

The Belgian development cooperation (DGD)

*in collaboration with the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp and the
Because Health working group on sexual and reproductive health and
rights*

is happy to invite you for the presentation of the results of a study on

**Sexual and reproductive health and rights:
Policy and implementation in the Belgian development cooperation**

24 October 2013, 9:30h - 13:00h

DGD (Room DV01), Karmelietenstraat 15, 1000 Brussels

Background

In 2007, the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGD) published the policy note on the “Belgian development cooperation in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights”. The Because Health working group on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), which has representation of DGD and the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC), relevant civil society and academic partners, was established in 2009; one of its key objectives was to strengthen awareness on the policy note and its implementation.

Since the publication of the policy note, there have been some developments that further determine the Belgian commitment to the issue of SRHR. Progress reports have shown that MDG 5 (improve maternal health) is one where most progress is still to be made, and in particular MDG 5B – achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health – which was added only in 2007. Another aspect relates to the operational consequences of the 2005 Paris Declaration. The principles of ownership, alignment or harmonisation encourage the provision of aid through general budget support, sector-wide approaches (SWAp) or health system strengthening. These more generic types of support make it increasingly difficult for donor countries to measure - and therefore communicate - the direct results or impact of development aid provided, particularly in specific areas such as sexual and reproductive health.

Because of all these elements, DGD requested the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) to provide a qualitative description of the contribution of Belgian development aid to the improvement of sexual and reproductive health in the supported programmes. The study that was agreed upon consisted of 2 modules: the first determined the awareness and use of the SRHR policy note by key players of the Belgian cooperation; the second module provided a review of sexual and reproductive health

interventions in three different types of development aid programmes, and one in-depth country study.

The finalisation of the study report provides a good opportunity to present the results to a wider public.

Objective

On 24 October, the results of the study will be presented to all interested partners of the Belgian development cooperation. In addition, a discussion panel will be invited to share their experience and opinion on how to best support progress of MDG 5, and ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights receive the right level of attention in Belgian and international development cooperation.

Participants

The event will be open to all actors and partners of the Belgian development cooperation. A panel of Belgian and international partners will discuss the place of SRHR in development cooperation and how to improve progress on MDG 5.

Tentative agenda

9:30 – 10:00 Registration and coffee

10:00 - 10:15 Introduction by Directorate General for Development Cooperation

10:15 – 11:15 SRHR study results, Evelyn Depoortere, ITM

11:15 – 12:45 Panel discussion, moderated by Vincent De Brouwere, ITM
Panellists:

- Elly Leemhuis-de Regt, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands
- Ivan Hermans, United Nations Population Fund
- Marge Berer, Reproductive Health Matters
- Elies Van Belle, Memisa

12:45 – 13:00 Conclusion and next steps, Ignace Ronse, DGD

13:00 – 14:00 Sandwiches
