

## UNINTENDED PREGNANCY BY THE NUMBERS: A look at Kenya



### Summary

This fact sheet summarizes data collated during the development of the STEP UP Country Profile Report on Unintended Pregnancies for Kenya, which presents a range of key evidence aimed at informing readers about the trends, magnitude, determinants and consequences of unintended pregnancy in Kenya. The data shown in this fact sheet are drawn mainly from the 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2008/09 Kenya Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) as well as other secondary sources.

**Suggested citation:** Mukiira C, Mumah, J, Kabiru, CW. and Izugbara, C. 2014. "Unintended Pregnancy by the Numbers: A look at Kenya" STEP UP Fact Sheet. Nairobi: African Population and Health Research Center

**Table 1: Trends in unintended pregnancy (%)**

Type of Unintended Pregnancy	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Mistimed (wanted later)	34.2	37.2	24.9	25.5
Unwanted (wanted no more)	16.7	11.1	19.6	17.1
<b>Unintended pregnancies</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>42.6</b>

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

**Table 1a: Mistimed pregnancy by selected background characteristics (%)**

Background Characteristics	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	41.3	42.7	26.9	30.9
25-34	31.1	33.9	24.5	22.2
>35	14.3	22.2	11.3	12.4
<b>Education</b>				
No education	24.2	27.0	12.9	17.4
Primary	36.8	40.0	28.2	28.0
Secondary +	35.9	34.2	23.6	23.5
<b>Wealth</b>				
Low	32.7	38.4	25.6	26.8
Medium	38.0	36.6	25.0	28.3
High	34.0	35.9	24.2	23.0
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	31.3	35.5	24.7	20.4
Rural	34.6	37.6	25.0	26.7
<b>Region</b>				
Nairobi	36.0	29.3	27.8	14.5
Central	30.9	29.5	18.0	19.4
Coast	30.3	39.6	22.9	6.9
Eastern	41.8	36.9	25.1	22.6
Nyanza	27.3	34.3	32.8	18.2
Rift Valley	34.0	37.6	22.8	18.7
Western	36.3	49.0	29.5	15.7
North Eastern	-	-	4.1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>25.5</b>

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

**Table 1b: Unwanted pregnancy by selected background characteristics (%)**

Background Characteristics	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	6.5	3.8	15.9	12.3
25-34	22.8	13.1	20.6	18.1
>35	39.1	40.7	47.6	44.6
<b>Education</b>				
No education	21.6	22.2	14.8	10.2
Primary	17.0	11.0	20.9	19.7
Secondary +	11.6	6.4	19.0	13.8
<b>Wealth</b>				
Low	15.7	12.4	18.9	18.5
Medium	17.1	11.8	22.3	19.0
High	17.5	8.8	19.5	14.9
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	12.2	7.1	17.3	11.4
Rural	17.4	11.9	20.1	18.4
<b>Region</b>				
Nairobi	8.6	7.1	10.7	14.5
Central	23.7	8.7	27.3	19.4
Coast	4.9	6.1	10.5	6.9
Eastern	22.6	17.3	23.1	22.6
Nyanza	16.6	11.3	22.6	18.2
Rift Valley	15.6	10.8	18.4	18.7
Western	15.4	9.8	22.4	15.7
North Eastern	-	-	0.4	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>17.1</b>

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

**Table 1c: Unintended pregnancy (unwanted and mistimed) by selected background characteristics (%)**

Background Characteristics	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	47.7	46.4	42.8	43.2
25-34	53.9	47.0	45.0	40.2
>35	53.3	62.8	58.9	57.0
<b>Education</b>				
No education	45.8	49.2	27.7	27.6
Primary	53.8	51.0	49.1	47.7
Secondary +	47.5	40.6	42.6	37.3
<b>Wealth</b>				
Low	48.4	50.8	44.5	45.2
Medium	55.1	48.4	47.3	47.3
High	51.5	44.7	43.7	37.9
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	43.5	42.6	42.0	31.8
Rural	52.0	49.5	45.1	45.1
<b>Region</b>				
Nairobi	44.6	36.4	38.5	29.0
Central	54.6	38.2	45.3	38.8
Coast	35.2	45.7	33.4	13.8
Eastern	64.4	54.2	48.2	45.2
Nyanza	43.9	45.6	55.4	36.4
Rift Valley	49.6	48.4	41.2	37.4
Western	51.7	58.8	51.9	31.4
North Eastern	-	-	4.5	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>42.6</b>

