

Abortion access for everyone— **no matter who, no matter where**

How we're meeting today's
challenges and advancing
reproductive justice for all



Ipas's Strategy 2025-2028



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Ipas works to advance reproductive justice by expanding access to abortion and contraception, using a comprehensive approach that addresses health, legal and social systems. We believe every person should have the right to bodily autonomy and be able to determine their own future. Across Africa, Asia and the Americas, we work with partners to ensure that reproductive health services, including abortion and contraception, are available and accessible to all.

Ipas is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions to Ipas are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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For more than 50 years, Ipas has resisted and persisted.



Since 1973, we have worked to ensure that all people—no matter who, no matter where—can access the sexual and reproductive health care they need, including abortion. We believe everyone has the right to control their own body, health and future. These basic human rights are necessary to achieve gender equity, and to support the health and wellbeing of women and girls everywhere.

Societies are also stronger when women and girls—and all people who can become pregnant—have bodily autonomy. Indeed, evidence shows that abortion access has widespread benefits. When people can safely get an abortion, it not only improves their own quality of life, but that of their families, communities and even countries.

Today, there are increasing threats to people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, making Ipas’s work more vital than ever. We’re no stranger to today’s challenges, and our 50+ years of experience have prepared us well for this critical moment.

We are ready, and we know what to do.

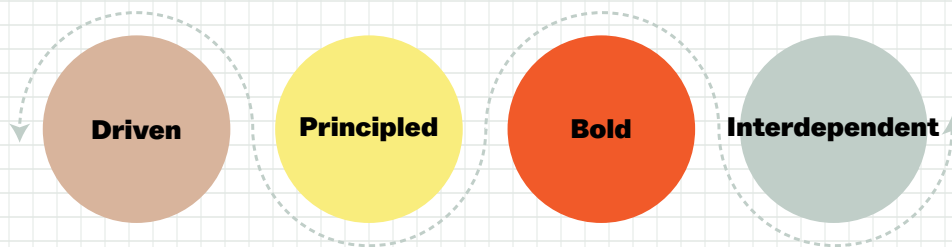
Our vision

A world where all people have the right and ability to determine their own sexuality and reproductive health.

Our mission

Ipas builds resilient abortion and contraceptive ecosystems using a comprehensive approach across sectors, institutions, and communities.

Guiding values



DRIVEN: We are driven by our deep commitment to abortion access and to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, no matter who, no matter where.

PRINCIPLED: For us, reproductive rights are human rights, and abortion is health care. We believe in equity and justice, and we won't compromise these principles.

BOLD: We are creative, we challenge assumptions, and we seek innovative ways to deliver on our mission to expand access to abortion and contraception. We are unapologetic in our belief that all people must have bodily autonomy.

INTERDEPENDENT: We know that we are stronger as a collective; we are part of a global movement for reproductive justice and human rights. We share power and resources, and we collaborate with partners and colleagues.

We believe in justice, equity and shifting power

We know the fight for equity and justice requires that we shift power away from those who have historically been in control of funding, programs and decisionmaking around reproductive health and rights. That's why we've evolved our organization from a traditional NGO model to a **global network with shared leadership** that puts power in the hands of the people closest to our work and impact. We will continue our growth as an organization that upholds our values not only in the work we do in the world, but in the way we work together to make change.

We center the needs of people who seek abortion care

We remain steadfast in our vision and mission, and we will continue to center our work on the needs and perspectives of individuals who can become pregnant and who seek abortion care. Our aim is to build sustainable abortion ecosystems in which resilient local partners and systems are actively accountable and committed to abortion rights and responsive to everyone's abortion needs. Our approach addresses all the factors that impact a person's ability to access abortion, even when health systems or governance structures become more fragile, hostile, or face major disruptions or total collapse. Sustaining the abortion ecosystem involves sustaining supportive social change.

We are partners for reproductive justice

As we have evolved into a locally led, globally connected network that seeks to shift power and share leadership, we are explicitly applying **reproductive justice and human rights frameworks** to our work.

Reproductive justice is the human right to bodily autonomy—the right

What is reproductive justice?

Reproductive justice is a global aspiration, a framework and a movement. In its simplest form, it's the right to have basic autonomy over one's body and sexuality, and it explains how a person's decisions are affected by the context in which they are made. Reproductive justice must be intersectional, which takes into account vulnerabilities, not just identities, and includes all forms of oppression. It is inclusive, international and interconnected.

to control one's own sexuality, gender, health, and reproduction, and to do so safely and with dignity. Ipas is part of the broader movement for reproductive justice. We work across Africa, Asia, and the Americas to expand access to abortion and contraception, which are critical components of reproductive justice.

