

Message from the Director General

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you on behalf of the entire International Planned Parenthood Federation, to express our support and solidarity at this most difficult of times.

The COVID-19 epidemic is one of the greatest challenges our Federation has faced. It is a global emergency affecting us all, without distinction. It is already clear that its impact will be unprecedented in every area of life; our ability as a Federation to deliver sexual and reproductive health care and our ability to defend and advance the rights of women and girls is already facing enormous strain.

At the same time, the work we all do will be more important than ever. The weight of this health emergency will fall disproportionately on the poor and underprivileged, as every crisis does. Those are the very people we all strive to serve.

As Director General of this Federation, I want to be clear that supporting all our Members through this pandemic is our priority.

IPPF has established a COVID-19 Taskforce, which will coordinate the work of the Secretariat in understanding the stresses being placed on you all and delivering as much direct help as possible to Members in need.

It will also identify opportunities to modernise our service offering, making sure we stay abreast of the rapidly changing landscape with a view to expanding no touch services, and self-management of SRH care.

The COVID-19 Taskforce is right now working on mapping the nature and scale of the tailored support that you require. You'll receive a short questionnaire designed to capture the impact that the crisis has had on your organizations. Completing this questionnaire as fully and quickly as possible will enable the Secretariat to better support and respond to your needs.

I also wanted to add that with approval from our President and Treasurer we are happy to be able to provide advance payment now of up to half of the second tranche of 2020 core funding to Members who need liquidity. They have also approved the earmarking of an additional USD300k toward the DGO's Emergency Fund primarily directed to making personal protective equipment to MAs who need it for their frontline staff.

I am speaking personally to donors to make the strongest possible case for additional resourcing to help combat the humanitarian need this crisis will create. I am very aware of the additional risk experienced by health care providers, and want staff feeling supported during what is likely to be the most challenging year they have ever faced.

We will be releasing a statement very shortly from IPPF's International Medical Advisory Panel on the impact of COVID-19 on SRHR, which will help us all further in making the case for the vital services you deliver.

And we will continue to amplify those efforts through our advocacy and communications, reinforcing that support for the people we serve is more urgent now than ever.

I want to thank every worker and every volunteer continuing to do their very best to provide vital sexual and reproductive healthcare, even at risk to themselves. The entire Federation stands with you all at this most difficult of times.

In Support and in Solidarity,