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

**Table 2: Percentage of currently married women 15-49 using contraceptive methods**

Method Used	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Any method	32.7	39.0	39.3	45.5
Modern method	27.3	31.5	31.5	39.4
Traditional method	5.5	7.5	8.0	6.0

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

**Table 2a: Percent distribution of all women age 15-49 using a method of contraception by background characteristics (Current users at the time of the survey)**

Background Characteristics	Any Modern Method				Any Method			
	1993	1998	2003	2008-09	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
<b>Age</b>								
15-24	14.1	16.4	13.8	16.5	9.1	11.4	10.6	14.1
25-34	37.9	40.8	38.7	44.7	31.8	32.7	31.5	40.5
>35	32.6	39.3	40.5	40.8	28.1	33.1	32.6	34.4
<b>Education</b>								
No Education	18.0	21.4	10.6	12.2	14.4	15.5	7.4	10.3
Primary Education	23.6	26.3	27.1	31.7	19.0	21.0	21.5	27.8
Secondary +	37.1	40.5	38.5	37.7	29.3	32.1	31.7	32.8
<b>Wealth</b>								
Low	14.3	19.5	18.4	21.8	10.6	13.4	13.1	18.3
Medium	27.8	31.1	31.3	35.8	22.5	24.7	24.8	31.4
High	35.8	39.2	35.3	38.6	29.2	32.8	30.3	34.2
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	12.1	12.9	8.4	9.2	6.9	8.1	5.8	7.9
Rural	32.7	39.0	39.3	45.5	27.3	31.5	31.5	39.4
<b>Marital Status</b>								
Never Married	25.3	24.3	22.2	25.1	21.9	21.6	20.2	23.8
Currently Married	33.4	38.0	33.5	36.6	28.1	30.9	28.1	32.7
Formerly Married	24.2	27.4	26.6	30.5	19.1	21.4	20.9	26.3
<b>Region</b>								
Nairobi	38.7	41.5	33.5	37.3	30.8	34.1	28.6	33.7
Central	40.4	46.4	42.6	46.2	34.4	40.1	36.7	43.4
Coast	17.1	18.0	20.2	26.7	14.3	16.3	16.0	23.6
Eastern	29.7	34.6	35.5	36.1	22.1	26.2	27.3	30.4
Nyanza	18.8	21.5	19.1	30.2	15.5	18.1	16.3	26.3
Rift Valley	21.4	28.9	25.5	28.2	15.8	20.6	18.4	23.5
Western	20.2	22.8	24.4	29.9	17.1	16.1	19.0	26.4
North Eastern	-	-	0.1	2.4	-	-	0.1	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>45.5</b>

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

**Table 3: Percentage of unmet need<sup>1</sup> for family planning (FP)<sup>2</sup>**

	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
<b>Currently Married Women</b>				
Spacing	20.7	16.0	15.2	12.5
Limiting	14.6	11.9	12.2	13.1
<b>Currently Unmarried Women</b>				
Spacing	3.5	7.6	3.8	4.2
Limiting	2.3	2.2	3.8	3.0
<b>All Women</b>				
Spacing	14.1	12.8	10.6	9.1
Limiting	9.8	8.2	8.9	8.9

Source: Mumah, J, Kabiru, CW, Mukiira, C, Brinton, J, Mutua, M, Izugbara, C, Birungi, H. and Askew, I. 2014. Unintended Pregnancies in Kenya: A Country Profile, STEP UP Research Report. Nairobi: African Population and Health Research Center.

**Table 3a: Trends in unmet need for FP among currently married women age 15-49 by background characteristics (%)**

Background Characteristics	1993		1998		2003		2008-09	
	Spacing	Limiting	Spacing	Limiting	Spacing	Limiting	Spacing	Limiting
<b>Age</b>								
15-24	34.3	5.1	27.2	4.5	28.3	5.6	23.8	6.5
25-34	23.4	14.4	18.8	11.0	15.8	11.7	13.7	11.1
>35	6.6	22.3	5.0	18.4	4.4	17.9	3.4	20.1
<b>Education</b>								
No Education	16.5	18.7	10.7	18.2	11.3	12.6	16.5	10.0
Primary	23.9	14.8	19.3	12.8	18.9	14.4	14.1	16.0
Secondary +	16.8	9.5	11.9	6.9	9.0	7.3	7.9	8.6
<b>Wealth</b>								
Low	25.6	17.0	23.1	15.2	18.6	15.7	17.6	18.0
Medium	21.2	16.0	13.3	11.4	13.5	12.9	10.2	11.6
High	14.0	10.1	10.2	8.4	12.7	7.2	9.4	9.3
<b>Residence</b>								
Urban	13.7	10.1	11.8	8.6	11.6	7.9	10.7	8.9
Rural	22.0	15.4	17.2	12.8	16.2	13.5	13.1	14.4
<b>Region</b>								
Nairobi	15.3	10.2	10.4	5.9	13.5	5.0	6.5	8.7
Central	11.2	13.4	7.1	8.0	7.3	7.5	6.2	9.3
Coast	24.8	8.4	21.4	12.5	16.9	10.7	15.9	9.3
Eastern	21.8	18.3	14.0	13.5	12.6	12.4	9.8	14.0
Nyanza	21.9	14.6	16.7	12.4	20.8	16.7	18.2	14.0
Rift Valley	20.9	15.0	18.8	12.8	15.8	14.0	13.0	17.6
Western	25.7	16.0	21.3	14.7	20.0	16.6	13.5	12.6
North Eastern	-	-	-	-	9.1	1.3	17.1	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>13.1</b>

