

SRHR FOR EVERYONE

UNPACKING THE POLITICS OF CHOICE, CULTURE & CONSERVATISM TO ENHANCE HEALTH EQUITY

SRHR in fragile contexts

In conflict-prone and fragile contexts, women and girls are more often confronted with aggression and violence. Policies which do not guarantee Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) can lead to unplanned and higher-risk pregnancies, STIs and HIV, as well as unsafe abortions and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

Sub-Saharan Africa has the world's highest proportion of young people aged 10 – 24 years, with an average of 32% of the population. Compounded with conflict and fragility, the African region still faces elevated levels of SRHR challenges. Cordaid believes that access to information and services on SRHR is an entitlement for everybody to live a healthy life and make free and secure choices for their future.



Photo: Cordaid

RBF and SRHR

Systems strengthening in healthcare to improve access to basic quality health services: we apply the results-based financing (RBF) approach, this supply and demand-side-financing mechanism improves the output of healthcare facilities and local health authorities by incentivising pre-determined results. We have used RBF to strengthen highly deprived health facilities to provide quality services on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and HIV/AIDS to the most marginalised people. Our RBF programs embed innovative digital solutions to promote data-driven decision-making and enhanced transparency and consistency.

Cordaid's approach to address challenges to SRHR

In the area of SRHR, Cordaid takes a holistic and transformative approach that considers health systems, community, individual, and societal/legal challenges. This includes:

- Strengthening effective inclusive health systems and strengthening capacities of health staff.
- Strengthening the target groups to participate and/or lead in all program phases and capacitating them to stand up for their own rights and voice their needs.
- Changing social norms to create an enabling environment for access to services for groups that are often left out, e.g. adolescent SRHR, key populations, LGBTQI etc.
- Advocacy and other collective action for conducive change in national (health) legislation, policies or strategies.

Cordaid believes that meaningful youth participation is essential to the success and impact of any SRHR programmes. Young people are no longer seen as program beneficiaries but as active partners in ensuring their voices are heard, and their confidence is built.

Over the past decade, Cordaid has conducted major Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health (ASRH) programmes. Cordaid managed multi-country ASRH programmes ('SRH Next Generation', 'JeuneS3'), each with a value of 30M Euros, leading a consortium of NGOs in the DRC, Burundi, Cameroon, Benin, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Yemen. In other countries, such as Zimbabwe or Mali, SRHR is part of training programmes for nurse-midwives or large-scale health system strengthening programmes through Result-Based Financing.

Some of our methods:

- Result Based Financing
- Vouchers programs
- Training midwives
- Male involvement
- Dialogue with religious leaders
- Media programs
- Social entrepreneurship



Zoom in case

Heroes4gender transformative action in Uganda

The Heroes4Gender Transformative Action (Heroes4TGA) project, in partnership with AMREF, addresses sexual reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence in Uganda, improving the well-being of more than 800,000 women and youth across nine districts in East and Central Region. The project empowers women with SRHR information, enhances their decision-making skills, strengthens health systems to provide quality SRHR services, and enables communities to reject root causes of SRHR violations. Cordaid complements RBF with innovative approaches like e-vouchers for SGBV response and Smart Paper Technology to digitise health information.

Track record in SRHR

- For four years (2016- 2020), the Jeune S3 program (S3 stands for Santé, Sexualité and Sécurité) aimed to ensure that young people, including the most marginalised and vulnerable populations - especially girls between the ages of 10 and 14 years old, were able to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and to have their rights respected. Jeune S3 did so through a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach comprising four intervention areas: youth voice and participation; SRHR knowledge and skills; responsive SRHR services; enabling environment, and respect of rights.
- Implemented by the consortium of non-Caeb (Malian NGO) and Cordaid, the Jigiya program aims to significantly improve adolescent and youth's (10-24 years old) reproductive health and their rights to voluntary family planning, and to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality. Cordaid provides technical assistance in the Jigiya project, which is being implemented in 4 regions of Mali: Kayes, Koulikoro, Segou and Mopti.
- To enhance capacities of staff on SRHR in South Sudan, Cordaid has trained at least 2 staff in every health facility on gender-based violence activities, including clinical management of rape and referral systems, and has supported the treatment of 1420 victims in 2022. Cordaid, through UNFPA funding, has established an SRH and GBV working group in one state (i.e., Torit).



Photo: Rieneke de Man, Cordaid

"17.2 million people reached through our health care interventions."

Key figures

Our key results for 2021 included:

- 4.7 million outpatient consultations.
- 143,000 fully immunised children.
- 172,000 women who have at least four antenatal care visits.
- 3.6 million people tested for HIV.
- 407 health facilities with improved (technical) quality (score).

Our partners

World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Commission, the German development bank KfW, the UN, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various Dutch embassies.

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is an internationally operating value-based development and emergency relief organisation, working in and on fragility. We support local communities in their efforts to improve justice, health care, food security, education, and economic opportunities. Our mission is to work towards a world without poverty and equal opportunity. We offer international expertise through a locally led approach, having decades of in-country experience in the countries we operate in. Cordaid is a founding member of Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE, and member of the ACT Alliance.

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