Grounding our work in human rights and reproductive justice better positions us to support the safety, well-being, and empowerment of marginalized individuals everywhere we work, helping ensure they can always access the sexual and reproductive health care they need.

We are only as strong as our partnerships

We know that to achieve a sustainable abortion ecosystem, we must work through **effective, equitable and intersectional partnerships**, integrating abortion into broader movements for health, gender equality, and social justice. This is why we build committed partnerships across the health and legal sectors and with community-based groups wherever we work. We funnel the expertise and resources of our global network directly to local partners, supporting them to become resilient stakeholders in the abortion ecosystem. And this is why we are committed to our [Feminist Principles for Partnership](#).

Our unique value

Ipas works to advance reproductive justice globally by expanding access to abortion and contraception. We know that access to safe, legal abortion is critical to health and well-being and is a fundamental human right. If women and girls—and all people who can become pregnant—cannot safely end unwanted pregnancies, their ability to hold jobs, stay in school, exit abusive relationships, and build financial independence are all undercut. Here's how we bring unique value to the fight for reproductive justice:

- 1. We are a bold and unapologetic voice on the highly stigmatized issue of abortion.** We will not be silenced, and we bring a decades-long track record of speaking out to ensure the human right to abortion is not ignored—and that it's understood as critical to addressing gender inequality and supporting reproductive justice.
- 2. We are committed to shifting power through the ways we conduct our work.** We've evolved our organization to become a decentralized global network with power and leadership shared across the many countries where

we work. And we put the people closest to our work at the center, listening to and amplifying local voices, experiences, participation, and leadership.

- 3. We are locally led but globally connected.** Our country and regional teams are led and staffed by local nationals. We partner with thousands of grassroots organizations around the world to maximize their local expertise and impact. We bring the power of our vast global network of experts and activists to support and enhance our local partners' work.
- 4. We are a catalytic convener between diverse partners in intersectional movements.** Grounded in our sustainable abortion ecosystem approach, we forge partnerships and bring together diverse actors from across sectors and movements to address the many issues that intersect with abortion access.
- 5. We bring 50+ years of expertise, evidence, resources and proven best practices.** Our experts benefit from the experiences and resources of their global colleagues, allowing them to quickly learn and adapt when their setting demands it. Our teams share strategies and bring knowledge of the latest, most effective innovations in abortion access to every project and partnership—and to further the movement.

Our intersectional priorities

We have long worked with partners to tackle intersectional issues, such as the rights of people who are LGBTQ+, indigenous, or living with disabilities. Now we will sharpen our lens on issues that crosscut the abortion ecosystem and that have emerged as priorities for our teams around the world: **gender justice**, **gender-based violence**, **climate justice**, and work in **crisis settings**.

These issues are global. We see the impact of the climate crisis everywhere—including where Ipas works—and how it harms access to abortion. We know that in times of crisis and turmoil, women's and girls' rights to self-determination, bodily autonomy, and freedom from violence are threatened most. Pervasive gender inequality is always dangerous to women's and girls' health and wellbeing, and it is especially risky in times of war, natural disasters, conflict, or any other crisis.

Gender justice

Gender justice is about ending all forms of gender-based oppression. When it comes to reproductive health, traditional gender roles and gender-based discrimination often deny women the power to make their own decisions about their bodies. Ipas works with diverse partners to drive social change that elevates women's voices and autonomy. Through education and advocacy, we work with communities to recognize the importance of gender equity and the crucial role individuals can play as partners, family members, community leaders and professionals in ensuring women can access the sexual and reproductive health care they need.



Photo by Ipas Development Foundation (IDF)

Creating social change around abortion

In India, youth leaders trained by the Ipas Development Foundation work to provide much-needed information on sexual and reproductive health—and show how men can support women's reproductive rights.

“It was heartening for me to see that men were supportive of the reproductive health needs of their female family members and were approaching me for referrals.”

Shashi Bhushan Soy, male youth leader, rural Jharkhand State, India

Gender-based violence

Around the world, gender-based violence puts women and girls at higher risk for unwanted pregnancy, and survivors require specially tailored care that includes access to emergency contraception and abortion. Ipas works to improve care for women and girls who experience gender-based violence and to advocate for laws and policies that prevent such violence. We train health, law enforcement and judicial professionals on local laws and policies and on how to properly handle gender-based violence cases to ensure survivors are informed of their options and offered the best possible care.



Photo by Ipas Bolivia

Breaking the cycle of violence

Ipas Bolivia's all-in approach to ending gender-based violence includes work to end child marriage, provide digital tools for health providers and survivors, educate school-aged children, and dismantle toxic masculinity.

