

# Priorities for Policy Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Globally

---

Zara Ahmed, Associate Director of Federal Policy

*25 August 2020*



## Broad Relevance of Findings

Countries

Multilaterals

Bilaterals

Private  
donors

Regional  
bodies

Provider  
associations

Partners &  
advocates

US  
policymakers

# Policy Actions for LMICs

## Fiscal Policy

- Prioritize SRHR in domestic budgets
- Facilitate open discussion of SRHR and use of donor and domestic funding
- Raise awareness at all levels about cost-effectiveness of SRHR investments

## Legal and Policy Reform

- Liberalize abortion laws to make safe abortion services accessible
- Adopt WHO standards on comprehensive abortion care, task-shifting to more cadres
- Support new models of care to increase access to contraception, MNCH, HIV & STI care

# Policy Actions for External Funders

## Short-term

- Include SRHR supplies in list of essential COVID-19 medicines
- Call for and support abortion as an essential service
- Help avert loss of gains made in SRHR over last few decades, especially for marginalized groups

## Long-term

- Adopt GLC comprehensive definition of SRHR
- Include SRHR as part of UHC efforts, protect SRH investments
- Improve flexibility in funding to address emerging SRHR needs
- Increase focus on marginalized groups, including adolescents, and the barriers to care they face

# Policy Actions for Other Stakeholders

## Regional Bodies

Ratify and implement the Maputo Protocol

Implement Montevideo Consensus

Facilitate sharing of best practices, policies, tools

## Provider Associations

Assist with clinical guidelines as countries establish safe abortion

Include SRHR in clinical packages and standards

Advocate for liberalization, task-shifting

## Partners & Advocates

Advocate for liberalization of abortion laws

Document and share individual stories from the frontlines

Provide technical support for integration of SRHR into UHC

## Policy Actions for the US

Permanently repeal the Helms Amendment: *Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act of 2020*

Permanently repeal the Global Gag Rule: *Global Health, Empowerment and Rights (HER) Act*

Support sustained funding to UNFPA: *Support UNFPA Funding Act*

Scale up funding for family planning and reproductive health: \$1.66B annually

## For More Information

### **Adding It Up 2019:**

Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019

### **Abortion and unintended pregnancy:**

Unintended pregnancy and abortion by income, region, and the legal status of abortion: estimates from a comprehensive model for 1990–2019

### **Global Gag Rule:**

Investigating the Early Impact of the Trump Administration's Global Gag Rule on Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Delivery in Uganda

### **The Guttmacher-Lancet Commission:**

Accelerate progress—sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: report of the Guttmacher–Lancet Commission

### **Website**

[Guttmacher.org/](https://www.guttmacher.org/)



### **Facebook**

[Facebook.com/guttmacher](https://www.facebook.com/guttmacher)



### **Twitter**

[@Guttmacher](https://twitter.com/Guttmacher)



### **Instagram**

[@guttmacherinstitute](https://www.instagram.com/guttmacherinstitute)



### **LinkedIn**

[LinkedIn.com/company/guttmacher-institute/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/guttmacher-institute/)