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An approach based on human rights

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To put those principles into practice, the empowerment of women as well as the participation of youngsters should systematically be taken into account. SRHR therefore must be an integral part of national development policies.

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Specific areas of cooperation

Belgium prioritizes Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights by integrating this issue into the general health care combating sexual violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking in women and children, and harmful practices such as genital mutilation, sexual initiation rituals, and infant marriages addressing SRHR during emergency situations, conflicts and peacebuilding processes

The situation worldwide

It is estimated that each year:

• 290,000 women die during pregnancy or delivery or during the immediate postnatal period in Sub-Saharan Africa; only 40% of the deliveries are attended by skilled obstetric staff.

• 2.7 million children are stillborn as a result of the poor health of the mother or due to the absence of high quality health care during pregnancy or delivery.

• 20 million abortions are carried out in unsafe conditions, leading to 47,000 deaths of mothers due to complications.

• 3 million girls suffer genital mutilation.

• 267,000 women die of cervical cancer, most of them in poor countries where means for early detection and treatment are not available.

Currently, more than 215 million women do not have access to modern contraception.

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SRHR: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

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Reproductive health is 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 to its functions and processes. Reproductive health implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so (ICPD, art. 7.2).

Sexual rights include the right of all persons, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, to:
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Reproductive rights:
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This flyer has been made by the SRHR Working Group of Be-cause Health.

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