

EU DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Ensuring EU leadership on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Planning (SRH/FP)

EUROPE, A KEY PLAYER IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The European Union (EU) is a unique actor in the development cooperation field: contributions from EU institutions and its 28 Member States make it the biggest multilateral provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) worldwide.

According to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in 2017, the EU and its Member States continue to be the world's leading provider of ODA with an overall amount of 75.7 billion EUR in 2017.¹ The European institutions alone remained the fourth biggest donor globally, with an indicative contribution of 14.6 billion EUR, following the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom.²

WHAT DO WE MEAN WITH SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

In 2018, a holistic new definition of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) going beyond the commonly recognized components of sexual and reproductive health was presented by the Guttmacher Institute and the Lancet Commission. Their report titled "Accelerate progress – sexual and reproductive health and rights for all" introduces for the first time an expanded and evidenced-based comprehensive SRHR definition and recommends an all-inclusive package of essential Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services and information that should be available to everyone. Accordingly, the definition recommended by the report includes all different aspects of reproductive health, sexual health and reproductive rights as already recognised in the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD PoA). In addition, it also includes all sexual rights aspects, including Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).³



INVESTING IN SRH/FP IS CRUCIAL – THESE ARE SOME REASONS WHY:⁴

EACH YEAR, IN DEVELOPING REGIONS:

→ **MORE THAN 200 MILLION WOMEN** want to avoid pregnancy but do not have access to modern contraception

→ **MORE THAN 45 MILLION WOMEN** receive inadequate antenatal care, or none at all

→ **MORE THAN 30 MILLION WOMEN** deliver their babies outside of a health facility

EACH YEAR, WORLDWIDE:

→ **APPROXIMATELY 266,000 WOMEN DIE FROM CERVICAL CANCER**

→ **224 MILLION WOMEN DIE FROM CAUSES RELATED TO PREGNANCY OR CHILDBIRTH** (i.e. one every two minutes)

→ **AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES, ABOUT ONE IN THREE WOMEN EXPERIENCES GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**, most often from an intimate partner.

EU COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORTING SRHR

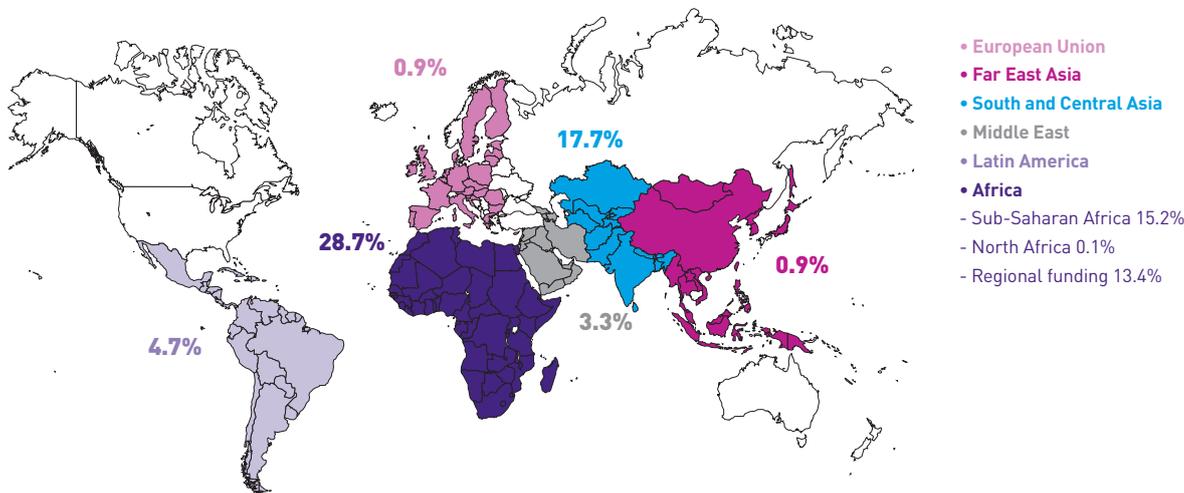
The commitment of the EU institutions to promote SRHR in international cooperation and development policy is reflected in various major policy documents. Most notably, SRHR is recognised as an important area of investment in the **2017 European Consensus on Development**, the main policy paper defining a shared vision and framework for action in development cooperation for the EU and its Member States. In the Consensus, the EU reaffirms its commitment to the "promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the outcomes of their review conferences and remains committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)"⁵.

