



# Canada's Future Planning

Initiative to Empower  
18 Million Adolescents  
and Women



On its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, Canada could empower 18 million adolescents and young women in the world's most vulnerable communities. The same number as all girls and women in Canada today.

By giving adolescents and young women more control over their bodies with full access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR),<sup>1</sup> the **Future Planning Initiative** provides the foundation to realize other rights and plan for their future—to complete education, to pursue employment, to decide whether or when to have a family. With new funding of \$4.25 billion over 10 years, Canada will become a global leader in empowering women through SRHR.

Complementing existing investments in maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), this innovative initiative will transform the lives of 18 million people from the world's poorest, most vulnerable, and most neglected communities, including fragile states,<sup>2</sup> refugees, IDPs, and victims of humanitarian crises, by empowering them with information and services to claim their human rights.



#### CLEAR, SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES THAT INCLUDE:

- **Preventing** more than 4 million unintended pregnancies and 1 million unsafe abortions every year;
- **Preventing** 50 thousand maternal and newborn deaths and over 200 thousand pregnancy related injuries every year.

#### SIGNIFICANT, MEASURABLE SECOND-ORDER BENEFITS:

- **Saving** between \$500 million to \$1 billion annually in health and other social service costs;
- **Increasing** the incomes, education and health outcomes of vulnerable women and their families;
- **Increasing** per capita economic growth in the most vulnerable communities and least developed countries;
- **Contributing** to greater gender equality and the realization of women's rights;
- **Reducing** the vulnerability to environmental degradation, food and water shortages, and the effects of climate change;
- **Reducing** the risk of resource-based conflict and increasing the resilience of fragile communities and states.

<sup>1</sup> This includes: contraception, family planning and comprehensive sexuality education, as well as a women's right to choose safe abortion, where legal, and access to post-abortion care." (Excerpted from letter sent from Minister Bibeau September 12 2016 to MNCH partners).

<sup>2</sup> Especially communities vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate change where Canada has strong links (e.g., francophone West Africa, the Sahel, Haiti).

This linchpin feminist initiative will build on and link together Canada's important work in MNCH, early and forced marriage, and girls' secondary education. By leading on this critical flagship initiative, focussed on addressing sensitive and often neglected areas of SRHR, Canada will demonstrate real commitment to a feminist approach to development assistance. Canada will engage in a strategic way that transforms the lives of millions of the world's most vulnerable, particularly adolescents and young women, while helping to stabilize some of the world's most fragile states.

## ALIGNMENT OF THE FUTURE PLANNING INITIATIVE WITH GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES:

**1.** 1. Addresses mandate letter to Minister of International Development commitment for "closing existing gaps in reproductive rights and health" and strong alignment with other mandate letter priorities, including:

- "helping the poorest and most vulnerable, and supporting fragile states";
- "supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development";
- "making Canada a leader in development innovation and effectiveness";
- championing the "rights of women and refugees";
- "providing assistance countries that are vulnerable to the destabilizing effects of climate change".

**2.** Clear example of "international engagement that makes a difference in the world"

- Massive measurable impact: 18 million lives transformed, hundreds of thousands of lives saved over 10 years;
- Simultaneously improves rights, health, public services costs, economic growth, decreases environmental and resource-conflict risk. Identified as a development "best-bet" (\$120/\$1 invested).

**3.** Excellent fit with Deliverology agenda: able to track progress with clear performance measures and annual outcome reports.

**4.** Results for millions of women deliverable by 2019 because of effective local and international players (e.g., FP2020, Ouagadougou Partnership, PSI, Ipas, Canadian civil society, etc.), costed country programs, and successful pathfinder examples (e.g., Rwanda).

**5.** Strong link with innovation agenda (e.g., new contraceptive technologies, social marketing campaigns, innovative financing – and performance tracking mechanisms) and opportunity to scale-up innovative approaches.

**6.** Alignment with existing international human rights obligations (i.e.: Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Technical Guidance on a human rights-based approach to addressing maternal mortality) and the and commitments including Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' health.



