RMNCH in the news: Rio+20

RMNCH related news coverage surrounding the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 20-22 June

INTERNATIONAL:

Clinton: family planning key to sustainability
The Associated Press – 22 June 2012
Clinton told the audience Friday that she applauds the final document’s endorsement of women’s sexual and reproductive health as an essential element in sustainable development. But she said ensuring women’s ability to control when and whether to have children is essential ... 

Rio+20 outcome fails to address urgent child health and poverty needs
Reuters AlertNet – 22 June 2012
“The importance of child health, particularly access to good nutrition and improving ... and the targets relating to child and maternal mortality are too far off track, ... 

Alternative voices from Rio+20
Al Jazeera English – 22 June 2012
As part of the Rio+20, UN Women conducted a women leaders’ high level summit where female heads of state from Denmark, Norway, Brazil and others pledged their commitment towards enhancing cooperation between governments and NGOs and advocating for gender equality. While the meeting was inspirational, given the achievements of this handful of leaders, it hardly filters down to the millions of other women across the world who feature most heavily in every indicator of developmental divisions, from education to basic health and human rights ... 

Will the World Listen to Women?
Inter Press Service – 22 June 2012
But the reality is that globally, 215 million women who want to avoid pregnancy are not using effective methods of contraception. More than two and five pregnancies are unplanned, and approximately 287,000 girls and women die each year from pregnancy-related causes. The world has a ways to go to ensure that women have access to full reproductive rights and health ... 

Day 2 at Rio+20: A $3B aid offer and more
Devex – 21 June 2012
At a Rio+20 panel discussion on demographic dividend, U.S. Agency for International Development Deputy Administrator Donald Steinberg talked about how increasing access to family planning and working to reduce child mortality could drive a country’s economic growth ... 

Blog, opinion piece, press release address health aspects of Rio+20
News-Medical.net – 20 June 2012
Markham, from the Center for Environment and Population, describes a side-event at the conference, titled "Sustainability Revisited: Population, Reproductive Health (RH), and the Planet," which took place on Monday and ...
**RIO+20: Battles won and lost**  
IRIN – 20 June 2012

... this reference was removed, setting back progress made by women rights activists in the past two decades. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Brazil’s foreign minister, said he was “extremely disappointed” by this decision. As a compromise, a reference to the Cairo Declaration in 1994, which defined the reproductive rights of women, was included.

**RIO+20: UN agencies say tackling child hunger crucial to achieving ‘the future we want’**  
UN News Centre – 20 June 2012

In a joint news release, the agencies said that the main causes of child undernutrition – food insecurity, poor health and inappropriate care – are all known and preventable. In addition, governments and other actors know why nutrition interventions are necessary and there is evidence for what works, when and where ...

**RIO+20 Feature: Seven Issues, Seven Experts – Water and Sanitation**  
UN News Centre – 20 June 2012

We have independent people that collect data and look at the impact of water supplies and sanitary installations on diarrheal diseases, which are the largest cause of mortality for children under five. They have shown consistently positive results on people’s health ...

**A Rio report card**  
Al Jazeera English (Opinion) – 19 June 2012

Instead of leaving the world’s most vulnerable people without access to family planning, education, and basic health care, we need to end extreme poverty and reduce the soaring fertility rates that persist in the poorest parts of the world ...

**Reproductive health, family planning have central role in comprehensive Rio+20 strategy**  
News-Medical.net – 19 June 2012

"As members of the Global Leaders Council for Reproductive Health, we call on the negotiators at the Rio+20 conference to ensure that reproductive health and ...

**RIO+20: "Backsliding" on women's rights**  
IRINnews.org – 19 June 2012

Population growth and women’s right to choose when to have children could become hot issues again. Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former prime minister of Norway, has warned against “backsliding” in the draft outcome document being negotiated at the Rio+20 conference, which opens on 20 June. The new text might not recognize the advances made in ensuring that women have reproductive rights alongside other major multilateral agreements on development ...

