

# INVEST IN MODERN CONTRACEPTION AND SAFE ABORTION

to drive gender equality and girls' and women's health and rights

## THE WORLD TODAY

**214**  
MILLION  
WOMEN

in developing countries want to avoid pregnancy but are not using modern contraception, contributing each year to



**67 MILLION** unintended pregnancies

**23 MILLION** unplanned births

**36 MILLION** induced abortions

**25** MILLION UNSAFE ABORTIONS

take place worldwide each year, contributing to

**6.9** MILLION women seeking treatment for complications from unsafe abortions in developing countries

**8%-11%** of all maternal deaths



## THE INVESTMENT CASE



Increasing contraceptive use can boost economic productivity and lifetime earnings, generating returns that can exceed 10% of GDP by 2050



Girls' and women's **bodily autonomy and reproductive choices** are linked to increased **education, productivity, and lifetime earnings**

**INVESTING US\$8.6** per person each year would meet the need for modern contraception, abortion, and maternal and newborn care in developing countries, **reducing**

unintended pregnancies by **75%** ↓

induced abortions by **74%** ↓

maternal deaths by **73%** ↓

newborn deaths by **80%** ↓



Women have **fewer and less severe health complications** when abortion is safe and legal

## **CALLS TO ACTION** //

**Sexual and reproductive health and rights, and women’s right to decide on their own bodies, are the bedrock of gender equality and prosperous societies. To guarantee girls’ and women’s rights—and to realize the associated health, social, and economic benefits—governments, policy makers, the private sector, and civil society must commit to:**

- **Prioritize and invest in sexual and reproductive health services.** Recognize and guarantee the full suite of sexual and reproductive health services, including modern, voluntary contraception, comprehensive sexuality education, and safe abortion to all populations through primary health services and Universal Health Coverage. Diversify and increase funding to meet demand, including through increased commitments of domestic resources, official development assistance, and contributions from the private sector.
- **Remove legal barriers that restrict women’s rights and opportunities to make decisions about their own bodies and fertility.** Liberalize restrictive abortion laws and laws that limit girls’ and women’s access to family planning and safe abortion services such as parental consent, spousal approval, and conscientious objection.
- **Change harmful gender norms and tackle stigma that limit girls’ and women’s health and rights.** Listen to and engage girls, women, and young people to understand and effectively address their needs and barriers to modern contraception and safe abortion. Engage all individuals, including men and boys, in efforts to change norms and combat stigma at all levels.
- **Uphold girls’ and women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights in all contexts and settings.** Guarantee affordable, accessible, and appropriate services—including safe abortion—to all girls and women, including indigenous women, women in humanitarian settings, and other marginalized groups.



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