

**SYNTHESIS**

# **ADVOCACY STRATEGY AFRICA**

**SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS**



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## Prelude

This strategy is designed to be :

- A guide to monitoring strategic orientations for SRHR advocacy in Africa;
- A guide to technical support and coaching for operational teams;
- An orientation on the challenges of strengthening the skills of operational teams in SRHR advocacy in Africa;
- A compass for monitoring changes in the context (players and issues) of the SRHR theme in Africa.

**This strategy does not replace the missions' advocacy strategies.**

## Introduction and rationale

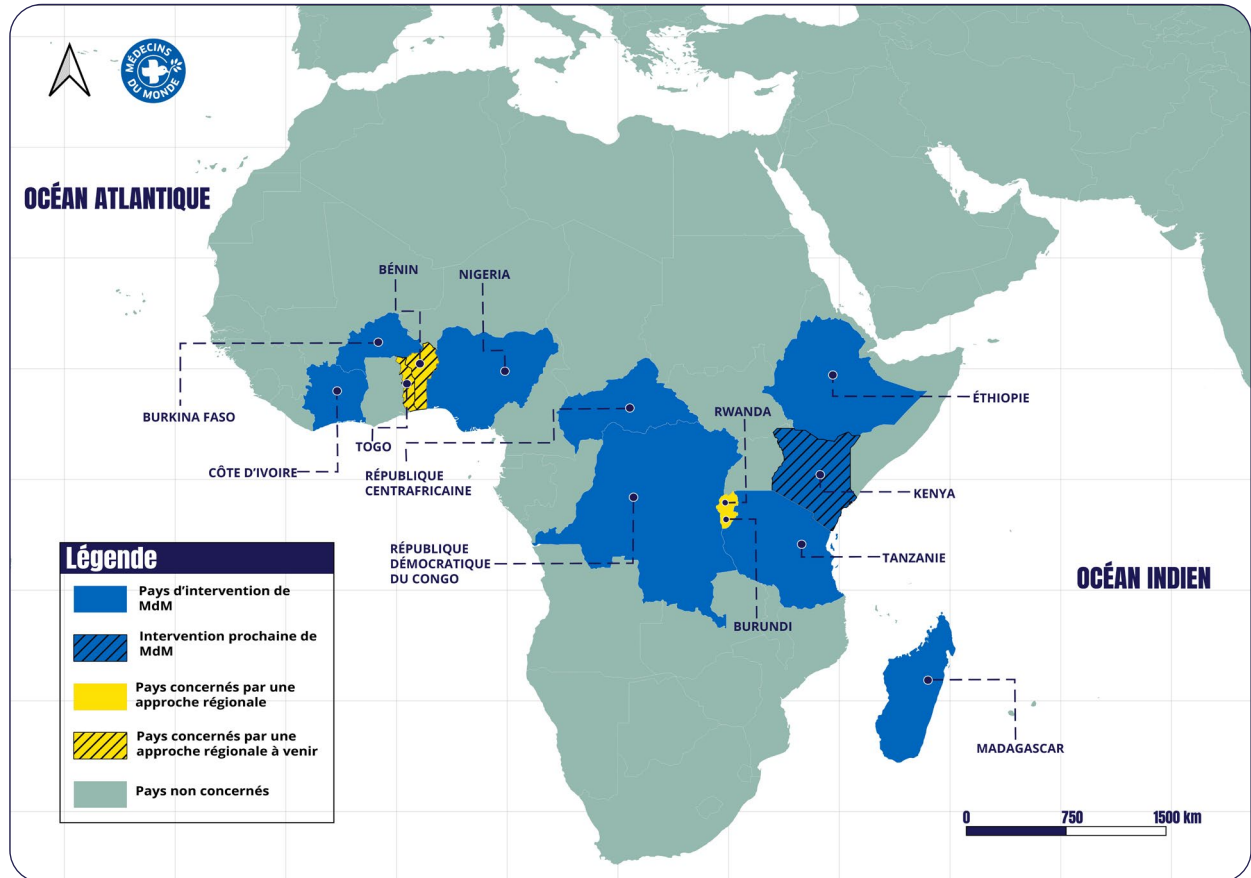
Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are universal and imply **that every person has access to essential information, prevention and care services to live and understand their sexuality, to be supported in their choices and to meet their needs.**

Priorities for action in SRHR programs and advocacy objectives are defined in line with the global SRHR strategic axes of Mdm's unique positioning; namely our commitment to :

- Prevention and management of **Unintended Pregnancy (GNI)**
- Access to **SRHR in humanitarian contexts, with a particular focus on the fight against sexual violence;**
- Prevention and management of pre-cancerous lesions (PCL) and **cervical cancer (CCU).**

## Mapping Africa's SRHR political combat missions

Interventions on SRHR are implemented or integrated into other political battles at the level of the Africa missions.



