



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018







# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

*Melba Barnett*

We present our Annual Report 2018 in which we summarize a year of great efforts and achievements; a year in which Profamilia reaffirmed, through hard and constant work, its commitment to continue its fight to achieve the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights in the Dominican Republic.

Every year we conduct a satisfaction survey among our clients. The 2018 results reveal that 98% of those who attend the Profamilia clinics would recommend their services. This is a great inspiration for all of us who work in the seven clinics located in Santo Domingo, San Cristóbal, Santiago and San Francisco de Macorís: to quantitatively verify the satisfaction of our people with the services we provide.

Year after year, the flow of both female and male users in the Profamilia health centers remains constant. Last year, 159,441 persons (14% were adolescents) received 857,651 services; of these, 43% was sexual and reproductive health services. Likewise, our actions contributed to avoid 32,253 unwanted pregnancies.

Solidarity is one of our values and in 2018 we gave meaning to that word with 6,293 free clinical services provided to people living in extreme poverty, through the use of coupons; as well as health care to 1,798 people living with HIV, of which 1,560 are receiving antiretroviral therapy and 238 people living with HIV are in follow-up at the Evangelina Rodríguez, Rosa Cisneros and San Francisco de Macorís clinics.

As an important part of its achievements, Profamilia presents the training of 469 young volunteers who are currently acting as peer educators in their communities, with the support and follow-up of 16 educators and

youth promoters. In this respect, 41,398 adolescents and youth from communities in the Northern area of the National District (ND), Sabana Perdida in Santo Domingo North (SDN), Herrera, San Cristóbal, San Francisco de Macorís and Santiago were impacted with educational activities on Comprehensive Sexuality Education [Educación Integral en Sexualidad (EIS)].

In Profamilia, working for the creation of just and inclusive human public policies is a working target every year. In 2018 we participated, together with other organizations, in the promotion of policies and legislation on SRHR and women's rights that were debated in Congress and other Government bodies. Some of these include the new National Plan to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancies; the decriminalization of abortion based on three grounds in the Criminal Code; contraception protocols, the law on Violence Against Women and child marriage and early unions (Civil Code).

We can go on by listing all our achievements obtained in the course of 2018, but not to extend the recount now, we invite you to read our Annual Report and verify that, as in previous years, our only constant is change.

Every day, the waiting rooms in our clinics are filled with the faces of women, men, mothers and fathers; of couples who want to have a child or of young people who come seeking a friendly service. In each of their hopes we see our reason for being.



# PROFAMILIA HAS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In June 2018 PROFAMILIA selected a new Board of Directors for the period 2018-2020. The Board of Directors is the body responsible for establishing PROFAMILIA policies. Its members are elected every two years and their participation is voluntary, that is, they receive no financial compensation for their involvement.

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On the photo from left to right: Yuleisy Valenzuela, alternate secretary and youth representative; Darío Rosario Adames, member; Jocelyn Caminero de Croes, member; José Deláncer, alternate member; Millizen Uribe, alternate treasurer; Melba Barnett, chair; Francisco Álvarez Valdez, vice chair; Ivelisse Acosta, secretary; Milcíades Albert, alternate member; Ivelisse Rosario, treasurer and José Miguel Gómez, alternate member.



# WHAT DID WE **ACHIEVE?**

**857,651**

health services, including 372,369 sexual and reproductive health services.

**159,441**

persons served (14% adolescents).

**1,828,168**

contraceptives and other health products distributed.

**521,896**

persons reached with positive messages on sexual and reproductive health through traditional communications media (press, radio and television) digital media and social networks.

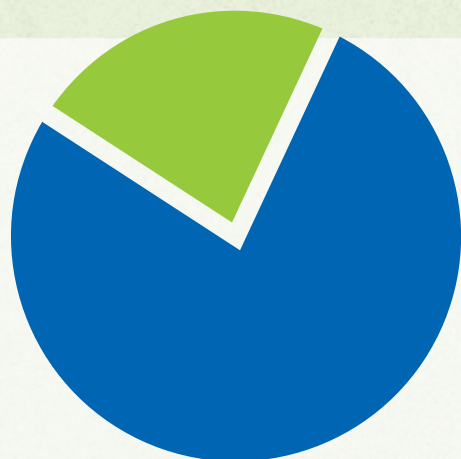
**68,573**

persons reached with information activities on sexual and reproductive health; 12,966 in communities near the clinics and 55,607 in the waiting rooms of our health centers.

