

# SOLUTIONS TO POWER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## HARNESSING THE “DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND”, A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

### KEY INVESTMENTS



HEALTH



EDUCATION

DECENT  
EMPLOYMENTFAMILY  
PLANNINGYOUTH  
EMPOWERMENTREDUCTION  
IN MORTALITY & FERTILITYWOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT

### DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

## FAMILY PLANNING: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Globally, at least **225 million women** who want to avoid or delay pregnancy are not using an effective method of contraception.

The increase in contraceptive use has barely kept up with growing populations.

“No country over the last 50 years has emerged from poverty without expanding access to family planning”

MELINDA GATES, CO-FOUNDER OF THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

Tending to this need would **prevent millions** of unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and maternal and newborn deaths.

“When I was at school I lost my best friend to an unsafe abortion. This is why I am an activist, because every person who is informed is a potential life that has been saved”

ADAMA DICKO, PRESIDENT OF THE IPPF AFRICAN YOUTH ACTION NETWORK

### DO YOU KNOW WHY POOR AND MARGINALIZED WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE THE GREATEST UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING?

- Poor service coverage in rural areas
- Lack of information
- Poor service quality
- Discrimination
- Financial barriers

## EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

The African Union gathers 55 African countries. It adopted a 50 year-plan in 2015 entitled *Agenda 2063 Framework Document: The Africa We Want*. This document acknowledges that “Africa’s young people are the **primary vehicle** for realizing the demographic dividend and the **principal engine** for fostering development at all levels”. In addition, the 28th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa (January 2017) was held under the theme: “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”.

“Realizing the socioeconomic benefits of the demographic dividend is not automatic and the opportunity does not last forever. It requires countries to make timely investments and put in place key policies to empower, educate and employ young people.”

DR. BABATUNDE OSOTIMEHIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNFPA

“Only young people can express their actual needs in terms of sexual and reproductive health and rights!”

KADER AVONNON, NATIONAL TREASURER FOR THE YOUTH ACTION MOVEMENT IN BENIN

### GOOD PRACTICE

Senegal has taken steps to facilitate contraceptive use among adolescents and young people in the last decade. In 2005, a law was adopted guaranteeing reproductive health as a human right for all. The same year, a dedicated youth and adolescent strategy and data privacy laws protected confidential access to sexual and reproductive health services, a key measure to allow young people to use such services. Finally, in 2011, norms and standards for youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services were formally adopted.

# STEPPING UP FOR GENDER EQUALITY

THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM PREDICTS **THE GENDER GAP WON'T CLOSE ENTIRELY UNTIL 2186.**

MORE THAN **HALF OF 10 YEAR OLDS** LIVE IN COUNTRIES WITH HIGH LEVELS OF GENDER INEQUALITY.

**"Millions of girls cannot decide who they marry, the size of their family or what happens to their body."**  
TEWODROS MELESSE, IPPF DIRECTOR GENERAL

**1 IN 10 GIRLS IN THE WORLD** HAS EXPERIENCED SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly for 15 years. Its vision includes the following commitment: "We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality"

## WHAT CAN BE DONE

### THE THREE-STEP APPROACH TO THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

**SITUATION**  
- HIGH MORTALITY  
- HIGH FERTILITY



**OBJECTIVE 1**  
REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

**EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS**

- Childhood vaccinations
- Primary health
- Sanitation
- Safe drinking water
- Family planning

**SITUATION**  
- REDUCED MORTALITY  
- HIGH FERTILITY



**OBJECTIVE 2**  
EMPOWER GIRLS TO CHOOSE

**EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS**

- Secondary education
- Comprehensive sexuality education
- Access to sexual and reproductive health information, services and supplies, including contraceptives

**SITUATION**  
- REDUCED MORTALITY  
- REDUCED FERTILITY



**OBJECTIVE 3**  
PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

**EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS**

- Macroeconomic management
- Open trade
- Good governance
- Well-functioning labour and financial market

## GOVERNMENTS AND DONORS SHOULD



**PLAN AND FUND VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL**



**EMPOWER GIRLS AND WOMEN BY TACKLING GENDER INEQUALITIES**



**WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE TO MEET THEIR NEEDS**