**The future women want**  
deveX.com – 6 June 2012

To ensure that grass-roots women have a voice in Rio+20, U.N. Women supported an online survey of women around the world; findings will be widely disseminated at the meeting. A number of women’s advocates will participate in the conference, including at a Women’s Leaders Forum on June 19 in Rio hosted by U.N. Women. A Women Leaders’ Summit on the Future Women Want on June 21 will convene women heads of state and government to issue a call for action ...
AFRICA:

**Rio+20 shows UN 'impotence' - analysts**
News24 – 23 June 2012

Observers said the most tangible success was a plan for "Sustainable Development Goals" to succeed the UN's Millennium Development Goals, which touch on health, poverty and so on, after they expire in 2015 ...

**Women and Sustainability – Global Advocates Concerned By Language About Women and Reproductive Rights**
AllAfrica.com (press release) – 22 June 2012

Nourishing the Planet is collaborating with Women Deliver to highlight the important role of women, youth, and reproductive and sexual rights in sustainable ...

**Rio+20 summit: The main outcomes**
P.M. News (Nigeria) – 22 June 2012

UN members pledged “to systematically consider population trends and projections” in planning strategies. Health systems will work “towards universal access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning, as this is essential for women’s health and advancing gender equality” ...

**Africa’s priorities for sustainable development**
Africanews.com – 21 June 2012

Many African countries face a high prevalence of malaria, HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular ailments. In 2008 Africa accounted for half of the world’s 8.8 million child deaths. But there is also good news. Since 1990, under-five mortality in sub-Saharan Africa has declined by 22 per cent ...

**Women and Sustainability:**
**Rio+20 Leaders and Activists Convene to Discuss the Future Women Want**
AllAfrica.com (press release) – 21 June 2012

Nourishing the Planet is collaborating with Women Deliver to highlight the important role of women, youth, and reproductive and sexual rights ...

**Rio+20 and the role of Nigerian women in sustainable development**
Daily Times Nigeria – 21 June 2012

However, paradoxically, there was little attention to a core issue in planning and implementing sustainability: ensuring women's equal access to resources and services, including reproductive health. The meeting, known as Rio+20, will mark the ...

**Leaders bash opposition to reproductive health**
Health24.com (South Africa) – 20 June 2012

Leaders in global health have been encouraged to stand up to efforts to block reproductive health services as a strategy for attaining the goals of sustainable ...
The now enshrined rights to food and water became the issues of "access to food" and "access to water." The "fundamental right of universal access to health" was pared down to recognising "the importance of universal health coverage", a fight led by the US which vigorously opposed the "fundamental" in negotiations. Even poverty eradication had been re-qualified as eradicating "extreme poverty". For progressive NGOs which have expended much time and energy battling back-tracking on these principles, the victory is a defensive one framed around a struggle to get states to re-commit to what they supposedly have already endorsed ...

The UN estimates that an additional $3.6 billion to extend family planning in the poorest nations would save lives -- and cut the costs associated with maternal and infant death by $5.1 billion. Although traditionally family planning services have been funded by donor countries, now the largest increases in money for these services come from developing nations, which have learned that this investment is cost-effective and can provide an immediate dividend in economic ...

Schools, health clinics and businesses cannot operate without electricity. Women cannot improve their status if their days are spent gathering wood, collecting water, and cooking over fires whose smoke is destroying their health and that of their children ...

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has deplored the omission of women's reproductive rights in the final statement of the UN summit on sustainable ...

Women's rights activists lost at the Rio+20 dialogue with the conference deciding to delete any reference to 'reproductive rights' of women in the final declaration ...

NEW DELHI: Women's rights activists lost at the Rio+20 dialogue with the conference deciding to delete any reference to 'reproductive rights' of women in the final declaration to be adopted by 192 countries at Rio de Janeiro...
Sustainable development and human health inextricably tied: WHO
India.Com Health – 19 June 2012
A healthy environment is a prerequisite for good health. Reductions in air, water and chemical pollution can prevent up to one quarter of the overall global burden of disease. Cleaner energy policies could halve the number of childhood deaths from pneumonia and substantially reduce the one million people who die each year from chronic lung disease caused by indoor air pollution. Replacing biomass or coal stoves with cleaner stoves and fuels could help improve the health of up to three billion of the world’s poorest people ...

