Several high-quality interventions have been implemented in developing countries. Unmet need for contraception with a modern method fell from 32% in 1990 to 24% in 2010, driven by decreases in developing countries. For women in the African Region, the met demand for family planning with a modern method jumped by 85% between 1990 and 2010 and is projected to have more than doubled by 2015. As a result, between 1995 and 2012, rates of unintended pregnancy decreased in developing countries. The increase was primarily due to a 10 percentage point increase in contraceptive prevalence with any method from 55% in 1990 to 63% in 2010, with 56% of married women of reproductive age reporting any use of contraception in 2010. The increase in contraceptive prevalence and met need for family planning with modern methods was greater in Africa, 108% versus one in three in the early 1980s. 

Primary infertility (non-voluntary childlessness) significantly has declined since 1990 in sub-Saharan Africa, where it is most common and in south Asia, although there was little change in other regions between 1990 and 2010. Globally, one in four young women in 2014 was married in childhood versus one in three in the early 1800s. The proportion of young women who entered into marriage before age 15 declined from 12% to 8% between the early 1980s and 2014. A recent report by the UNICEF #ENDviolence against Children campaign. More than half of countries have committed to achieving Family Planning 2020, a global initiative aiming to accelerate meeting unmet needs in contraception; a Global Health Sector Strategy for Sexually Transmitted Infections; and a global plan of action to strengthen health system response to interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, are being prepared. Other efforts to address violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and child marriage, include the UN Secretary-General UNITAID Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women and the UNICEF Ending Violence against Children campaign.

The MDG 5.B target for sexual and reproductive health and rights that sought to “achieve universal access to reproductive health” was added in 2007. This target covers a wide range of health issues, from contraception to FGM, which makes it difficult to agree on a manageable set of appropriate indicators for the target. In the SDG, the sexual and reproductive rights are included in the gender goal.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

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### POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

**Policies and legislation:** In the past five years, 77% of country governments implemented concrete measures to increase women’s access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, regardless of marital status and age. FGM gained recognition as a human rights violation and in the 29 countries that practise FGM, at least 34 have enacted anti-FGM laws or decrees. Between 1995 and 2010, 119 countries enacted 260 changes in legislation to address intimate partner violence, 56 of these changes enacted since 1995. 

Global and country-level commitments: Notable commitments include the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, which was adopted by 178 countries in 1994 and focuses on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Over 30 country governments have committed to achieving Family Planning 2020 (FP2020), with 120 million new users of contraceptives by 2020, and donors provided US$ 1.3 billion dollars for family planning in 2013. Investments in education: Several high-quality interventions have demonstrated a link between investing in education and decreases in early marriage and early pregnancy. More than half of countries and areas worldwide have achieved or nearly achieved universal primary education.

### CHALLENGES

**Ending child marriage:** Despite progress, of the world’s 1.1 billion girls, 22 million are already married and hundreds of millions more are at risk, and the number will only grow as populations increase. 

**Eradicating FGM:** Annually, more than 3 million girls are potentially at risk of FGM in Africa. The available evidence suggests only a modest decline in prevalence of FGM from the mid-1990s to the present. 

**Stopping intimate partner violence:** 30% of “ever partnered” women experience physical or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. The highest rates are in the South-East Asia Region (38%) and the African Region (37%), but reports by women from all regions indicate that it is a common behaviour. 

**Halting sexually transmitted infections:** The incidence of sexually transmitted infections remains high for many pathogens and coverage is still inadequate for several interventions (see Chapter 5). 

Making abortion safe: In 2008, roughly half of the estimated 43.8 million induced abortions that occurred globally were unsafe, with the majority of them occurring in developing countries. Induced abortion rates were between 20 and 40 per 1000 women of reproductive age in regions with legal restrictions on induced abortion. Around 8% of maternal deaths are due to abortion.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The SDGs include a specific target on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services as part of the health goal, and several targets on sexual and reproductive rights are included under the gender goal. All components of sexual and reproductive health such as family planning, prevention of unsafe abortion, eliminating harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, addressing violence against women, and ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services by all who need them, including adolescents, are being addressed within the new Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health launched by the Secretary-General in September 2015. Several World Health Assembly resolutions have addressed some of these issues including the Global Reproductive Health Strategy. Global campaigns and action plans have been developed and are in place to address variety of sexual and reproductive health issues supporting the implementation of the Global Reproductive Health Strategy, such as Family Planning 2020, a global initiative aiming to accelerate meeting unmet needs in contraception; a Global Health Sector Strategy for Sexually Transmitted Infections, and a global plan of action to strengthen health system response to interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, are being prepared. Other efforts to address violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and child marriage, include the UN Secretary-General UNITAID Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women and the UNICEF Ending Violence against Children campaign.

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