



WHEC Update

Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

June 2024; Vol. 19. No. 06

Achieving Global Health

The “great finance divide” risks becoming a lasting sustainable development divergence. It also says the current international financial architecture is outdated and must be modernized. We will not solve today's challenges by relying on the thinking that helped to create them. There is already encouraging signs of change. The energy crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine has lit a fire under investments in the global energy transition, which skyrocketed in 2023 to a record \$1.1 trillion. That energy transition, investments surpassed fossil fuel investments for the first time. But this progress was almost all in China and developed countries. This must change.

A more effective and coordinated form of multilateral cooperation is an impressive for addressing current and future crises. Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) Building Back Better Policy Brief, says developing countries could save hundreds of billions of dollars with an Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) stimulus plan.

Tighter global financial conditions have been devastating for countries with crushing debt burdens. And increased interest rates and costs of borrowing on international markets have pushed risk up. Many developed countries are on the verge of default. During the pandemic, rich countries could afford to invest in recovery and got back on pre-pandemic growth paths. Their recovery spending was 30 times higher than for developing countries, and 610 times higher than least developed countries, with could only afford US \$20 per person. The food and energy crisis and debt payments up to two times higher than in 2019 have combined to put massive fiscal pressures on most developing countries. This drastically limits their ability to invest in sustainable transformation.

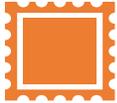
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Stimulus Plan. With just 6 years to go until SDG deadline, the WHEC with its partners are calling for revolutionary financial and industrial transformation to meet the Goals and close the widening gaps between rich and poor. The SDG Stimulus Plan, outlines the need for the international community to come together to mobilize investments for the Goals and proposes three areas for immediate action: injecting liquidity, restructuring sovereign debt, and lowering the cost of long-term lending to developing economies. It calls for a large-scale SDG stimulus focused on tackling the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress, particularly for the world's poorest countries on 'debt row,' and massively scaling up long-term financing for development; and expanding liquidity contingency financing to countries in need. It also says that the current international financial architecture is outdated and must be modernized.

We will not solve today's challenges by relying on the thinking that helped to create them. A more effective and coordinated form of multilateral cooperation is an imperative for addressing current and future crises. Creating value for all, is used successfully to overcome the most obstacles to provide business opportunities in low-income countries/communities, as well as two new tools: a strategy matrix to help find potential solutions to common constraints and heat maps that identify opportunities by depicting access to water, credit, electricity or telephone service in a specific geographic area using color codes. More inclusive business models recognize that poor not only as consumers, but also as drivers of growth. And when markets include more poor people, we all win.

Business models that include the poor require broad support and offer gains for all. Share your experiences and projects on **WHEC Global Health Line (WGHL)**.

Modernizing Global Finance

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

How can NGOs bridge the great finance divide for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Will a reformed financial system be effective? How can it link private sector profitability to sustainability?

Financing for Development – Rethinking Taxation and Fiscal Policies: The International Financial System is undergoing the biggest rethink of monetary, trade and tax system since the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944, which was set up to regulate the international monetary and financial order after the end of WWII. The time has come to address the deepening chasm between rich and poor countries, to change the multilateral landscape, and to create a debt architecture that is fit for purpose in our complex, interconnected and post-COVID world.

The evidence is stark. The global financial system has failed to protect developing countries in this time of unprecedented crises, in part because it was never designed with their interests in mind in the first place. The ‘great finance divide’ risks becoming a lasting sustainable development divergence. A reformed international financial system that delivers sustainable transformation must include domestic and international tax norms – including rules of taxing digitalized and globalized businesses – that meet the needs of developing countries. It also requires policies that link private sector profitability to sustainability. Taxes are vital source of stable state revenues for financing the SDGs. Fiscal policies can recalibrate economies and encourage choices that advance SDGs, particularly in areas such as climate, nature, health and governance.

Financing the SDGs at the National Level. A country’s sustainable development strategy lays out what needs to be financed. Integrated national financing frameworks spell out how the national strategy will be financed and implemented. We suggest four building blocks:

1. Assessments and diagnostics;
2. Design of the financing strategy;
3. Mechanisms for monitoring, review and accountability; and
4. Governance and coordination mechanisms.