“Preventing sexual violence is just as important as addressing it. That's why at Ipas Bolivia, we work not only in health care but also in education, community support, and public policies that tackle the problem at its roots and drive real and sustainable change.”

Malena Morales, director of Ipas Bolivia

Climate justice

The climate crisis is a reproductive justice crisis. Our research in settings around the world finds that climate change is undermining people's right to have a child, to not have a child, and to parent children in safe and healthy environments. Ipas works with partners to ensure sexual and reproductive health are integral to climate solutions at every level of society—and that the people most impacted are actively engaged in building climate resilience within their own communities.



Photo by Esther Sweeney

Building women-led climate justice with local solutions

In drought-stricken northern Kenya, Ipas partnered with community groups and local women who knew exactly what they wanted: information to help them manage their own reproductive lives, the ability to grow their own food close to home, and to plant trees to improve the local environment.

“Through this project I have learnt about the importance of having a kitchen garden, especially in a dry area like ours. I have also been educated on the importance of family planning and saving money. I am able to save the money that I get after I sell vegetables from my kitchen garden and spend it wisely.”

Naomi Letikich, resident of rural Samburu County, Kenya

Crisis settings

An estimated 35 million women and girls of reproductive age are living in crisis settings around the world, driven from their homes by violent conflict or climate disasters. They face an increased risk of sexual violence and have little or no access to contraception or abortion care. This is a long-term, global problem that will only impact more people as climate change advances. Ipas works with diverse partners, including humanitarian organizations, to ensure people affected by crisis have reproductive health options that include abortion and contraception.



Photo by Ipas DRC

Bringing abortion access to refugee camps

In Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), violent conflict has forced millions from their homes. For women and girls living in camps, access to contraception, emergency contraception, legal abortion, and care for sexual violence is critical and lifesaving. That's why Ipas DRC has set up mobile health clinics in some camps to deliver these essential services.

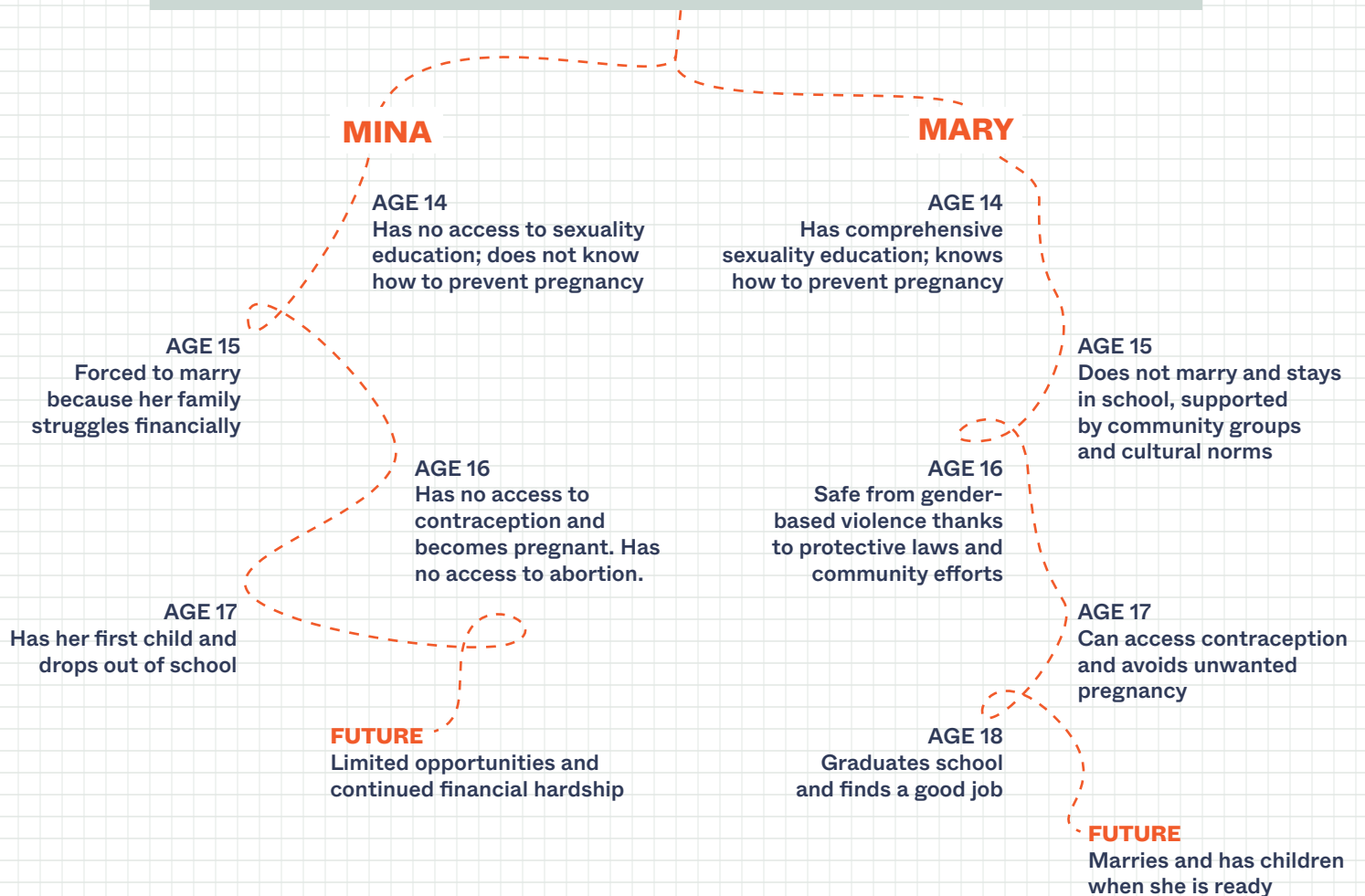
“My motivation for doing this work is simple: When I see a woman suffering, I see myself suffering.”

