

Expert Panel on Fertility, Reproductive Health and Development

7 December 2010
Conference Room C (TNLB)
UN Headquarters, New York

Background

Fertility, reproductive health and development are core elements of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development as well as the Millennium Development Goals. In view of the forty-fourth Commission on Population and Development that will take place on 11-15 April 2011 and focus on fertility, reproductive health and development, the Population Division has organized

Ann K. Blanc is Director of the Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF) at EngenderHealth. The MHTF, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, offers a structure for catalyzing existing maternal health initiatives, deepening the involvement of developing country experts, engaging new organizations from allied fields, and making information accessible to broader audiences. She previously served as a program officer in the Population and Reproductive Health Program at The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and as a Senior Evaluation Analyst for Macro International, Inc., on the USAID-funded MEASURE/Evaluation Project. At Macro, she collaborated with developing country colleagues to design and implement household- and facilities-based surveys and conducted methodological research and statistical analyses. Earlier, she served for more than a decade overseeing the implementation of demographic research in developing countries under the Demographic and Health Surveys Program. She holds a PhD in Sociology and Demography from Princeton University.

Rekha Mehra is Director of Economic Development at the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). She leads work on gender and agriculture, assets and property rights and enterprise development and financial services. Her earlier positions include Senior Gender Specialist in the Gender Unit of the World Bank's Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Group; Program Officer for Economic Development at the Ford Foundation, New Delhi; and Vice President of the International Center for Research on Women in Washington, D.C., where she worked on the development of micro-enterprises and small businesses. She also served as a Senior Advisor to the Government of India on the development of micro-enterprises and small businesses. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.