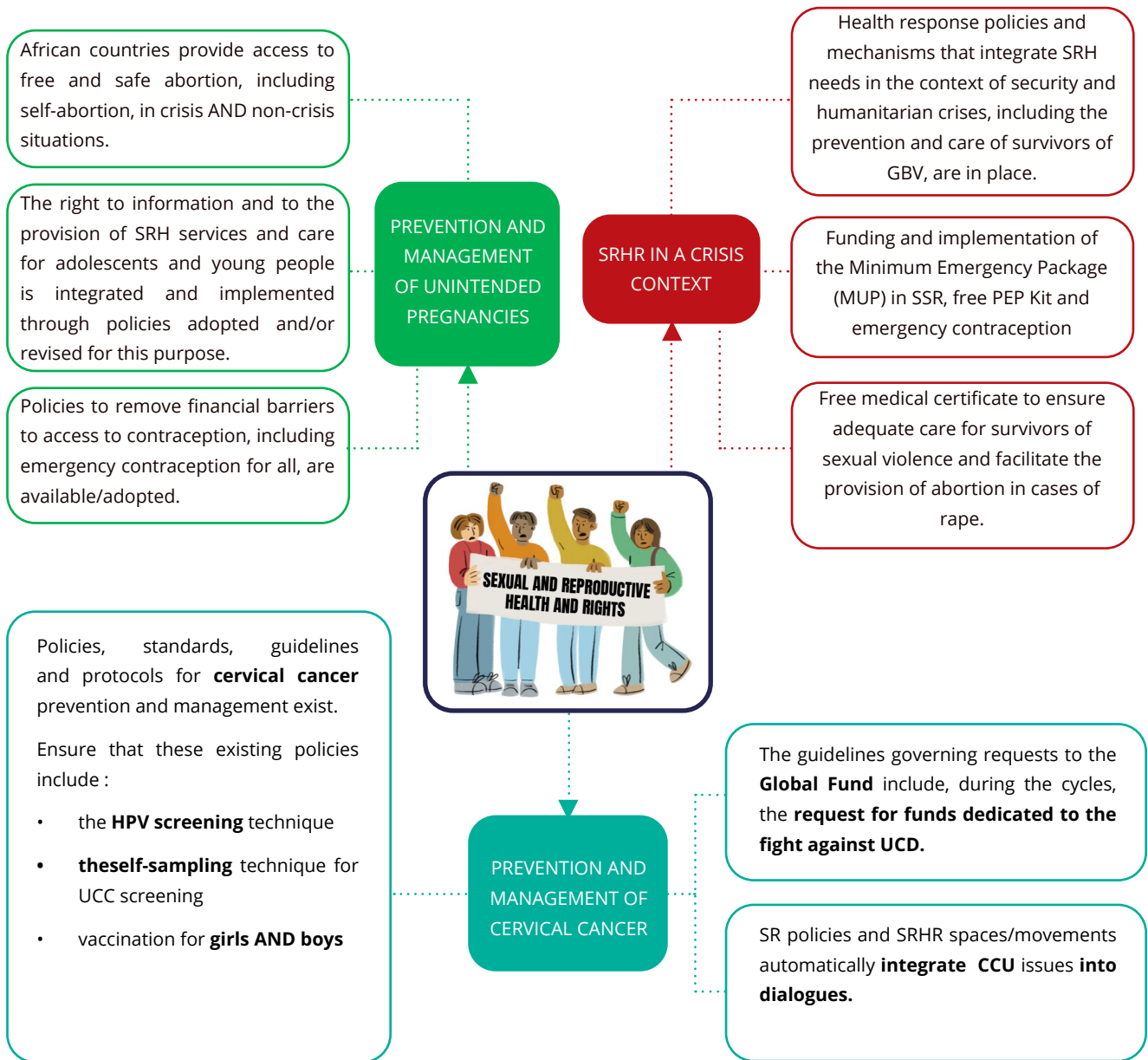
## Global context and specific problems of rights and SRH in Africa

