

Gender equality & Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights - SRHR



Problem

Lack of Sexual Reproductive Health Worldwide

Effective access to healthcare services remains inadequate

- physical access & distance
- financial threshold
- acceptable vs incidental discriminating/incriminating attitude of healthcare professionals

225 million



women in developing countries have no access to birth control methods.

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20 million



women each year undergo an unsafe abortion because they have no access to good SRHR services.

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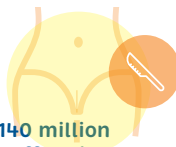
33%



One in three women experiences domestic violence or sexual violence in her life.

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140 million



Globally, about 100 to 140 million girls and women have suffered some kind of genital mutilation.

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Gender standards and roles are a major - often forgotten - barrier :



Family members and relatives who decide whether someone (sister, daughter, wife) can or cannot use the healthcare services.

Example:

Unbalanced gender roles result in unsafe sexual relations or the use of violence against women, which fosters the HIV epidemic, resulting in a feminisation of the HIV epidemic. Women with HIV also have to cope with stigmatisation and discrimination and are excluded from their family, community ... without a social (and often financial) support system.

CCL:

A lack of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is both a cause and an effect of gender inequality. Tackling child marriages, female genital mutilation or unsafe abortion is not only a matter of adequate policy and efficient services, it also requires a change in the values and power relations which contribute to these practices.

→ gender-transformative approach

Toolkit: What can you do?

Mapping

Mapping and collecting data =
making it VISIBLE.



Analysis

Studying is
understanding.



Dialogue

Enter into a conversation about
SRHR with policymakers, the Ministry
of Public Health, Equal Opportu-
nities, Women's Affairs, Justice and
other development actors.



Support

Offer support to community
leaders.



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IMPORTANT CONCEPTS:

Gender equality is not only a means
to reach a certain goal but is also a
right in itself.

Gender

refers to the attitudes, feelings, standards and behaviours
related to the sex of a person, which are determined by a
group/culture.

Gender equality

refers to equal opportunities for everyone, without any form
of discrimination, coercion or violence. Gender equality is
therefore wider than the equality between men and women
and also includes those who identify themselves as LGBTI.

LGBTI

are people who identify themselves as lesbian, gay,
bisexual, transgender or intersexual.

Do you want to find out



For more information, see the
corresponding factsheet: [https://
diplomatie.belgium.be/sites/default/files/
downloads/srhr-2017-Infofiche-gender-
en.pdf](https://diplomatie.belgium.be/sites/default/files/downloads/srhr-2017-Infofiche-gender-en.pdf)

You can learn more about SRHR via the
unique online e-tutorial with useful
videos and questions on
www.bodyandrights.be

This information sheet is intended to help stakeholders of Belgian development cooperation such as diplomats, BTC staff and representatives of NGOs better understand the relation between SRHR and gender, to promote a gender-oriented approach in the policy dialogue about SRHR and in the programme cycle and to identify the needs and good practice examples.

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