**41,398**

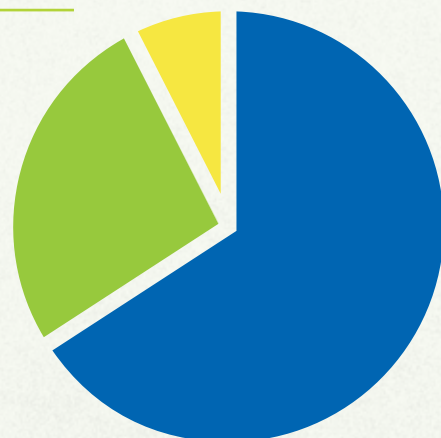
adolescents and youth from communities in the Northern area of the National District, Sabana Perdida, Herrera, San Cristóbal, San Francisco de Macorís, Santiago and batey communities were impacted with information actions on Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

Clinical actions and the distribution of contraceptives resulted in the **prevention of 32,252 unwanted pregnancies.**



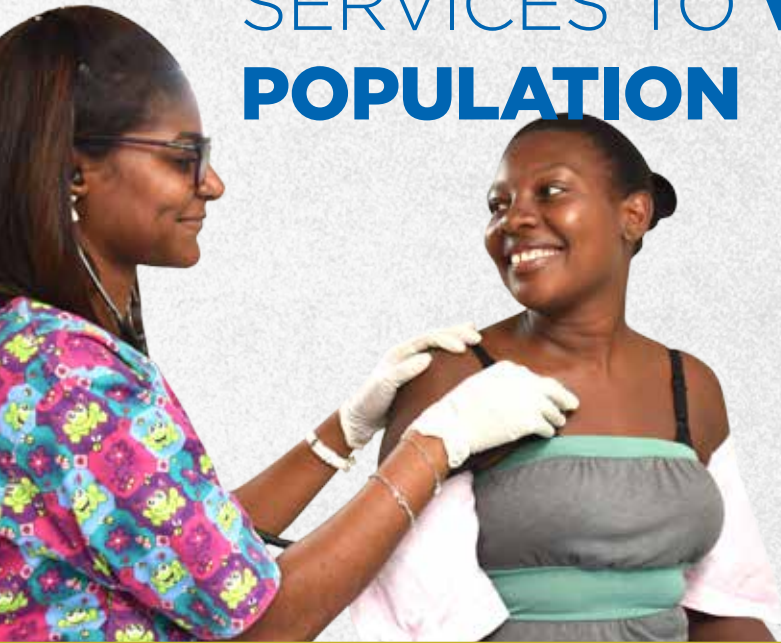
<div></div>	<b>FAMILY PLANNING CONSULTATIONS AND PROCEDURES</b>	10,022
<div></div>	<b>DIAGNOSTIC METHODS AND LABORATORY TESTS SERVICIOS</b>	481,119

<div></div>	<b>COUNSELING SERVICES</b>	70,062
<div></div>	<b>PAPANICOLAOU TESTING</b>	28,412
<div></div>	<b>CONSULTATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT</b>	7,763





# SERVICES TO **VULNERABLE** POPULATION



- **16,238 direct services** in family planning, gynecology and STI; early detection of cervical and breast cancer, obstetrics control, family medicine through the Mobile Health Units, **to benefit 6,497 persons** from marginalized neighborhoods and rural communities.
- Delivery of free clinical services **to 6,293 persons** living in extreme poverty, through the use of coupons.
- **Health care to 1,798 persons** living with HIV, including **1,560 with antiretrovirals** and 238 in follow-up at the Evangelina Rodriguez, Rosa Cisneros and San Francisco de Macoris clinics.

## AS FOR THE QUALITY OF THE HEALTH SERVICES:

- Two biomedical studies were conducted: one related with ovulation suppression following a single subcutaneous dose of Depo
- The Care Protocol for Triage was developed and the Protocol for Comprehensive Adolescent Care was updated.

Provera; and another on the assessment of the effects of three intrauterine contraceptives.

## HOW DID WE ACHIEVE IT?

Profamilia is an institution where hard work is a continuum: from the quality and warmth of the services provided to thousands of clients in our seven clinics, to the projects that are implemented in synergy to obtain the best results.

- We conducted two studies: the client satisfaction survey of our health services and the Net Promoter Index (IPN in Spanish). Their results show us the path to follow in order to achieve excellence in our services
- In 2018 the institutional Medical Directorate of Health Services trained over 170 health providers in sexual and reproductive health issues and protocol application. Also, new equipment for diagnostic methods was procured.
- In 2018 we complied 120% of the sales plan for distributors of contraceptives and health products; 75% of the plan for visits to doctors and 101% of the direct sales plan.
- We participated, together with other organizations, in the promotion of policies and legislation on SRHR and women's rights which were debated in Congress and other Government bodies.



