River - lifted aromas of cut grass, subtle citrus and underlying gooseberry

Moscato, Clare Valley—lighter bodied wine with rich, fresh summer fruits and grape flavours

Rose 2019, Margaret River –palate is full of wild ripe strawberries with a fleshy mid palate

Shiraz 2018, Margaret River—medium bodied displaying lifted fruits of plum and blackberry

Cabernet Sauvignon 2016, Margaret River—aromas of blackcurrant, blueberries and dark chocolate mint

SPARKLING WINE—\$13.50 per bottle

Sparkling White N/V, South Australia—pale straw with light green and gold hue, lifted citrus on the nose

Sparkling Rose N/V, South Australia—vibrant pink displaying aromas of sweet strawberry

FORTIFIED WINE—\$13.50 per bottle

Tawny Port 5YO—lifted spice and black cherries with integrated spirit; black cherries, spicy oak notes

INFORMATION

- ◇ **Orders** can only be made via website above. You may mix the case of wine any way you like.
- ◇ **Postage**- \$10 in WA; \$20 per case to all other Australian states; orders via Australia Post with tracking
- ◇ **Queries**: please call Ashleigh on 0416 419 913
- ◇ **Donation**—\$30 per case will be donated to Women's Plans Foundation

DONATION FORM

The work WPF is funding is critical, especially in these times, and your support is vitally important to our ability to make grants ensuring women and girls have access to contraception. Please consider giving generously now.

DONATION \$..... Or MONTHLY DONATION \$.....

NAME

EMAIL:

POSTAL ADDRESS:.....

VISA **MASTERCARD** **CARD NO.** **EXP. DATE**

CVC **NAME ON CARD**

SIGNATURE

WPF's **new Direct Debit** details are: **BSB 313 140**, Bank Australia, **Account 12171137**.

A tax deductible receipt will be sent for all donations. Please ensure your details are included.



WPF OBSERVER 2021—Grainne Tierney

Gráinne is a blue-chip trained, purpose-driven marketing and fundraising leader with over 15 years' experience gained in the FMCG and not-for-profit sectors. During her time in the corporate sector, Gráinne managed cause-related marketing campaigns, in collaboration with charity partners in both Australia and the UK. Since transitioning into the for-purpose sector, she has held various fundraising roles across events, community fundraising, major gifts, grants and corporate partnerships.

In 2020, Gráinne participated in McKinsey's Executive Leadership Program and is currently Head of Corporate Partnerships at Camp Quality. Gráinne has achieved Chartered Marketer status with the Chartered Institute of Marketing, holds professional qualifications in fundraising and marketing, and is a Master of Commerce graduate from the University of Sydney.

Outside of work, Gráinne is a trained pilates instructor, an ambassador for the Awesome Foundation in Sydney and has previously volunteered in Ecuador with NGO, Children International.



NEW BOARD MEMBER - Emma Challen

Emma holds a Masters in Management from Macquarie's MBA Graduate School of Management program and a Bachelor of Business (HRM, Marketing and Accounting) from ACU. Emma has a background in management roles, working for large multinational companies in the healthcare industry for 15 years. Emma led teams to gain government access for high cost drugs for multinationals across a range of disease areas. After this, whilst living and working in Beijing, Emma studied Mandarin, started an import business and was an active member of the ANZA Committee, a China based expatriate group of women whose purpose is to raise funding for medical operations for disadvantaged children in China.

Emma currently resides in Sydney and runs a wholesale jewellery business which enables her to balance her young family's needs.

OUR TEAM

Ambassadors: Prof Jill White AM and Hester Fraser

Directors: Carolyn Blanden, Emma Challen, Marianne Christmann, Sam Durland, Jane Malcolmson, Pauline Markwell, Anya Poukchanski, Alice Oppen OAM, Evan Oppen, Dr Lina Safro

Observer: Gráinne Tierney; **Administration:** Natalie Brandon

Events & Media Committee: Dr Lucinda Barry, Emma Challen, Ros Espie, Jenny Hall, Jeannette Kalek, Margaret Milne, Anni Macdougall, Jane Malcolmson, Pauline Markwell, Leon Muller, Alice Oppen OAM

Development: Pauline Markwell; **Evaluation:** Sue Funnell, Emma Challen, Jessica Collins

Women's Plans Foundation, ABN 64-823-197-874, ACN 608 291 630

3 Madeline St. Hunter's Hill, NSW 2110, T: 9817-5175, M: 0428 866 491