EUROPE'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING IN 2017

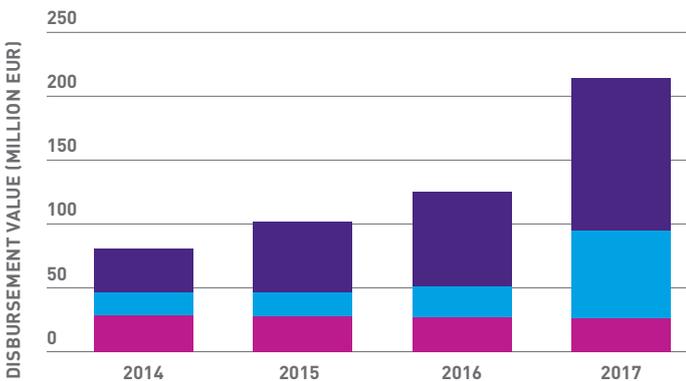
Moreover, the EU promised to play a leading role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which also includes commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 3 and 5. Both goals clearly highlight the importance of universal access to SRH (target 5.6), including FP, information and education (target 3.7). Another important initiative, indicating the EU's commitment to gender and SRH/FP is the **EU - UN Spotlight Initiative**, which was launched in September 2017. This is a 500 Million EUR EU-UN initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls worldwide. The Spotlight Initiative will deploy targeted, large-scale investments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and the Caribbean, aimed at achieving significant improvements in the lives of women and girls. Adding these commitments to the fact that the EU institutions are one of the biggest donors worldwide and the enormous needs on SRH/FP, it is crucial that the EU commitments are reflected in budget allocations and expenditure.

According to the EU's "2018 Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions in 2017"⁶, the EU institutions disbursed a total of 13.941 billion EUR of ODA, in comparison to 13.104 billion EUR in 2016. From this, 133 million EUR was spent on population policies/programmes and reproductive health, as defined by the OECD DAC⁷, which is a significant increase compared to the 100 million EUR from 2016. On the other hand, the 746 million EUR that was disbursed on health⁸ in 2017 is considerably lower than the 854 million EUR of 2016.

EU INSTITUTIONS' REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION POLICIES/ PROGRAMMES AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AID IN 2017⁹



TRENDS IN EU INSTITUTIONS DISBURSEMENTS IN MULTILATERAL FUNDING TO SRH/FP UNDER THE CURRENT MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK (MFF) 2014-2020



- As an overall trend, there has been a significant increase in EU funding to SRH/FP to 216 million EUR in 2017. This is around 90 million EUR more than in 2016 and more than 2.5 times the amount spent in 2014. This is the result of an increase in funding to UNFPA and to specific SRH/FP organisations. The funding to other multilateral organisations has remained more or less constant from 2014 – 2017.
- EU funding to UNFPA increased substantially in 2017 (up to 58 million EUR), amongst others due to a 17 million EUR contribution to the UNFPA supplies fund, support for the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting and strong support for UNFPA's humanitarian work.
- The strong increase of funding for specific SRH/FP organisations is mainly because of extra funding for SRH/FP research.

METHODOLOGY

The multilateral funding figures depict contributions drawn from the OECD DAC database to which weighted percentages have been applied, based on the method agreed between UNFPA and the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI):

- Other Multilateral Funding for SRH/FP represents contributions to UNICEF, UN Women, UNDP, WHO, World Bank, UNAID and does not include funding to UNFPA
- UNFPA funding to SRH/FP represents all funding from EU institutions to UNFPA.
- Specific SRH/FP organisations and initiatives represents funding to different non-governmental organisations and initiatives, including research initiatives. The data has been drawn from OECD DAC Database and EU's CORDIS.

This analysis is part of the Countdown 2030 Europe annual tracking.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EU

This newest data show that there has been a significant increase in EU funding to SRH/FP in 2017, giving a clear signal that the EU upholds reproductive freedom for all through its policies and budgeting decisions. We call on the EU to continue to champion reproductive freedom and gender equality in its international cooperation and development policy as well as funding. The discussion on the next 7-year budget (MFF), the proposed Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and the programming of the funds provide unique opportunities in this regard.



Supporting an ambitious new EU Multiannual Financial Framework and a future development cooperation instrument (NDICI) that are in favour of SRHR and gender equality.



In the NDICI, the EU must include earmarked funding for SRHR, including Family Planning, in accordance with the 2017 European Consensus on Development.

- SRHR should therefore be included as an objective under various budget lines (health, education, youth empowerment, human rights, gender) in both the thematic and geographic programmes.
- Regardless of how SRHR will be tackled in terms of budget lines, the EU should have a specific commitment in terms of funding levels, in order to ensure that SRHR are consistently taken up every year throughout 2021-2027.



It is essential that SRH/FP is included as an issue when the discussions on the programming start. This means amongst others that EU Delegations should include SRHR-related issues in their analysis, consult civil society in the process and invite CSOs working on SRH/FP to all consultations.

FOOTNOTES

1. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3002_en.htm

2. <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/>

3. Guttmacher Institute and the Lancet Commission [2018]. "Accelerate progress – sexual and reproductive health and rights for all". [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)30293-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)30293-9/fulltext)

4. Guttmacher Institute and the Lancet Commission [2018]. "Accelerate progress – sexual and reproductive health and rights for all". [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)30293-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)30293-9/fulltext)

5. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf

6. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/annual-report-2018-hres-20190212_en.pdf

7. OECD DAC CRS codes: 130 (population assistance policies/programmes and reproductive health)

8. OECD DAC CRS codes under 120 (Health): 121 (Health general) + 122 (basic health)

9. Source: OECD database: <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1>



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