Dr. Celestine Buyibuyi, community engagement advisor for Ipas DRC

Two paths show what's at stake

We work for a world where every person can determine their own future and live up to their fullest potential. This means everyone must have bodily autonomy. And depending on where a person lives, there can be myriad barriers blocking their ability to make their own sexual and reproductive health decisions.

The paths of Mina and Mary shown here illustrate how holistic, comprehensive support for bodily autonomy—or a lack of such support—can shape the path a young girl may follow, depending on where she lives and the policies and programs in place to ensure she's in control of her future.



Our comprehensive approach creates lasting change

We know that guaranteeing the right to abortion isn't enough. Economic, cultural, religious and systemic barriers prevent many people from accessing abortion care even where it's legal and available.

That's why our sustainable abortion ecosystem model works. When we work strategically across institutions and communities to break down abortion stigma and expand knowledge on sexual and reproductive rights, we co-create an ecosystem where people have the information they need to make decisions about their own health, where there's community and health system support for human rights and abortion access, and where laws and policies support full bodily autonomy.



What drives us toward a sustainable abortion ecosystem

The abortion ecosystem must be dynamic enough to adapt to and withstand change. Five essential drivers propel us toward a balanced, resilient ecosystem and inform all that we do.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY: Human rights are universal and indivisible. Our approach requires human rights-based analyses, framing and implementation strategies that are tailored for the local context and regularly reflect an understanding and prioritization of human rights principles, especially equitable access to safe abortion for all who need it.