EUROPE:

Paul Vallely: The planet looked to Rio again, and Rio looked away
The Independent – 24 June 2012
Two developing countries, Guatemala and Colombia, came up with a new idea – a set of new sustainable development goals (SDGs) as successors to the millennium development goals which expire in 2015. The Millennium Development Goals aimed to halve world poverty with specific targets on education, health and child mortality. They will not be fully achieved by 2015 but they have proved very useful yardsticks. The underwhelming Rio+20 agreement did ...

Clinton calls for reproductive rights protection
AFP – 22 June 2012
RIO DE JANEIRO — US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Friday deplored the omission of women’s reproductive rights in the final statement of the UN summit ...

Rio+20, growing up in a Brazilian favela, and family planning
The Guardian – 19 June 2012
This month’s Global development podcast will focus on family planning and development, in advance of a global summit in London on 11 July. As always, we’re looking for your comments to shape the discussion. Leave your thoughts, questions and suggestions on our talk point ...

Rio+20: A voice from Accra, Ghana
The Guardian – 15 June 2012
Our problem in Ghana is that we are still so poor, we need development. For me, the problem I experience most often is in healthcare; you cannot imagine the things you see in our hospitals. I have been in operating theatre, doing a caesarean section on a woman, when the lights went out and the generator failed. We had to use our mobile phones to provide light for the doctors. The question I ask is, why do we still have power cuts in hospitals? ...

Rio+20: A voice from Karnataka, India
The Guardian – 15 June 2012
You have to tackle poverty as it adds to emissions, increases population and insecurity. Poverty makes people cut down the forests, so degradation occurs faster. Women in poor families use harmful fuels to cook, which is not good for the environment or their health. Two million women and children are killed a year because of respiratory illness, especially in poorer households ...
**Rio+20 Earth summit: scientists call for action on population**
The Guardian – 14 June 2012
The scientific academies stressed that poverty reduction remain a priority, but said action to
promote voluntary family planning through education, better healthcare and contraception can aid
that process ...

**MIDDLE EAST:**

**Rio+20 shows UN 'impotence'**
gulfnews.com – 23 June 2012
Observers said the most tangible success was a plan for "Sustainable Development Goals" to
succeed the UN's Millennium Development Goals, which touch on health, poverty and so on, after
they expire in 2015. In an interview Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia
University in New York, said the MDGs had been an important catalyst - but for ordinary citizens,
not leaders. “They have been a global call to action that has mobilized millions of people around
the world, as well as informed, nudged or pushed governments to take seriously the challenges of
poverty, hunger and disease ...

**Energising women's role**
Gulf Times – 12 June 2012
... everywhere around the world, energy is a woman's issue. It can mean the difference between
safety and fear, freedom and servitude and even life and death.

**NORTH AMERICA:**

**Progress on the Sidelines as Rio Conference Ends**
The Obama administration offered no grand public gestures here, opting to focus on smaller-scale
development projects like clean cookstoves and local energy projects ...

**Hillary Clinton defends women's access to family planning during UN ...**
Washington Post – 22 June 2012
As in past global gatherings, there was much discussion at Rio+20 about the language related to
women's reproductive health and rights. An initial draft of this conference's outcome document
stated, “We are committed to ensure the equal access of women ...

**Clinton: Family planning key to sustainability**
USA TODAY – 22 June 2012
Hillary Rodham Clinton took a stand for women's reproductive rights during the Rio+20 United
Nations conference on Friday ...

**Clinton: Family Planning Key to Sustainability**
ABC News – 22 June 2012
The U.S. Secretary of State spoke during the conference’s last day, applauding the final document’s
endorsement of women's sexual and reproductive health but ...
Hilary Clinton stands firm on women's reproductive rights
CTV.ca – 22 June 2012
United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has taken a stand for women's reproductive rights during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable ...

UN sustainability summit ends with $513 billion in pledges
Los Angeles Times – 22 June 2012
... that brought a reaction from Clinton, and her only applause line: "Women must be empowered to make decisions about whether and when to have children," she told the delegates. "And the United States will continue to work to ensure that those rights are respected in international agreements."

