



**BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS  
POPULATION FUND  
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
ECO FRIENDLY CONDOMS  
UNFPA/USA/EOI/21/003**

**Introduction**

UNFPA manages the WHO/UNFPA Prequalification programme of condoms and is the lead agency within the UN system for the procurement of reproductive health commodities, making it the world's largest public procurer of contraceptives. UNFPA has been providing affordable and high quality reproductive health supplies for the developing world for over 40 years. This task can't be done alone, in order to ensure uninterrupted availability of supplies, UNFPA has access to a large pool of WHO/UNFPA prequalified manufacturers. Some of these manufacturers are suppliers to UNFPA and have long term agreements, all of which are based on open, public and competitive bidding processes.

UNFPA plays a key role, through its mandate, in the implementation and ultimate success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Partnerships that create shared opportunities and leverage on partners' added value, will increase the impact of the Organization's programmes, contributing to the promotion and consolidation of UNFPA's brand.

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 17 on partnerships, and in order to capitalize in a strategic and holistic manner on partnerships, UNFPA established a dedicated Strategic Partnerships Branch (SPB), which leads the Fund's efforts to explore, engage and manage collaborations with a range of stakeholders to support the mandate of UNFPA in achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, reducing maternal deaths and improving the lives of adolescents and youth.

The Branch identifies intersections and opportunities for cooperation with the business sector, foundations, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, academia and scientific institutions, individuals and multi-stakeholder initiatives, to advance the mandate of UNFPA.

**Partnership project for development of Eco friendly condoms**

UNFPA has identified the project on development of Eco-friendly condoms as one of the initiatives towards the overall endeavours towards Sustainable Development.

Given the long-term and well established relationship UNFPA has with various manufacturers and other partners, UNFPA would like to explore the possibility to expand the collaboration further, beyond the potential/actual supplier-customer relationship in executing this project.

UNFPA envisages to partner with agencies in the field of development and manufacture of condoms and their packaging, such as potential/actual suppliers, experts, research organizations, testing laboratories, logistics service providers, waste management agencies, regulatory agencies, academia and other related stakeholders in this area.

### **Scope of the project**

The scope of the project envisioned includes, but not restricted to the following:

- Scientific research on and design of different packages of condoms
- Research and design of condom packages that use less packaging materials
- Research on different packaging materials to identify the most eco-friendly packaging
- Development of sustainable alternate packaging materials
- Development of packaging which will enable transportation with impact on reducing carbon footprint
- Optimization of condom types, their packaging handling, transport and storage conditions.

Please find attached **Annex I** to this EOI.

### **Expected deliverables of partnership on Eco-friendly condoms**

The output will be submitted to UNFPA as a Research Report document. Interested partners are to submit reports which include:

- scientific and technical information with supporting data,
- a critical analysis of current practices; identification of potential and opportunities for improvements with a view to improve sustainability with application for condom packing,
- illustrative tables, figures and tables of scientific data should be included to support the information submitted in the document,
- concept and the methodology for its implementation for each of the areas of improvement identified and proposed in the research report,
- expected quantifiable measurable outputs and methods of measuring such outcomes should be described in detail such that the success of the projects could be quantitatively evaluated and achievement of objectives could be assessed. Key reference materials should be listed.

### **How will UNFPA support?**

UNFPA will support partners to ensure that the objectives of the partnerships are realised. UNFPA will convene partners and other stakeholders to facilitate discussions. Additionally, UNFPA being the largest global procurer of condoms will provide non-proprietary data that partners will need in order to undertake research.

### **What will UNFPA do with the submitted research report?**

UNFPA will review submissions and assess for level of impact on the environment. Outcomes of the research performed and submitted by the partners will be considered by:

- WHO/UNFPA Prequalification Programme in the revision of specifications of condoms and primary packaging of condoms,
- UNFPA Procurement will consider the outcomes of research when revising specifications of secondary and tertiary packaging and distribution requirements of condoms.
- UNFPA will work with other global and national partners to implement changes that have high impact on the environment

### **What is the partnering process and potential benefits?**

**Brainpower.** Partners can lend their core competencies and skills to UNFPA, enhancing the operational capacity of the organization and contributing to innovative programmes and solutions.