- Difficult access to sexual and reproductive health services, care and products.
- Several countries in the region have the most alarming rates of maternal mortality and contraceptive coverage;
- Many African countries have disproportionately high rates of unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, cervical cancer mortality, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and gender-based violence.
- While over the period 2015-2019, there were 35 unintended pregnancies (UIPs) per year per 1,000 women aged 15-49 in Europe and North America, this figure stood at 91 ‰ in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Inaccessibility to safe and legal abortion linked to socio-cultural burdens but also to various restrictions in legal frameworks;
- Insufficient implementation of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE).
- Unavailability and inaccessibility of minimum emergency reproductive health care (MERS) in crisis situations;

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<sup>1</sup> Inventory of functional missions and Africa division teams at December 31, 2023

- Increase in sexual, physical and psychological violence;
- Inaccessibility to medical certificates and contraception, including emergency contraception.
- Low vaccination coverage against UCC and poor promotion of self-testing in UCC screening approaches.
- Taboo and strong legal, health and financial barriers to access to SRH care and services in general.
- Interventions on SRHR are implemented or integrated into other political struggles at the level of the African missions.

## Our regional policy requests and field articulations



### WHAT WE CALL THE ECS CONCEPT IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE WE OPERATE

**Burkina Faso**  
Family Life Education

**Ethiopia**  
Comprehensive Sexuality Education

**Nigeria**  
Family Life and HIV Education

**Democratic Republic of Congo**  
Family life education

**Ivory Coast**  
Health education and healthy living

**Madagascar**  
Comprehensive Sexuality Education

**Central African Republic**  
Comprehensive Sexuality Education

**Tanzania**  
Comprehensive Sexuality Education

## How we work



### EXPERTISE

Testimonials, political intelligence and analysis, studies based on concrete data, etc.



### ALLIANCES

leading groups, developing common positions, capacity building, etc...



### COMMUNICATION/MEDIA TOOLS

Press releases, social media, forums, public signage



### MOBILIZING PUBLIC OPINION

Petition, demonstration, campaign, etc...



### LOBBYING

Meetings with decision-makers, participation in political and technical conferences, etc...



### STRATEGIC LITIGATION

based on a number of criteria, take legal action to defend the rights of those concerned

## Monitoring advocacy performance

Advocacy results can be measured. MDM offers a [catalog of possible indicators](#) for monitoring and evaluating your interventions. As you build your advocacy strategy, please consider which indicators best measure your advocacy process. [here](#)

# SRHR: Legal sources, accountability mechanisms and dialogue frameworks

## Sources and legal frameworks

- Maputo Protocol Art 14.2.C
- Regional commitments of the Generation Equality Forum
- African Union Maputo Plan of Action 2016-2030
- OMS guidelines

