

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND
RIGHTS (SRHR) AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

THE AFRICA WE WANT





1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Briefing Pack has been prepared by FEMNET with support from Hivos Southern Africa and the Ford Foundation. It aims to provide information that can support key players in the Africa region to work with the SDG framework, by relating it directly to the plethora of SRHR and HIV challenges facing Africa, and adapting it to the regional context. Goals: 3, 5, and 10 are particularly relevant for SRHR and HIV/AIDS.

1.1 Definition of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights:

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) encompass the right of all individuals to make decisions concerning their sexual activity and reproduction: free from discrimination, coercion, and violence. Specifically, access to SRHR ensures individuals are able to choose whether, when, and with whom to engage in sexual activity; to choose whether and when to have children; and to access the information and means to do so.

0.2 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights includes the right of all persons to:

♀ A state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and all its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that men and women have the ability to pursue satisfying, pleasurable, and safe sex life.

♀ The capability to reproduce

♀ Right to access appropriate health care services

♀ Equal access to pre-natal, delivery and post natal care, an essential element of good health and human development. safe motherhood and infant health care; prevention and treatment of STD/I; prevention of abortion, management of complications arising from any form of abortion, access to safe abortion services and post-abortion care; treatment of infertility; referrals for diagnosis and treatment for complications of pregnancy, delivery and abortion.

♀ Respect for Bodily integrity

♀ Decide to be sexually active or not, choose their partner, Have consensual sexual relations; Have consensual marriage;

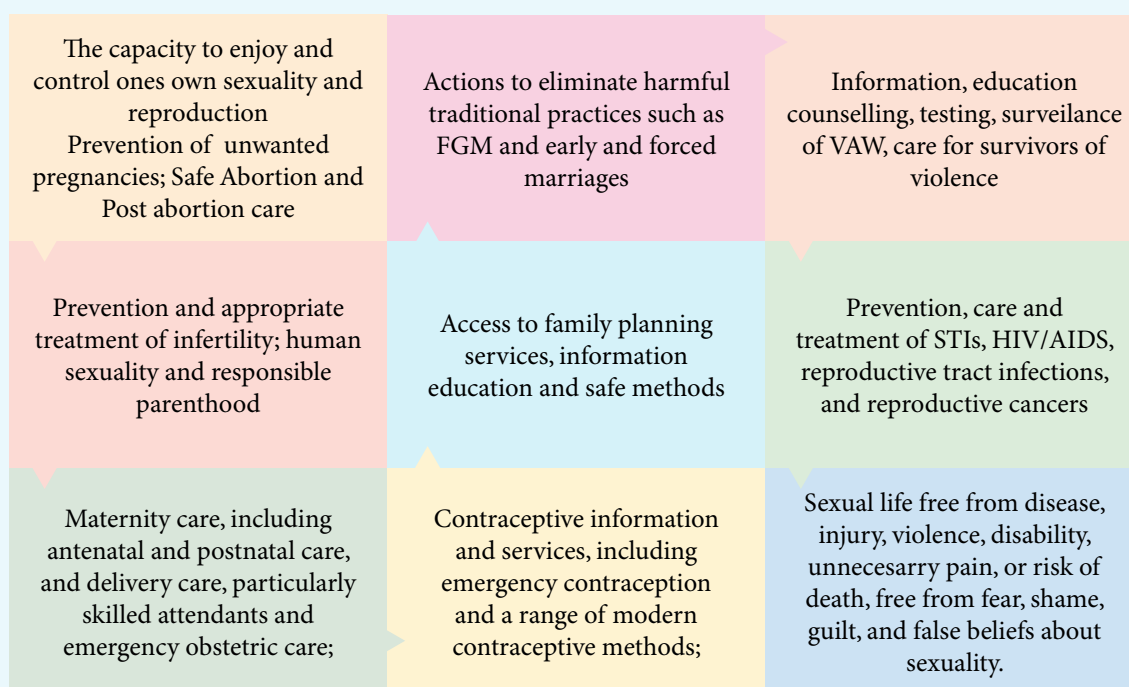
♀ Seek, receive and impart information related to sexuality

♀ Receive sexuality education and information on methods to regulate fertility

♀ Freedom to decide if, when, and how often to have or not to have children

♀ Access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning

1.3 Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services include:



(Source: Briefing Cards: Post-2015 Development Agenda, Universal Access Project)

1.4 Criteria for evaluating the rights to sexual and reproductive health

• Availability:

Ensure functioning of public health care facilities as well as programmes, having adequate and well equipped hospitals, clinics, and trained professionals, equipment and supplies, providing SRHR with cultural sensitivity to women's needs and provision of public information and education on the rights to SRH.

