

Pledge Registration Form

Pledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

Objectives of the pledge

Consistent with Canada's commitment to advance comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all, with the specific aim to improve the health of women, adolescent girls, children and newborns;

Acknowledging the key contributions of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the health and survival of women and children, and especially those living in fragile contexts;

Recognizing that the majority of maternal and child deaths globally occur in countries disproportionately affected by disasters and conflicts and women affected by crises have a higher risk of miscarriage, premature delivery, childbirth-related complications and infertility, and are at higher risk of experience sexual and gender based violence, including harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage;

Noting the great risks posed to both patients and health care workers in these contexts and in particular, the lack of access to those most in need in areas where there is conflict and violence;

Emphasizing that providing sexual and reproductive health services in the context of humanitarian interventions helps save lives by addressing problems related to unwanted pregnancies, obstetrical complications, sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual violence, trafficking and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting, sexually transmitted infections and a multitude of reproductive complications;

The Government of Canada and Canadian Red Cross pledge to take concrete steps to reduce the deaths of women and girls and promote gender equality and empowerment through:

- 1) Strengthening knowledge of national societies and health systems to deliver high quality SRHR services based on the needs expressed by specific communities, in particular, with regard to sexual and reproductive health, emergency obstetrical services and neonatal health, contraception, abortion and post-abortion care, and the treatment of sexually transmitted infections;
- 2) Supporting evidence-based decision making by ministries of health and other policy-makers and stakeholders by strengthening local Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) and research capacities to analyse and use information;
- 3) Developing the skills of local Red Cross and Red Crescent National Society volunteers to collaborate with their communities to promote preventive and caregiving practices and, increase self-reliance and resilience to shocks;
- 4) Enhancing health care workers' ability to access mothers and children affected by humanitarian crises including conflicts by advocating for the safety and security of patients and health care providers;

- 5) Improving access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services during emergencies, in particular for women and adolescent girls;
- 6) Strengthening Canadian capacity to provide quality SRHR services in emergencies, with the focus on neglected areas of SRHR including adolescent health and addressing HPV;
- 7) Committing resources to enhance access to SRHR services for women and girls, particularly in conflict settings; and
- 8) Advocating for the systematic integration of complete sexual and reproductive health services into humanitarian interventions.

Evaluation Criteria

- 1) In line with relevant country and institutional strategies, support programming which strengthens the capacity of health systems using a gender equality framework to deliver SRHR as well as newborn and child health services particularly in emergency and conflict settings.
- 2) Support SRHR training for Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (ERU) personnel, and the rapid deployment of delegates with expertise in these areas and emergencies.

Sponsors of the pledge:

Full name: Alan Kessel	Date: 09 December, 2019
Title or organization: Head of delegation, Assistant Deputy Minister and Legal Adviser, Global Affairs Canada	Place: Geneva, Switzerland
Signature: 	
Full name: Gavin Giles	
Title or organization: Chair of the Board of Directors, Canadian Red Cross Society For:	
Signature: 	