Source: Mumah, J, Kabiru, CW, Mukiira, C, Brinton, J, Mutua, M, Izugbara, C, Birungi, H. and Askew, I. 2014. Unintended Pregnancies in Kenya: A Country Profile, STEP UP Research Report. Nairobi: African Population and Health Research Center.

<sup>1</sup> A woman has an unmet need for Family Planning if she is sexually active, does not want another child or wants to delay pregnancy, but she is not using any FP methods

<sup>2</sup> Utilizes the 2012 revised definition for unmet need by Bradley et al. 2012

**Table 3b: Percentage of contraceptive users who discontinued use of a method within 12 months of beginning its use**

Method	1998	2003	2008-09
Pill	34.0	30.9	38.0
IUD	9.0	11.7	6.4
Injectables	18.1	22.9	28.0
Implants	-	17.1	10.5
Male Condom	61.5	35.1	71.6
Rhythm Method	27.0	29.3	29.9
<b>All Methods</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>32.0</b>

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

**Table 3c: Method switching from first method choice, method choice by current contraceptive status and method use among all ever users (%)**

First Method Used	Not Using (Not Pregnant)	Not Using (Pregnant)	Pill	IUD	Inject.	Condoms	Steriliz.	Rhythm	Other	No. of Cases
Pill	35.0	7.2	23.6	3.2	18.3	1.4	6.7	3.0	1.5	1589
IUD	24.9	3.4	8.9	31.6	12.2	2.1	10.5	4.6	1.7	237
Injectables	35.5	5.4	7.1	1.3	42.7	1.4	3.7	2.1	0.8	709
Condoms	43.3	11.2	5.8	1.4	6.5	23.1	2.5	3.2	2.9	277
Sterilization	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	147
Rhythm	37.1	11.5	4.6	0.9	5.1	1.9	2.3	35.3	1.4	917
Other	32.5	5.7	3.2	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	3.8	51.6	157
<b>Total</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>4033</b>

Source: Kenya DHS, 1998

**Table 3d: Women status 12 months after discontinuing for method-related reasons (%)**

	No. of discontinuations	At pregnancy risk	Switched	Current pregnancy or live birth			Non-live births
				Unwanted	Mistimed	Wanted	
<b>All Methods</b>							
1998	604	28.9	36.8	7.0	15.6	9.2	2.4
2003	821	30.0	38.9	6.4	13.9	8.8	2.0
<b>Modern Methods</b>							
1998	604	28.9	36.8	7.0	15.6	9.2	2.4
2003	821	30.0	38.9	6.4	13.9	8.8	2.0

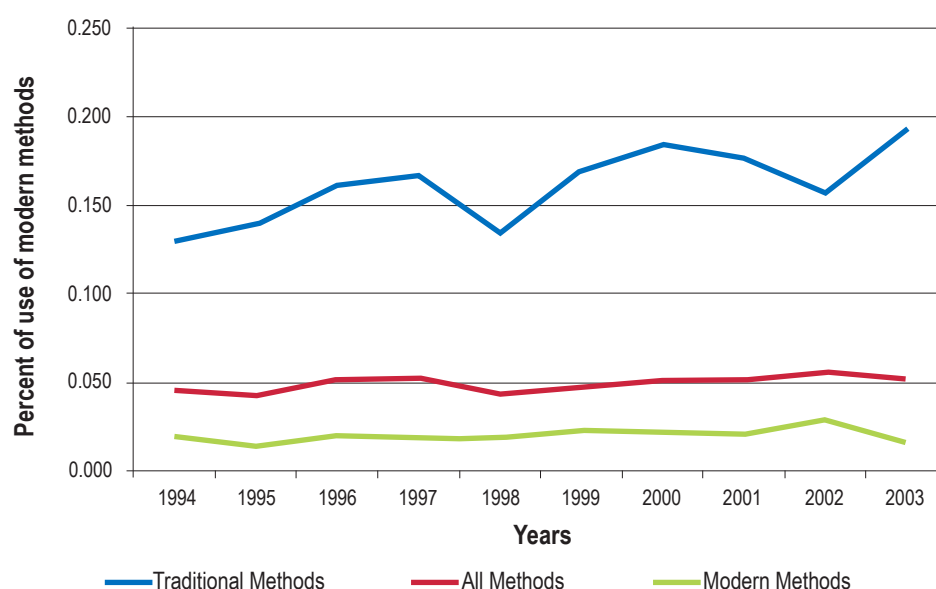
Source: Ali MM, Cleland J, and Shah IH. Causes and Consequences of Contraceptive Discontinuation: Evidence from 60 Demographic and Health Surveys. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2012.

