The primary sexual and reproductive health (SRH) concerns of all women include: 1) healthy timing and spacing of intended pregnancies; 2) safe birth, for mother and child; and 3) protection against HIV, other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and reproductive tract infections (RTIs). In many regions of the world, the negative outcomes from these SRH concerns contribute directly to high rates of maternal morbidity and mortality, and indirectly to high rates of mortality among infants and children under five. Thus, prevention products that simultaneously address these SRH concerns could contribute substantially to the health of women and girls in high-risk regions.

Material and Methods

A comparison of current WHO and UN public health data maps clearly reveals that the greatest overlap of SRH concerns occurs in two regions of the world: Sub-Saharan Africa, and South & West Asia. These two regions have the fastest population growth rates, highest unmet need for family planning, highest rates of HIV and cervical cancer from HPV, and highest maternal and under-five mortality rates. These data indicate a clear rationale for developing MPTs designed specifically to address the simultaneous risks associated with unprotected sex for women and girls.

Results

- The development of MPTs has the potential to greatly expand the range of effective prevention options for women and girls, thus enabling them to address different reproductive health concerns as they change over time.
- Providing women and girls with the means to protect themselves against a variety of risks associated with unprotected sex, with or without their partner’s knowledge or consent, would have a dramatic impact on the health of women and girls worldwide.

Conclusions

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