

**International Planned Parenthood Federation****Communication on Engagement (COE) with the UN Global Compact  
From December 2015 – December 2017****Commitment statement**

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) expresses its continued support for the UN Global Compact and renews its ongoing commitment to the initiative and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environmental and Anti-Corruption. This support and commitment is enshrined in IPPF's global policy on Private Sector Partnerships<sup>1</sup>.

As a rights-based global federation, IPPF has global and local policies that are aligned with the Global Compact Principles. IPPF's work upholds these Principles and those of the Women's Empowerment Principles, a joint venture of UN Global Compact and UN Women.

IPPF commits to leading a locally owned, globally connected civil society movement that provides and enables services, and champions sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, especially the under-served. IPPF's core values guide the way it undertakes its work: IPPF believes:

- in social inclusion with a demonstrated commitment to enable the rights of the most under-served to be realized
- in diversity, respecting all regardless of their age, gender, status, identity, sexual orientation or expression
- its passion and determination inspire others to have the courage to challenge and seek social justice for all
- in the significant contribution our volunteerism delivers across a range of roles and as activists inspiring the Federation to advance its mission
- in accountability as a cornerstone of trust which is demonstrated through high performance, ethical standards and transparency

In this Communication of Engagement IPPF outlines the actions that it has undertaken in support of the UN Global Compact and its Principles. IPPF is looking forward to deepening its engagement with the Global Compact as it further develops partnerships with private sector members.



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/2017-01/POLICY%20HANDBOOK%20November%202016.pdf> see Policy 3.7, section 5.ii.

## Engaging with the Global Compact Principles

IPPF supports the Global Compact Principles through upholding the human right to health and healthcare for workers within global supply chains, many of which are supplying goods and services to Global Compact members. Workers in factories, farms and other mass production environments often struggle to access the health services they need, whether due to a lack of understanding of health needs, insufficient time, or not knowing where to go to get health services.

In over 50 countries, IPPF's locally-owned Member Associations work with employers to address and overcome these barriers to health and healthcare for more than 675,000 workers, through the provision of information, education and access to quality health services.

These health education and services support the UN Global Compact and UN Women's joint initiative, the *Women's Empowerment Principles* and specifically Principles 3: 'Ensure the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers' and 4: 'Promote education, training and professional development for women'. Education and livelihoods programs can promote women's economic participation, although research suggests that unless they are combined with appropriate health services, women will not become economically empowered. Studies show that female labor force participation decreases with each additional child by 10 to 15 per cent among women aged 25 to 39. There are also serious health and economic consequences of unplanned and/or frequent pregnancies, including increased maternal and infant mortality. However, when access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services is combined with livelihoods programming, women's economic stability, health and well-being is seen to improve. IPPF's work with women workers allows them to maximize their economic empowerment opportunities through making and acting on informed choices about their own life.

During 2017, IPPF worked closely with the UN Foundation to provide content for the publication *Private Sector Action For Women's Health and Empowerment; How Businesses can Invest in Women and Realize Returns*. This was launched by UN Foundation at the BSR Conference in October 2017, where IPPF took part in a panel discussion on how companies can support the health of their female workers. In December 2017, the brief was also the subject of a webinar which was supported by the UN Global Compact amongst others.

## Delivering the human right to health and healthcare

IPPF's locally-owned Member Associations deliver rights-based health-related information, education, and access to services to more than 675,000 of workers, both male and female, in more than 50 countries. These programs improve the health of workers, reducing sickness, absence and staff turnover, with a resulting increase in productivity and worker well-being. These include those in garment and textile factories, agricultural and flower farms and plantations, construction sites, canning and electronic factories, and the hospitality industry.

The programs ensure that workers have the information and education they need to make essential choices about their health and those of their families, and are able to access the health services they want. This covers a range of health issues including:

- Family planning and the prevention of unwanted pregnancy
- HIV and sexually transmitted infections
- Antenatal care, maternal and child health
- Breast and cervical cancers
- Well-being, nutrition, and other health issues including anemia and diabetes
- Inequality and gender issues including domestic and gender based violence

Working closely with workplace management, particularly Human Resources departments, the Member Associations tailor programs to the needs of the workplace, factoring in the demands of work and the needs of the employer. This includes addressing issues such as:

- low knowledge of good health,
- promoting healthy behavior through peer educators,
- group discussions including ‘what to expect when you’re expecting’,
- health fairs including stage performances and ‘edutainment’,
- distribution of information and educational materials,
- what services are available at nearly IPPF clinics and where the clinics are.

