In 2015, most of the world’s countries adopted a set of goals to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and assure prosperity as part of a new sustainable development agenda. In Guatemala, family planning is fundamental in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals proposed as part of this new agenda. The evidence shows that family planning contributes to the health, well-being, and self-sufficiency of women. It improves people’s quality of life and brings prosperity to communities. Guatemala has an extensive legal framework that guarantees funding of, and access to, quality family planning services.

**Legal Framework**


A minimum of fifteen (15) percent of the financial resources raised from this tax will be allocated to sexual and reproductive health, family planning, and alcoholism programs of the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance. The law establishes that these funds cannot be reassigned for other purposes.

The Law of Universal and Equitable Access to Family Planning Services in Guatemala and its integration with the National Reproductive Health Program (Decree 87-2005).

This law aims to ensure access to family planning, which includes information, advice, and education about sexual and reproductive health, as well as the provision of family planning methods.

The Law on Healthy Motherhood (Decree No. 32-2010).

Article 2. Purposes. This article declares healthy motherhood an issue of national importance, requiring the support and promotion of activities that reduce maternal and neonatal mortality, particularly amongst the most vulnerable groups, including adolescents and young people, as well as the rural, indigenous, and migrant populations.

It also establishes the requirement to guarantee universal and timely access to quality and culturally appropriate maternal and neonatal services, including family planning and differentiated services for adolescents, taking into account the geographic location of Guatemalan women.

Family planning contributes specifically to Sustainable Development Goal No. 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages. The country’s objectives under this goal are closely related to family planning. A woman’s ability to decide if she wants to become pregnant and when, has a direct impact on her health and well-being. It allows her to space or limit pregnancy and to decide the number of children she wishes to have. This contributed to a decrease in the maternal mortality ratio from 153 to 113 per 100,000 live births over a 13-year period. Guatemala enhanced family planning access, although there are gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous populations. Currently, unmet need for the non-indigenous population is 10.8%, compared to 17.4% for the indigenous.

Women who delay the birth of their first child are better able to participate in training activities and to have access to more educational opportunities. They tend to use contraceptives more frequently and have higher incomes. These factors reduce household poverty and contribute to gender equity and improved lives for families. Children with fewer siblings tend to remain in school longer than those with more.

Guatemala is making progress in providing family planning services to groups that previously had limited access such as young people and the indigenous population, in particular those who live in rural areas. The Sustainable Development Goals are at the center of the political agenda and family planning addresses plans to deliver health and prosperity to the entire population of Guatemala.