Entities partnering with UNFPA will benefit from the possibility of collaborating with a sound, long standing organization - part of the United Nations system – with a truly global footprint.

Both the entity and UNFPA will be able to capitalize on the respective comparative advantage of each organization to advance progress towards serving women and girls around the world.

It is to be underscored that the engagement of suppliers in a partners-type of relationship with UNFPA will not give access to preferential/different treatment vis-à-vis other suppliers not engaged in a strategic partnership.

The basic eligibility and exclusionary criteria to be considered for a private sector partnership are highlighted below.

<b>Private Sector Partnership Criteria</b>	
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>  UNFPA does partner with private sector partners that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate responsible citizenship by supporting core values of the UN and its causes as reflected in the Charter;</li> <li>• Demonstrate a commitment to meeting principles of the UN Global Compact;</li> <li>• Have a record of socially-responsible behaviour; and</li> </ul>	<b>Exclusionary Criteria</b>  UNFPA <b>does not</b> partner with businesses that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complicit in human rights abuses, tolerate forced or compulsory labour or the use of child labour; involved in the sale or manufacture of ant-personal mines, cluster bombs, gambling, tobacco and alcohol and the armaments and weapons sector;</li> <li>• In violation of the United Nations Sanctions; Manufacture infant formulas whose marketing practices violate the International Code for the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes;</li> <li>• involved in pornography, exploitative and/or corrupt practices; nor</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a positive public and product/service image; and have a commitment to development related causes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies found in violation of environmental laws.</li> </ul>
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### **Invitation to express interest**

UNFPA now invites existing suppliers to indicate their interest in engaging with UNFPA in line with the above requirements. In order to submit an Expression of Interest, entities must submit the following:

#### **1. Covering letter:**

A covering letter expressing interest to expand their collaboration further, beyond the supplier-customer relationship.

#### **2. Technical submission:**

- A succinct description of the modality in which the company will engage with UNFPA
- The project approach should include the time frame proposed and the stage wise break up execution of the project
- Supporting information about the organization, capabilities, skill sets, Qualification, expertise and experience of personnel to be involved in the project
- Copies of the registration of the agency
- Copies of the reports, published scientific technical papers published in journals
- Details of current association with UNFPA, if any e.g. Supplier, partner, consultant etc.

These will be used as the basis for further assessment of the proposals. The shortlisted proposals will further be evaluated by discussion and remote interviews with persons responsible for submission of the proposal.

Expressions of interest should be sent electronically to: [Bidtender@unfpa.org](mailto:Bidtender@unfpa.org)

Questions or requests for further clarifications should be submitted in writing to the contact person below:

Mr. Gilles Virgili, Strategic Partnerships Specialist, UNFPA at [virgili@unfpa.org](mailto:virgili@unfpa.org)  
cc: Ms. Seloï Mogatle, Procurement/Supply Management Coordinator, Procurement Services Branch at [mogatle@unfpa.org](mailto:mogatle@unfpa.org)  
Mr. Diego Bragado Zapatero, Contracts Associate, Procurement Services Branch at [bragado@unfpa.org](mailto:bragado@unfpa.org)

The deadline for submission of questions is **12 April, 2021 at 17.00h (CET time).**



## **5. Sharing of results**

In the spirit of harmonization of QA process and collaboration, UNFPA will share the outcome with sister UN agencies.

## **6. Deadline for submissions:**

All submissions must reach [bidtender@unfpa.org](mailto:bidtender@unfpa.org) latest by **30 April 2021, at 17.00h (CET time)**.

Bidders shall make clear reference to the specific EOI in the subject field, otherwise proposals may be rejected. Clearly specify in the subject field: [‘UNFPA/USA/EOI/21/003, COMPANY NAME’](#).

## **United Nations Global Marketplace**

All the information in this document, as well as eventual clarifications, will be made public in the UNGM website (<https://www.ungm.org/>).



