

SRHR AND GOAL 8:



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training

Achievement of Goal 8's mission requires investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) strategies that support gender equality and access to sexual and reproductive health services.



Factors such as unmet need for family planning, combined with traditional gender expectations and limited access to education, leave women and girls shouldering much of the responsibility for raising children and running families. This means women engage less in formal education and the paid workforce and typically earn less money than men in their working lives.

SRHR contributes to economic growth and decent work for all by supporting women and men to decide whether or when to have children. This, in turn, has been shown to reduce healthcare costs, improve productivity and engagement in the workforce and increase rates of education attainment.^{i,ii}

Economic independence allows both women and men to exercise control over their lives. At an individual level, the benefits of increasing women's workforce participation rate include additional financial security for women and their families, increased savings for retirement and the ability to contribute to a prosperous and sustained society. Enabling women to work and engage meaningfully within the labour force enables families to invest more in each child's health and education.ⁱⁱⁱ

Key SRHR strategies that support improved outcomes for men, women and their families include ensuring the provision of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) to all people, access to effective and affordable methods of contraception such as long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) and the eradication of cervical cancer. Increasing LARC uptake can promote sustainable economic growth and enable full and productive employment for all by reducing rates of unintended pregnancy.

Actions

- Develop and disseminate a consumer-focused campaign to drive demand for sexual and reproductive health services
- Ensure all young people have access to comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that is aligned with the 2018 UNESCO Technical Guidelines
- Implement public policy solutions that target gender equality and education outcomes
- Realise the link between investing in health and education and increased workforce participation
- Ensure that national sexual and reproductive health strategies are up to date, evidence-based, and provide women with access to the full suite of SRH services, including abortion, regardless of status



FURTHER INFORMATION

[Family Planning NSW's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals Reports](#)

[United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 8 Factsheet](#)

ⁱ Temmerman M, Khosla R, Say L. Sexual and reproductive health and rights: A global development, health, and human rights priority. *The Lancet*. 2014;384(9941):e30-e1.

ⁱⁱ United Nations Population Fund. Working paper: Linking women's economic empowerment, eliminating gender-based violence and enabling sexual and reproductive health and rights New York; 2020.

ⁱⁱⁱ Canning D, Schultz TP. The economic consequences of reproductive health and family planning. *The Lancet*. 2012;380(9837):165-71.