• Accessibility:

The health facilities and goods have to be accessible to everyone without discrimination including to the most vulnerable and marginalized. The information should be readily available and accessible to different categories of people. The facilities should be accessible; services should be affordable with subsidised costs for those economically marginalised. Integrated services that ensure women can receive health care for different needs during a single visit to the health facility.

• Acceptability:

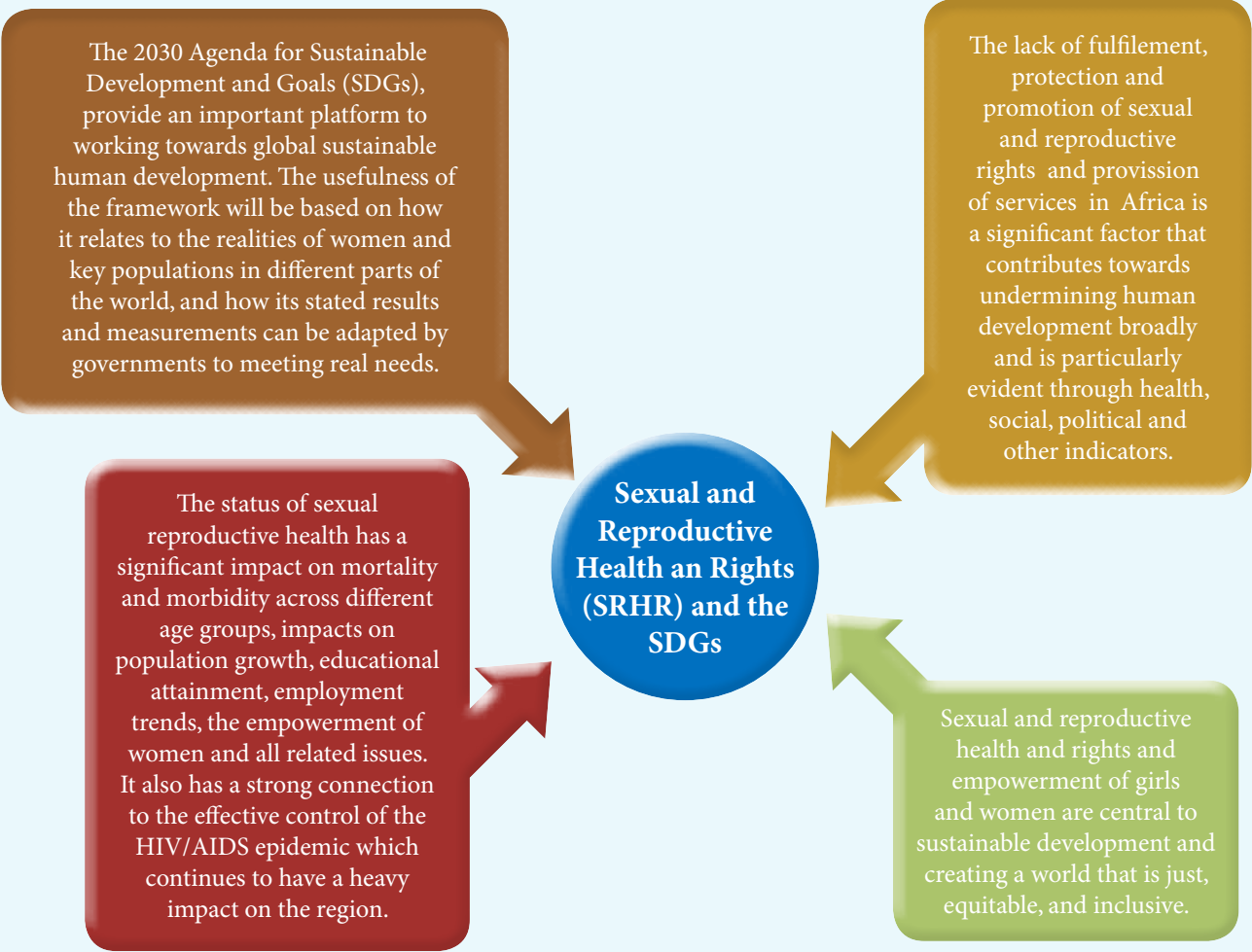
All health facilities must be respectful of medical ethics and sensitive to culture, gender and age. Most respect confidentiality, and focus on improving the health status of those seeking services

