UNFPA Special Briefing on Family Planning in Rwanda and Kenya:
The Road to ICFP in Kigali 2018

United Nations Secretariat, Conference Room 3 (TBC)
4 June 2018, 13:15-14:45

Rights-based access to modern contraceptives and high-quality family planning information and services is transformational. It allows couples, women and adolescent girls to decide whether, when, and how often to have children. Unintended pregnancies are prevented, and unsafe abortions and maternal deaths are averted. And positive ripples occur over the course of women and girls’ lives, allowing fewer girls to drop out of school and more to join the workforce.

As one of the most cost-effective ways to break the cycle of poverty, voluntary family planning is a powerful ‘best buy’ that propels global development. Every $1 invested in family planning is estimated to yield $120 through savings in health care and economic opportunity costs.

Yet, there are still 214 million women in developing countries who want to avoid or delay pregnancy but are not using modern contraception. Meeting their needs for family planning could, each year, avert 76,000 maternal deaths and result in an approximately three-quarters decline in unintended pregnancies (from the current 89 million to 22 million per year) and abortions (from 48 million to 12 million per year), and generate savings of $8.3 billion in pregnancy and newborn health-care costs.

To meet the needs of these women and adolescent girls will take strong country-ownership of programmes, increased efforts and greater collaboration among all sectors, and a focus on financing not only funding.

Held in the margins of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board Annual Session, this high-level event will give opportunity for the two countries presenting country programme documents to the Board, Kenya and Rwanda, to showcase successes and lessons learned in positioning family planning as one of the major drivers of socioeconomic development towards harnessing their countries’ demographic dividends. They will highlight commitments, innovations and approaches they are taking in their transition to middle-income status to expand access to sexual and reproductive health services, especially family planning, as part of achieving universal health coverage.

This event will also highlight the role of UNFPA in supporting countries to transition towards sustainable family planning programmes, particularly through the UNFPA
Supplies thematic fund, and provide opportunities for discussion with leading champions in the sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda.

Participants will be invited to explore lessons learned, and to share ideas on how the global community can, together, drive progress towards expanding access to human rights-based family planning in support of attaining universal health coverage.

This high-level event is part of a drumbeat along the path to the International Conference on Family Planning that will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, in November 2018 where close to 3000 members of the sexual and reproductive health and rights community will come together to share best practices, celebrate successes, and chart a course forwards.

The events along this pathway will bring together key stakeholders to discuss their roles to ensure that our collective commitments to expand access to family planning information, services, and supplies to an additional 120 million women and girls in 69 countries are achieved by 2020. This important milestone is integral to the success of the international community in ending unmet need for family planning by 2030 in support of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

**Tentative agenda & suggested speakers:**

**Co-Chairs:** Minister of Health, Rwanda, and UNFPA Executive Director

**Welcome remarks**
*UNFPA Executive Director*

**Keynote address:**
*Minister of Health, Rwanda*

**Country presentations:**
Rwanda’s Health Financing Strategy as a blueprint for achieving sustainability in national health priorities
*Presenter TBC, Rwanda*

Advancing family planning in alignment with Kenya’s health priorities
*Director-General, National Council on Population and Development*

**UNFPA’s Support for Sustainable Family Planning Programmes**
*UNFPA Technical Division Director*

**Key stakeholders perspectives**
Championing increased access to family planning towards achieving universal access to health and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
*UN Women*

Government donor: United Kingdom and/or Netherlands
Private sector: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Civil society: International Planned Parenthood Federation and/or Marie Stopes-USA

**Q&A with panel** – *Moderator: UNFPA Regional Director East and Southern Africa*

**Closing remarks** – *Minister of Health Rwanda and UNFPA Executive Director*