## WHY CANADIAN LEADERSHIP IN SRHR IS CRITICAL

Over 225 million women who want to avoid pregnancy are not using an effective contraceptive method. There are an estimated 22 million unsafe abortions each year. Pregnancy and its consequences are a leading cause of mortality for women 15-19 in many developing countries. For every woman who dies, 20 women are harmed (often seriously) from the effects of unplanned pregnancy. Lacking access to comprehensive sexuality education, young people often have low levels of knowledge regarding strategies to prevent STIs and HIV and unwanted pregnancies, and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services and the tools to challenge harmful norms about masculinity, gender, consent and relationships. SRHR is a thematic area that surfaces deeper issues of sexism and gender inequality but is often ignored, neglected, or actively written out of government policies.

There has been far too little progress on SRHR especially the neglected areas of contraception, access to safe abortion services, adolescent SRHR and advocacy for SRHR. The modest MDG targets (i.e., \$5 billion calling for universal access to reproductive health) were badly missed and often unmeasured. The lack of

progress in SRHR is one of the greatest failures of the MDGs and an indictment of the international community's inability to deliver on certain aspects of women's rights. The more ambitious SRHR targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a new opportunity to redress the failures of the past. New initiatives have demonstrated the potential for SRHR breakthroughs through innovative approaches but political will is lagging. SRHR needs a credible G7 leader who can galvanize at the global level while helping to deliver real results on the ground.

Canada is positioned to play a leadership role by committing a 10-year investment of \$4.25B in new funds: starting at \$125M in 2017/18, ramping up to \$500M annually by 2020/21 and staying at that level through 2026/27.

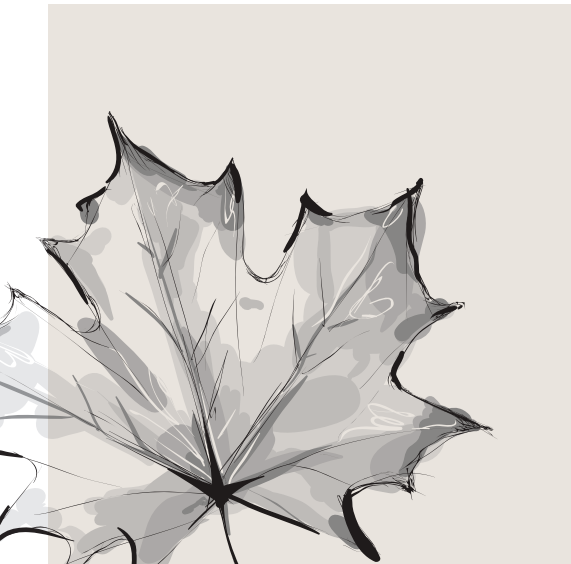
Incremental investment	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Total investment	\$125M	\$250M	\$375M	\$500M
SRHR information and services <sup>3</sup>	\$100M	\$200M	\$300M	\$400M
SRHR advocacy and accountability	\$25M	\$50M	\$75M	\$100M

### Breakdown of required investment:

- \$400 M/year (80%) for universal rights-based access to sexual and reproductive health information and services for 18 million adolescents and women;
- \$100 M/year (20%) for SRHR advocacy and accountability.

<sup>3</sup> With investments made to neglected areas, including in the areas of contraception, access to safe abortion services, adolescent SRHR and advocacy for SRHR.





### KEY ASPECTS OF PROGRAMMING SHOULD INCLUDE:



- Careful alignment of SRHR delivery with country programs and national priorities;
- Supporting local women and youth-led and feminist organizations doing SRHR advocacy with legitimacy and credibility;
- Supporting scale-up of quality SRHR services and information and empowering rights-holders to access services;
- Addressing demand-side factors to seeking contraceptive care and supplies, as part of a comprehensive package of SRHR information and services. Ensuring the availability of information and services that are accessible, available, of high quality and youth-friendly. Removing barriers related to discriminatory social and cultural practices and cost;
- Ensuring investment in adolescent-specific demand factors such as supporting comprehensive sexuality education, youth-friendly services, and information campaigns targeted at young people;
- Supporting initiatives that have as their principal focus advancing women's rights, women's empowerment and gender equality, in line with GAC's Policy on Gender Equality.