## Accountability bodies

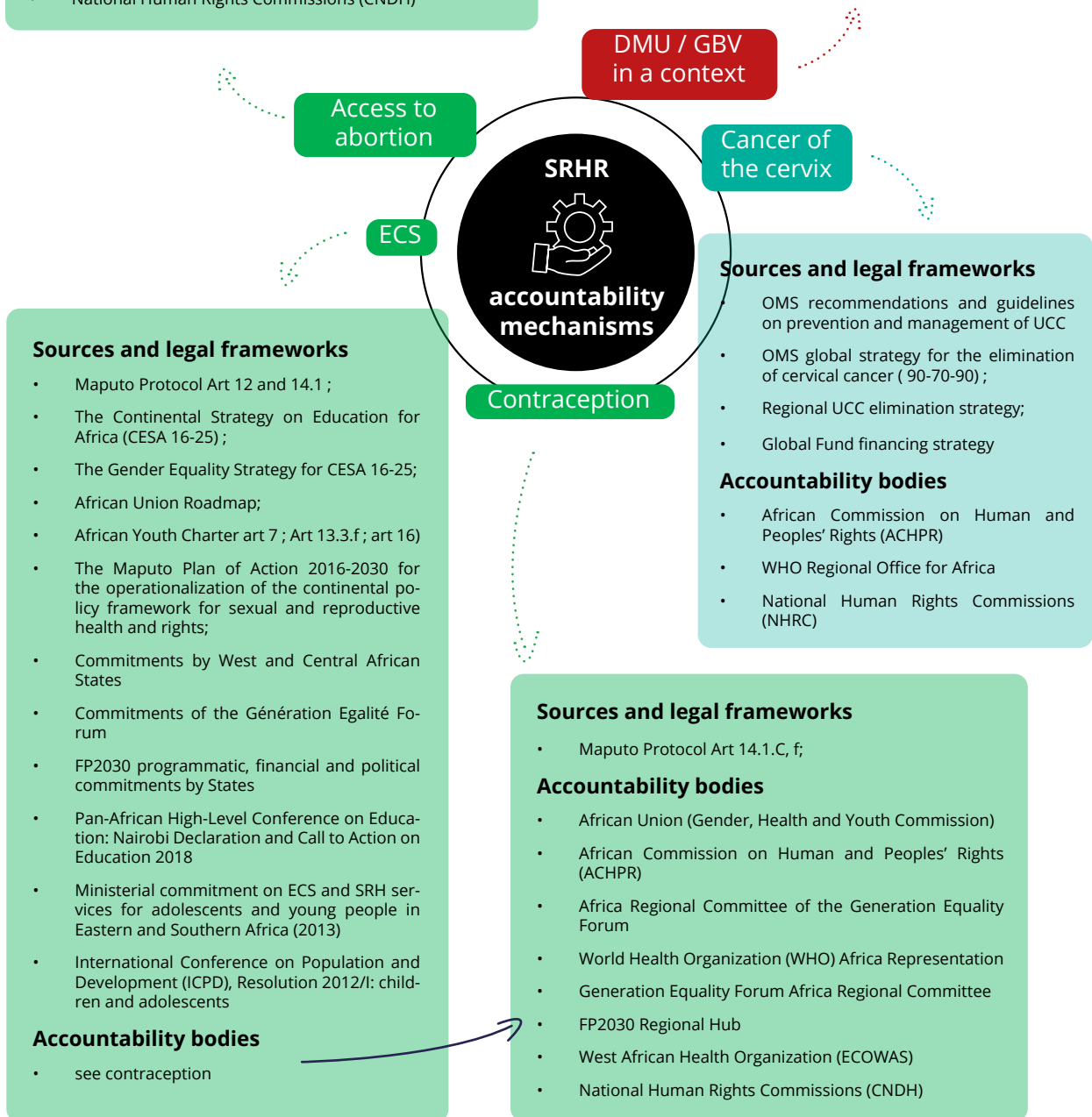
- African Union (Gender, Health and Youth Commission)
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
- WHO Africa Representation
- Africa Regional Committee of the Generation Equality Forum
- National Human Rights Commissions (CNDH)

## Sources and legal frameworks

- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of June 21, 1981 ;
- Maputo Protocol
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW)
- CallTo Action VBG roadmap

## Accountability bodies

- African Union (Gender, Health and Youth Commission)
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
- National Human Rights Commissions (CNDH)





## Opportunities for dialogue and accountability

Regional conferences and <b>dialogue</b>	<b>International</b> conferences and dialogues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West African Health Organization (<b>ECOWAS</b>) and <b>West African Health Organization (WAHO)</b> Good Health Practices Forum</li> <li>• The Dialogue on Safe Abortion in Africa (<b>DASAF</b>)</li> <li>• Ouagadougou Partnership Annual Meeting (<b>PO</b>)</li> <li>• Ouagadougou Partnership <b>Youth Think Tank</b></li> <li>• Forum <b>Génération Egalité</b> and its representations in the region</li> <li>• Regional Dialogue on Women's Cancers in Africa (<b>UICC</b>)</li> <li>• Groupe de Travail Thématique pour l'Engagement des Etats d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre pour l'ECS (GTT <b>AOC</b>) (Thematic Working Group for the Commitment of West and Central African States to ECS )</li> <li>• African <b>SRH</b> Conference</li> <li>• <b>FP2030</b> Regional Hub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Conference on <b>Family Planning</b> ;</li> <li>• The <b>Population and Development</b> Conference (every year in NY)</li> <li>• <b>CALL To Action</b> emergency conference</li> <li>• <b>Women Deliver</b> Conference (every 4 years)</li> <li>• Commission on the Status of Women (<b>CSW</b>) (every year at UN headquarters)</li> </ul>

