

WHY WE NEED TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Universal and comprehensive access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is needed to:

SAVE LIVES



REALISE HUMAN RIGHTS



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY



ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The world remains far from achieving SRHR for all, and the continued neglect of SRHR only exacerbates an already dramatic reality. Below are just some of the many available figures that show the enormous amount of work that remains to be done.

MATERNAL MORTALITY



Every day, **830 women** die from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth – this means a woman dies every 2 minutes¹.

About **16 million girls** aged 15-19 and some **1 million girls** under the age of 15 give birth every year—most in low- and middle-income countries. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the second highest cause of death for 15-19 year-old girls globally².

Maternal deaths and subsequent newborn mortality were estimated to generate annual productivity losses of US\$15 billion³.

UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES

An estimated **225 million women** in developing countries would like to delay or stop childbearing but are not using any method of contraception⁹. This results in 74 million unplanned pregnancies every year¹⁰.

HIV and AIDS



HIV and AIDS continue to be major global public health issues. AIDS has claimed **more than 34 million lives so far**.

In 2014 alone, **1.2 million people died** from HIV-related causes globally⁷ and **2 million people** were infected with HIV, including 220,000 children⁸.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

Worldwide, **1 in 3 women has been a victim of physical and/or sexual violence**, mainly at the hands of their partners.

In some countries, up to a third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced¹⁶.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

Globally, it is estimated that **200 million women and girls alive today have undergone some form of FGM**, and if current trends continue, 15 million additional girls aged 15-19 will be subjected to it by 2030¹⁷.

CHILD MARRIAGE

Every day, **39 000 girls become child brides** – 140 million girls over the past ten years⁴.

1 in 3 girls in the developing world are married before the age of 18 and 1 in 9 are married before the age of 15. Girls who marry before they are 18 are more likely to experience domestic violence than those who marry later⁵.

If nothing changes, by 2030 an estimated **16.5 million girls a year will become child brides**⁶.

Countdown 2030 Europe is a consortium of 15 leading European non-governmental organisations working in 12 European countries and with the EU institutions to ensure that reproductive health and family planning are a funding priority for European donors and a policy priority in Europe and globally. For more information, please contact the Countdown 2030 Europe lead partner, the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN), at: countdown2030europe@ippfen.org or visit www.countdown2030europe.org

Countdown 2030
EUROPE

Advance human rights
Invest in family planning

UNSAFE ABORTIONS

Around **22 million unsafe abortions** are estimated to take place worldwide each year, almost all in developing countries (and notably Africa) - this includes 3 million girls aged 15-19¹¹.

The annual cost of treating major complications from unsafe abortion is estimated at US\$680 million¹². In particular, Sub-Saharan Africans pay US\$200 million out of their own pockets to obtain life-saving treatment for complications resulting from unsafe abortion¹³. Estimates show that death and disability from unsafe abortion lead to the loss of at least 5 million years of productive life¹⁴.

It is important to note that highly restrictive abortion laws are **not** associated with lower abortion rates. For example, the abortion rate is **29 per 1,000** women of childbearing age in Africa and **32 per 1,000** in Latin America—regions in which abortion is illegal under most circumstances in the majority of countries. The rate is **12 per 1,000** in Western Europe, where abortion is generally permitted on broad grounds¹⁵.

SRHR NOT ONLY SAVES LIVES BUT ALSO BRINGS SIGNIFICANT RETURN OF INVESTMENT

Contraceptive use currently prevents 218 million unintended pregnancies in developing countries, and, in turn, averts 55 million unplanned births, 138 million abortions (of which 40 million are unsafe), 25 million miscarriages and 118,000 maternal deaths per year²⁰.

Serving all women in developing countries that currently have an unmet need for modern contraceptive methods would prevent an additional 54 million unintended pregnancies, including 21 million unplanned births, 26 million abortions (of which 16 million would be unsafe) and 7 million miscarriages; this would also prevent 79,000 maternal deaths and 1.1 million infant deaths²¹.

Satisfying the unmet need for family planning alone could:

- cut the number of maternal deaths by almost a third²²;
- save the lives of some 250,000 newborn babies each year²³;
- help prevent 75% of all sexually transmitted HIV infections²⁴.

No other investment can match these numbers.



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

More than **100 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance** in 2015, more than **25 million of them were women and girls**, aged 15-49.

Today about 3 out of 5 of all maternal deaths take place in humanitarian and fragile contexts. Every day, **507 women and adolescent girls die** from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth in emergency situations and in fragile states.

The need for humanitarian assistance has reached record levels. In 2014, the United Nations needed a record US\$19.5 billion to respond to crises around the world. Yet, it faced a record US\$7.5-billion funding gap for humanitarian response, which meant that only 60% of the identified needs were covered. Today, only 5 cents for every humanitarian dollar spent goes to prevention and preparedness.



VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTI PEOPLE

Data collection remains extremely poor on issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people¹⁸ and notably violence perpetrated against them because of their gender identity and / or sexual orientation. At least **1,731 trans people were murdered** in 62 countries between 2008 and 2014, equivalent to over a killing every two days¹⁹.



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