

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

As few as 0 to 6 women die yearly in Sweden due to complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. This progress would not have been possible without our midwives, a profession that has existed in Sweden for over 300 years. In Sweden, midwives not only ensure safe pregnancies and deliveries, they also provide comprehensive SRHR services.

In Sweden, the recognition of the need to provide young people with information and services, led to mandatory sexuality education in the 1950's and the establishment of midwife-driven adolescent sexual and reproductive health services across the country. Many other countries have adopted the midwife model and witnessed similar progress.

But despite good progress made, many challenges remain globally and still need to be addressed.

Severe humanitarian situations, illegal attacks against health care facilities, a global pandemic and a lack of political will to invest in SRHR, has prevented the world from reaching those most in need.

Despite an often-challenging international environment, we must continue to work in close collaboration with all stakeholders, including civil society, to accelerate progress towards the ICPD Agenda.

We must intensify our efforts to ensure that everyone – women, young people, girls, LGBTQI persons, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups – can enjoy their right to bodily integrity, define their own sexuality and access SRHR services, such as lifesaving maternal health

services, comprehensive sexuality education and safe abortion.

To respect, protect and fulfil SRHR, states must abolish discriminatory and restrictive laws and policies, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices.

The complexities of issues related to population trends, and their effect on our future, need always to be discussed from a rights perspective. We must ensure the right to decide if and when one wants to become pregnant and the number of children one wants to have.

We must invest in health systems that can deliver comprehensive and quality sexual and reproductive services.

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Access to comprehensive sexuality education is key to preventing unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and gender-base