Clinton: Family planning key to sustainability
Hometownlife.com – 22 June 2012
Hillary Rodham Clinton took a stand for women’s reproductive rights during the Rio+20 United Nations conference on Friday ...

The future women want
Trinidad & Tobago Express – 21 June 2012
At a high-level event yesterday at the Rio+20 Conference, women heads of state and government signed a Call to Action with concrete policy recommendations on integrating gender equality and women’s empowerment in all sustainable development frameworks ...

People’s Summit seeks alternative solutions during UN Earth Summit
Washington Post – 21 June 2012
While the official convention center is far from downtown Rio and requires a credential to enter, the People's Summit was open to all, offering discussions on topics such as the link between women's reproductive rights and the planet's health, ...

People’s Summit: an alternative to UN convention
San Francisco Chronicle – 21 June 2012
While the official convention center is far from downtown Rio and requires a credential to enter, the People's Summit was open to all, offering discussions on topics such as the link between women's reproductive rights and the planet's health, and recycling efforts run by former trash pickers ...

People’s Summit seeks alternative solutions during UN Earth Summit
The Province (Canada) – 21 June 2012
People attend the "Global March" during the People's Summit for Social and Environmental Justice in Defense of the Commons, a parallel event during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, ...

Rio+20 sustainability conference: Got toilets?
Christian Science Monitor – 21 June 2012
Poor sanitation is the main cause of outbreaks like this in a country where 33 million people lack access to toilets. Human waste is out in the open and can contaminate water sources. Diseases can be carried in human waste, and their top casualties are babies and toddlers. This contributes to Nigeria's high infant mortality rate ...
Experts estimate that more than 215 million women around the world want to delay or space childbirth but are not using modern contraception. In fact, meeting this need would cost $3.6 billion per year, a small amount when you consider the enormous benefits ...

On the Road to Rio — How Far Have Women Really Come?
Wilson County News (Commentaries) – 20 June 2012
... in Africa climate change has depleted water tables, decreased tree cover and degraded crop yields. This acutely affects women there who are the primary farmers, water and wood fuel providers. It has a ripple effect because the same climate change forces also decrease their abilities as care-givers to provide good quality health, education and economic options for themselves, their families, and their communities ...

IPPF: Rio+20 summit must not ignore rapid population growth
CNN (African Voices) – 20 June 2012
Reproductive rights and health services not only provide immediate health benefits and reductions in maternal and child mortality, but helps end poverty passed on from one generation to another and lightens the burden on countries with few natural resources ...

Climate change to worsen hunger as U.N.’s Rio+20 begins
USAID Today – 20 June 2012
The number of undernourished women and young children could increase 20% and affect one of every five within a decade because of climate change’s impact on food production, according to an analysis by the World Health Organization and other groups. Today, one in seven or 495 million women and children under age 5 lack sufficient food, the report says, adding ...

Rio+20 and the search for a sustainable energy future
Livemint and the Wall Street Journal (Column) – 19 June 2012
Schools, health clinics and businesses cannot operate without electricity. Women cannot improve their status if their days are spent gathering wood, collecting water and cooking over fire whose smoke is destroying their health and that of their children ...

Rio+20 Conference: Stark Contrasts and Little Common Ground
PBS NewsHour – 18 June 2012
In rural Niger, we filmed the withering bodies of young children and a scramble by government and aid agencies to contain the effects of what has become chronic hunger. In Rio later this week, more than 100 heads of state will gather for the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development ...

SOUTH AMERICA:

Development Conference Ends with Pledge to Future Generations
Latin American Herald Tribune – 22 June 2012
... She cited recent World Bank research that finds women are “essential drivers of sustainable development,” and praised the outcome agreement of the Rio+20 conference for its affirmations on the need to expand opportunities for women and to ensure rights of sexual and reproductive health.
BLOGS:

**The Future of Sex and the Planet**
Huffington Post Canada – 22 June 2012
The UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDG 5A and 6B) recognise empowering women as the single greatest factor in the development of communities, leading to greater employment, better health and nutrition for families, and increases in social status and income. Most importantly, the more women are educated, the fewer children are born and the older they are when they first become mothers ...

