



WorldYWCA

# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR)



**SRHR for women, young women and girls is one of the priority focus areas for the World YWCA.**

Access to information on sexual and reproductive health, rights and services enables women and young women to make decisions about their bodies and claim their rights.

Every human being has a fundamental right to access the highest attainable standard of health. This is enshrined in international and regional human rights treaties and national constitutions globally.

Through YWCAs in more than 70 countries, the World YWCA is striving to provide safe, inclusive, non-judgmental and confidential spaces for

women and girls to discuss the challenges they face in relation to SRHR.

As one of the largest global women's movements reaching over 120 countries, the World YWCA works to ensure a rights-based approach to comprehensive sexuality education.

Through its training programmes, it equips young women and girls with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they need to determine and enjoy their sexuality.

The World YWCA views sexuality holistically and within the context of emotional and social development.

## Global facts

Every year, **16 million births among adolescent girls** aged 15–19, accounting for 11% of all births worldwide. 23% experience complications during pregnancy or childbirth. (UNAIDS, 2014)



**More than 200 million girls and women** alive today have been cut in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where FGM is concentrated. FGM is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15. (WHO, 2014)

**1 in 10 school-age African girls** do not attend school during menstruation (UNICEF, 2013)



**There are about 380,000 new HIV infections** among young women aged 15–24 every year. (UNAIDS 2014)



Adolescent girls and young women face **significant barriers** in accessing comprehensive sexuality education, health services or protecting their own health (UNAIDS, 2014)



## Our approach

**We mobilize communities:** The World YWCA creates Safe Spaces within local communities where young women and girls can discuss sensitive issues around SRHR and HIV in a trustworthy and non-judgemental environment, and be referred to health services when necessary. We believe that sexual education should take a holistic and integrated approach by involving parents, teachers and service providers.

**We build capacity:** Through its empowerment training, the World YWCA aims to provide women, young women and girls with the necessary skills to enjoy their SRHR. This will empower them to protect themselves against unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Evidence shows that comprehensive sexuality education reduces risky sexual behaviour two-thirds of the time (UNFPA).

**We advocate for change:** We advocate for governments to provide comprehensive sexuality education and SRH services for women, young women and girls globally. We also call on governments to make it illegal for girls under age 18 to get married and to be subjected to other harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation.

**We partner for impact:** We believe in the importance of strategic partnerships to promote SRHR. By acting together, we better assess the diverse perspectives of those directly affected, we create broader ownership and increase the chances of success.

## Our outreach

### 52 countries

HIV prevention  
education

### 42 countries

Home based  
care, nutrition and  
counselling

### 39 countries

Family planning  
services

### 29 countries

Support services to  
women living with HIV

### 32 countries

Maternal  
Health



Learn More:  
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