Sustained commitment across government is a necessary prerequisite for developing financing for development at the national level. An essential first step in bringing all key stakeholders together, galvanizing commitments to the process and building consensus on a way forward. The inception phase typically involves three main steps:

1. Scoping existing implementation related to the four building blocks, stated above;
2. Identifying and institutional home for the process;
3. Developing a roadmap to guide the way forward.

National governments should take the lead throughout the process. Political backing and leadership at the senior technical level within key ministries are the foundation for strong national ownership of The Plan. The participation of other stakeholders from the legislature, private sector, civil society and national institutions will help ensure broad-based support for the process. Development partners – including the United Nations, the European Union and international financial institutions – can provide technical and convening support.

Developing a roadmap. Regardless of its format, the aim of the plan is to clearly lay out the steps for developing and implementing SDGs. It should outline timeliness, milestones, responsibilities and support required from the international community. Better align development cooperation with country priorities and develop policy requests of international community on financing issues that affect countries’ ability to finance national development, but over which they may have little or no control.

Ensure inclusive engagement.



Learning Life Lessons Series

For Teachers and Students

A Quarterly Series for *WHEC Update*

TOOLS for CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER IX – Becoming An Effective Change-Maker

WHY SHOULD YOU BE AN EFFECTIVE CHANGE-MAKER?

As a leader, it is important to not only be a change-maker yourself, but also to develop change making talent in others. Change means that we have to rethink and to reimagine and work out different ways of doing things. A change-maker is someone who spots opportunity that will contribute to the greater good. He or she inspires and influences others to join and support them in their change making journey, persisting until the positive difference is achieved. The role of a change-maker is to achieve positive change for greater good by taking innovative action.

Change-Maker Talent Development

1. Recognize your place in the world. All changes begins with self.
2. Empathize. The struggle is unbelievably difficult for everybody.
3. Let your spirit of generosity always grow. Take a long moment in time to understand what all conspires in the world to make your life easier.
4. Inspire others by doing what you love. It takes a lot of effort to crack this one.
5. Give things and people the time and importance they deserve.
6. Understand your impact on the planet, and improve. Your city, town, and homeland are going through immense change: be mindful of it. At whatever level – do it.
7. Educate yourself. Taking time to listen is a good start.
8. In any situation that requires you to stop up – step up. Paying attention to domestic violence in our neighborhoods, bullying among children (and adults) around, squabbles on the streets – we can actually affect.
9. Be the person people can look up to for solutions. Life is tough. If you can help, great that is much better. If you cannot, at least you know that the person is looking for you, and with enough time, you actually may be the bringer of the solution.
10. APPRECIATE.
11. Promote the idea that we are all important to each other. It is easy to see the difference between us as things that divide

Capacity building has long been recognized as one of the means of implementation for the achievement of sustainable development. Join the efforts and vision!

SUGGESTED READING

Learning Life Lessons Series: Part III ; available at:

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/gynmh/gynmh018.php3>

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WHEC @ CPD57

57th Session of Commission on Population and Development (CPD57) was held at the UN Headquarters, New York from 29 April to 3 May 2024.
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD57>

Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) Participation Written Statement

Lifelong education, economic and social participation: *A framework for Healthy Ageing*
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/n2402359-2024-Written-Statement.pdf>

Virtual Side Event; 1 May 2024; 8:30 am to 9:45 am (EDT)

Economic and Social Inclusion for Healthy Ageing

A Call for Global Action

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/cpd.php3>

Thank you for your continued support and participation. It was a very successful side event. We all at WHEC thank you for your suggestions and expert opinions.

Global e-Learning, e-Health
and e-Government Platform
<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>



WHEC @ STI Forum

9th Multistakeholder Science, Technology and Innovation Forum May 2024

<https://sdgs.un.org/tfm/STIForum2024>

Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) Participation; Event ID: V-08

Science-Policy Brief of WHEC

Artificial Intelligence and Ethical Considerations in Neurotechnology

[Luthra Artificial Intelligence and Ethical Considerations in Neurotechnology.pdf \(un.org\)](http://Luthra_Artificial_Intelligence_and_Ethical_Considerations_in_Neurotechnology.pdf)

Virtual Side Event; 9 May 2024; 1:15 to 2:45 pm (EDT)

Artificial Intelligence Literacy in Health and Education Sectors

Concept Note

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/2024-STI-Side-Event-Concept-Note.pdf>

Details of the Side Event

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/sti.php3>

Thank you for your continued support and participation. It was a very successful side event. We all at WHEC thank you for your suggestions and expert opinions.



