



WOMEN, GIRLS AND GENDER

Achieving gender equality and empowering all women

Women and girls hold the key to sustainable development. Achieving gender equality is a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 5) and is central to all the other Goals. **IPPF is committed to promoting gender equality.** We empower women and girls to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. IPPF extends access to life-saving services. We enable girls to avoid the risks of unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion, boosting their earning potential.

Gender, poverty and health

Globally, women bear the brunt of poverty, accounting for two-thirds of the 1.4 billion people currently living in extreme poverty. Gender norms, sexual and gender-based violence, and discrimination impact on women's development, health and well-being. This limits women's ability to determine their future, access opportunities and control resources.

Gender disparities undermine women's health and rights

- 225 million women want to avoid or delay pregnancy but do not have access to contraception.
- Every year, 47,000 women die from unsafe abortion – 13% of all maternal deaths – and many millions more suffer illness, injury or disability.
- One in every three girls in developing countries is married before the age of 18.
- More than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation.
- One woman in three worldwide has experienced sexual or gender-based violence in her lifetime.

IPPF PERFORMANCE IN 2015



PAKISTAN

Reaching the survivors of forced marriage (*Swara*)

In *Swara*, girls are given as compensation for crimes committed by male family members. In 2011, IPPF in Pakistan – Rahnuma-Family Planning Association of Pakistan – provided sexual and reproductive health services to young women affected by *Swara* in the Swat Valley. The Association strategically engaged a range of community stakeholders, including religious leaders, poets, mothers-in-law, female teachers, village councils and youth interactive theatre groups. As a result, the project succeeded in obtaining commitments against *Swara* from local imams and clerics. The project has been voted one of Women Deliver's 50 most inspiring ideas and solutions that deliver for girls and women.



Our gender transformative approach

IPPF breaks the vicious cycle of women's ill health and disempowerment by **delivering high-quality sexual and reproductive health services** and information. Our Member Associations have in-depth knowledge of the local context and are embedded in the community. This enables them to work with women to identify and meet their specific needs.

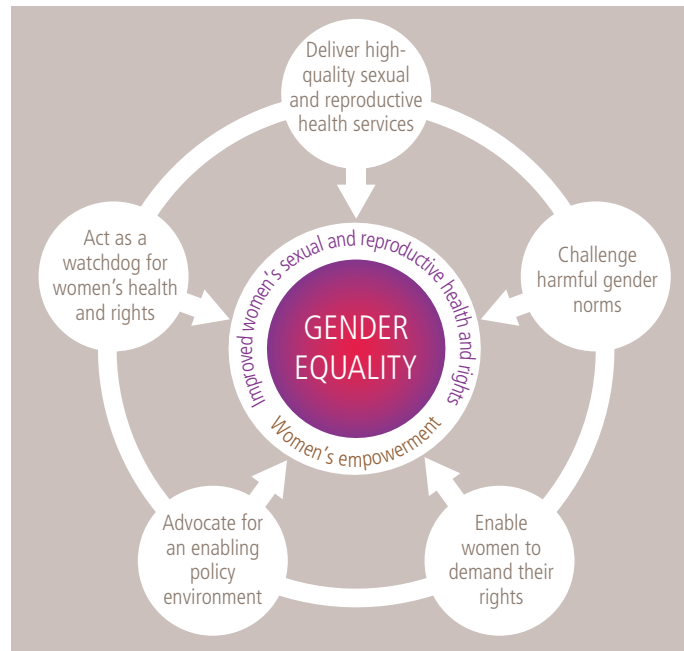
IPPF engages men and women, girls and boys to **challenge harmful gender norms** and practices such as child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and sexual and gender-based violence.

Our comprehensive sexuality education programmes **enable young people to understand and demand their rights**, and teach boys about gender equitable relations. IPPF builds the skills and confidence of women and girls. We foster women's leadership. This unlocks women's potential and increases their control over resources and access to opportunities.

IPPF advocates for an enabling policy environment. We challenge laws, policies and practices that discriminate against women and girls. We ensure women's active engagement in advocacy, mobilizing at community, national, regional and global levels.

IPPF acts as a watchdog, tracking sexual and reproductive health programmes and resources. We hold decision makers accountable for their commitments to realizing sexual and reproductive rights.

IPPF GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH



ALGERIA

Criminalizing violence against women

Since 2011, IPPF in Algeria – the Association Algérienne pour la Planification Familiale – has led a coalition of national non-governmental organizations to address sexual and gender-based violence and uphold women's rights. The coalition worked with parliamentarians, ministries, media representatives and lawyers to advocate for a new law that criminalizes violence against women. The Association facilitated meetings and campaigns to spark public debate and build consensus on the need to enact legislation to protect women's rights. In 2015, the parliament passed legislation criminalizing domestic violence and public harassment.

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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