The Member Association supports workplaces to improve their own onsite facilities through capacity building for onsite clinic staff, to improve the quality of the health services available. Where needed, they work with the management to support the introduction of workplace policy initiatives, especially on health and women’s rights, responsive to workers’ needs.

Examples of some of IPPF’s Member Association partnerships with factories and major employers, many of whom are part of the supply chains of UN Global Compact members are below:

**Cambodia:** IPPF’s Member Association in Cambodia, Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC) has been providing workplace health services since 1996 with a focus on delivering integrated reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services. RHAC has strong working relationships with more than 80 factories, including British and Hong Kong owned, covering more than 130,000 factory workers. These are predominantly garment factories producing clothing for global brands. There are RHAC clinics located in the major manufacturing zones including those of Phnom Penh, Kampong Speu, Preah Sihanouk, Takeo, and Kampong Cham province. These clinics are open 7 days a week and offer services until late at night, specifically to ensure that workers can access services outside their work hours. Additionally, RHAC advises the Garment Manufacturer Association and the Ministry of Labour on how to improve health of the factory workers, including gaps to be addressed in policies and practices.

**Ethiopia:** IPPF’s Member Association in Ethiopia, Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia (FGAE) has been working to delivering workplace health services since the 1990s. FGAE currently works with over 150 businesses ranging from textile and garment factories, and flower and horticultural farms including coffee plantations to engineering and automotive

industries and cement factories, employing more than 64,000 workers. To support this growing demand for quality health services to workers, FGAE engages with the factories in a range of ways from providing services directly through outreach or operating an on-site clinic, to training and capacity building the staff at factory clinics to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills they need to provide the quality services the workers need.

**India:** IPPF's Member Association in India, Family Planning Association of India (FPA India) has been working with a range of industries providing healthcare to over 45,000 workers. These include major construction projects such as the Metro in Chennai and the power-loom factories in Bhiwandi on the outskirts of Mumbai. These projects target the health needs of the predominantly male workforce including counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS and STIs as well as wider occupational health issues. In Bhiwandi which has the largest concentration of power-looms in the country, FPA India has been working with members of the Association of Power-Loom Owners to ensure that workers have access to the health services they need. This includes addressing occupational health needs such as the provision of ear defenders to protect their hearing, and face masks to reduce fibers from the looms being inhaled.

**Indonesia:** IPPF's Member Association in Indonesia, Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA) collaborates with a more than 20 companies from garment and shoe factories, hospitality and construction to plantations and a local airline. It provides services including recruiting and training peer educators, information and education, clinics and referrals. Services often include the workers' families. IPPA works with the Ministry of Health, National Family Planning Coordination Board and National AIDS Commission and with global agencies and multinational companies.

**Sri Lanka:** IPPF's Member Association in Sri Lanka, Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL) reaches more than 49,000 workers across a range of sectors. Since 2012 it has been working with global garment manufacturers delivering a range of sexual and reproductive health and family planning services to the predominantly female employees in their factories. On tea plantations, FPASL has been providing health services to the workers and their families that live on the plantations. This community health program goes beyond sexual and reproductive health, and covers general health issues including addressing the severe anemia which is common in these communities.

**Vietnam:** IPPF's Member Association in Vietnam, Vietnam Family Planning Association (VINAFFPA) works with more than 20 companies manufacturing products that include clothing, footwear and canned food, and that employ more than 21,000 workers, mostly women. In the last 4 years VINAFFPA provided reproductive health services, including pregnancy checks and ultrasound, blood tests and regular health checks. VINAFFPA collaborates closely with the Maternal and Child Health Department, the Vietnam Administration of HIV/AIDS Control, and the General Office for Population and Family Planning in ensuring quality and regulations implementing the national program on population, reproductive health, family planning and HIV/AIDS.

### **Participation with UN Global Compact global events and local networks**

IPPF has engaged at global meetings aligned with the UN Global Compact including the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). In March 2016, IPPF spoke on a panel at the WEPs annual meeting on the importance of healthcare along the supply chain and specifically in the workplace. At the same meeting IPPF participated in and provided expertise to the consultation on the WEP Gap Analysis Tool.

IPPF has encouraged its global (London) and regional offices (Nairobi, New York, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Brussels, Tunis and Melbourne and Fiji) to engage with the Global Compact Local Networks where possible. Colleagues have attended and contributed to Local Network events, engaged in discussions with other members and sought opportunities to develop partnerships.

### **Measurement of outcomes**

Additional measurements of IPPF's rights-based work can be found in its Annual Performance Report <https://www.ippf.org/resource/ippf-annual-performance-report-2016>