



Women solve the development puzzle

Sustainable development requires many things: investment in health, education, infrastructure, and people. Women particularly, are central to successful development because of their unique role in every society sustaining families and raising children. Yet women are often left out of the development puzzle.

Today, at the United Nations' International Conference on Financing for Development, world leaders are gathering in Monterrey, Mexico to put this puzzle together, to confront the connections between poverty and violence, economic and political instability and terrorism. They must not forget the pieces of this puzzle that women hold.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) understands that the decisions a woman makes about when to have children affect her future and her family's. The health care available to women affects the health of a family. The size of a family impacts their quality of life and the sustainability of their communities.

Wherever UNFPA has accomplished its mission, women and development have been advanced. For more than 30 years, UNFPA has demonstrated that helping women helps development and fights poverty. UNFPA deserves support. In 1994, the United Kingdom promised significant support for this important work. It is time that promise was kept.

It's not hard to solve this puzzle. Honour the commitment to women.