United Nations at a glance

Panama became UN Member State on 13 November 1945



Panama, officially the **Republic of Panama**, is a transcontinental country spanning the southern part of North America, and the Northern part of South America. It is bordered by Costa Rica to the west, Colombia to the southeast, the Caribbean Seas to the north, and the Pacific Ocean to the south. Its capital and largest city is Panama City, whose metropolitan area is home to nearly half the country's 4 million inhabitants. Population (2022): 4,337,768; Area:75,417 km²; Religions: 92% Christianity, 7.8% no religion, Official Language: Spanish; Government: Unitary presidential constitutional republic; Currency: Balboa (PAB, United States dollar (USD); Independence – from Spanish Empire: 28 November 1821.

Before Europeans arrived in Panama was widely settled by Chibcha, Chocoan, Cueva peoples. The size of the Indigenous population of the isthmus at the time of European settlement is uncertain. Estimates range as high as 2 million people, but more recent studies place that number closer of 200,000, Cueva were the largest group. When Panama was colonized, the Indigenous peoples fled into the forest and nearby islands. Scholars believe that infectious disease was the primary cause of the population decline of these American Natives. The Indigenous peoples had no acquired immunity to diseases such as smallpox which had been chronic in Eurasian populations for centuries.

The US intent to influence the area, especially the Panama Canal's construction and control, led to the separation of Panama from Columbia in 1903 and its establishment as a nation. When the Senate of Colombia reject the Hay Herran Treaty on 22 January 19.3, the United States decided to support and encourage the Panamanian separatist movement. In November 1903, tacitly supported by the US, proclaimed its independence and concluded the Hay-Banau-Varilla Treaty with the UA without the presence of a single Panamanian. The treaty granted rights to the US "as ff it were sovereign" in a zone roughly 16 km (10 mi) wide and 80 km (50 mi) long. In that zone, the US would build a canal, then administer, fortify, and defend it " in perpetuity."



In 1914 the US completed the existing 83 km long (52 miles) canal. Because of the strategic importance of the canal during the WWII, the US extensively fortified access to it. The US invaded Panama on 20 December 1989, conde-named Operation Just Cause. The US stated the operation was "necessary to safeguard the lives of US citizens in Panama, defend democracy human rights, combat drug trafficking, and secure the neutrality of the Panama Canal as required by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

On December 29, the United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution calling the intervention in Panama a "flagrant violation of international law and of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States." The economic damage caused by the fighting has been estimated at between 1.5 and 2 billion dollars. Most Panamanians supported the intervention.

Since the end of Manuel Noriega's military dictatorship in 1989, Panama has successfully completed 5 peaceful transfers of power to opposing political leaders. In 2012 Panama had unemployment rate of 2.7%. Even though Panama is regarded as a high-income country, it still remains a country of stark contrasts perpetuated by dramatic educational disparities. Between 2015 – 2017, poverty at less than US\$ 5.5 a day fell from 15.4 to an estimated 14.1%.

Details: <https://sdgs.un.org/basic-page/panama-24779>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Panama



Health Systems

Healthcare in Panama is provided through the government and private sector businesses. The public health (sector) is funded through the Ministry of Health (MINSAO, and Social Security Fund (CCS), which operates separate facilities. The CSS is both a healthcare provider and a pension fund administrator. It is funded by contributions

from employees. About 3.49 million people of the population of roughly 3.9 million were covered by its provisions in 2013, this included both the contributors and their dependents. MINSAO provides low-cost facilities for those not covered. In 2014, it operated 830 health facilities.

Rural areas can face problems with the public healthcare system, where a lack of funding creates a shortage of beds. The majority of doctors prefer to live in Panama City where there are higher patient loads and more economic opportunities. Panama City and David City have become medical tourism destinations, especially for aesthetic and orthopedic procedures.