## **Annex I**

### **Partnerships – Eco- friendly condom packing**



## **Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packing**

- **Introduction**
- **Components of condom packing and current state of art**
- **Opportunities for improvement**
- **Evaluation**
- **Partnership opportunities**



# **Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging**

## **Introduction**

- **For manufacture of billion condoms:**
- **Quantity of natural rubber involved is estimated about be 1,700 Tonnes**
- **Quantity of chemicals including lubricants is estimated to be about 550 tonnes plus process chemicals**
- **Quantity of packaging materials involved 4,300 tonnes**



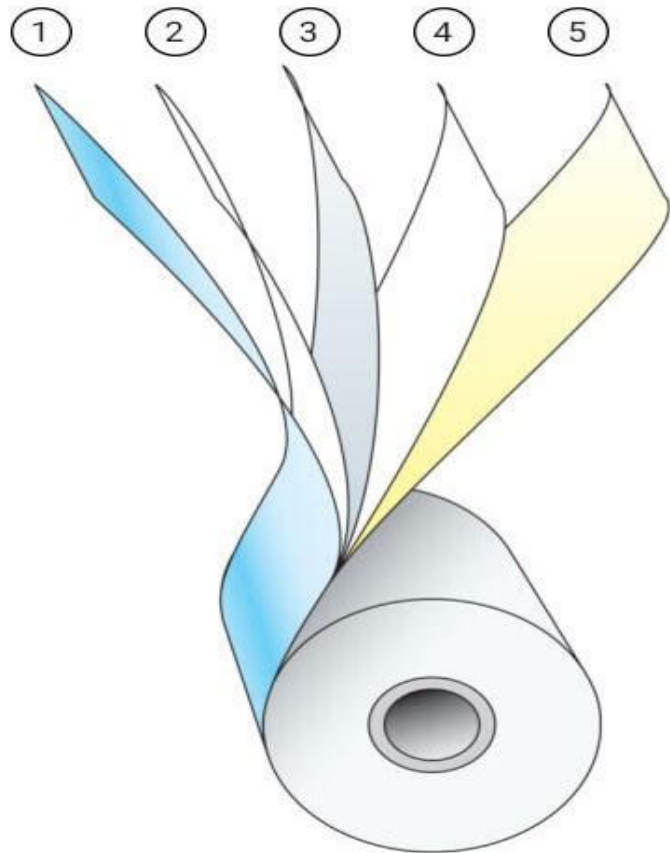


## Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packing

Component	Source	Reusability	Recyclability	Biodegradability	Remarks
Condom	Rubber - natural	No	Limited	Yes, but Long time	Focus area
Chemicals	Synthetic	No	No	Partly	Focus area
Packing materials – Aluminium	Natural	Difficult to reclaim	Difficult to reclaim	??	Focus area,
Packing materials – Plastics	Synthetic – derived from HC	Difficult to reclaim	Difficult to reclaim	??	Focus area
Packing materials – paper and board	Natural	Limited	Yes	Yes	Focus area
Other transport materials	Natural	Yes	Yes	Yes	Focus area

# Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging - current state of art

## Primary packing



# **Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging - current state of art**

## **Primary packing**

### **1. Exterior Layer**

- Provides dimensionally stable print surface
- Protects the ink
- Protects the barrier layer
- Plays a role in burst strength & tear resistance
- Adds to overall pouch strength

### **2. Tie Layer**

- Provides another layer of protection for the barrier layer
- Bonds the outside layer to the barrier layer
- Hides the colour of the barrier layer





# **Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging - current state of art**

## **Primary packing**

### **3. Barrier layer**

- Provides chemical resistance
- Prevents moisture, light, and oxygen transmission

### **4. Tie Layer**

- Bonds the barrier layer to the sealant layer film
- Provides protection for the barrier layer

### **5. Sealant Layer**

- Allows the flexible packaging structure to be heat sealable
- Provides burst strength
- Seals the product within
- Protects the barrier layer





## Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packing

### Packaging Components involved – status of art

#### Primary packing – foil laminate

Component	Purpose	Characteristics	Merits	Limitations	Potential for reduction/ replacement
Packing materials – Aluminium	Barrier properties, light resistance	8 micron thick	Low WVTR, Low OTR	High energy involved in production, brittle, flex crack	Reduction in thickness, composites, replacement
Packing materials – Plastics	Conferring flexibility and structure, sealant layer, printing text matter, enhancing barrier properties	PE, LLDPE, Ionomers, PET, modified PE, BOPP	Printability, seal ability and seal strength, flexible characteristics	Limited OTR and WVTR, Biodegradability - ???	Replacement, Reduction, modifications



## **Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging - Opportunities for improvement**



### **1. Material of construction:**

#### **a) Exterior layer:**

**Avoid PE, move to PET, Glossy Paper, cellophane, METPET, METBOPP, Cutin – Aleuritic acid –cellulose complexes**

#### **b) Tie layers:**

**Recycled/recyclable PE blends, PLA films, PHB films, Polyamides films, Adhesive tie layer between exterior and barrier layers**

#### **c) Barrier layer:**

**Need for aluminium? – Stability, formulation, shelf life  
Thickness – impact of pinholes  
Metallised Exterior layer, coated PTFE layers**





## Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging - Opportunities for improvement



### 1. Material of construction:

#### d) : Sealant layer:

**Adhesives, heat sensitive and pressure sensitive, low temperature vulcanising polymers**





## Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging - Opportunities for improvement



### 2. Format:

Material and area:

- Square Vs rectangle
- Modified rectangle



## Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packing

### Packaging Components involved – status of art

#### Secondary packing – Wallets, inner boxes, catch covers

Component	Purpose	Characteristics	Merits	Limitations	Potential for reduction/replacement
Packing materials – folding box board, paper board	Container, strength for holding during transport and distribution, labelling details	275 to 400 gsm	Strength, puncture strength, protection from mechanical damage	Type of board used, extent of recycling, weight added	Reduction in weight without compromising strength and labelling



## **Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging - Opportunities for improvement**



### **1. Material of construction:**

**Reduction in weight without compromising strength:**

- **Reduction in grammage, fibre reinforced boards**
- **Recycled board blends**
- **Vegetable wax coating for water resistance**
- **Fibre reinforcement**

### **2. Format:**

- **Pillow/ pouch packs**
- **Shrink wrapped trays and lids, with labels**

# Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packing Packaging Components involved – status of art

## Tertiary packing – shipper cartons

Component	Purpose	Characteristics	Merits	Limitations	Potential for reduction/replacement
Packing materials – Recycled corrugated paper	Container, strength for holding during transport and distribution, labelling details	As per WHO UNFPA specification	Strength, puncture strength, protection from mechanical damage	Type of board used, extent of recycling, weight added	Reduction in weight without compromising strength and labelling





## **Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging - Opportunities for improvement**



### **1. Material of construction:**

- Fibre reinforced corrugated cartons – Lignin, cellulose
- Vegetable wax coating for water resistance

### **2. Format:**

- Integration of pack sizes, number of units, through all the levels of packaging to achieve optimum utilization of pallets sizes and container space
- Size optimization to reduce processing wastages
- Size optimisation for less energy intense material handling



# Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packing Packaging Components involved – status of art

## Shipping and transport

Component	Purpose	Characteristics	Merits	Limitations	Potential for reduction/replacement
Pallets	consolidation	Wooden as per international norms	Strength, handling ability	Secondary distribution	Sub units trays



## Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging - Opportunities for improvement



- Use of recycled PE for pallet wrapping
- Appropriately designed secondary distribution cartons

# Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging



## Objective :

**2030 Agenda for sustainable development**

## Evaluation:

**EN 13432**

**ASTM D6400**



# Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging



## Partnership:

- **Manufacturers of packing materials**
- **Manufacturers of condoms**
- **Procurement agencies**
- **Logistics and service providers**
- **Programme implementation**
- **Agencies involved in disposal of materials**
- **Regulatory authorities**
- **Facilitating agencies**



# Partnerships – Eco-friendly condom packaging



## Partnership: Forums



- **UNFPA – manufacturers joint meetings**
- **ISO TC 157 TG 4**
- **National manufacturers association**
- **Research laboratories of rubber products**
- **Institutes of Packaging Technology**
- **Global sustainability initiate agencies**



Thank you