

**OLIVIER PASCALIN**

# **THE SINKHOLE**

**A Short Novel**

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**OF THE SOUTH**

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*Xibalba is crowded with trials, for there are many kinds of trials there. The first of these is the House of Darkness, where nothing but darkness exists within.*

POPOL VUH

(Sacred Book of the Quiché Maya People)



# **THE SINKHOLE**



This morning, Bayer Healthcare, announced its intention to extend through 2023 its access pricing for a special pill for women living in poor countries around the world. The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition applauded this move, which will help respond to the growing demand for implant contraceptives worldwide.

“Our Program widens the contraceptive options available to women living in poor countries around the world, so they can choose a method that best suits their needs,” said Dieter Weinland, member of the Board of Management of Bayer AG and President of its Pharmaceutical Division.

An effective long-acting and reversible contraceptive method to support women in the world’s poorest nations, they say.

Two days later in Berlin, Bayer announced that they will halve the price of its contraceptive pill until 2023 for women living in poor countries around the world. According to the Reproductive Health Supply Coalition the demand is increasing continuously in these countries.

Bayer’s Program aims to make this underutilized method more affordable and accessible to women there, ultimately helping them to expand their choice of contraceptive options.

‘Ensure healthy life’s and promote well-being for all at all ages’, is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ratified in September 2015 by the United Nations. These goals set a large number of ambitious targets to be achieved by 2030. They all recognize “health” as a driver of global economic growth. Although only specifically covered by one goal, health is implicitly linked to money.

Bayer’s activities in family planning directly relate to the “Health” goal, as it covers among others child and maternal mortality and reproductive health. As a market leader in oral contraceptives, Bayer now has nearly 50 years of expertise in the field of family planning. For women in developing countries, Bayer supplies its different hormonal contraceptive methods to partners in international development cooperation at a preferential price. At the same time, Bayer is developing new concepts like the “Sinkhole Program” to give women more family planning options.

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the Life Science fields of health care and agriculture. Its products and services are designed to benefit people and improve their quality of life. At the same time, the Group aims to create value through innovation, growth and high earning power.