



The Public Health Institute Applauds UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin's Call for Integrated Services and Attention to Youth

OAKLAND, CA (February 4, 2011) -- The Public Health Institute (PHI) applauds UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin, MD, for his exciting inaugural [statement](#) at this week's meeting of the funds executive board. Osotimehin, an alumnus of PHI's International Family Planning Leadership Program, highlighted the need for nations to support integrated sexual and reproductive health services, comprehensive sexuality education, and national plans that promote health equity and empower the most marginalized people.

Osotimehin's emphasis on meeting the sexual and reproductive health needs of the world's 1.8 billion adolescents, particularly adolescent girls, with evidence-based policies and programs, is a much-needed and welcome focus.

"Dr. Osotimehin clearly has his eye set on tackling some of the greatest health challenges of our time," said Suzanne Petroni, PHI vice president for global health. "PHI's leadership, researchers, and program implementers agree that leaders around the world must take the needs of adolescents and youth into account if they hope to improve health and development opportunities in their communities. Our organization has long focused on addressing the comprehensive needs of the world's young people as an integral component of achieving sustainable global health, and we are pleased to welcome Dr. Osotimehin's efforts in this regard," she said.

Among PHI's initiatives in this area are the *Youth Leadership in Sexual and Reproductive Health Program* (GOJoven), which builds individual, organizational and community capacity to improve adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Mesoamerica. PHI also implements the *Adolescent Girls Advocacy and Leadership Initiative*, which enhances the capacity of leaders to improve the health, education and livelihoods of adolescent girls and young women in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa. See the winter 2010 issue of [Voices for a Healthy Future](#), the PHI newsletter, for more.

About the Public Health Institute

The [Public Health Institute](#) (PHI), an independent nonprofit organization based in Oakland, California, is dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life for people throughout California, across the nation and around the world. PHI's primary methods for achieving these goals include: sharing evidence developed through quality research and evaluation; providing training and technical assistance; and promoting successful prevention strategies to policymakers, communities and individuals.