Renewed effort to boost birth control

There is an increased determination to spread the benefits of contraception, says Andrew Jack

As World Population Day approaches on Wednesday, the worry is that a growing population will mean more children – and more suffering – in the world. There is wide agreement on what is required to provide the wellbeing of communities.

The evaluation of achievable health-related targets set at international meetings since Cairo has also proved disappointing. The US Millenium Development Goals agreed at the turn of the century called for significant reductions in infant and maternal mortality by 2015.

In many countries, it is clear these targets will not be met. A recent study showed that global determination to boost contraceptive use has gone into reverse.

About 215m women in developing countries seeking contraception cannot get it. That means 75m unintended pregnancies every year, threatening the health and lives of millions of mothers and their children.

“Since Cairo, we have had the opportunity to create political momentum, bring many voices together and mobilise civil society,” said UNFPA executive director, Dr Kemal Amin, in the run-up to the London summit on population.

“By 2020, we aim to increase contraceptive access for the poor from 50% to 70%,” he said. “But while significant advances have been made, these targets will not be met by 2015.”

The aim is to increase contraceptive access for the poor from 50% to 70% today to 70% by 2020. “In 1994, progress has been limited but the message is the same,” said Dr Amin. “We have the tools, but the delivery system is lacking.”

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Bottlenecks that block the chain of supply

Delivery

Price is not the only problem hindering access to products, says Andrew Jack

For more than a year, United Nations (UN) officials and medical workers have been discussing the need to boost the supply of contraceptives to women in the world’s most deprived countries. The problem is not just about eliminating bottlenecks in the production and distribution of contraceptives, but also about improving the quality of the products themselves.

In Japan, condoms and sterilisation are almost the only forms of contraception available. In the Philippines, artificial methods are used by only about one per cent of women. Yet in India, about 90 per cent of married women want to limit family size, but they have little choice other than sterilisation. In many places, there is simply no choice at all.

"We're taking a long time to address the regulatory requirements and submit documents that regulators are not used to," says Mr Wilcox, whose company is one of the few makers of the contraceptive implant Zoladex in the world.

All along the supply chain, there are plenty of bottlenecks to be overcome. There are often not enough facilities to cover the demand, and there are often not enough investigators to test new products.

"The biggest limiting factor is not the technology itself, but the regulatory process," says Mr Wilcox.

Dr Hans, chief executive of the Chinese Family Planning Association, agrees. "We recognize that the world's population is a critical bottleneck," he says. "Other developing countries have to be different, and the level of work that goes into changing things is significant."
A toxic mix of tradition and religion

Egypt

Abeer Allam candidates for seats for ending female genital mutilation

In the run-up to the Egyp-
tian elections, Abeer Allam, a candidate for the Freedom and Justice Party, promised to roll back women’s rights and end female genital mutilation (FGM) if elected under the former regime to appease those against feminism.

While this is true, Mr. Allam’s campaign has not only been met with criticism from human rights activists, but also from some women who do not want to undergo FGM.

The practice is passed down from mother to daughter, with family members and religious leaders playing a significant role in its continuation.

Allam’s campaign for FGM is still widespread and partly due to her appeal to the traditional values of some Egyptians.

FGM is a practice that is carried out on young girls as a way of preparing them for marriage. It involves removing parts of the genitalia, and sometimes the labia.

Despite the fact that FGM is illegal in Egypt, it is still performed on millions of women, and is particularly prevalent in rural areas.

Allam’s campaign has been met with criticism from human rights activists, who are calling for an end to the practice.

Women should be given the power of choice

Women’s rights are human rights, and women should be given the power to make choices about their lives. This includes the right to education, health care, and the ability to work.

In many parts of the world, women are still denied these choices, and this is unacceptable.

We must work towards a future where women are equal to men, and have the same rights and opportunities.

As Abeer Allam’s campaign shows, there is still a long way to go before we can truly say that women are equal to men.

FT Health: Sexual & Religious

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Health care: 4 of 1,000 births.

Fertility rate expressed by the public is 2.1, while the actual rate is 2.3.

This means already straining resources in the country with educations and health care, and the expected doubling of the population of young people by 2050, with 433m people, is a bigger challenge compared to that of the 1960s. The local government is aware of the difficulty and has done a lot of work, but it's not enough. There are three main reasons for this.

First, the general public in the advantages of family planning is very weak. As elsewhere in the world, urban areas have a higher understanding and acceptance of family planning than rural areas. The knowledge of family planning among the women is not high, but there are advantages for them. By contrast, the literacy is also low, so the health education is not enough.

Second, there is the problem of the health of the woman. In the rural area, the family planning knowledge is limited, and the knowledge of the family planning is very low. The women don't understand the importance of family planning, and they don't know how to use the family planning.

Third, the government doesn't work enough to disseminate the information of family planning. The government's propaganda is not enough, and the information of family planning is not enough.

The government needs to educate the public in the advantages of family planning, and the women need to know more about the family planning. The government needs to work more for the improvement of family planning.
One-child policy is a threat or growth

China

Skewed population ratios are leading to looming political problems, says Patti Niland

On the eve of K. China's 18th annual National People's Congress, one of the most successful annual political meetings in the world, a key question is how the party will deal with the rapidly changing demographic landscape of the globe's most populous nation. The one-child policy, a form of social engineering that has been in place since 1979, has had profound effects on China, and its population is now at risk of falling below replacement levels. The policy has had both positive and negative consequences, and it has been a major factor in shaping Chinese society. One of the most significant issues facing China today is the challenge of balancing its rapid economic growth with the population pressures that arise from the one-child policy. The policy has led to a significant reduction in fertility rates, and it has helped to control population growth in the country. However, the policy has also created significant social problems, including gender imbalance, aging populations, and economic imbalances. The policy has also been a source of frustration for many Chinese families, who have struggled with the restrictions it imposes on their ability to have children. The policy has been controversial and has been criticized for violating human rights and for its negative impact on the country's economic growth. Despite these challenges, the government has been determined to maintain the one-child policy, and it has shown little willingness to compromise on the issue. The policy has been a key factor in shaping the country's political landscape, and it is likely to continue to be a major issue in Chinese politics for years to come.

One child policy is a threat or growth

The policy is either inspired or diabolical, depending on your point of view.

The policy was a response to the rapid population growth in China, which was putting a strain on the country's resources. The one-child policy was intended to limit the number of children that families could have, in order to control population growth. The policy was implemented in the 1970s and has been in effect ever since, with some variations over the years. The policy has been controversial and has been criticized for violating human rights and for its negative impact on the country's economic growth. Despite these challenges, the government has been determined to maintain the one-child policy, and it has shown little willingness to compromise on the issue. The policy has been a key factor in shaping the country's political landscape, and it is likely to continue to be a major issue in Chinese politics for years to come.

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The Civil Society Declaration to the London Summit on Family Planning was signed by these civil society organizations from 177 countries:

**Family planning saves lives**

1292 organizations in 177 countries AGREE!

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