**Table 3e: Women status 12 months after discontinuing for desire for pregnancy (%)**

	No. of discontinuations	At risk	Switched	Current pregnancy or live birth			Non-live birth
				Unwanted	Mistimed	Wanted	
<b>All Methods</b>							
1998	358	12.6	0.0	4.1	11.5	67.1	4.7
2003	391	18.6	0.8	2.2	3.6	72.0	2.8
<b>Modern Methods</b>							
1998	243	16.0	0.0	3.4	13.9	61.4	5.2
2003	257	23.0	1.2	1.7	2.1	69.1	2.8
<b>Traditional Methods</b>							
1998	114	5.5	0.0	5.5	6.4	79.0	3.6
2003	133	10.1	0.0	3.0	6.5	77.6	2.7

Source: Ali MM, Cleland J, and Shah IH. Causes and Consequences of Contraceptive Discontinuation: Evidence from 60 Demographic and Health Surveys. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2012.

**Figure 1: Trends in annual contraceptive failure rates**



Source: Westoff, Charles F., and Anne R. Cross. 2006. The Stall in the Fertility Transition in Kenya. DHS Analytical Studies No. 9. Calverton, Maryland: ORC Macro.



**Table 4: Contraceptive users that discontinued after the first year of use for reasons other than desire for pregnancy (%)**

Method	1998	2003
Pill	32	42
Injectables	18	28
Condom	54	53
Periodic abstinence	27	27
<b>All methods</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>33</b>

Source: Kenya DHS, 1998 and 2003

**Table 4a: Reproductive consequences of reported contraceptive failure (%)**

	No. of failures	Current pregnancy or live birth			Non-live birth
		Unwanted	Mistimed	Wanted	
<b>All Methods</b>					
1998	243	20.3	52.0	23.0	4.7
2003	272	27.7	49.8	16.9	5.6
<b>Modern Methods</b>					
1998	68	26.7	49.7	19.9	3.6
2003	94	31.0	55.1	10.7	3.2
<b>Traditional Methods</b>					
1998	174	17.8	52.8	24.2	5.2
2003	178	26.0	46.9	20.2	6.9

Source: Kenya DHS, 1998 and 2003

**Table 5: Trends in Wanted Fertility Rates (WFR), Unwanted Fertility Rates (UWFR) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for the three years preceding the survey**

	1993	1998	2003	2008-09
Unwanted Fertility Rates	2.4	1.5	1.3	1.4
Wanted Fertility Rates	3.0	3.2	3.6	3.2
<b>Total Fertility Rate</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>

Source: Kenya DHS, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008-09

**Table 6. Estimated number of cases of induced abortion complications and overall induced abortions by region, Kenya, 2012**

Region	No. of women treated for induced abortion complications at health facilities	Number of all induced abortions		
		Low estimate	Medium estimate	High estimate
Central & Nairobi	20,676	49,828	70,504	91,180
Coast and North Eastern	16,649	49,616	66,265	82,914
Eastern	7,057	21,030	28,087	35,144
Nyanza & Western	36,842	109,789	146,631	183,473
Rift Valley	38,687	115,289	153,976	192,664
<b>Total</b>	<b>119,912</b>	<b>344,778</b>	<b>464,690</b>	<b>584,601</b>

Source: African Population and Health Research Center, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. Incidence and Complications of Unsafe Abortion in Kenya: Key Findings of a National Study. Nairobi, Kenya. APHRC, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. 2013.

