The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals agreed upon by world leaders at the United Nations in 2000. The goals are to be achieved by 2015 and focus on major problems such as extreme poverty, child mortality, education, gender inequality, and AIDS. The MDGs are not legally binding, but they are seen as a way of uniting the international community towards common goals.

MDGs 5b and 5c in Asia and the Pacific

The region is still far from achieving MDG 5, particularly 5c. In 2010, the Global MDG Report showed that 40% percent of women in the Asia-Pacific region used unsafe abortion services, with the highest rates in the Pacific islands. The report also highlighted that 9.6% of all maternal deaths occurred in the region, with the highest rates in the Pacific islands.

Insufficient Funds

Donors need to adapt their strategy to align with the MDGs and ensure that their financial commitments are met.

Population and Development

The MDGs are linked to other global goals, such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which was held in Cairo in 1994. This conference adopted a set of principles and policies that are reflected in the MDGs.

Effectiveness of Family Planning Services

The effectiveness of family planning services is crucial in reducing maternal mortality and improving reproductive health. The report notes that improving family planning services can lead to significant reductions in maternal deaths.
**Southeast Asia Snapshot on Reproductive Health Supplies**

**Reproductive Health Supplies in the Pacific**

**Pacific Island Countries**

A region of small island developing states, the Pacific has diverse health systems and financial capacities, with many Pacific Island countries still struggling to provide adequate sexual and reproductive health services to their populations. Pacific Island countries have the highest proportion of the population under the age of twenty-five, and reproductive health supply: Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition has set the reproductive health supply: -

**Challenges affecting Southeast Asia's reproductive health**

- **What needs to be done?**
  - Improved financing: lack of budget allocations to reproductive health services.
  - Strengthened policies and strategies: ensuring that policies are evidence-based and aligned with international commitments.
  - Improved management: ensuring that reproductive health services are managed in an effective and efficient manner.
  - Improved partnership: ensuring that stakeholders work together to improve reproductive health services.

**Most governments in Southeast Asia fail to meet their reproductive health needs**

- **What to do?**
  - Strengthen reproductive health strategies: ensuring that reproductive health strategies are integrated into broader health strategies.
  - Improve reproductive health information: ensuring that reproductive health information is accessible and accurate.
  - Strengthen reproductive health services: ensuring that reproductive health services are available and accessible.
  - Increase reproductive health funding: ensuring that reproductive health funding is adequate and sustainable.

**Recommendations to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Pacific**

- **How to respond to reproductive health challenges in the Pacific**
  - Increase funding and develop strategies to tackle reproductive health challenges.

**Policy response**

- **Key challenges affecting the Pacific region’s reproductive health**
  - **High rates of violence against women and children:** Sexual violence, physical violence, and domestic violence are widespread in the Pacific region.
  - **High unmet need for contraceptives:** Pacific Island countries still have a high unmet need for contraceptives.
  - **Limited access to reproductive health services:** Access to reproductive health services is limited in many Pacific Island countries.
  - **Lack of quality reproductive health services:** Quality reproductive health services are lacking in many Pacific Island countries.

**Contraceptives**

- **What challenges do Pacific Island countries face in providing contraceptive services?**
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