

ADDING IT UP

Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa

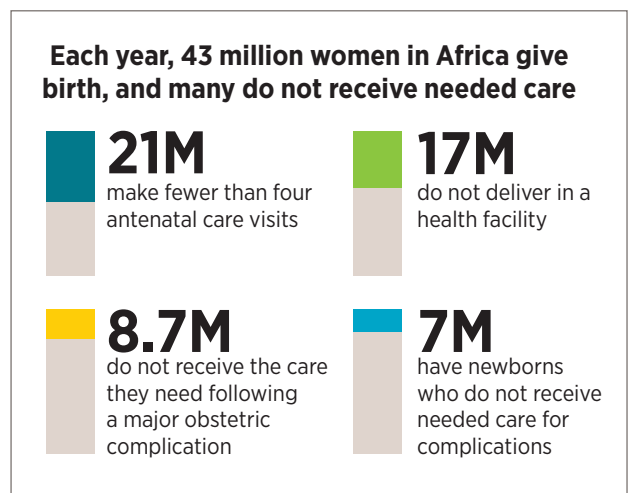
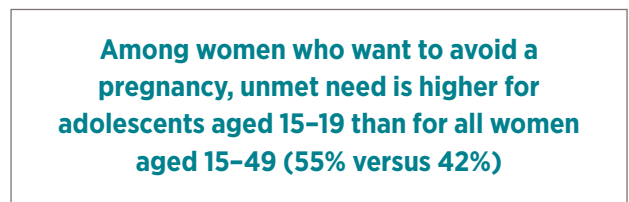
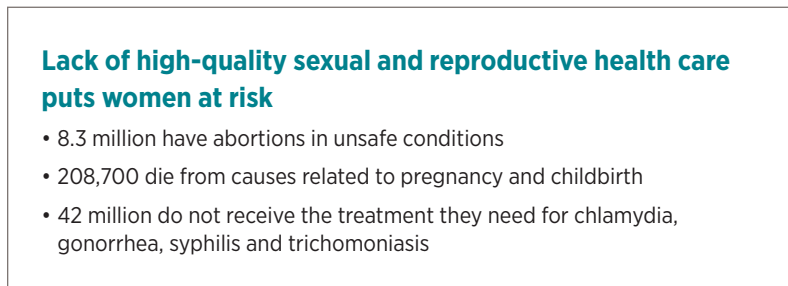
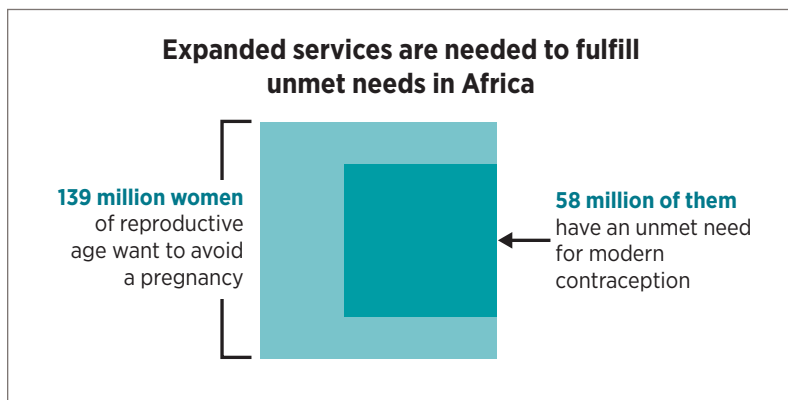


The Adding It Up study examines the need for, impact of and cost of fully investing in sexual and reproductive health care—services that together ensure people can decide whether and when to have children, experience safe pregnancy and delivery, have healthy newborns, and have a safe and satisfying sexual life.

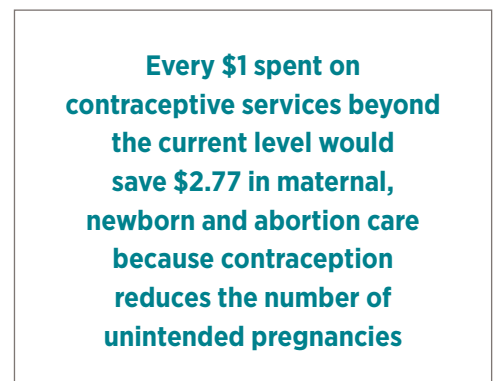
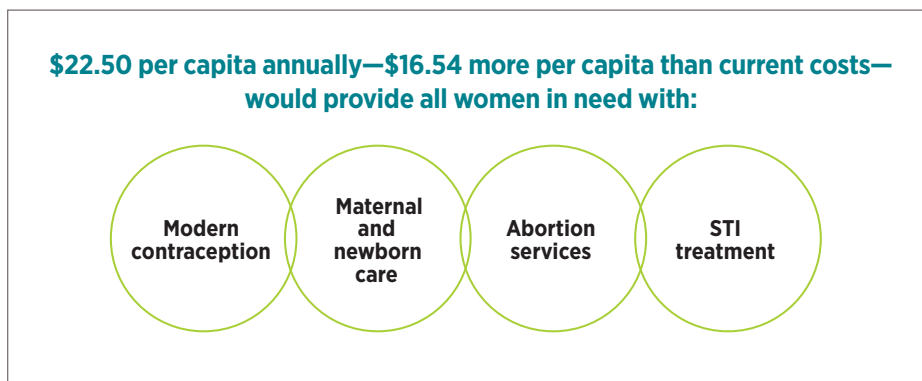
WHO: Women of reproductive age (15–49) in 53 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)* in Africa in 2019

WHAT: Contraceptive services, maternal care, newborn care, abortion services and treatment for the major curable STIs

Unmet needs for services in Africa



Cost of meeting all service needs in Africa



*Countries classified by the World Bank as having a 2018 gross national income per capita of \$12,375 or less. We include LMICs in Eastern, Middle, Northern, Southern and Western Africa. All countries in Eastern, Middle, Northern, Southern and Western Africa are LMICs, with the exception of Seychelles.

Impacts of expanding and improving services

Investing in sexual and reproductive health care in Africa would greatly reduce risks for women and newborns

	Annual no. at current levels of care	–	Annual no. if all needs are met	=	No. averted if all needs are met	% change if all needs are met
Unintended pregnancies	27 million		6 million		21 million	-78%
Unplanned births	13 million		3 million		10 million	-78%
Unsafe abortions	8.3 million		1.8 million		6.4 million	-78%
Maternal deaths	209,000		75,000		134,000	-64%
Newborn deaths	1.1 million		0.3 million		0.8 million	-71%
HIV infections in babies ≤6 weeks	95,000		12,000		83,000	-87%
Cases of infertility caused by untreated STIs	1 million		0		1 million	-100%

Notes: Based on 2019 data. Numbers are rounded.

For additional detail, see appendix to the full report at <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/adding-it-up-investing-in-sexual-reproductive-health-2019>.

Investing for the future

- The interventions that make up the recommended care have proven feasible to implement in diverse settings around the world.
- Investing in them provides national and local governments, the private sector and international development partners with good value for money.
- By saving lives and improving women's health and well-being, sexual and reproductive health care benefits individuals and families and contributes to countries' social and economic development. Such care would also enable people to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.

Source

The information in this fact sheet can be found in Sully EA et al., *Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2020.

Acknowledgments

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Good reproductive health policy starts with credible research

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Find the full report and appendix tables at <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/adding-it-up-investing-in-sexual-reproductive-health-2019>.