**Hillary Clinton Defends Reproductive Rights In Rio**
Care2.com (blog) – 22 June 2012
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton came to the defense of global reproductive rights at the UN Sustainability Conference ...

**Reproductive Rights Missing From Outcome Document: Assessing the Disappointment**
The demographic dividend, as described by USAID Deputy Administrator and panelist Donald Steinberg in blog post earlier this week, “is an opportunity that arises when a country transitions from high to low rates of fertility and child and infant mortality.” But it’s not just about ensuring access to family planning and reproductive health; youth-focused economic and education policies are also needed: “Maximizing the dividend requires social and economic policies that reinforce inclusion, equity, and opportunity across the entire population,” he writes. USAID is making a point of creating youth-focused policies for this reason, he said in Rio ...

**Girl Power Goes Global at Rio+20**
Natural Resources Defense Council (blog) – 22 June 2012
Sustainable development solutions, such as access to clean energy and safe water, can greatly improve women’s lives by reducing poverty, freeing up women’s time and protecting them from violence and adverse health and environmental impacts. For example, of the two million people who die each year from smoke from traditional cook stoves, more than 85 per cent are women ...

**What’s Good for Women Is Good for the Planet**
Huffington Post (blog by President and CEO of The Climate Reality Project) – 21 June 2012
This week marks the 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit, the pivotal 1992 event that put climate change on the international map. The theme of this year’s Rio+20 summit is sustainable development -- economic growth that sustains us in the present ...

**Don’t Miss the Point and Opportunity of Rio -- Keep Children at the Center**
Huffington Post (blog by Eduardo Nunes, World Vision's National Director in Brazil) - 21 June 2012
The cries of young people are more urgent than ever. Despite significant progress in the past decade, more than seven million children under the age of five still die every year from preventable causes like disease, undernourishment and unsafe household energy use. Those who survive childhood are lucky to find any sort of work as unemployment rates of 50 percent ravage countries. Our future is being tragically squandered -- tragic for the victims but tragic also because we are losing a critical resource whose fresh ideas and openness to innovation can help build a ...
Rio+20 summit: Thursday as it happened
The Guardian (blog) – 21 June 2012
The issue of whether the words 'reproductive rights' will appear in the final outcome document seems to be the biggest sticking point. The right was emphasised in Cairo in 1994 and again in Beijing in 1995, so why is it not appearing in the Rio document? There's a reference to reproductive health, but some argue that's not enough. Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, director of policy at VSO, said while she felt encouraged, the critical thing is how we translate any words into action ...

Why Women’s Needs Must be Part of the Conversation at Rio
Grist.org (blog by Suzanne Ehlers and Michael Brune) – 21 June 2012
Right now, more than 200 million women in developing countries want the right to plan their families, but lack contraception. Meeting their needs would not only improve their lives, but would help them respond to the effects of climate change, practice sustainability, and participate more fully in the economy and their communities ...

The future of sex and the planet
Reuters AlertNet (blog by Genevieve Stewart) – 20 June 2012
The UN’s Millennium Development Goals recognise empowering women as the single greatest factor in the development of communities, leading to greater employment, better health and nutrition for families, and increases in social status and income. Most importantly, the more women are educated, the fewer children are born and the older they are when they first become mothers ...

Rio+20 must commit to sustainable solutions for healthcare
Reuters AlertNet (blog by Health Poverty Action) – 20 June 2012
The conference in Rio de Janeiro from June 20-22 aims to assess progress since the first Rio Conference 20 years ago and to put forward sustainable development solutions. Initially health was left off the agenda, despite being inextricably linked to ...

Rio+20: Water and sanitation for all
Reuters AlertNet (blog) – 20 June 2012
Sanitation that is accessible to disabled people will bring added benefits to the rest of the community; higher walls on wells protect children from falling in and raised latrines will be useful for anyone with mobility difficulties- such as older people or heavily pregnant women. Ensuring that all community members have access to water and sanitation will support the prevention of infectious disease ranging from diarrhoeal disease to potentially disabling diseases such as trachoma ...