### ***Some of these policies and legislation include:***

- New National Plan to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancies.
- Criminal Code – abortion on three circumstances.
- Care Protocol for Family Planning in public hospitals
- Care Guide in SRH Counseling to be implemented in the National Health Service [Servicio Nacional de Salud (SNS)].
- Law on Violence against Women.
- Obstetrics use of Misoprostol and inclusion in the Basic Scheme of Essential Drugs [Cuadro Básico de Medicamentos Esenciales (CBME)].
- Child marriage and early unions (Civil Code).

## **NEW PROJECTS**

In 2018 we worked on two new projects aimed at two important sectors in our country: youth and women with disabilities.

### ***Women with disabilities***

Important activities were carried out through the Project "She Decides" that involves the implementation of actions to ensure the health and sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, such as:

- Signing of an agreement with the Círculo de Mujeres con Discapacidad (CIMUDIS) [Circle of Women with Disabilities]. This agreement seeks to ensure that actions for a comprehensive sexuality education and the access to comprehensive services in sexual and reproductive health reach hundreds of women and young girls living with disabilities.
- Household visits to people living with disabilities, to gather data on their sexual and reproductive health needs.
- Free health services provided to women (regardless of age)

victims of violence and women living with disabilities.

- Partnership with the Consejo Nacional de Discapacidad (CONADIS) [National Disability Council] to participate in the program "Independent Life", giving lectures on SRH to children, adolescents and adults with disabilities.

### ***Gender Violence***

Profamilia, together with other institutions, is implementing the project, "A comprehensive response to violence against women and adolescent girls in Santo Domingo through care and the strengthening of social networks for the protection of their rights". These are some of the highlights of this project:

- Legal counsel, emotional support and health services to women who are victims of violence, available at the Profamilia clinics.
- Dissemination of the project issues through spots and publications on social media with information on the prevention of violence against women, gender equality and women's rights in the Dominican Republic.
- Strengthening relations with the Justice sector to address the cases of violence against women and girls.





# WE WANT A SOCIETY WHERE EVERYONE IS VISIBLE

The program Youth and Community Education strengthens the work with young people by expanding the comprehensive work strategy to the communities surrounding the institutional health centers. Also, its flexibility to gradually include new elements makes the program an experience in process, and the strategy a group task.

- **469 young volunteers have been trained and assigned to** the clinics and are acting as peer educators in their communities with the support and follow-up of 16 educators and youth promoters. Some of these young people are also participating in advocacy actions for the sexual and reproductive rights of women and young girls.

- The main issues addressed with the young population were:
  - Social construction in gender, equality and its relationship with sexuality.
  - Sex and sexuality, changes in my body and my life.
  - My rights as a human being and as an adolescent.
  - Prevention of STI and adolescent pregnancy.
  - Human development.
  - My relationship with people based on respect and equality.
- Strategic coordination with other institutions and community organizations, holding meetings to share the community work strategy and to place institutional interest in making formal agreements between Profamilia (clinics) and other institutions and organizations that contribute to community development. Civil society organizations, community based organizations and Government institutions or departments participated in each of the meetings.



# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

When in order to achieve our goals, we join forces with institutions that have our same interests, meeting the target is much easier.

During 2018 we at Profamilia worked in several projects in partnership with institutions, groups and individuals to whom we are connected by the resolve of making the Dominican Republic a better country.

Some of our numerous partners include:

- Ministry of Women
- Ministry of Public Health
- OXFAM
- Center for Gender Studies at INTEC
- Mujeres en Desarrollo [*Women in Development*]
- Coalición por los Derechos y la Vida de las Mujeres [*Coalition for Women's Rights*]
- Círculo de Mujeres con Discapacidad (CIMUDIS) [*Circle of Women with Disabilities*]
- Consejo Nacional de Discapacidad (CONADIS) [*National Disability Council*]

## WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE COOPERATION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS

- CIDEAL/Ayuntamiento Madrid y Comunidad Castilla-La Mancha [City Hall Madrid and Community of Castile-La Mancha]
  - CONRAD
  - Consejo Nacional para el VIH y el Sida (CONAVIHSIDA) [National HIV/AIDS Council]
  - Family Health International (FHI)
  - Instituto Dermatológico y Cirugía de Piel / Fondo Global [Dermatology and Skin Surgery Institute/The Global Fund]
  - International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
  - International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)/ Government of Canada, Project She Decides
  - International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)/Swedish Association for Sexual Education (RFSU)
  - Ministry of Public Health
  - OXFAM
  - POPULATION COUNCIL
  - EUROPEAN UNION
- 



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