



# Vision 2020 for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

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## Introduction

In recent decades, the international development agenda has changed dramatically. Historic United Nations conferences and summits throughout the 1990s and early 2000s have established a new vision for development as creating an equal, just and sustainable world. This shift towards a broad and people-centered approach to development is evident in watershed international agreements including the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (1992), the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo (1994), and the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women (1995).

In September 2000, world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing the international community to a new global plan to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound goals and targets, with a deadline of 2015 that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The eight MDGs have since formed the international/global framework for development policies and funding at the country level. This agenda encompassed a range of linked issues ranging from poverty reduction to human rights and gender equality, and ensuring access to education and health. Sexual and reproductive health and rights were initially missing from the MDG framework; an omission only partially remedied in 2007 with the addition of the target of universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

Since that time, millions of lives have been saved through reproductive health services, particularly in high- and middle-income countries. Similarly, in many regions of the world, laws and policies are now in place to protect reproductive rights and prevent discrimination against women and girls. The UN Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health and the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning, are high-level initiatives aimed at leveraging political will and funding for programmes which will significantly reduce maternal deaths and accelerate universal access to contraception.

However, in the years since the MDG Declaration, the sexual and reproductive health and rights landscape has changed. Global health funding for sexual and reproductive rights and health has declined significantly, and in every region of the world, a maturing HIV/AIDS epidemic increasingly affects women and girls. Rising conservative tides have threatened hard-won sexual and reproductive rights victories and compromised the safety and well-being of all, particularly of young women in poor communities. Despite increased political and media attention, among women of reproductive age in developing countries, 57% (867 million) are in need of contraception because they are sexually active, but do not want a child in the next two years. Of these 867 million women,

645 million (74%) are using modern methods of contraception. The remaining 222 million (26%) are using no method or traditional methods. Perhaps most significantly, today's is the largest-ever generation of young people.

Similarly, several global processes— the MDG review on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, a twenty-year review of progress towards achieving the Cairo Programme of Action, and a discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals initiated at the Rio + 20 conference—are happening now and in forthcoming years, all with implications for the future of the global sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda. It is of the utmost importance that advancing sexual and reproductive rights is central to the international/global development framework that will succeed the MDGs, and will determine policies, priorities and resources allocation worldwide for the decade ahead.

## Why now?

In the second decade of the 21st century, the more than seven billion people sharing the planet face a number of global challenges: threats such as climate change and growing inequalities among and within countries persist alongside the unfinished agenda of poverty elimination at a time when the global financial crisis has reduced the funding available for international development. A range of demographic challenges, including increased migration in a more globalized world, and, in some countries, ageing, are increasingly significant, while the largest-ever generation of young people is in urgent need of education and employment opportunities, and poverty remains a reality for far too many.

Despite these challenges, the current development landscape provides unparalleled opportunities to secure a world of justice, choice and well-being for all. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) envisions a world in which all international programmes work towards the elimination of poverty and hunger in ways that respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. To this end, we believe that: -

- The well-being of individual women, men and young people must remain at the center of social equity-based international development policies and programmes;
- Sustainable development must be based on global solidarity, fuelled by principles of social justice that ensure policy and programmes respect, protect, and fulfill human rights;
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health care and the right to bodily autonomy and integrity is necessary to ensure the full economic, social and cultural participation of all people in their communities, their nations and the world;
- Advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights means support for an inclusive agenda that promotes quality of life and the right to choose whether and when to have children; the right of individuals and couples to time the births of their children so that they can best take care of them; the right to exercise sexuality free of violence and coercion; the right to seek pleasure with respect for other people's rights; the right to protect fertility; and the right of access to modern techniques for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, infertility and cancer.

IPPF upholds a vision within which all women, men and young people have access to the sexual and reproductive health information and services they need; a world in which sexuality is recognized both as a natural and precious aspect of life and as a fundamental right; a world in which choices are fully respected and where stigma and discrimination have no place. This vision must be realized within a context of sustainable development that seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In order to make this vision a reality, we have developed Vision 2020 to communicate our advocacy goals and ensure that sexual and reproductive rights are at the core of the rapidly-changing development agenda. The post MDG framework is currently being discussed and we want with this document to contribute to its development. To this end, we call on governments to commit themselves to reach 10 targets, each of which highlights priority actions and policy recommendations. We also want to appeal to the wider sexual and reproductive health and rights community—including groups working on HIV/AIDS, and LGBTQI issues, and civil society organizations addressing issues related to poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, youth, human rights, disabilities, as well as the private sector, United Nations agencies and other allies, to partner with us to campaign for the following government commitments: -