• Quality:

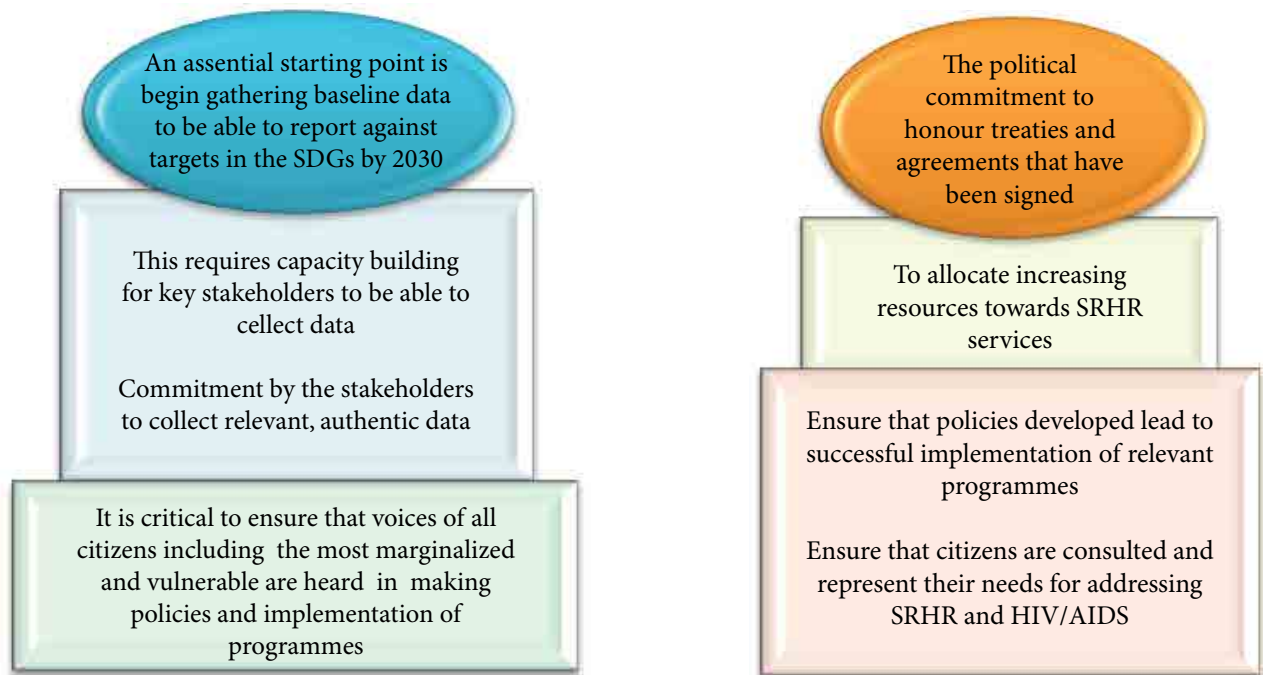
Health facilities, goods and services must be appropriate and of good quality; Require skilled medical personnel that are adequately remunerated; Availability of safe drugs that are dispensed responsibly after adequate diagnosis; Quick referral systems to avoid deaths arising from preventable complications, equip all health facilities with the minimum required package to be able to undertake and manage emergencies.