Medical Tourism

David, known as David City, is a city and corregimiento in the west of Panama. It is the province of Chiriquí and has an estimated population of 82,977 inhabitants (2013 census). It is a relatively affluent city with a firmly established dominant middle class and a very low unemployment and poverty index. Medical tourism refers to people traveling abroad to obtain medical treatment. In the past, this usually referred to those who traveled from less developed countries to major medical centers in highly developed countries for treatment unavailable at home. However, in recent years it may equally refer to those from developed countries who travel to developing countries for lower-priced medical treatments. The motivation may be also for medical services unavailable or non-licensed in the home country: There are differences between the medical agencies – FDA (Federal Drug Administration), EMA (European Medicines Agency) worldwide which decide whether a drug is approved in their country or not. Medical tourism most often is for surgeries (cosmetic or otherwise) or similar treatments, though people also travel for dental tourism or fertility tourism.

Private Healthcare

There are four major private hospitals, private expenditure was 31.4%, mostly directly out of pocket spending. Clinica Hospital San Fernando is the oldest, dating from 1949. The law entitles retirees to a 20 – 25% discount on medical services. A medical franchise, MiniMed, started in 2011 and has seven walk-in primary care facilities. From 2009 to 2014, a medical city, Ciudad Hospitalaria in Panama City, a network of smaller healthcare facilities and five regional hospitals were initiated.

About PAHO / WHO Panama

Between 1939 and 1940 the Caribbean Sanitary Zone was created, with provisional headquarters in Panama, equipped with traveling representative and a sanitary engineer. In 1947, Panama became and officially active member of PAHO. With the creation of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1946, all countries of the Region of the Americas became members of the WHO and through an agreement signed on 24 May 1949, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau was recognized as an independent entity as a WHO Regional Office for the Americas. PAHO/WHO in Panama develops technical Cooperation based on the priorities defined in the Cooperation Strategy with the country, which is aligned with National Health Policy and the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Health, with PAHO Strategic plan.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/pan/>



UNESCO member since 1950; Latin America and the Caribbean; Group III



Schools in Panama Embrace Education for Sustainable Development.

In the middle of a jungle in Panama, you might come across an Indigenous community’s rural village. Although Indigenous communities greatly vary across Panama, what is immediately noticeable is their shared respect for nature and environment. Indigenous communities in Panama play a significant role in sustaining the diversity of the cultural and biological landscape. Due to deeply rooted socio-cultural norms and practices that have become institutionalized in society and educational system,

Indigenous learners have limited opportunities to access, remain in, and complete their education. Close links between teachers, parents, and students are maintained. Parents are encouraged to remain involved inside and outside the classroom as their support is essential during the pandemic to help students feel more secure and confident.



Archaeological Site of Panama Viejo and Historic District of Panama

Founded in 1519 by the conquistador Pedriarias Davilla, Panama Viejo is the oldest European settlement on the Pacific coast of the Americas. It was laid out on a rectilinear grid and marks the transference from Europe of the idea of a planned town. Abandoned in the mid-17 century, it was replaced by a ‘new town’, which has also preserved its original street plan, its architecture and an unusual mixture of Spanish, French and early American styles.

During its 152 years of existence, the town was affected by slave rebellion, fire and an earthquake, but was destroyed in the wake of a devastating pirate attack in 1671. Since it was relocated and never rebuilt, Panama Viejo preserves its original layout, a slightly irregular, somewhat rudimentary grid with blocks of various sizes. There is archaeological evidence of the original street pattern and the location of domestic, religious and civic structures. The site is an exceptional testimony of colonial town planning; the ruins of its cathedral, convents and public buildings highlight unique technological and stylistic characteristics of its temporal and cultural context.



Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo

Magnificent examples of 17th and 18th century military architecture, these Panamanian forts on the Caribbean coast form part of the defense system built by the Spanish Crown to protect transatlantic trade. The component parts of the property represent characteristic examples of military architecture developed by the Spanish Empire in its American territories largely between 17th and 18th centuries. The first plans for fortifying the entrance to the Bay of Portobelo and the mouth of the Chagres River were prepared in 1586 by Bautista Antonelli. Following his recommendations, the first fortifications in Portobelo begun in the 1590s. As a whole, these structures comprise a defensive line to protect the Portobello’s harbor and the mouth of the Charges River, which were the Caribbean terminals of the transcontinental route across the Isthmus of Panama.