Rio+20: The Demographic Dividend and Sustainable Development
USAID (blog by Deputy Administrator Donald Steinberg) - 20 June 2012
The demographic dividend is an opportunity that arises when a country transitions from high to low rates of fertility and child and infant mortality. This transition creates a generation that is significantly larger than the generations immediately preceding and following it. As this cohort enters working age, they have the potential to enter into productive economic activities and invest savings at relatively high rates, thus spurring heightened economic growth ...

Taking sex education to Brazil’s favelas
The Guardian (blog) – 20 June 2012
On Monday, Melesse took part in a side event at Rio+20 to advocate more commitment to promoting family planning and sexual health as a right. The IPPF, along with other ...
Women and Sustainability: What You Want to Know About Rio+20
Women Deliver and Worldwatch Institute - 20 June 2012
Women Deliver is collaborating with the Worldwatch Institute’s Nourishing the Planet project to highlight the important role of women, youth, and sexual and reproductive health and rights in sustainable development at the upcoming Rio+20 conference ...

Women and Sustainability:
Global Advocates Concerned by Language About Women and Reproductive Rights
Women Deliver and Worldwatch Institute – 20 June 2012
After days of negotiations, world leaders and the over 50,000 participants at Rio+20 will be presented with a draft outcome agreement, known as “The Future We Want.” The draft, which will be finalized on Friday, will be presented to heads of state at the end of the conference and will likely serve as the framework for future goals on economic, social, and environmental sustainability, including the Sustainable Development Goals, which could replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015 ...

Women and Sustainability:
Rio+20 Leaders and Activists Convene to Discuss the Future Women Want
Women Deliver (blog by Danielle Nierenberg, Worldwatch Institute) – 20 June 2012
The international community has produced a document on development that finally includes gender, but what is the way forward? Cousin concluded, “In 2030 a child born today will turn 18. Will we have done enough to give HER the sustainable future we all deserve? Will she have access to nutritious food? Will she have the resources and education she needs? Will she earn enough to send her children to school?” ...

Rio+20 Agreement Fails Women, and the World
RH Reality Check (blog) – 20 June 2012
This debate continued until the last few hours of the negotiations. In the end, the text includes a re-affirmation of both the Cairo and Beijing agreements, but it falls short by failing to recognize that reproductive rights are also critical to the achievement of sustainable development. If a woman cannot decide if and when to have children and if she is not provided with the reproductive health care that is her human right, it is challenging to contribute to sustainable solutions for the planet ...

Talk point: have your say on family planning and development
The Guardian (blog) – 19 June 2012
How has family planning – such a taboo topic – become a global priority? We want your views ahead of this month's podcast and next month's global summit ...

Can Rio+20 bring change for women?
The Guardian (blog) – 19 June 2012
"There was a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of hope in terms of what we could achieve at that meeting,” says Corral, who, 20 years on, is involved in one of several women's events taking place in Rio before and during this week's UN Rio+20 conference ...

Zero Hunger Challenge
United Nations (blog) - 19 June 2012
In Rio this week, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will launch his new Zero Hunger Challenge. One billion people don’t have enough to eat and the Secretary-General wants to see an end to hunger ...
A sustainable future for Filipino children
Inquirer.net (blog) – 19 June 2012
A sustainable future requires that children have the opportunity to grow up healthy, well-educated and protected from violence, having access to clean water, clean air and food. In the Philippines, we can celebrate that 20 years on from Rio, ...

A Sustainable Samba: Sex, Rights, and Health at Rio+20
RH Reality Check (blog) – 19 June 2012
Along with other bloggers, organizers, young people, NGO representatives, and government officials from around the world, we will be taking these issues to Rio indeed. And we have to ask – how controversial is a woman’s right to make decisions about her health and childbearing, a right that will improve her life and that of her children, in addition to the health of her community and the sustainability of her planet? ...