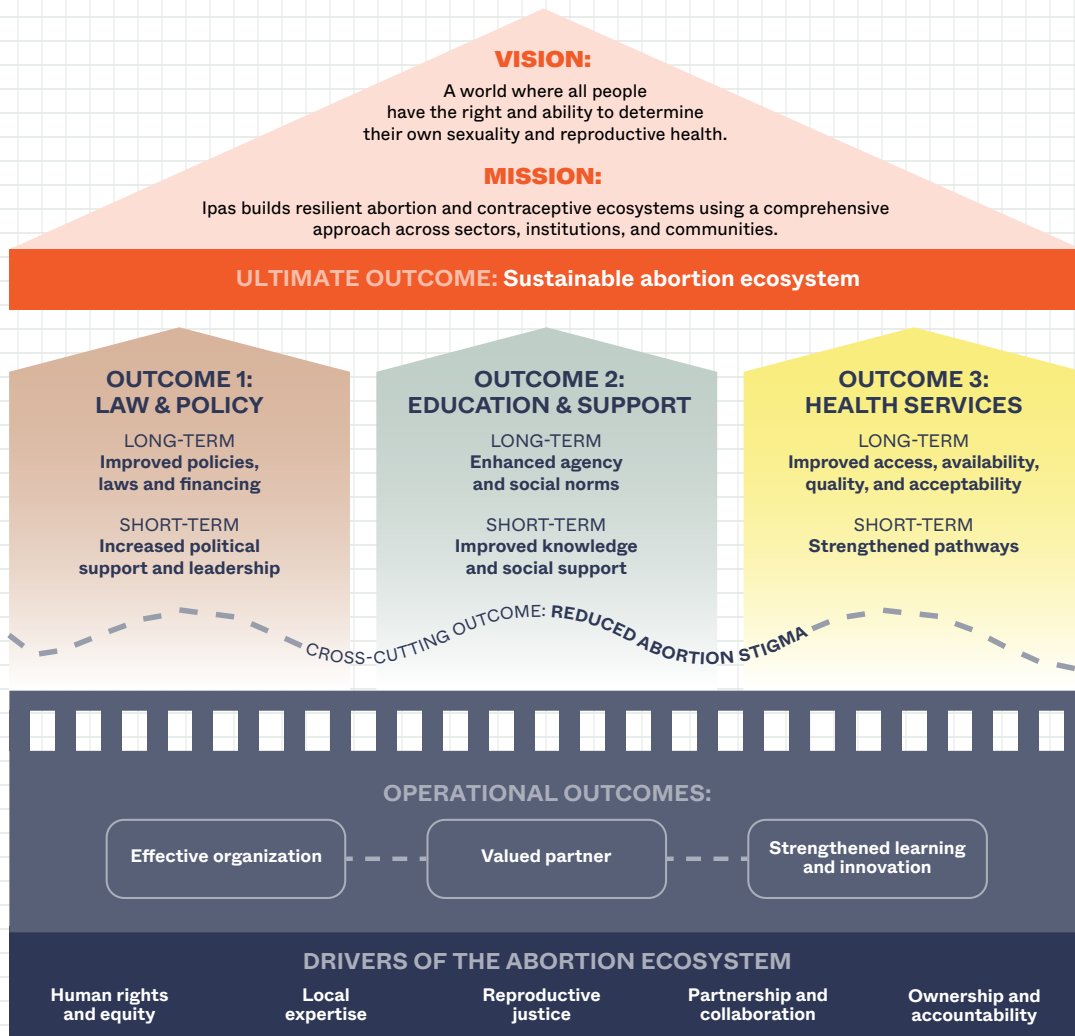
LOCAL EXPERTISE: Without local expertise to guide progress, an abortion ecosystem will not survive. Our programs regularly offer technical support, assistance and capacity-strengthening where it is needed for local partners and stakeholders.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE: Reproductive justice is the right to control one's own sexuality, gender, health, and reproduction, and to do so safely and with dignity. By applying a reproductive justice framework to all we do, we center the people who need abortion care and their diverse identities, experiences and environments. We consider the complex and overlapping barriers and systems of oppression that prevent them from accessing needed health care. Then we build partnerships across the abortion ecosystem with local groups whose own social justice agendas intersect with ours.

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION: To ensure the ecosystem can maintain a solid network of relationships, we collaborate with key partners for strategic planning and to inform our evolving intersectional and feminist approach.

OWNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY: To ensure success, we bring policymakers and health authorities into planning and implementation early, and we work with local communities, health-professional associations and human rights bodies to hold these stakeholders accountable to meet the needs of the individuals being served.

Our theory of change



Ultimate outcome: Create and maintain a sustainable abortion ecosystem in all our work and collaboration with partners.

To build a sustainable abortion ecosystem, we work toward three main outcomes in which we expect to produce short-term and long-term change. We also work toward a cross-cutting outcome of reduced abortion stigma that helps us achieve all three main outcomes.

Outcome 1: Law and policy

LONG-TERM: **Improved policies, laws and financing**

Laws and policies respect and protect abortion as a human right, without unnecessary or harmful barriers limiting access. Effective legal and policy advocacy strategies support political leaders to expand and improve gender-responsive policies, legislation, and financial commitments on abortion care. Public financing for sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, ensures resilient, affordable, and equitable access. Mobilized communities engage in advocacy to expand and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights for everyone.



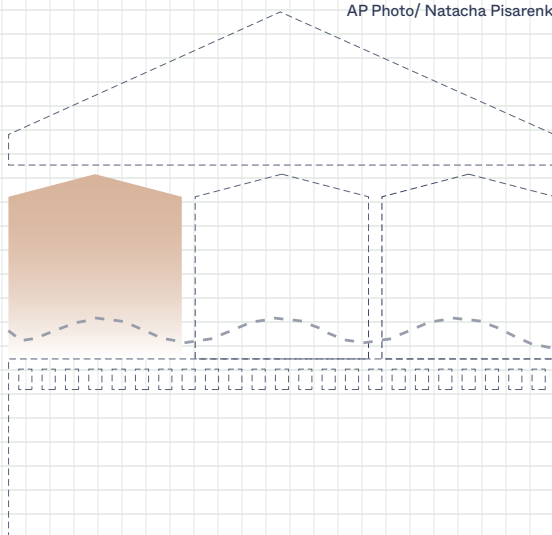
AP Photo/ Natacha Pisarenko

HISTORIC LAW CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

Years of hard work by advocates, including Ipas, finally paid off in 2021 when Argentina's senate voted to legalize abortion—an historic shift where abortion was long restricted. Before that, Ipas had collaborated with partners to build evidence on the accessibility of existing abortion care, to train abortion providers, and to support them in becoming advocates for legalization.

