

Step 2: Define a Vision

ILLUSTRATIVE VISION

Women who need to protect themselves against both STIs/HIV and unintended pregnancy choose the female condom as part of their method mix because:

- Women can insert the female condom in their own body and negotiate its use with their male partner.
- With adequate practice, female condoms are very easy and pleasurable to use.
- Female condoms offer both partners in heterosexual couples an alternative means of dual protection.
- The female condom provides dual protection with no side-effects.
- The female condom is a coitus-dependent method that is used only when needed.

Stakeholders at all levels in HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and women's empowerment programs value female condoms as a unique asset, and female condoms are actively promoted to women and couples who need them. Female condom initiatives can show evidence of impact, both on the proportion of sex acts protected by a barrier method and on overall contraceptive use.