



POPULATION INSTITUTE

Theory of Change Narrative

At the Population Institute, we work toward a world where girls and women have achieved full gender equality: All women have access to sexual and reproductive health services, every child is wanted, and global population is balanced with a healthy global environment and resource base. We believe that everyone everywhere deserves the agency to make the decisions that affect their futures.

With the largest generation in history entering their reproductive years, this vision is more important than ever. Due in large part to a lack of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) globally, rapid population growth persists in many parts of the world, presenting challenges for sustainable development. Many people, in the US and around the world, risk losing reproductive autonomy and suffer from restrictive gender norms and inequities.

A key driver of this crisis is the lack of political will among US decision-makers, which stymies funding for SRHR in the US and around the world. Extremism that promotes misinformation and polarization, as well as structural racism, are additional barriers to effective SRHR policies and programs.

To break this cycle, the Population Institute (PI) analyzes complex SRHR issues with an evidence-based approach, connecting them to policy solutions. PI amplifies research findings and partner initiatives to inform and influence key decision-makers for improved SRHR policy. Focusing on building champions, PI educates and cultivates spokespersons across multiple sectors, providing platforms for engagement and thought leadership.

Taken together, PI believes that these strategies will motivate greater investment and a more supportive policy environment for SRHR. In the near term, we seek revision of the Helms Amendment, permanent repeal of the Global Gag Rule, and \$1 billion in US foreign assistance for international family planning and reproductive health. In addition, these strategies aim to fill SRHR policy gaps on the state level in the US and promote greater demographic literacy and connection of population with SRHR by policy makers and the media. PI strongly believes these outcomes will provide the catalyst for longer-range SRHR reform: Access to US-funded comprehensive SRHR on a global scale as well as US investment in SRHR to meet the global need. As more funding is provided for SRHR around the world and other barriers are broken down, millions more people will have access to effective SRHR at home and abroad.