

IPPF is already committed to improving the sexual and reproductive health and rights of the most vulnerable people worldwide.

We know that innovation is the only way to adapt to changing contexts, reach the most vulnerable and challenge the status quo.

The IPPF Innovation Fund supports local people to develop innovative solutions and fulfil the vision of their communities.

Over the last five years the IPPF Innovation Fund has supported 40 new ideas across the world, improving the lives of thousands of people.

**small fund,
big ideas**

We know that promoting managed risk-taking supports brave and dedicated individuals to innovate and challenge the status quo.

Challenging human rights abuse

"We highlighted the issue in the press to the local authorities, who promptly took action. In this way, we were able to save a poor girl from lifelong miseries."

Project coordinator

In Pakistan's politically unstable North-West Frontier Province, young women are 'given' in marriage as compensation to resolve disputes between families. These 'Swara' women have no status within their new family and are subject to violence and abuse. The Innovation Fund project is providing first aid training to 'Swara' women. This builds practical skills, and challenges community perceptions and attitudes.

Working in areas with a strong Taliban influence and escalating regional conflict make this work especially dangerous. However, local religious leaders are demonstrating unprecedented support – organizing advocacy groups to mobilize Islamic institutions to outlaw coerced marriages.

IPPF's Innovation Fund supports local people who have the vision to inspire change for good. It helps them deliver lasting solutions to improve the sexual and reproductive health of their communities.

Promoting sexual rights

In Cameroon, homosexuality is a crime and sexual minorities face high levels of discrimination and marginalization. In this difficult environment, and in the face of often violent opposition, the Innovation Fund project is taking great risks. It is furthering the sexual rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups, setting up support services, fighting discrimination and changing public opinion.

In this pioneering project, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are trained as peer educators to provide support, advice and counselling. There is now a safe place where these groups can access sexual and reproductive health and other medical services specifically designed with and for them.

IPPF's Innovation Fund nurtures critical thinking, experimentation and ground-breaking ideas around the world.

"The project has made a very big difference to my life. I better understand and accept my identity and I know about my rights as a citizen and as a human being."

Peer educator

We know that creative people need the space and resources to try new things, to make the impossible possible and to show how this was achieved.

We know that innovation is the only way to adapt to challenging contexts, reach the most vulnerable and approach development differently.

Empowering the most vulnerable

“We addressed critical new issues that have not been raised previously within the Palestinian society.”

Religious leader

Women living in the refugee camps of the Occupied Palestinian Territories must overcome extraordinary barriers and taboos to gain access to sexual and reproductive health information and services – services we take for granted. Restrictive laws and religious beliefs, the prevailing conflict and a lack of health services place women’s lives at risk when they have an unwanted pregnancy.

For the first time, the Innovation Fund project provided crucial services, such as post-abortion care and emergency contraception. Women have been empowered to exercise their rights through vigorous community education and gaining the support of Muslim leaders. A nationwide abortion coalition of government and civil society groups was built to change abortion policy at national level.

IPPF’s Innovation Fund supports people in areas of conflict and oppression who live on the margins of society with little access to reproductive health services.

IPPF/Steve Sababala/Palestine

Pioneering new ways to deliver services

In the slums of Nairobi, HIV is just one of many challenges that threaten life and livelihoods. The Innovation Fund project provided antiretroviral therapy, enabling people to return to productive work and offering hope for the future.

HIV services were integrated into existing sexual and reproductive health services. This means that clients only have to see one doctor or nurse, and avoids the need for referral to a specialist HIV clinic. This also reduces HIV stigma and encourages people to use the services.

Support groups empowered people living with HIV to start small businesses and helped them keep to complicated drug regimes.

IPPF’s Innovation Fund pioneers the use of medical advances, breaking down barriers to reach those most in need.

“The community health workers can tell stories of how other HIV-positive people are doing fine. That in itself gives hope.”

Community member

We know that developing innovative service delivery models increases effectiveness and provides people with access to better services.



IPPF/Neil Thomas/Kenya

We know that innovative approaches work when tackling some of the most difficult sexual and reproductive health and rights issues in the world today.

To continue to empower the most vulnerable people, we need your help...

to build on the projects that are already working and to keep on innovating in the most difficult places on earth.

We have new project ideas waiting for your support. For more information or to contribute to the Innovation Fund visit www.ippf.org or email innovation@ippf.org

Small investments made in our Innovation Fund projects have changed people's lives forever.

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is a worldwide movement of national organizations and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

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