IPPF fights for sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality for all. In 2015, IPPF’s advocacy culminated in the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights and gender equality in the Sustainable Development Goals. In over 170 countries, our Member Associations and other civil society organizations drive change by strengthening policy and legislation and holding governments to account. By 2022, our goal is that 100 governments will respect, protect and fulfil sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality.

Driving change in Morocco

Amina Filali was 16 when, in 2011, she was forced to marry the man who had raped her. Moroccan law allowed a rapist to escape imprisonment by marrying his victim. After being beaten and disowned by her family, Amina killed herself. IPPF in Morocco – Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale – formed a coalition to call for change, including through public demonstrations. The Association supported a legal amendment and led advocacy with parliamentarians. Finally, parliament voted to change the criminal code and, in January 2014, the law was amended so that rapists now face prison in all circumstances.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights challenges

- 66 countries either ban abortion entirely or permit it only to save a woman’s life. A quarter of the world’s population live in these countries.
- Despite promises by governments to achieve Millennium Development Goal target 5B – universal access to reproductive health – by 2015, only half of pregnant women received the recommended level of antenatal care, and millions of women and girls still have an unmet need for contraception.
- In many low- and middle-income countries, laws and policies restrict the provision of contraception based on age or marital status.
- In order for everyone who needs it to access modern contraception, maternal and newborn health care, antiretroviral care, and treatment for major curable sexually transmitted infections, US$39.2 billion is needed each year, more than double 2014 spending.

UGANDA
Renewing commitment to contraception

Thanks to the advocacy work of IPPF in Uganda – Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) – the country held its first national family planning conference in 2014. RHU secured agreement from leaders in four districts to earmark a percentage of revenue for contraception. The president framed contraception as central to development, and the government launched a US$200 million costed implementation plan which aims to increase contraceptive prevalence by 50 per cent by 2020.

RHU achieved this by:
- working with a respected coalition of civil society organizations
- presenting a compelling, evidence-based case
- leading a youth advocacy group
- stimulating media interest
- advocating with parliamentary groups
- meeting decision makers face to face
IPPF’s approach: locally owned, globally connected

IPPF connects local, national, regional and global advocacy networks. IPPF amplifies national voices in international fora.

- We prioritize advocacy on the sexual and reproductive health and rights challenges faced by the communities we speak for.
- We gather evidence to create a compelling case for change. Advocacy is informed by our service delivery, bringing legitimacy and credibility.
- We forge strategic partnerships and coalitions across civil society, with youth and women’s groups and UN agencies. We engage influential groups: religious leaders, the media and parliamentarians.
- We use a range of methods, tailored to the context, to advocate for change.
- We lead cutting edge research on the use of social accountability tools. We hold decision makers to account, closing the gap between promises and delivery.

Results

From 2010 to 2015, the advocacy of IPPF Member Associations contributed to 528 successful policy and/or legislative changes in support or defence of sexual and reproductive health and rights. That’s between 1 and 2 changes each and every week.

IPPF PERFORMANCE IN 2015

IPPF achieved 22 advocacy wins at regional and global levels. IPPF Member Associations and partners in 48 countries contributed to 82 policy, budget and legislative changes. These included:

- 16 successful policy initiatives and legislative changes to support education and services for young people
- 19 successful policy initiatives and legislative changes to support fulfilment of sexual and reproductive rights
- 22 successful policy initiatives and legislative changes to support access to abortion

By 2015, 60% of Member Associations were monitoring their governments’ obligations in international human rights treaties.

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.