



UNFPA Degaba camp, Iraq

SRHR and Canada

Press Package



TREMENDOUS NEED:

- Globally, 214 million women want to avoid a pregnancy but are not using a modern method of contraception. These women account for 84% of unintended pregnancies around the world. Meeting these women's needs for contraception would avert 67 million unintended pregnancies annually, representing an approximately three-quarters decline in unintended pregnancies, unplanned births and abortions. Moreover, fully meeting the unmet need for modern contraception would also result in 76,000 fewer maternal deaths each year¹.
- Investments in SRHR are the key to unlocking the sustainable development goals as SRHR pays multiple dividends – it saves both mothers' and infants' lives, promotes gender equality, increases productivity and household income, and has multigenerational benefits by improving children's health and well-being, and plays a role in shaping future economic development².

VALUE FOR MONEY:

- Investing in SRHR has a negative net cost – every dollar invested in contraception results in \$2.20 reduced spending on unintended pregnancies and neonatal care. RMNCH costs less per capita than providing MNCH care alone.
- Each additional \$10-million spent on family planning assistance would enable 323,000 more women and couples to receive contraceptive supplies and services, prevent 91,000 more unintended pregnancies including 44,000 fewer unplanned births, and prevent 35,000 fewer abortions (25,000 of which would be unsafe). Moreover, with each additional \$10 million invested in international family planning assistance, 250 fewer maternal deaths will occur³.

CANADA'S LEADERSHIP:

- In March 2017, the Government of Canada made a breakthrough commitment of \$650-million over three years for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as an element of Canada's international development assistance. The Canadian government also announced that it would be joining the Family Planning 2020 Initiative and the Ouagadougou Partnership which aim to enable more than 120 million women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020⁴. To date, more than 100 projects, valued at \$521-million have been funded under this envelope⁵. These projects are shared across 50 organizations and 42 countries and territories; 65% of funds to date allocated for Africa, 20% for Asia and 10% for Latin America and the Caribbean⁶.
- Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy commits to “work to close persistent gaps in sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls” through access to a full range of health services including family planning and modern contraception; comprehensive sexuality education; safe and legal abortion and post-abortion care; and prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections⁷.
- In fiscal year 2017/2018 Canada spent \$42.6 million on family planning as part of its international assistance for SRHR which enabled 1.4 million women and couples to receive contraceptive services and supplies, averted 387,000 unintended pregnancies including 187,000 unplanned births, and 147,000 induced abortions (108,000 of which would have been unsafe). Moreover, this investment prevented 1,100 maternal deaths⁸. Thanks to Canada's leadership in SRHR, Canada is the 3rd largest supporter of SRHR in humanitarian settings⁹.



EARLY EXAMPLES OF IMPACT FROM CANADA'S \$650M INVESTMENT

Comprehensive Contraceptive Care – Tanzania - Marie Stopes Tanzania

In Tanzania, Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST) is tackling the issue of access to contraceptive care across 14 of Tanzania's 31 regions, among rural communities, poor urban and migrant communities and poor women and girls in urban and peri-urban areas. Some of their strategies include mobile clinical outreach, the use of auto-rickshaws to deliver services in urban areas, and the placement of trained MST nurses in government health facilities.

In the first six months, the project has already supported over 50,000 people to access family planning services. 42% of those accessing services were between the ages of 15-24.

With GAC support, MST can provide a full range of contraceptive options, giving individuals the opportunity to choose the contraceptive method that is right for them. MST has found that reaching young people remains a significant challenge in Tanzania, which has contributed to significant unmet need for contraception. By consulting adolescents in the design of sexual and reproductive health service models, MST is hoping to learn more about the root causes and social norms that prevent young people from accessing services and what can be done to close the contraception gap.

Over the three-years project, MST expects to reach 500,000 women and girls – preventing 880 maternal deaths, 256,000 unintended pregnancies, and over 157,000 unsafe abortions.