“This is the kind of years-long strategic work required to make historic law change possible. We’re proud to now contribute to the implementation of safe abortion services in Argentina.”

Karen Padilla, program director, Ipas Latin America and the Caribbean



Outcome 1: Law and policy

SHORT-TERM: **Increased political support and leadership**

Government stakeholders prioritize sexual and reproductive health and rights by respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights obligations. They commit to ensuring meaningful access to comprehensive abortion care for all who need it, informed by available health information and including funding of services. To sustain political support and leadership, there must be effective and reliable champions for abortion access at all levels of government and the public and private health sector, and an effective civil society movement mobilized around advocacy and political accountability for abortion access.



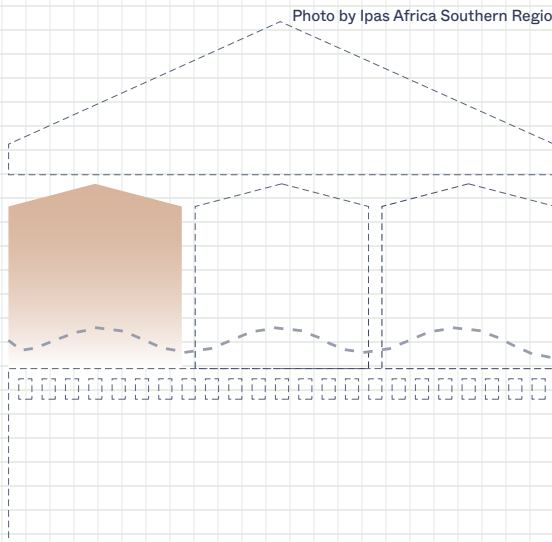
Photo by Ipas Africa Southern Region

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Seeing the need for coordinated action on sexual and reproductive health and rights in eastern and southern Africa, parliamentarians from diverse countries worked with Ipas Africa Alliance, Ipas Africa Southern Region, and other partners to launch the Eastern and Southern Africa Parliamentary Caucus on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.

“By uniting policymakers and stakeholders under a common vision, the caucus endeavors to create a future where sexual and reproductive health and rights are recognized as fundamental human rights, ensuring universal access to high-quality services for all.”

Clement Kolove, policy and programs advisor for Ipas Africa Southern Region



Outcome 2: Education and support

LONG-TERM: **Enhanced agency and social norms**

Individuals demonstrate confidence and autonomy in exercising reproductive choices, informed by reliable information about safe options, including self-managed abortion with pills. Social norms are gender-responsive, inclusive and are regularly supported by empowered community-based and civil society organizations, as well as other community members.



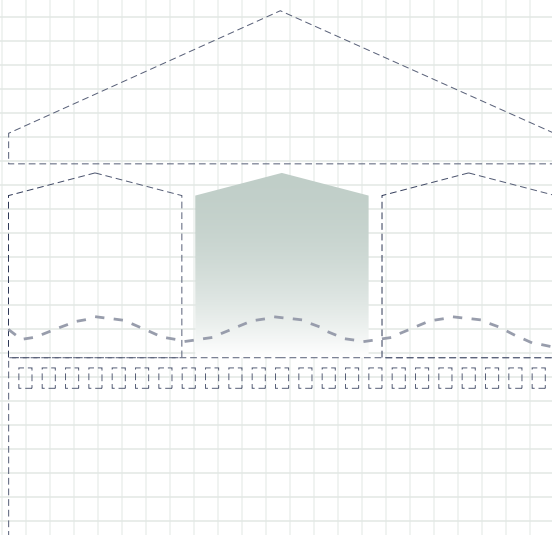
Photo by Victoria Razo

INFORMATION IS POWER

Ipas's [chatbot for migrants in Mexico](#) is helping them reclaim bodily autonomy with information on their reproductive rights and where to access legal abortion services.

“[The chatbot] reassures us that, as women, we’re free and fully entitled to choose what to do with our own bodies and to feel protected. The tools are also useful for having a safe abortion and making sure that our health is not at risk.”