1.4 Why the SDGs are relevant for SRHR?



1.5 What is needed to ensure that SDGs linked to SRHR and HIV/AIDS are achieved?

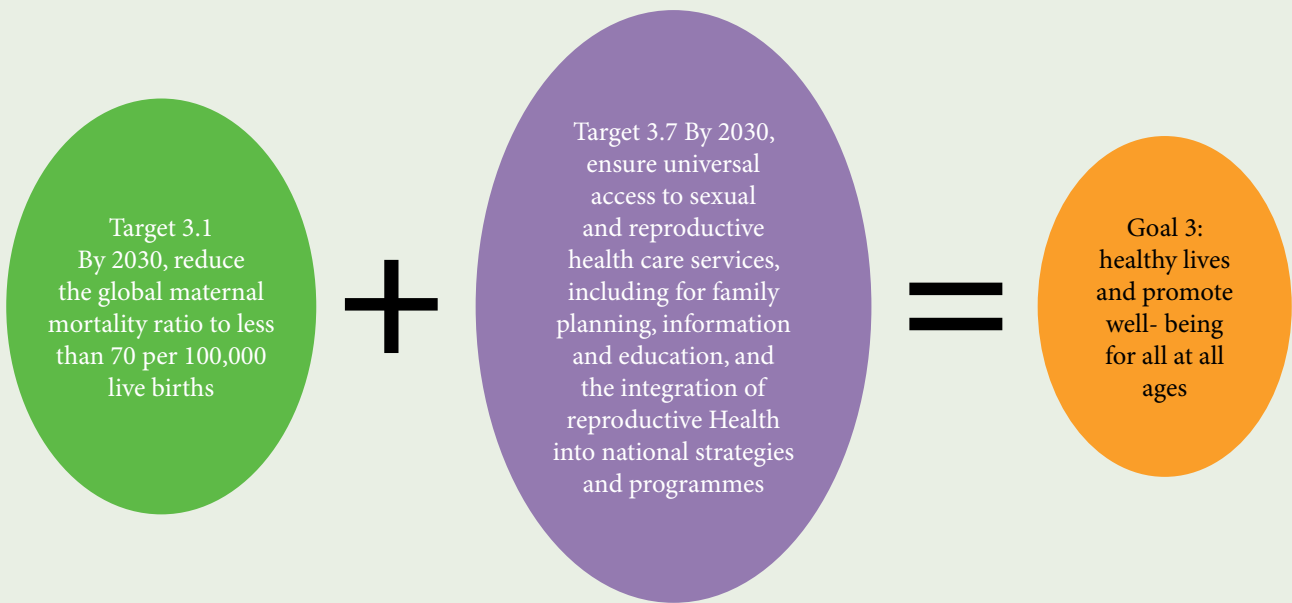


2.0 SDGS RELEVANT TO SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



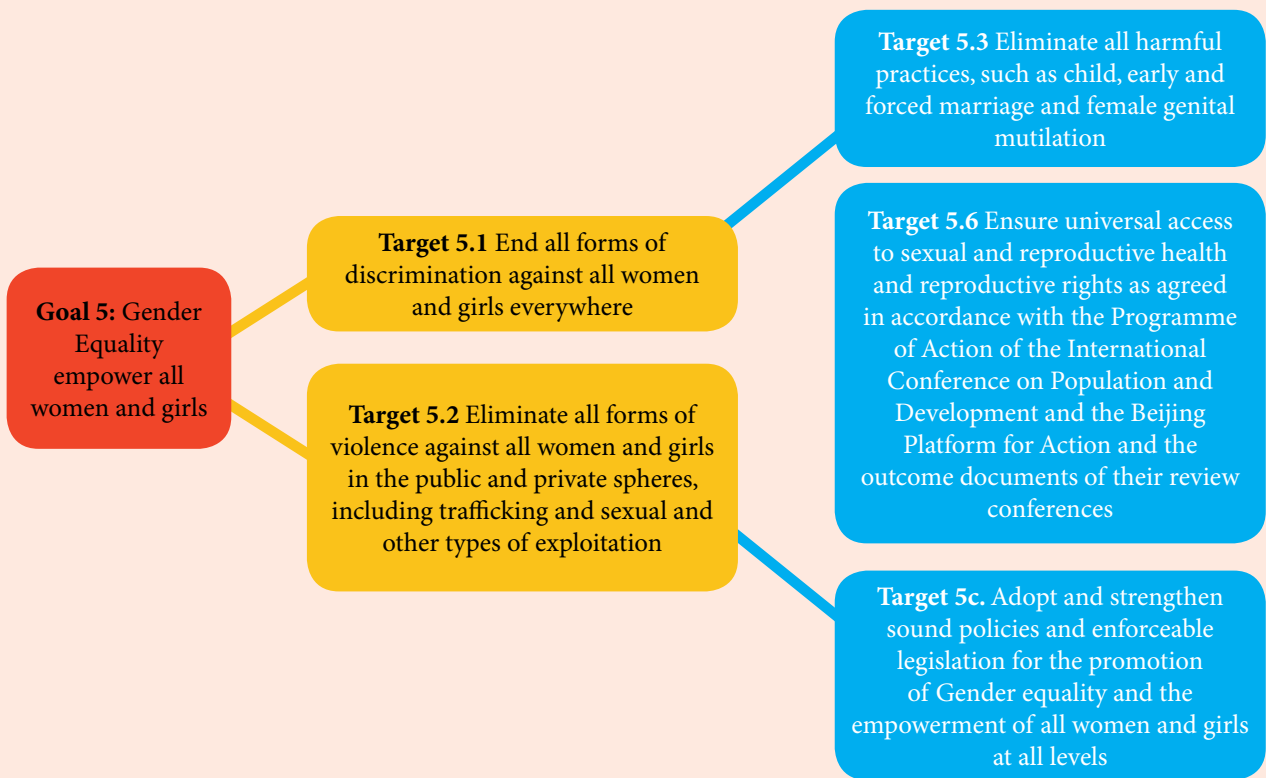
GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



