

Universal Access to Female Condoms Joint Programme at IAC 2008

The female condom is a woman-initiated family planning method which also prevents HIV and other STIs and has no side-effects. Both women and men who have used it a number of times, are very satisfied with this method. The potential for increased use of the female condom and a positive impact on public health in developing countries is therefore substantial. Despite the fact that the female condom has been in production for 15 years, it is not widely available for an affordable price.

In order to address this, the Universal Access to the Female Condom (UAFC) Joint Programme has been set up. It was initiated by four organizations; Oxfam Novib, World Population Foundation (WPF), IDA Solutions and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS). We will have several different kind of activities at the International AIDS conference 2008 in Mexico City. It gives opportunities to get acquainted, exchange information on the female condom and the UAFC joint programme and discuss possibilities to strengthen support for the female condom.

To give an overview of the content of the sessions:

Type of session: **Theme day in the Dutch Booth**

Title of session: **Let's talk about sex!**

Location: **Dutch Booth. Area B, nr. 315**

Date, Time: **August, 4, 2008 from 09:00 – 17:00**

Description:

This theme day at the Dutch Booth gives the opportunity to address different kind of issues related to sexuality. There will be information on sexual education, youth advocacy on SRHR, international programs and of course on the female condom. The UAFC joint programme will play a movie on the female condom, do a quiz on the female condom, information and demonstration on the use of the female condom and the different kind of female condoms.

Organisations: **WPF, Dance4Life, Choice and Schorer**

Type of session: **Global village workshop**

Title of session: **The use of female condom**

Location: **Global Village, nr. 101, booth Stop Aids Now!**

Date, Time: **August 5, 2008, 10.30 – 12.00**

Description: **Continuous demonstration on the use of the female condom, the different kinds and the potentials of the female condom. There will be a quiz where female condoms can be won and enough time to ask questions and discuss experiences.**

Sponsors: **Stop Aids Now!**

Speakers: **Ilze Smit**

Type of session: **Press conference of Oxfam International**

Title of session: **Failing Women, Withholding Protection**

Location: **Media center (only for press)**

Date, Time: **August 6, 2008, 12.00 – 12.45**

Speakers: **Swedish AIDS Ambassador Lennarth Hjelmaker, Farah Karimi, Nicole Gray and others.**

Type of session: **Satellite meeting**

Title of session: **Universal Access to female Condoms. Ready for a new approach**

Location: **level E2, next to IAS offices**

Date, Time: **August 6, 2008, 15.30 – 17.00**

Description:

The meeting will focus on the different perspectives on the female condom and the UAFC joint programme. It aims at informing participants on the potential of the female condom and the programme. Furthermore there will be a demonstration of the female

condom by the promotion team. It will conclude with a facilitated discussion by the moderator Paul Bekkers, the Dutch Hiv-AIDS ambassador.

Chair: Paul Bekkers (DGIS)

Speakers: Farah Karimi (Director Oxfam Novib), Kirstine Thyge Nojgaard (DANIDA), Harriet Kivumbi, and Lucie van Mens (Coordinator UAFC project).

Type of session: Promotion team

Title of session: Universal Access to female Condoms. Condoms4all.org

Location: conference halls

Date, Time: every day, 13:00-15:00

Description: At the International AIDS Conference 2008 in Mexico City the UAFC Joint Programme will have also the objective to demystify the female condom. Many prejudices exist about the female condom but they can easily be put aside. For this we have a promotion team at the conference that will walk around during lunch time. With different kind of female condoms, a quiz and information we will create an open environment where participants of the conference will be able to get to know the female condom.