Elizabeth Martinez, a migrant from Honduras



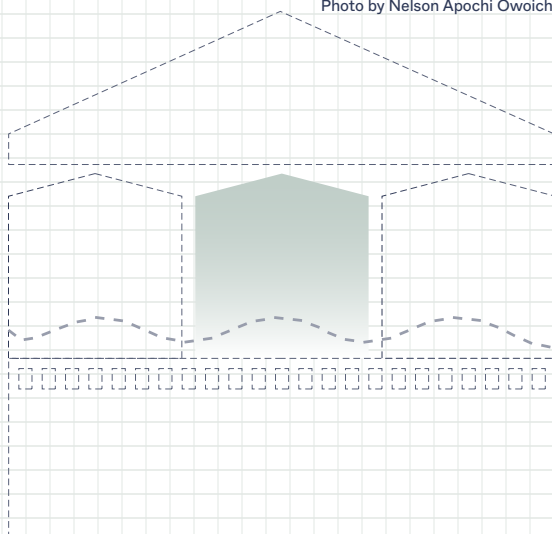
Outcome 2: Education and support

SHORT-TERM: Improved knowledge and social support

Social norms support people's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive health and rights and are free from abortion stigma and discrimination. Community-based and civil society organizations, community health workers and volunteers, and other community members are informed and empowered to uphold women's and girls' human rights. People seeking abortion care have access to social support from a diverse range of community members and society at large.



Photo by Nelson Apochi Owoicho



BUILDING INCLUSIVE CARE

In Nigeria, getting a safe abortion is already an uphill battle. But for women living with disabilities, it can be nearly impossible. That's why Ipas supported the local group SAIF Advocacy Foundation to train 15 community health organizations on reproductive rights, disability access and how treatment for the complications of unsafe abortion can save lives.

“As a result of this training, I have been able to share information on issues that need to be supported so that we can save lives. We hope for such trainings to continue because cases of rape and gender-based violence are on the rise.”

Yelwe Abdwlahi, a retired health professional who attended a training for the Federation of Muslim Women Associations in Nigeria

Outcome 3: Health services

LONG-TERM: Improved access, availability, quality and acceptability

Abortion rights are realized as part of the broader right to health. This means that health-related principles of accessibility, availability, acceptability, and quality are met across all abortion pathways, supporting all the needs of anyone seeking abortion care. Health outcomes directly inform abortion care quality and accessibility improvements, meeting community needs and informing political decisionmaking.



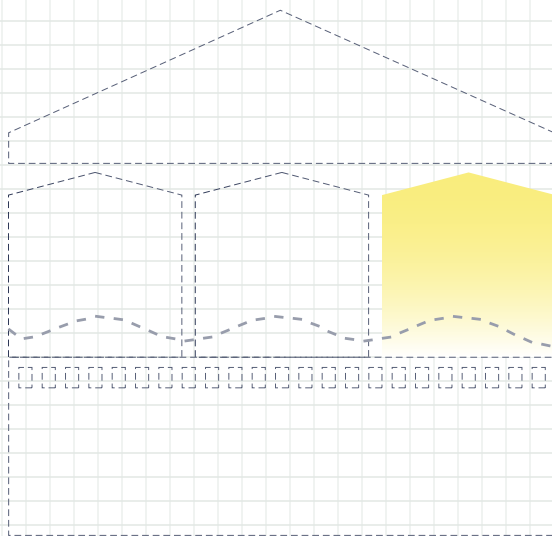
Photo by Fabeha Monir

TRAINING HEALTH WORKERS TO MEET REFUGEES' NEEDS

More than one million Rohingya refugees live in squalid camps in Cox's Bazar in southern Bangladesh, comprising the world's largest refugee settlement. Ipas trains health providers and supports health facilities in the camps to ensure access to high-quality, comprehensive family planning that includes abortion.

“Ipas gave me the knowledge to make myself useful.”

Ummay Roman Jannaty, an Ipas-trained paramedic who provides family planning, abortion and postabortion care at Friendship Hospital in Cox's Bazar



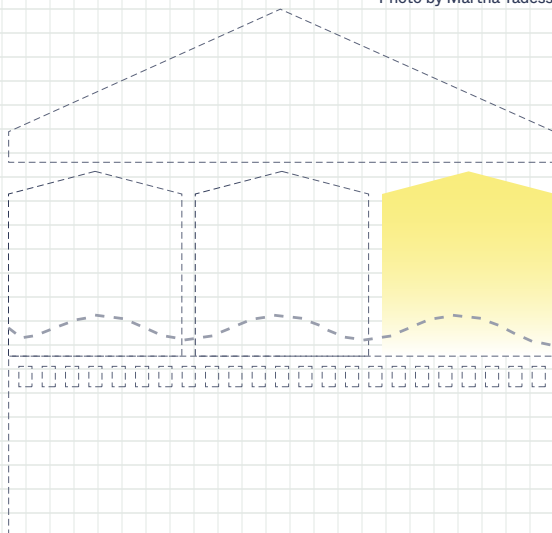
Outcome 3: Health services

SHORT-TERM: **Strengthened pathways**

Accurate information on abortion is always available, and people have access to abortion pills with and without a prescription. Abortion decisions are based on people's needs and preferences, and pathways to abortion are clear and accessible. Universal access to abortion is readily available and integrated throughout the health-care system, with stigma-free services that respect human rights. A trained and supported health workforce provides high-quality abortion care.