**Table 6a. National and regional induced abortion rates and ratio, Kenya, 2012**

Region	Number of Women (in 1,000's) of reproductive age (15-49)	Induced Abortion Rate per 1,000 women of reproductive age	Induced Abortion Ratio per 100 live births
Central & Nairobi	2186	32	20
Coast and North Eastern	1298	51	32
Eastern	1382	20	13
Nyanza & Western	2329	63	39
Rift Valley	2404	64	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>9600</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>30</b>

Source: African Population and Health Research Center, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. Incidence and Complications of Unsafe Abortion in Kenya: Key Findings of a National Study. Nairobi, Kenya. APHRC, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. 2013.

**Table 6b. Socio-demographic characteristics of women seeking PAC in health facilities over a 30-day period, Kenya, 2012**

Characteristics	%	N
<b>Age</b>		
10-19 Years	16.5	335
20-24 Years	31.5	810
25+ Years	51.3	1478
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	40.9	1386
Rural	58.7	1238

**Table 6b. Socio-demographic characteristics of women seeking PAC in health facilities over a 30-day period, Kenya, 2012**

Characteristics	%	N
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Never Married	27.8	761
Married/Living together	64.4	1700
Divorced	7.5	162
<b>Education</b>		
No education	9.3	158
Primary	40.1	963
Secondary	35.5	952
Post-secondary	14.8	543
<b>Occupation</b>		
Farmer/unskilled	24.9	589
Skilled/clerical	20.2	684
Student	13.0	384
Unemployed/housewife	41.7	965
<b>Religion</b>		
Catholic	24.3	606
Other Christians	64.4	1767
Muslims	8.5	216
Others	2.3	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2631</b>

Source: African Population and Health Research Center, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. Incidence and Complications of Unsafe Abortion in Kenya: Key Findings of a National Study. Nairobi, Kenya. APHRC, Ministry of Health (MOH), Kenya, Ipas, and Guttmacher Institute. 2013.

## References

- African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Ministry of Health (MOH), Ipas, Guttmacher Institute (2013). Incidence and complications of unsafe abortions in Kenya: Key findings of a national study. Nairobi, Kenya: APHRC, MOH, Ipas, Guttmacher Institute.
- Bradley, Sarah E.K., Trevor N. Croft, Joy D. Fishel, and Charles F. Westoff (2012), "Revising Unmet Need for Family Planning," DHS Analytical Studies No. 25 (Calverton, MD: ICF International).
- Ali MM, Cleland J, and Shah IH. (2012) Causes and Consequences of Contraceptive Discontinuation: Evidence from 60 Demographic and Health Surveys. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) (2001). Contraceptive Use Dynamics in Kenya Further Analysis of Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) Data, Nairobi, Kenya, Macro International Inc, Calverton, Maryland USA.
- Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) [Kenya], Ministry of Health (MOH) [Kenya], and ORC Macro, (2004) Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2003. Calverton, MD: CBS, MOH, and ORC Macro.
- Central Bureau of Statistics. (1993). Kenya Demographic Health Survey, Nairobi: Ministry of Planning and National Development, Kenya.
- Central Bureau of Statistics. (1998). Kenya Demographic Health Survey. Nairobi: Ministry of Planning and National Development, Kenya.
- Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and ICF Macro. (2010) Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2008-09. Calverton, Maryland: KNBS and ICF Macro; 2010.
- Mumah, J, Kabiru, CW, Mukiira, C, Brinton, J, Mutua, M, Izugbara, C, Birungi, H. and Askew, I. (2014). Unintended Pregnancies in Kenya: A Country Profile, STEP UP Research Report. Nairobi: African Population and Health Research Center.
- Rerence Westoff, Charles F., and Anne R. Cross. (2006). The Stall in the Fertility Transition in Kenya. DHS Analytical Studies No. 9. Calverton, Maryland: ORC Macro.

[www.stepup.popcouncil.org](http://www.stepup.popcouncil.org)

The **STEP UP (Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy) Research Programme Consortium** generates policy-relevant research to promote an evidence-based approach for improving access to family planning and safe abortion. STEP UP focuses its activities in five countries: Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, and Senegal. STEP UP is coordinated by the Population Council in partnership with the African Population and Health Research Center; icddr,b; the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Marie Stopes International; and Partners in Population and Development. STEP UP is funded by UK aid from the UK Government.

**For more information on STEP UP, please contact:**

Dr. Harriet Birungi, [hbirungi@popcouncil.org](mailto:hbirungi@popcouncil.org)

Dr. Ian Askew, [iaskew@popcouncil.org](mailto:iaskew@popcouncil.org)

© 2014 African Population and Health Research Center

Funded by