Youth Advocacy for SRHR – Benin - Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (with CARE Canada and CARE Benin/Togo)

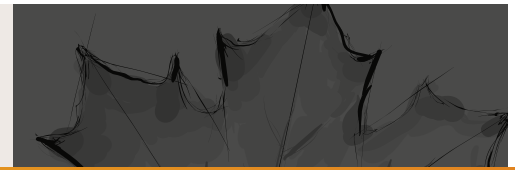
In Benin, 45% of the population is made up of adolescents and youth below the age of 15. Through its \$650M commitment to SRHR, the Government of Canada is supporting an innovative partnership that engages and empowers adolescents and young people to realize their sexual and reproductive health. The PROJEUNES project aims to improve the health and rights of adolescents in Northern Benin, in part, through support for youth leadership and advocacy. By educating young people on their sexual and reproductive health and rights and building the capacity of Beninese youth organizations to advocate for these rights, the project is fostering youth leadership on SRHR.

Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (YCSRR), an international youth-led organization specializing in youth advocacy for SRHR, is the partner leading on the youth advocacy component. Throughout the course of the project,

Beninese youth advocates will be trained on SRHR issues such as child, early and forced marriage, comprehensive sexuality education, and access to contraception, and given opportunities to meet with policymakers in Benin and internationally. With their new skills, Beninese youth will be able to push for strengthened delivery of youth friendly SRHR services and their meaningful engagement in decision-making on these issues.

The PROJEUNES project also includes collaboration with elected officials, religious leaders, and health care providers to address gendered social norms that contribute to child, early and forced marriage, and create barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The three-year PROJEUNES project aims to reach 584,803 people in Northern Benin, the majority being adolescents between the ages of 15 to 24.



UNFPA SRHR mobile teams helping women before and after delivery, Yemen



Strengthening Advocacy for SRHR – The Philippines – Oxfam Canada

The Sexual Health and Empowerment (SHE) project headed by Oxfam Canada is a wide-reaching initiative that brings together eight Filipino organizations across six disadvantaged and conflict-affected regions of the Philippines. Taking a multipronged approach, the project will range from service delivery, to attitudinal change, to civil society capacity-building. In this sense, SHE will not only deliver essential sexual and reproductive health services to those in need, it will also be working to address the very barriers that prevent women from accessing these services or exercising their rights.

Further, SHE will be establishing a flexible funding mechanism to provide timely financial support to enable women's rights organizations to carry out actions related to sexual and reproductive rights, gender-based violence, and other interconnected issues. With funding for grassroots organizations being a key barrier to political engagement, this funding could help catalyze local and regional advocacy to support the rights of women and girls. Some of the issues being tackled include gender inequality, sex trafficking, lack of access to resources, sexual and gender-based violence and child and early forced marriage

Oxfam estimates that the project will directly benefit approximately 85,000 women, men, girls and boys across the six regions. 270,000 people in conflict-affected and disadvantaged areas are also expected to indirectly benefit from the project.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Youth and Adolescents – Colombia – PROFAMILIA and International Planned Parenthood Federation- Western Hemisphere Region

Profamilia is an International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) member association based in Colombia. A household name, Profamilia offers both clinic-based and mobile sexual and reproductive health care, as well as health promotion and advocacy for SRHR, with a focus on young people. Together with International Planned Parenthood Federation- Western

Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR) and with financial support from Global Affairs Canada, the organization has launched a new project to promote comprehensive sexuality education (CSE).

The project will address key barriers to sexual and reproductive health and fulfillment of rights for young people in Colombia, including high rates of

gender-based violence, early pregnancy, gender and social inequalities, and limited political and social participation of girls, boys and adolescents. The project will provide spaces and tools for young people to reflect on gender inequalities in their daily lives, generate initiatives to transform those inequalities, and undertake advocacy actions in partnership with adult allies.

1 Guttmacher Institute, 2017. [Adding It Up: Investing in Contraception and Maternal and Newborn Health, 2017.](#)
 2 Ann M. Starrs, et al., 2018. [Accelerate progress – sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission.](#)
 3 Guttmacher Institute, 2018. [Just the Numbers – The Impact of Canadian International Assistance for Family Planning, 2017-2018. Sexual and reproductive health and rights \(SRHR\) – Approved projects](#)
 4 Global Affairs Canada, 2017. [Canada Announces support for sexual and reproductive health and rights.](#)
 5 Global Affairs Canada, 2018.
 6 Note: percentages do not add as certain projects did not specify geography.
 7 Global Affairs Canada, 2017. [Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy.](#)
 8 Guttmacher Institute, 2018.
 9 UNPFA, 2019. [Humanitarian Action 2019 Overview](#)