Details: <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/pa>

Education-for-All and Health-for-al

Bulletin Board

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015

.....*Continued Our World Today*

15. It is also, however, a time of immense opportunity. Significant progress has been made in meeting many development challenges. Within the past generation, hundreds of millions of people have emerged from extreme poverty. Access to education has greatly increased for both boys and girls. The spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy.

16. Almost fifteen years ago, the Millennium Development Goals were agreed. These provided an important framework for development and significant progress has been made in a number of areas. But the progress has been uneven, particularly in Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States, and some of the MDGs remain off-track, in particular those related to maternal, newborn and child health and to reproductive health. We recommit ourselves to full realization of MDGs, in particular by providing focused and scaled-up assistance to least developed countries and other countries in special situations, in line with relevant support programmes. The new Agenda builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete what these did not achieve, particularly in reaching the most vulnerable.

17. In its scope, however, the framework we are announcing today goes far beyond the MDGs. Alongside continuing development priorities such as poverty eradication, health, education and food security and nutrition, it sets out a wide range of economic, social and environmental objectives. It also promises more peaceful and inclusive societies. It also, crucially, defines means of implementation. Reflecting the integrated approach that we have decided on, there are deep interconnections and many cross-cutting elements across the new Goals and targets.

The New Agenda

18. We are announcing today 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets which are integrated and indivisible. Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavor across such a broad and universal policy agenda. We are setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of “win-win” cooperation which can bring huge gains to all countries and all parts of the world. We reaffirm that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity. We will implement the Agenda for the full benefit of all, for today’s generation and for future generations. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to international law and emphasize that the Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of states under the international law.

19. We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law. We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

To be Continued.....



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)

Expert Series on Health Economics

Policy Diffusion within International Organizations

A bottom-up analysis of International Monetary Fund tax work in **Panama**, Seychelles, and the Netherlands.

Author analyzed the evolution of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) tax policy advice in three countries commonly used for tax evasion or avoidance: **Panama**, Seychelles, and the Netherlands. A review of loan agreements and Country Reports covering 1999 to 2017 highlights the dependence of the Fund's country teams on external assessments produced by the Fund's other departments and smaller international organizations (IOs). As far as the Fund has paid attention to international tax flight, its focus has largely been on individual-level tax evasion instead of corporate tax avoidance. The responses have been inconsistent, with the tax haven regime of Seychelles getting much more attention than Panama and the Netherlands.

The IMF advises its members states in relation to its loan programs and as an ongoing activity, and the 'soft power' of the IMF can influence national legislations even in non-indebted countries. It also gives a green light to loan programs managed by the World Bank. The IMF's work is based on its Articles of Agreement (hereinafter the Articles), originally negotiated at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944. They stipulate that the IMF should promote 'international monetary cooperation through a permanent institution which provides the machinery for consultation and collaboration on international money problems' and facilitate 'the expansion and balanced growth on international trade,' contributing 'to the development of the productive resources of all members as primary objectives of economic policy.' The IMF's Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) has also highlighted the IMF's failure and tainted reputation in much of the developing world and its ill-tailored responses in financial crises.

Panama is a developing country, with more than 10% of population living in extreme poverty and nearly one-fifth being poor in World Bank terms. In addition to its tax-haven industry, Panama also hosts export processing zones which have commonly been associated with the facilitation of money laundering, especially the Colon Free Zone. Panama has been dependent on both World Bank and IMF financing.

There is a need for a better understanding of how the IMF shapes international tax governance together with other IOs working in this and related areas. This would call for more country-level case studies. Overall, the IMF's work has received hardly any attention in the recent literature on global tax governance, which hinders our understanding of the scope and capabilities of address the underlying concerns. It should be noted that there has been much debate on where the IMF interventions in its member states are just, and if so, under which conditions, but unfortunately, space constraints, do not allow a thorough discussion of these matters here. However, at a general level it can be said that international tax avoidance and evasion poach the tax bases of other countries; for this reason, the relationship between national sovereignty and outside intervention is potentially more complicated than in, say privatization of state-owned enterprises.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: Matti Ylönen; Sponsors: The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research provides economic analysis and policy advice with the aim of promoting sustainable and equitable development. The Institute began operations in 1985 in Helsinki, Finland, as the first research and training center of the United Nations University. Today it is a unique blend of think tank, research institute, and UN agency—providing a range of services from policy advice to governments as well as freely available original research.

Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>

Two Articles of Highest Impact, May 2024

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. **Tuberculosis in Pregnancy;** [TB-in-Pregnancy.pdf \(womenshealthsection.com\)](#)
WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.
2. **Chronic Kidney Disease and Pregnancy;**
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsmd/obsmd020.php3>
WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization) PMNCH Member

Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line



From Editor's Desk

WHEC Projects under Development

Integrated National Financial Framework (INFF): How to Start?



INFF is a planning and delivery tool to finance sustainability at the national level. Country-led and country-owned, they help policymakers map the landscape for financing sustainability and lay out a strategy to increase and make the most effective use of all types of financing for sustainable development goals, coordinate technical and financial cooperation, manage financial and non-financial risks, and ultimately achieve priorities articulated in a national sustainable development strategy or plan. In short, INFFs are a tool for governments to operationalize the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the national level.

INFFs can also play a two-fold role in supporting governments to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and its fallout. First, specific elements of INFFs can support immediate crisis response efforts, such as a rapid assessment of the impact on the financing landscape and a rapid review of support options from the international community. Second, INFFs can help formulate comprehensive strategies for recovery that are aligned with the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and sustainability financed.

What is an INFF?

An INFF is a planning and delivery tool to help countries strengthen planning processes and overcome existing impediments to financing sustainable development and the SDGs at the national level. It lays out the full range of financing sources – domestic public resources, and international private finance – and allows countries to develop a strategy to increase investment, manage risks and achieve sustainable development priorities as identified in country's national sustainable development strategy.

What is the value added of an INFF?

By taking an integrated approach INFFs can help governments:

- Mobilize additional financing to support sustainable development priorities;
- Better manage an increasingly complex financing landscape;

- Enhance coherence across different financing policies, addressing synergies, inconsistencies and trade-offs, and aligning them to medium and long-term sustainable development priorities;
- Support long-term investment and strengthen medium- and long-term planning by better aligning financial market incentives with longer-term goals and helping overcome incrementalism in public budgets;
- Streamline the wide variety of tools and instruments offered by the international community to support national action;
- Enhance transparency of financing flows;
- Match different types of financing – domestic, international, public and private – to their most appropriate use and in achieving greater impact vis-à-vis national priorities and needs;
- Strengthen their voice in global policy processes by providing a bridge between national level action and more systemic, global level efforts to improve the enabling environment for sustainable development financing;
- Better align development cooperation with country priorities and develop policy requests of the international community on financing issues that affect countries' ability to finance national development, but over which they may have little or no control;
- Overcome existing impediments to financing sustainable development.

Agreeing on an INFF Roadmap

The inception phase concludes with agreement on the next steps – a plan or roadmap for establishing and operationalizing the INFF. This plan should be put together and approved by the oversight committee. It may be a formal roadmap document, part of existing workplans or in some alternative format, depending on the needs and priorities of the oversight committee.

Whichever format is used, the aim of this INFF roadmap is to clearly lay out the steps for establishing and operationalizing the INFF. It should outline timelines, milestones, responsibilities and support from the international community. The first two INFF pioneer countries have taken different approaches: Cabo Verde moved quickly to prepare a first draft INFF roadmap that may later be developed and strengthened following the assessment and diagnostic phase. In Kyrgyzstan, a DFA will shape the INFF inception phase and lead to articulation of an INFF roadmap after the full assessment and diagnostics phase is completed. Key issues to be addressed in an INFF roadmap include:

