



THE INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Because the toughest challenges need the most creative solutions

Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health in a constantly changing world requires innovative thinking. **IPPF's Innovation Programme invests around 2 per cent of unrestricted funding to foster innovation** in our global network of over 170 knowledgeable and inspirational sexual and reproductive health organizations. We connect local expertise with global knowledge to find new and effective ways to improve people's sexual and reproductive health.



Why invest in innovation?

- Innovation is the only sustainable competitive advantage.
- The world of sexual and reproductive health and rights has a complex and ever-changing landscape.
- Learning from innovation contributes to our evidence base, making IPPF more effective.



Our approach

Innovation means introducing something new – a new idea, target group or programme approach that focuses on tackling sensitive issues and supporting communities that are the hardest to reach. IPPF's Innovation Programme is **a creative space to work in partnership with researchers, ensuring a wide-ranging contribution to the evidence base for solving some of today's greatest sexual and reproductive health and rights challenges.**

- We engage local and international staff and experts to identify the most pertinent sexual and reproductive health challenges.
- IPPF Member Associations develop creative projects to address these challenges. They partner with independent researchers to provide evidence and rationale for their success, or failure.

- IPPF's Innovation Programme provides a safe space for Member Associations to take managed risks and learn.
- We share learning widely, both internally and externally. For example, learning from a project that integrated HIV and sexual and reproductive health services made IPPF a sector leader.

To date, 24 per cent of Innovation Programme projects have tested something ground-breaking to the sector. Current project examples include using mHealth to increase young people's access to contraception (see case study); providing safe post-abortion care in humanitarian settings (see case study); and increasing engagement of men and boys.

BOLIVIA, PALESTINE AND TAJIKISTAN

Does mHealth increase contraceptive access for young people?

The Innovation Programme identified contraceptive access for young people as a topic of strategic importance to IPPF and the sector. Barriers to young people accessing contraception are well documented: stigma, inaccurate knowledge and an unsupportive environment combine to make young people the group with the highest unmet need for contraception. Member Associations in Bolivia, Palestine and Tajikistan responded to this challenge, using human-centred design, by asking young people to lead the design of locally appropriate mHealth solutions – resulting in an app and instant messaging – which provide them with accurate contraceptive information. Their impact is currently being tested through randomized controlled trials, led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



RESULTS: IPPF'S INNOVATION TRACK RECORD

IPPF has pioneered investment in innovation since 2005, including a strong record of learning and improving our innovation processes. A review of the first seven years of investment (41 projects) found that:

			
66% of projects tested something new to IPPF	95% of projects worked with vulnerable or marginalized groups	65% of projects strengthened the profile of the Member Association as a leader in its country	73% of projects continued their activities after project funding ended

BANGLADESH

Opportunities and challenges to access safe post-abortion care services during humanitarian crises

This current project is a collaboration with the SPRINT network (IPPF's sexual and reproductive health programme in crisis and post-crisis situations), the University of Leicester and the ICDDR,B research institute, Dhaka. It aims to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with miscarriage and unsafe abortion in flood-prone areas of Bangladesh through an integrated package including pre-positioning of medical supplies, building the capacity of service providers and community awareness raising. In November 2016, the project was presented at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, notably the only advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights in humanitarian crises, and the only example of collaboration between an implementing organization and an academic institution.

PHILIPPINES
Sexual and reproductive health and rights of migrant workers

Many people leave the Philippines each year to work in countries such as Hong Kong. They become 'invisible' in terms of their health needs, far from their own government and excluded from service planning by their hosts. Many of these migrants are low skilled, employed as household workers, vulnerable because of their lower levels of education and income. The Family Planning Organization of the Philippines developed a model to improve migrant workers' knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights, establishing mandatory pre-departure seminars on the subject. Initially partnering with external seminar providers, the Member Association is now an accredited provider itself, generating income through government fees and reaching around 80 potential migrants each day. At the same time, the IPPF Member Association in Hong Kong began offering services to Filipino immigrants.



References

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WHAT IS IPPF?

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) delivers sexual and reproductive health services that let people make their own choices. We fight for everyone to exercise their right to make those choices. We are local, through our members and volunteers, and global, through our network. We meet need, wherever it is, whoever requires it, for as long as they want it.



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