In the African region, as at international level, advocacy actors can challenge states on the basis of the commitments they have made. Among other means of influencing states and reminding them of their commitments, advocacy action plans can include the production of alternative reports, and the lodging of complaints under certain conditions with community jurisdictions or UN treaty bodies. More details in the SRHR Africa advocacy strategy.

## Some key advocacy messages in Africa

<b>Abortion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Apply art 14.2.C of the Maputo Protocol to ensure the right to bodily autonomy for girls and women;</li> <li>➤ Adopt the Maputo Protocol to ensure respect for the right to bodily autonomy of girls and women;</li> <li>➤ Abortion is health care;</li> <li>➤ Safe and legal abortion saves lives and helps reduce high maternal death rates;</li> <li>➤ The inclusion of self-care in health policies enables the provision of safe abortion while limiting pressure on the health system;</li> <li>➤ Abortion is a fundamental and universal human right;</li> <li>➤ Access to abortion is a global issue;</li> <li>➤ Criminalization of abortion increases unsafe abortion;</li> <li>➤ Restrictions on abortion rights contribute to the deaths of girls and women who resort to unsafe abortion anyway;</li> </ul>
<b>ECS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ National policies that integrate health education for adolescents and young people enable young people to have a conscious and fulfilling sex life, and to protect themselves from disease and unintended pregnancy.</li> <li>➤ School curricula that include education for adolescents and young people and the provision of contraceptive methods help to reduce unintended pregnancy and school dropout among girls.</li> <li>➤ The academic development of adolescents and young people depends on educational policies that integrate their right to accurate health information.</li> </ul>
<b>Contraception</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Free choice of contraception is a fundamental human right</li> <li>➤ Access to contraception helps reduce unintended pregnancies</li> <li>➤ Access to emergency contraception is a fundamental human right</li> <li>➤ The integration of emergency contraception into RH health policies reinforces equitable enjoyment and reduces inequalities in access to contraceptive products.</li> </ul>
<b>MISP / GBV in a crisis context</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 60% of maternal mortality in crisis situations is preventable.</li> <li>➤ The SRH Minimum Emergency Package must be funded and implemented to ensure effective access to comprehensive health services.</li> <li>➤ Gender-based violence endangers lives and is a problem that affects human rights in general, and more specifically the SR rights of girls and women.</li> </ul>
<b>CCU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ HPV screening is a more sensitive, effective and cost-effective test for low-income countries.</li> <li>➤ Organized screening, an adapted approach for better coverage of women;</li> <li>➤ The integration of self-testing into national prevention plans enables broad screening coverage and therefore early detection.</li> </ul>

## Resources / SRHR advocacy strategy appendices

[Appendix 1: Global strategy](#)

[Appendix 2: Detailed 2024-2027 regional advocacy strategy roadmap](#)

[Appendix 3: Advocacy guide](#)

[Appendix 4: SRHR reference framework](#)

[Appendix 5: Advocacy booklet](#)

[Appendix 6: Catalogue of indicators](#)

[Appendix 7: Advocacy training module](#)

[Appendix 8: Other SRHR data sheets and resources](#)

[Annexe 1 : la stratégie globale](#)

[Annexe 2 : Feuille de route détaillée 2024-2027 de la stratégie de plaidoyer régionale](#)

[Annexe 3 : Guide de plaidoyer](#)

[Annexe 4 : Cadre de référence SRHR](#)

[Annexe 5 : Livret plaidoyer](#)

[Annexe 6 : Catalogue des indicateurs](#)

[Annexe 7 : Module de formation plaidoyer](#)

[Annexe 8 : Autres Fiches techniques et autres ressources SRHR](#)

To find out more (in French and English), visit the Health and Advocacy intranet; then on Share-Point [HERE](#)

## Notes

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**if you need more information, please write to :**

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