### **1. Establish by 2015 a new international development framework that includes sexual and reproductive health and rights as essential priorities.**

IPPF calls on governments to:

- Adopt a participatory process for designing a new international development agenda based on principles of gender equality, respect for human rights, and social justice, in which all stakeholders, including young people can be heard;
- Develop a unifying global framework that recognises the needs of countries to establish relevant goals and indicators in respect of the needs of their citizens in general and their SRHR needs in particular;
- Establish mechanisms for accountability and transparency regarding resource allocation and outcomes that include the participation of civil society.
- Support civil society organizations to develop their own capacity to monitor the implementation of the commitments made.

### **2. Increase access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in order to close the gap between the top and bottom wealth quintiles by 50% by the year 2020**

IPPF calls on governments to:

- Invest in educational and other programmes aimed at empowering young women and girls in particular to make informed choices, and demand accountability from service providers;
- Create a legal and policy environment with social protection and justice measures that render sexual and reproductive health services economically accessible to poor and marginalized

groups, aimed at ensuring greater progress amongst the poorest relative to the wealthiest quintile so as to significantly reduce the gap that currently exists between them;

- Improve supply chain management, human, technical and other resources in order to minimize stock-outs and ensure the timely availability of commodities, including emergency contraceptives, of the highest possible quality at a cost that represents value for money within the context of the provision of affordable sustainable services;
- Support innovative technologies, service delivery approaches, etc to reach young people and the poor; and also support civil society organizations that address the needs of the most vulnerable.

### 3. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls to achieve *de facto* equality of opportunity for both women and men by the year 2020

IPPF calls on governments to: -

- **Empower women economically** by investing in policies and programmes that reduce the time burdens of women and girls; increase access to economic opportunities, close the gender gap in earnings and occupational segregation; and guarantee women's and girl's property and inheritance rights, including the right to own land, secure loans, etc;
- **Expand educational opportunities for all**, close gender-related education gaps at all levels, including higher education, and adopt comprehensive sexuality education to eliminate discrimination against women and girls and facilitate the development of the skills they need to protect themselves from sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections;
- **Reduce all forms of violence against women and girls** - including in conflict situations - by adopting and enforcing national laws to prevent violence and punish violations; eliminating forced child marriage; combating son preference; and promoting public awareness campaigns on these issues;
- **Respect, protect and fulfill all women's human rights**, especially sexual rights and reproductive rights, without which the ability to exercise other rights is significantly constrained. Create an enabling environment for the exercise of those rights, including equal and full participation in parliamentary and other policy making processes.

### 4. Recognize sexual rights and reproductive rights as human rights by the year 2020

IPPF calls on governments to:

- Repeal laws, policies and practices that have the effect of increasing stigma and discrimination against women, men and young people on the grounds of sex, sexuality, sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Set standards within health care services in the public and private sectors to ensure that the rights of clients are respected, protected and fulfilled within an environment free of discrimination based on sex, HIV-status, sexuality, sexual orientation or gender identity;

- Ensure that service providers receive the training and support they need, including in-service training, to provide the highest possible quality of care;
- Support qualified women, men and young people as advocates for sexual and reproductive rights and recruit such advocates to serve as Special Rapporteurs, members of UN treaty monitoring bodies, the Universal Periodic Review and other mechanisms;
- Ensure the provision of youth-friendly health care services, and increase the recognition of children and young people as subject of rights in accordance with their evolving capacity, as recognized in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## **5. Engage young people in all policy decisions affecting their lives.**

IPPF calls on governments to:

- Expand opportunities for youth to participate and voice their opinion, for example in national youth councils, youth fora, community service initiatives, online activism and other avenues which enable young people to make their voices heard within civil society, and to be heard by policy makers;
- Promote laws, policies and programmes that protect the rights of young people, recognize diversity within this age-group, including rural and urban young people, those living with disabilities, etc., and enable them to overcome barriers to essential services;
- Ensure the availability of education and employment opportunities to enable young people to contribute effectively to the creative, intellectual and economic development of their communities and countries;
- Increase investment in the education, health and wellbeing of young people from all social, political and economic backgrounds to enable their meaningful participation in the shaping of the future of their communities, cultures and continents;
- Step up the fight against poverty and inequity through child-sensitive programmes to provide opportunities for young people that allow their full development and prevent their being prematurely catapulted into adulthood.

