

November 2013

# FEMALE CONDOMS: RECENT MOMENTUM AND MILESTONES

With women, men, and young people facing high rates of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, female condoms are gaining momentum as a critical option for dual protection. First introduced two decades ago, female condoms have recently witnessed a series of milestones and advances in expanding choice, availability, and accessibility worldwide.



PATN/Danny Ngan

## 2011

### June

*The Lancet* publishes a strategic investment framework for national and international HIV/AIDS responses that identifies male and female condom procurement, distribution, and marketing as a recommended program activity (Schwartländer et al. 2011).

The United Nations General Assembly *Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS* calls for expanding access to essential HIV-prevention commodities, particularly male and female condoms.

### November

The second international female condom conference is held in The Hague, the Netherlands (November 17–18); more than 100 participants from around the world come together to discuss successes, lessons learned, and future directions in female condom programming.

### October

The National Female Condom Coalition (NFCC) is launched, uniting city and state health departments, nonprofit organizations, and advocates to increase awareness of, access to, and use of female condoms in the United States.

### December

On World AIDS Day, at the International Conference on Family Planning, the United Kingdom government, through the Department for International Development (DFID), pledges £5 million for the United Nations Population Fund to purchase and distribute female condoms.

# 2012

## March

The UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children is launched and includes female condoms in its priority list of 13 lifesaving products.

## July

The Cupid™ female condom receives World Health Organization (WHO) prequalification, joining the FC2® as one of two female condoms approved by WHO for bulk procurement by United Nations agencies and the public sector.

A cost-utility analysis of the FC2® female condom distribution and education program in Washington, DC finds that the program averted enough HIV infections in the first year to save more than \$8 million in future medical care costs (Holtgrave et al. 2012).

## November

The *PEPFAR Blueprint: Creating an AIDS-Free Generation* is released and prioritizes ensuring consistent supply and availability of high-quality male and female condoms.

## June

At the London Summit on Family Planning, the Female Health Company pledges to increase access to the FC2® and notifies qualifying major public-sector customers of their 5% price reduction entitlement for total FC2® units purchased.

## September

The first ever Global Female Condom Day, founded by the NFCC, the Universal Access to Female Condoms (UAFC) Joint Programme, PATH, and the Center for Health and Gender Equity, is commemorated on September 12. Nearly 200 organizations worldwide pledged their support for female condoms and this new awareness day.

## December

Global distribution of female condoms more than quadruples from 2005 to 2012—reaching a record high of more than 60 million units.



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# 2013

## March

The United Kingdom government, through DFID, releases funding to support distribution of 17 million female condoms.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announces a call to develop a "Next Generation Condom"—inclusive of female condoms—as part of its Grand Challenges Explorations initiative.

## September

The second annual Global Female Condom Day increases visibility and support of female condoms by mobilizing individuals and organizations in more than 50 countries and generating more than 60 media articles and blogs.

The US Agency for International Development releases an updated version of its Technical Issue Brief on female condoms, highlighting female condoms as a safe, cost-effective method to increase protection and detailing technical considerations for successful programming.

## August

UNITAID launches its report *HIV Prevention: Technology and Market Landscape*, which describes female condoms as a key emerging commodity for HIV prevention.

A study funded by the UAFC Joint Programme to assess the functional performance and safety of the Woman's Condom, the VA worn-of-women (VA w.o.w.®) Condom Feminine, and the Cupid™ female condom finds all three new female condoms to be non-inferior to the FC2® device (Beksinska et al. 2013).

## November

Female condom variety and availability expands globally:

FC2® is available in 138 countries.

Cupid™ is available in several countries, including Brazil, India, Mozambique, and the Netherlands.

The Woman's Condom is available through limited distribution channels in China and South Africa.

Phoenurse® is available in limited distribution channels in a few countries, including Brazil and China.

Additional female condom products are in development or preparing for market introduction.