5 GENDER EQUALITY



GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls





10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating Discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Target 17.1 strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

Target 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

Target 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments to provide 0.7% of gross national income in official development assistance to developing countries

3.0 LINKING THE AGENDA 2030 WITH OTHER COMMITMENTS

The most effective way to get action on the goals is to link the targets to other existing commitments made by governments that address the same issues for national implementation and accountability against targets and indicators.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Target 3.1: **By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births**

Global commitment to Family planning 2020, there are 69 countries that are being prioritized for action under this programme with commitments to increase access to family planning commodities and services. The global strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescent's health 2.0: Launched by the UN secretary General in September 2015 at the same time with the SDGs mobilizes and intensifies international and national actions by governments, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society to address major challenges facing health by enhancing financing; strengthening policy and improving services on the ground. It is also intended to address inequalities within and between countries to achieve the targets in SDGs. Over 70 countries, including private sector, foundations and CSOs made commitments to advance the global strategy 2.0.

Africa regional agreements can serve as useful tools to strengthen government's commitment to the 2030 agenda. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (also known as the Maputo Protocol) and Maputo Plan of action are critical for the operationalization of continental policy framework on SRHR in Africa for implementation and follow up.

Target 3.7: **By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive Health into national strategies and programmes.**

This target is in line with Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol: States must ensure that women enjoy the right to health by providing adequate, affordable, and accessible health services while strengthening existing pre-natal, delivery and post-natal health and nutritional services for women during pregnancy and breastfeeding. It further calls for upholding women's rights to control their fertility, the right to decide whether or not to have children, the number of children, and the spacing of children. It further recognizes the right of women to self-protection and to be protected against sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.



Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Target 5.1

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
This target is in line with Article 2: Maputo Protocol on elimination of discrimination against women. It calls upon state parties to include the principle of equality between men and women in their constitutions and other legislative instruments and ensure its effective application. States should also conduct public education and information to modify the social and cultural patterns of behaviour of women and men that perpetuate the idea of inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes.

Target 5.2

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

This target is in line with Article 4: Maputo Protocol, which mandates state parties to promote peace education to eradicate elements of traditional and cultural beliefs, practices and stereotypes, which legitimize the persistence and tolerance of violence against women. Perpetrators of VAW will be punished and most important programmes and services for rehabilitation and reparation of women victims will be established.

The SADC protocol on gender and development, which had set the following six targets, to be attained by 2015 and aimed to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence:

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development

- Enact and enforce legislation prohibiting all forms of gender-based violence; Ensure that the laws on gender based violence provide for the comprehensive testing, treatment and care of survivors of sexual assault;
- Review and reform their criminal laws and procedures applicable to cases of sexual offences and gender based violence; Enact and adopt specific legislative provisions to prevent human trafficking and provide holistic services to the victims, with the aim of re-integrating them into society;
- Enact legislative provisions, and adopt and implement policies, strategies and programmes which define and prohibit sexual harassment in all spheres, and provide deterrent sanctions for perpetrators of sexual harassment; and Adopt integrated approaches, including institutional cross sector structures, with the aim of reducing current levels of gender based violence by half 2015.

Target 5.3

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

This target is in line with Article 5 of the Maputo Protocol: states parties shall prohibit and condemn all forms of harmful practices, which negatively affects the human rights of women, and which are contrary to recognized international standards by

legislation. Member states are required to enforce laws against FGM, and provide legal, psychological and emotional support to survivors of harmful cultural practices.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) prohibits the marriage of any child under the age of 18 years. However, in the majority of countries in East and Southern Africa region, traditional or customary law continues to support early marriage.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Article 2.1 of the CRC commits State Parties to respect, protect and fulfil the rights enshrined in the CRC without discrimination of any kind, including as a result of a child's sex.

