

MEDIA CONTACTS

ICFPMedia@jh.edu

Matthew Matassa, ICFP 2025 Global Media Lead | matt@theicfp.org

Christina ChereI, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health | ccherel@jh.edu

Christian Jiménez, Profamilia | christian.jimenez@profamilia.org.co



Data Defines the Decade Ahead: Landmark Studies and Local Voices Converge at ICFP 2025

New research from WHO, The Lancet, Guttmacher, Rutgers, and community collectives reveals global SRHR at a crossroads where innovation and inequality collide.

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA — November 4, 2025

As the world experiences the most turbulent year for reproductive rights in a generation, new evidence unveiled at the **International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP 2025)** shows global progress at a tipping point with financing gaps widening, access stalling, and communities stepping in to fill the void.

From November 3-6, 2025, more than **3,500 delegates from 120 countries** are meeting in Bogotá for the Seventh ICFP, where data released this week reveal both momentum and fragility in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

“Evidence is only as powerful as the action it inspires,” said Dr. Philip Anglewicz, Director of the William H. Gates Sr. Institute and Chair of the ICFP 2025 International Steering Committee.

“This week, the global SRHR community is proving that research can do more than describe the world—it can change it.”

A Global Wake-Up Call on SRHR Financing

In July, a Guttmacher analysis warned that more than 70 percent of global family-planning funding depends on a small group of donors, including nearly 40 percent from the United States—leaving millions vulnerable if political priorities shift.

The Donors Delivering for SRHR 2025 analysis by DSW and the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights (EPF) shows that donor disbursements fell 27 percent in 2023 to US \$10.77 billion, just 4.3 percent of total official development assistance (ODA). Despite rising overall aid, SRHR's share continues to shrink—exposing widening gaps between political promises and financial realities.

European donors provided roughly €1.65 billion in 2023, while domestic budgets in many low- and middle-income countries remain too limited to sustain essential services without external support.

Landmark Evidence at ICFP 2025

Several major studies anchor the ICFP 2025 scientific agenda this year:

- **The Lancet / WHO Global SRHR Analysis** — Led by **Dr. Saifuddin Ahmed**, the study shows that sustained SRHR investment lowers maternal mortality, advances gender parity, and strengthens national resilience.

*“We are seeing what happens when data meets determination,” said **Dr. Ahmed**. “Investment in SRHR doesn’t just save lives; it strengthens economies, protects rights, and builds the resilience societies need in times of crisis.”*

- Also released at ICFP 2025, **two new Guttmacher Institute studies**—Adding It Up and FP-Impact—show that investing in family planning is both lifesaving and economically smart. Meeting all SRHR needs in low- and middle-income countries would cost \$104 billion annually but save \$2.48 in health costs for every \$1 spent. The findings also show contraceptive use increases women’s paid employment by up to 12% in countries like Kenya and Nigeria.

*“Family planning doesn’t just save lives—it transforms women’s economic prospects,” said **Onikepe Owolabi**, Vice President for International Research at Guttmacher.*

- **FP2030 Country Commitments** also reveal encouraging momentum: Ghana, Kenya, and Bangladesh have pledged to expand access to modern contraception and increase domestic financing, signaling renewed accountability toward 2030 targets.

*“Countries see the evidence: family planning remains a development best buy,” said **Dr. Samukeliso Dube**, executive director of FP2030. “It’s worth prioritizing.”*

- **Rutgers’ Comparative Study on Abortion Access in Central Africa** — Co-funded by the **European Union**, the research examines access for survivors of sexual violence,

mapping legal and health-system barriers and emerging rights-based strategies in restrictive contexts.

Media and Accountability in Action

As this evidence shapes the week's agenda, ICFP's Media and Accountability track ensures data doesn't stay confined to academic journals.

More than 50 international journalists, advocates, and researchers convened at the Family Planning News Network (FPNN) Media Lab for a briefing previewing these studies and discussing how transparency and community-centered storytelling can strengthen accountability in SRHR.

"This conversation marked the beginning of something larger—a community of journalists and SRHR advocates committed to advancing evidence-based reporting and effectively countering mis and disinformation," said Eszter Kismodi of Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters (SRHM). "

The session marked a pivotal step toward building a sustained global media network that will continue engaging and supporting journalists beyond ICFP 2025.

The Decade Ahead

As the data converge in Bogotá, ICFP 2025 stands as a checkpoint for SRHR accountability and ambition. The evidence reveals a world in motion defined by extraordinary innovation but shadowed by deep inequity and uneven political will.

From AI-driven health tools to youth-led movements and community-based financing models, progress is being redefined not only by what governments invest but by how communities adapt and lead.

"We have more data than ever before," said Marta Royo, Executive Director of Profamilia. "But what will define the next decade is not how much we know, but how boldly we act. Evidence must drive equity—and equity must drive everything else."

What's Next

Throughout the week, ICFP 2025 will unveil new data releases and policy commitments shaping the future of SRHR. Daily updates, press briefings, and interviews are available through the FPNN Media Lab and the ICFP press room.

About the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP)

Since 2009, ICFP has been the world's largest scientific and advocacy platform on family planning and reproductive health. The 2025 conference is organized by the **William H. Gates Sr. Institute** at the **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**, in partnership with the **Government of Colombia**, **Profamilia**, and **Fundación Valle del Lili**, along with more than 100 global partners.

<https://theicfp.org/>

About the Family Planning News Network (FPNN)

The **Family Planning News Network (FPNN)** is a global storytelling and media initiative amplifying evidence, innovation, and community voices in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Established by the **William H. Gates Sr. Institute for Population and Reproductive Health** in partnership with media organizations worldwide, FPNN connects more than 2,500 journalists, advocates, and creators through live coverage, reporting fellowships, and the FPNN Media Lab to strengthen accountability and solutions-oriented storytelling on SRHR.

<https://www.familyplanningnewsnetwork.org/>