- Value added of the INFF. The objectives and purpose of INFF should be clearly outlined, and considerations regarding transaction costs and additional benefits weighed up. This can guide assessments of the effectiveness of the INFF once it is operational.
- Assessment and diagnostics. Most countries will choose to undertake further assessment and diagnostics following the initial scoping exercise. These could be part of the inception phase or listed in the INFF roadmap to be undertaken in the INFF development phase. If latter, the INFF roadmap should also detail who will undertake, support and participate in each assessment; the timelines to be met and the purpose of each assessment.
- Financing strategy. The INFF will set out a process for drafting and implementing the financing strategy. It can specify the responsibilities of ministries and non-state actors, and set out steps for consultations and agreement by the oversight team.
- Monitoring and review. The INFF roadmap can outline a process for determining the indicators to be included in a central monitoring framework and the data sources and systems for accessing the required data. It can determine the timeliness and intervals for monitoring once the INFF is operational.
- Governance and coordination. The INFF roadmap may articulate the working practices and institutional structures of the oversight mechanism or refer to its terms or reference if these have already been stipulated.
- Time line and milestones. The INFF roadmap will establish timelines for operationalizing the INFF and identify key milestones.

Plan is formalized as needed.



In The News

Global Abortion Policies Database (GAPD)

A tool to expand knowledge, encourage transparency, and promote accountability



abortion is one of the few health procedures that is legally regulated in most countries, but this was not always the case. There were few restrictions on abortion prior of the 19th century; women could access abortion prior to quickening, the time at which a woman can feel fetal movement. However, with growing concern related to surgical and medical infection risks,

abortion came to be seen as a dangerous and life-threatening surgery, promoting greater regulation, including the inclusion of abortion in penal legislation. In addition to health jurisdiction, restrictions were also based on religious ideology, regulating fertility, fetal protection including for eugenic purposes, and in some cases, desires by physicians to limit competitor practice. These restrictions were progressively incorporated into countries around the world, threatening the lives and eroding the rights of women around the world.

In the 20th century, some countries began to recognize the equal status of women, while other countries began to appreciate the dangers of unsafe abortion leading to liberalization of abortion laws and/or the enactment of new abortion laws. Where abortion is allowed or permitted, there broad categories exist:

1. Abortion on request with no requirement for justification;
2. Based on common legal grounds and related indications (hereinafter referred to as legal grounds); or
3. Based on additional indications that are non-equivalent to a single legal ground but could be interpreted under multiple grounds.

Common legal grounds include abortion to save the women's life, to preserve the woman's health, in cases of rape, incest, fetal impairment, and for economic or social reasons. Regulation of abortion may occur in legal texts beyond the penal code, including reproductive health acts, general health acts , and medical ethics codes.

Several databases currently exist which provide information related to country specific abortion laws and may facilitate better understanding of the legal regulation of abortion. These databases often classify countries as falling on a hierarchical spectrum of access to abortion based on the number and type of grounds under which abortion is permitted. To increase transparency, the Global Abortion Policies Database (GAPD) was launched in 2017 and facilitates the strengthening of knowledge by demonstrating the complexities and nuances related to texts. The GAPD also contains information related to authorization and service-delivery requirements, conscientious objection, penalties, national SRH indicators, and UN Treaty Monitoring Body concluding observations on abortion.

The GAPD does not offer information related to the meaning of legal texts or how legal texts are interpreted or applied in society. The meaning of any legal text is influenced by its context: the wider set of laws concerning access requirements and women's representation health more generally, and the culture in which these texts are operationalized. However, GAPD does provide a starting point from which to understand legal categories, including on request with no requirement for justification, legal grounds, and additional non-equivalent indications as set out in national laws.

Wide variation that exists in legal texts across countries related to the legal categories or abortion demonstrating several indications that have previously been obscured behind more simplistic classification schemes. Illuminating the complexities that exist reveals additional burdens on women and healthcare providers to interpret legal categories related to abortion. <https://abortion-policies.srhr.org/>

Farewell

I have got my leave. Bid me farewell, my brothers!
I bow to you all and take my departure.

Here I give back the keys of my door
---and I give up all claims to my house.
I only ask for last kind words from you.

We were neighbors for long,
but I received more than I could give.
Now the day has dawned
and the lamp that lit my dark corner is out.
A summons has come and I am ready for my journey.

- Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941); Greatest writer in modern Indian literature, Bengali poet, novelist, educator, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. Tagore was awarded the knighthood in 1915, but he surrendered it in 1919 as a protest against the Massacre of Amritsar, where British troops killed some 400 Indian demonstrators protesting colonial laws. Tagore's reputation in the West as a mystic has perhaps misled his Western readers to ignore his role as a reformer and critic of colonialism.

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity*

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