

Submission to Aid Review

Research has now established that not one country with a large birth rate has ever risen out of poverty. With this in mind, I request that future overseas aid is only given to countries that are making or are receptive to making, constructive effects to reduce their population growth. It will be necessary to overcome the social, religious and political difficulties that inhibit the empowerment of women and their children.

It is a known fact that a too rapid population growth correlates with an increased risk of civil strife and war associated with high numbers of unemployed male youth, scarcity of essential needs like water, food and available land.

The aid should be for women's health and reproductive education.

This would assist people to control their own fertility and improve their health thereby benefitting the welfare of the community as a whole.

It would appear that up to 70% of pregnancies are unplanned and in many developing nations these result in the death of the mother whose previous children then facing a severely compromised future.

We must make family planning a priority in Australian Aid.

Judith Odgaard