## **6. Provide comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health and HIV services within public, private and not-for-profit health systems by the year 2020**

IPPF calls on governments to:

- Provide the widest range of affordable, integrated sexual and reproductive health and HIV services which meet the highest possible quality standards, and are available to women and men throughout their lives;
- Strengthen health systems, including the health workforce, monitoring and evaluation systems and local community care, and increase the capacity of health care services to reach the underserved, particularly young women and girls;
- Provide basic maternal, newborn and child health care for all, including emergency obstetric care, ante-, neo- and post-natal care;

- Ensure that policies and programmes related to HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support are adequately resourced, serve the needs of key populations and, where relevant, recognize the feminization of the epidemic;
- Invest in the human resources necessary to ensure the availability of high quality sexual and reproductive health and rights information, education and services;
- Create an enabling environment within which public, not-for-profit and private sectors, working separately and together, can increase access to the widest possible range of reproductive health care information, education and services;
- Ensure that those who experience difficulty in conceiving have access to existing and new reproductive technologies and services that are managed in ways that respect and protect rights;
- Financially support and improve data collection to increase the understanding of the sexual and reproductive health needs of women, men, and especially young people, and the extent to which their rights in this respect are respected and protected.

## **7. Reduce by at least 50% the current unmet need<sup>1</sup> for family planning by the year 2020**

IPPF calls on governments to:

- Redouble efforts to reach the underserved, including women and young people with sexual and reproductive health and rights information, education and services;
- By 2020 create an enabling legal and policy environment with the resources needed to secure the London Family Planning Summit/FP2020 goal of 120 million new contraceptive users in the world's poorest countries; and work towards achieving universal access to contraception across the rest of the world;
- Work in partnership across sectors and continents to reduce the cost of contraceptive commodities that meet high quality standards;
- Remove policy, legal, regulatory and financial barriers that prevent access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health information interventions, and services that respect and protect human rights;
- Support civil society organizations and other stakeholders to overcome the obstacles faced when making people aware of contraceptive services and their right to demand them.

## **8. Make comprehensive sexuality education available to all by 2020.**

IPPF calls on governments to:

- Provide as a mandatory part of the school curriculum comprehensive sexuality education that is sensitive to cultural contexts; recognizes, where it exists, the significant sexualization of public spaces, media and social discourses, and conveys accurate information that respects the right of all people to information and education about their sexual and reproductive health;

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<sup>1</sup> Current unmet need for modern contraception is estimated at 222 million women as of June 2012.

- Provide training so that teachers and other education providers are knowledgeable about scientific facts and feel comfortable discussing issues related to sex and sexuality with their students, and engage parents in dialogue about the benefits of advancing the knowledge and skills of young people in this field;
- Provide materials that are informative, accessible and accurate to young people (in formal and informal education settings) using a variety of media to enable them to make fully informed and free choices in respect of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and which strives to prevent sexual aggression and violence among young people and children;
- Involve men and boys in gender-sensitive programmes that advance sexual and reproductive health and rights and have the potential to transform unequal power relations;

## **9. Reduce maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion by 75% by the year 2020.**

IPPF calls on governments to:

- Ensure that contraceptives are widely available, to help avoid unintended pregnancies;
- Support a woman's right to abortion by removing legal and policy barriers to the provision of safe abortion services;
- Take legal and policy steps to reduce the stigma associated with abortion, including the training of health care providers and other key workers;
- Ensure the removal of barriers to enable women to access safe abortion services as early in the pregnancy as possible;
- Establish regulations that impose a duty to refer in case of conscientious objection;
- Train service providers on safe abortion, including medical abortion.

## **10. Allocate sufficient resources to make all nine targets achievable by 2020.**

IPPF calls on governments to:

- Identify, from international and national sources, and invest US\$8.1 billion annually to meet all need for modern contraceptive methods. This requires an additional investment of US\$4.1 billion a year on top of the current spending of US\$ 4.0 billion annually. This additional annual investment of US\$ 4.1 billion would save roughly US\$ 5.7 billion a year in maternal and newborn health service costs;
- Create innovative financing mechanisms which recognize the role of civil society, and which enable programmes of high quality to reach the most marginalized.