Target 5.6

Ensure universal accesses to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as Agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol, calls for protection of the reproductive rights of women by authorizing medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape and incest and where the continued pregnancy endangers the mother's health or the life of the mother or the foetus.

The African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) through the mechanism of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, in line with its Resolution on the Health and Reproductive Rights of Women in Africa, 2007 and with its commitment through a communiqué on accountability for women's reproductive health taken in March 2015 in Nairobi; has launched a continental Campaign for the Decriminalization of Abortion in Africa. The ACHPR has done this in order to bring attention to unsafe abortion which poses a serious threat to women's and girl's rights to sexual and reproductive health. (Press Release 18.01.2016 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is defined as "an age-appropriate, culturally relevant approach to teaching about sex and relationships by providing scientifically accurate, realistic, non-judgmental information. This is supported by the Ministerial commitment on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people in eastern and southern African (ESA).

In December 2013, Ministers of Education and health from twenty ESA countries affirmed and endorsed their joint commitment to deliver comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for young people.

The ESA Commitment document was developed based on a Regional Report, "Young People Today: Time to Act Now" which reviewed the trends and status of sexual and reproductive health and HIV among adolescents and young people in the ESA Region including comprehensive sexuality education and service needs.



The Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Ministerial Commitments include:-

- Scale up access and quality of comprehensive sexuality education;
- Increase access to sexual and reproductive youth services;
- Eliminate all HIV infections;
- Reduce early and unintended pregnancies and
- Eliminate gender based violence and early marriages.

Target 5c:

Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

This target is in line with Article 2: Maputo Protocol on elimination of discrimination against women. It calls upon state parties to include the principle of equality between men and women in their constitutions and other legislative instruments and ensure its effective application. States should also conduct public education and information to modify the social and cultural patterns of behaviour of women and men that perpetuate the idea of inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes.

Also Article 3: The right to Dignity recognizes the right of every woman to be treated with dignity, her right to develop her personality and protection from exploitation and degradation.

As well as Article 4: The right to life, integrity and security of the person: recognizes the right of every woman to her bodily integrity and security both in the public and private life. State parties shall enact and enforce laws to prohibit all forms of violence against women (VAW) in private and public spaces.

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW): defines the right of women of all ages to be free from all forms of discrimination and sets out core principles and standards for eliminating discrimination and realising equality between women and men, through ensuring women’s equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political, economic, social, cultural and public life. Article 3 of the Convention obliges States to take all appropriate measures “to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.”

Target 10.2:

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

This is aligned to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR): Article 3 of the ICESCR obliges State Parties to ensure that women and men have equal rights to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights.

Article 13 of Maputo Protocol requires that state parties shall guarantee women equal opportunities to work, including combating sexual harassment in the work place, punishing perpetrators and prevention of exploitation and misuse of women in advertising practices.

International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ICRPD): Article 6 of the ICRPD for the first time explicitly recognises that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple forms of discrimination and requires State parties to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those set out in the Convention.

Article 24: of the Maputo Protocol recognizes the need for special protection of women with disabilities; it places the burden of upholding the right to dignity and protection of women with disabilities on the state. In so doing, the state has to ensure that their physical, economic, and social needs are met. It further requires that they are protected from violence, including sexual abuse and discrimination based on disability.

Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including; by eliminating Discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

Article 17 of Maputo Protocol confers the right to positive cultural context; it says that women shall have the right to live in a positive cultural context that does not violate their rights under the guise of culture. States shall take all appropriate measures to enhance the participation of women in the formulation of cultural policies at all levels.

Article 8: of the Maputo Protocol on access to justice and equal protection before the law; recognizes women and men are equal before the law and shall have the right to equal protection, right to fair trial and benefit of the law. On doing so, state parties shall ensure women access judicial and legal aid services and support initiatives directed at the reforming of discriminatory laws and practices in order to promote and protect the rights of women.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Target 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

Target 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources. For the achievement of sustainable development that is protective of SRHR a great investment of resources is required. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda aligns all domestic and international resource flows, policies and international agreements with economic, social and environmental priorities. It incorporates different means of implementing targets of the SDGs into a coherent and comprehensive financing framework; Donor countries are required to step up the funding and capacity support to countries in the global south.