Women and Sustainability: Women on the Agenda at Agriculture and Rural Development Day
Women Deliver (blog by Danielle Nierenberg, Worldwatch Institute) – 19 June 2012
Women farmers make up at least half of the world’s agricultural labor force, but many lack access to education, training, land, extension services, and credit. But recognizing women’s needs—and their contributions—in agriculture can help improve nutrition, incomes, and environmental ...

The Future Women Want: Why Reproductive Rights Matter at Rio +20
Huffington Post (Canada) – 19 June 2012
As she told me about her family’s struggle to survive since she became pregnant almost 3 years ago, it was clear: Beatriz understands perfectly that her access to reproductive health care is intimately tied to the economic well-being of her household. Unfortunately, this simple truth is something that some world leaders gathering in Rio this week seem to have trouble grasping ...

Women, youth and Rio
Inquirer.net (blog) – 19 June 2012
Other delegations—Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay, Mexico, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Switzerland, the United States and Iceland—spoke out in support of retaining the reference to “reproductive rights” in the same paragraph, arguing that this is “crucial” to sustainable development ...

Including Non-Communicable Diseases in the Rio+20 Dialogue on Sustainable Futures
Huffington Post (blog by Nalini Saligram and Felicia M. Knaul) – 18 June 2012
Smart solutions to the growing NCD crisis must include a focus on women. Healthy, thriving women create healthy, thriving families and communities. There is growing evidence that NCDs are an integral part of maternal health, and we are learning that helping women have healthy pregnancies and normal birth weight babies may help reduce diabetes and cardiovascular disease in future generations ...

Live from Rio+20, Day One: Women and Reproductive Health
RH Reality Check (blog) – 18 June 2012
While here for the duration of the meeting, I'll be covering women and reproductive health (RH) issues as relate to the official UN proceedings, the NGO perspectives, and global south women’s personal stories on how Rio+20 touches their lives ...
Leaders at Rio+20 Must Recognize that Empowering Women Helps Protect the Planet
Natural Resources Defense Council (blog) – 18 June 2012
One of the issues swirling around Rio+20 today is whether the United Nations document from the conference will backslide on commitments to promote women’s reproductive health. Previous UN gatherings in Cairo and Beijing called for greater focus on women’s health, and yet for too many, these commitments continue to be pledges on paper. We need real action ...

Michelle Bachelet, Margaret Chan and Kandeh Yumkella: How sustainable energy saves women’s lives
Capital Times (blog) – 16 June 2012
For pregnant women, this lack of reliable electricity poses a significant risk to their own lives and those of their babies. Worldwide, 800 women die each day from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, and the vast majority of these deaths could be averted by providing quality health ...

To Enable Development, Start With Energy
Huffington Post (Canada) – 13 June 2012
Electricity and modern fuels are needed to achieve each of the MDGs. They can empower farmers to produce and store more food, allow children to study at night, save lives with refrigerated vaccines and medical care during difficult pregnancies, enable safe drinking water, and reduce pollution ...

Rio+20: Highlighting the Voices of Women
WorldPulse - 12 June 2012
Physical and mental health and environmental health are linked. I meet young girls who are not urinating during school hours due to the conditions of the facilities, which leads to urinary tract infections, bladder stones, and painful vaginal ulcers. These conditions have an impact on emotional health as well. I am working to encourage local agencies to construct toilets in schools—toilets that have a continuous water supply and that are easily maintained. I encourage leaders at Rio+20 to consider the impact sanitation issues have not only on our environment, but also on the health of men, women, and children ...

Putting Youth and Reproductive Rights on the Agenda at Rio+20: An Interview with Ivens Reis Reyner
Women Deliver (blog by Danielle Nierenberg, Worldwatch Institute) – 8 June 2012
As the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, rapidly approaches, organizations from around the world are pushing for issues related to youth and reproductive rights to be prioritized within the sustainable development agenda. The Youth Coalition is an organization of young activists from around the world who bring attention to the sexual and reproductive rights of youth locally and globally. Representatives from the Youth Coalition will be at Rio+20 to inform governments about the connections between sustainable development and sexual rights ...