

# Working group SRHR/HIV

# History

- ❖ The WG SRHR was founded in May 2009, following the adoption of the Belgian development cooperation policy note on SRHR in 2007.
- ❖ In 2012, the Belgian Platform on Population and Development (founded 2000) joined forces with the WG on SRHR.
- ❖ Since June 2014, close collaboration resulting in merger with the WG HIV/AIDS (founded 2003)

# Members

- Civil society organisations
  - Sensoa, Memisa, Medecins du Monde, FOS...
- Academic institutions
  - ITM, Free University of Brussels, ICRH/ Ghent University...
- representatives of institutional stakeholders
  - the Belgian Development Agency (BTC) and the Directorate-General of Development Cooperation (DGD)

# Objectives

- **General objective:**
  - To contribute to the development and the implementation of Belgian development policies on SRHR and HIV
- **Specific objectives:**
  - Networking
  - Exchange of knowledge
  - Policy support
  - Awareness raising, advocacy, training & capacity building

# Activities

- 5–7 meetings per year
- Task forces for specific projects
- In principle one external events per year

# Some examples of activities

- External activities

- 18 November 2015: seminar ‘Sexual and reproductive health and rights in the sustainable development goals era’

- Fall 2016: seminar on SRHR and stigmatization

# Some examples of activities 2

## E-tutorial

Objective: to educate stakeholders from Belgian development cooperation (e.g. diplomats, NGO reps, staff of BTC,...) on issues related to SRHR, with the aim of providing knowledge and tools that allow to improve SRHR.

Finalization foreseen by the end of 2016.

# Some examples of activities 3

## Some other activities:

- give input on strategy note ‘right to health and health care’
- several internal presentations and discussions on topics relevant for our working group (SRHR & response to sexual violence in Uganda, ODA for health and SRHR, Follow-up on CPD...)



# Some examples of activities 4

## Fact sheets for diplomats and stakeholders of the Belgian development cooperation

Purpose: give guidance on the way in which they can take specific topics into account in their work.

- SRHR and youth
- SRHR and HIV
- SRHR and Gender

# Strengths and challenges

- **Strengths:**
  - Balanced representation of different stakeholders
  - Dedicated members
  - Good collaboration with development cooperation institutions
  - Support from BCH secretariat
- **Challenges**
  - No paid staff, entirely based on volunteers
  - Limited time investment/availability of members
  - Not easy to reach diplomats