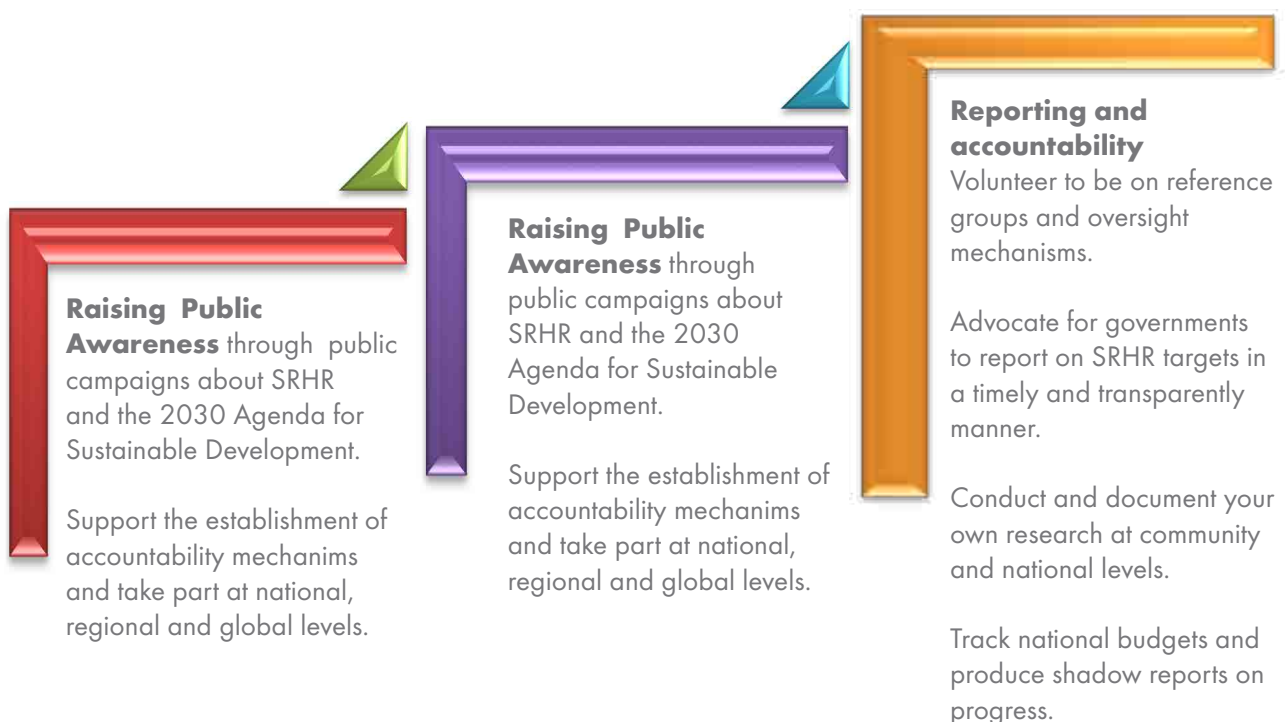
4.0 NEXT STEPS: NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND INDICATORS

For the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to deliver its promises, it will have to become a reality for the common people in each member state. Governments have to take concrete and ambitious steps to implement all the 17 goals. This requires development and implementation of national plans, adoption of national policies and availing the much-needed resources. SRHR related issues must be integrated into relevant line ministry programmes and budgets, and performance management plans in each country.

In translating the SDGs into a reality for all people, African Governments must lead in:-

- Developing national strategies for raising awareness on the SDGs, from the community to national level
- Facilitate a special session or debate in parliament and government bodies on national implementation of the SDGs
- Designing practical actions/ programmes for each goal
- Providing adequate resourcing of national plans, policies and actions
- Providing timely, transparent and regular reviews and progressive reports on all the goals, including on SRHR
- Setting up and institutionalizing accountability mechanisms to monitor implementation
- Creating opportunities for the public to meaningfully participate in monitoring and accountability.

5.0 MAKING SRHR IN THE AGENDA 2030 HAPPEN REQUIRES COORDINATED ACTIONS BY CSOS INCLUDING:-





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted on 25th September 2015 and comprising of the 17 ambitious goals (also being referred to as the sustainable development goals – SDGs) promises to “*leave no one behind*” in ending all forms of poverty, fighting inequalities and tackling climate change. Each goal has specific targets (a total of 169 targets) to be achieved over the next 15 years.

<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	Reduce inequality within and among countries
<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation		

Source: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>



The African Women's Development and Communication Network

WITH APPRECIATION:



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