

# HRP ANNUAL REPORT 2019

WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and  
Research, including the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank  
Special Programme of Research, Development and Research  
Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)



human  
reproduction  
programme **hrp.**  
research for impact

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Organization



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# 01

## ABOUT US

**The UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) has been providing leadership on sexual and reproductive health and rights for over 45 years.**

Founded in 1972, we have a unique mandate within the United Nations system to lead research and to build research capacity for improving sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) through generating and enabling use of high-quality evidence.

HRP is based at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, within the Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research. We work collaboratively with partners across the world to shape global thinking on SRHR by providing new ideas and insights. We support high-impact research, inform WHO norms and standards, support research capacity strengthening in low- and middle-income settings, and facilitate the uptake of innovations and new information – including through digital technologies and the research and development of new medicines and devices. An ethical, human rights-based approach that aims to reduce gender inequalities is integrated throughout our work. HRP shares the WHO vision of the attainment of the highest possible standard of sexual and reproductive health for every single person across the globe. We strive for a world where human rights that enable sexual and reproductive health are safeguarded, and where all people have access to quality and affordable sexual and reproductive health information and services.



## 02

## WHY SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS?

**The right to sexual and reproductive health for the well-being of individuals, families and communities, and for sustainable development by countries is internationally recognized.**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health; the WHO Reproductive Health Strategy; and the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development all reflect a collective vision that underlines the importance of protecting all people's human rights to access information and services that will enable them to achieve the highest standards of sexual and reproductive health.

While great progress has been made since HRP was established in 1972, huge challenges remain. Too

Better data are key. Accurate service statistics through robust health management information systems help front-line health workers to provide better care and enable managers to plan for equitable implementation; rigorously collected evidence improves estimates of health conditions and strategic planning to address priority needs; and information from intervention and implementation research informs policy, budgeting and programming at scale. Without continuing investments in research, as well as in improving the capacity of countries to conduct and use research, it is unlikely that national health systems will be able to effectively implement globally agreed norms and standards of care, or to achieve the goal of

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