Photo by Martha Tadesse



ENSURING CARE WHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS FALTER

Ethiopia's health system has been under immense strain due to ongoing armed conflict, climate-induced drought, and economic hardship. But people still need sexual and reproductive health care. Ipas Ethiopia helps providers and facilities keep going by providing training, mentorship, and resources so that abortion and contraception can remain available. In many communities, ensuring people can access care also means fighting stigma and sharing information on where services are available.

“We raised awareness among the community because mothers [who experienced sexual violence] have been stigmatized. They have been isolated and felt shame. That has helped them to come forward and access different treatments. We provided counseling, and we did pregnancy and HIV tests.”

Bizuye Habte, a health extension worker in Ethiopia who received training from a local organization supported by Ipas

Cross-cutting outcome: Reduced abortion stigma

Abortion stigma is global and pervasive. And research shows just how much abortion stigma is costing us. It shames and silences people who seek abortions, plus their health-care providers and anyone associated with abortion—and it contributes greatly to the incidence of abortion with unsafe methods. Abortion stigma fuels resistance to Ipas’s programs and the progress we seek.

That’s why we focus on reducing abortion stigma and building evidence on how to do so. Through decades of this work, we’ve developed a unique understanding of where and how abortion stigma is most pervasive and harmful within the abortion ecosystem. Accordingly, we use tailored stigma-reduction strategies to help end abortion stigma across the ecosystem.



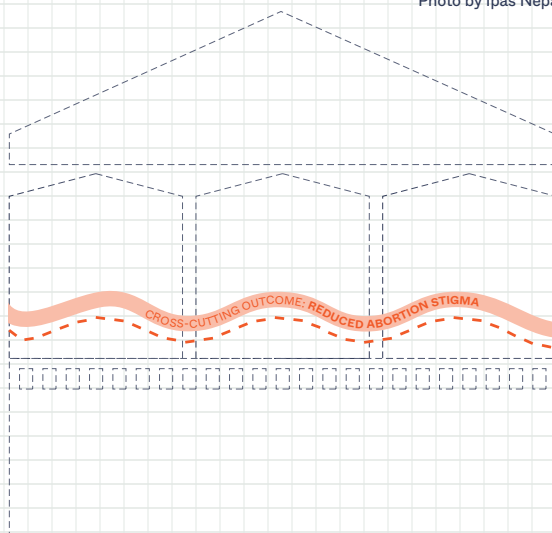
Photo by Ipas Nepal

REACHING HEARTS AND MINDS, BUILDING COMPASSION

Ipas Nepal has led the charge against abortion stigma in Nepal for decades, with workshops on abortion VCAT (values clarification for action and transformation) that are now nationally recognized and used in government training programs to expand abortion access.

“We want [trainees] to first understand that abortion is legal in Nepal. Then we move to deeper discussions—where you are able to touch people’s hearts and create points of real understanding and compassion.”

Dr. Deeb Shrestha Dangol, a doctor, advocate and VCAT trainer with Ipas Nepal



Operational outcomes

These form the foundation of our strategic framework. To deliver on our mission, we recognize the critical importance of being an effective organization, a valued partner, and a learning organization.



1. Effective organization

We'll continue building internal strength by adapting our organizational governance and structure to better serve our strategy, by striving for greater efficiency and value for money, by sustaining a staff that is high-performing and diverse, and by seeking diversified and sustainable funding.



2. Valued partner

“Partners for reproductive justice” isn’t just our tagline—it’s a vital part of how we fulfill our mission. We aim to remain or become a valued partner for donors, governments, advocacy groups, health and civil society organizations, community-based groups and grassroots organizations. We’ll continue to nurture mutually beneficial and cross-cutting partnerships that expand reproductive justice and build the capacity of local organizations to sustain the abortion ecosystem, always adhering to our Feminist Principles for Partnership.



3. Strengthened learning and innovation

We'll continue improving how we create and share knowledge, evidence and expertise on abortion access—both within and outside of our organization. We'll enhance our use of evidence, learning and program experience; pursue innovation for internal processes and programmatic work; and effectively communicate our successes and lessons learned to benefit the global abortion access movement.



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