

Planned Parenthood's Strategic Goal: Increase Abortion Services by 82% in Africa

In its [strategic plan for Africa](#) for the years 2010-2015, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) has set an organizational goal of increasing its "abortion services" in that part of the world by 82 percent, according to a report from Penny Starr of CNSNews.com.

The number appears in Figure 2, the "performance framework" of the plan (page 7), under "performance milestones/benchmarks" and notes its expectation of an "82 percent increase in abortion services: 212,021 services by 2013, and 273,656 by 2015."

CNSNews.com asked Paul Bell, IPPF senior communication officer based in the United Kingdom, a series of questions about the group's strategic plan, including whether the 82 percent increase in "abortion services" by 2015 represents an increase in abortions specifically or abortions and other services.

"The numbers seen in relation to abortion services include post-abortion care services following unsafe abortion, counseling services related to abortion, post-abortion family planning services and safe abortion services including medical and surgical abortions," said Bell. "IPPF does not seek to 'increase' the number of abortions, but to make abortion accessible and safe wherever women seek such services."

According to Figure 2 in the strategic plan (page 7), increases in "New Family Planning Users" is listed separately and states an expected 68 percent increase in "new users" of family planning by 2015 and a 64 percent increase in the "volume" of family planning services.

In Table 1, entitled "Key result areas, outcomes, outputs and selected indicators, IPPFAR strategic plan 2010-2015," the mention of "safe abortion" is a separate "key result area." This information is also repeated under "performance benchmarks": "82 percent [increase] in safe abortion-related services (2009 as baseline)."

The only other service listed under "safe abortion" (in Table 1) is a "50% increase of post-abortion family planning services (baseline 2009)." A 50 percent increase in "policy initiatives" and "legislative changes" in "support of safe abortion" also are listed under "safe abortion."

The Strategic Plan for the Africa Region states that the "Five A's of programmatic emphasis" are Access, AIDS, Abortion, Adolescents and Advocacy.

When asked by CNSNews.com why two other "A's" were not included in the plan – abstinence and adoption – Bell said the IPPF does not have a "mandate as an adoption agency" but that clinics operated by the organization "do provide counseling and referral for adoption services."

The IPPF's latest [annual report](#) for 2010, however, does not have any statistics on or references to adoption.

CNSNews.com also asked Bell why abstinence was not mentioned in the strategic plan.

Bell said IPPF "provides a comprehensive approach to sexual health information and sexuality education, of which abstinence is included," but added that "as abstinence is a component of sexuality education it wouldn't appear as a major element in a top-level strategy document."

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed an executive order that put the Mexico City Policy into place. This policy prohibited taxpayer funding of non-governmental organizations around the globe that promote or provide abortion. Democratic presidents Clinton and Obama reversed the policy — and both Bushes reinstated it.

Bell said abortion services account for less than 2 percent of IPPF's "overall work."

Bell added that the IPPF does "excellent work," including "providing millions of people around the world with access to maternal and child health services, including nutrition and vaccination services; family planning and contraception services that help prevent unplanned pregnancy and abortion, and allow women and men to better space pregnancies that improve the health and outcomes for both mother and child; pre- and post-natal care."