



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Women, Business and the Law (WBL), in collaboration with the Global Financing Facility (GFF), has collected data on laws affecting women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), as well as frameworks supporting their implementation. Data were collected through desk research and a questionnaire administered to country experts. The analysis is organized around five indicators. For each indicator, the legal framework is assessed based on domestic laws and regulations. The supportive framework is assessed based on instruments—such as national policies, strategies, and guidelines—that are currently in effect and support the implementation of these laws.

INDICATOR		WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?	
		<i>Legal Frameworks</i>	<i>Supportive Frameworks</i>
	SRH rights	Right to SRH; guaranteed access to free SRH services without discrimination	Existence and contents of an operational SRH policy or strategy
	Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	Prohibition of female genital mutilations (FGM)	Adoption of measures to eradicate FGM
	Family planning	Absence of legal restrictions on SRH services, such as the need for consent from a husband, male guardian, parent or third party	Family planning guidelines or protocols
	Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	Legal mandates for CSE in schools	Guidelines for delivery of CSE in schools
	Right to education	Girls' legal right to attend school during pregnancy and after childbirth	Policies to keep girls in school and allow pregnant and parenting students to attend school

LEGAL AND SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS

The Central African Republic has a comprehensive and defined framework for:

SRH RIGHTS

The legal right to SRH is guaranteed under *Loi N° 06.005 du 20 juin 2006 Bangayassi Relative à la Santé de la Reproduction*, which also guarantees access to SRH services and prohibits discrimination in access to SRH services based on sex or gender, age, or marital status.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

FGM is a criminal offense in the Central African Republic, triggering monetary penalties and up to five years of imprisonment.

FAMILY PLANNING

No explicit legal provisions require women to obtain consent from their husband or male guardian, or adolescents to obtain parental or a legal guardian's consent to access SRH services. Similarly, the law does not require any third-party consent that may restrict access to SRH.

The *Directives Nationales sur la Délégation des Tâches en Santé de la Reproduction / Planification Familiale / Nutrition / Maladies Non Transmissibles* of

the Ministry of Health lay out institutional arrangements for addressing women's and adolescents' reproductive health needs and access to family planning and gender-based violence response services.

The *Politique Nationale de Santé 2019–2030* and the *Plan National de Développement Sanitaire (PNDS III) 2022–2026* aim to expand universal access to SRH services, including family planning, information, and education. They also prioritize reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and improving access to youth- and adolescent-friendly SRH services.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The *Curriculum de Formation et d'Éducation au VIH et SIDA* includes guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Girls have the right to attend school after childbirth.

The *Plan Sectoriel de l'Éducation 2020–2029* promotes girls' school retention through awareness campaigns, menstrual hygiene support, education on sexuality and gender equality, and scholarships.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

The data reveal gaps in the Central African Republic's legal and supportive frameworks across the five indicators assessed. Strengthening these frameworks can help accelerate the country's progress toward gender equality and to improve health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents.

The Central African Republic may wish to consider translating the following gaps into policy opportunities:

SRH RIGHTS

The law does not guarantee access to SRH services free of cost. The *Politique Nationale de Santé 2019–2030* and the *Plan National de Développement Sanitaire (PNDS III) 2022–2026* do not explicitly include and budget any awareness or sensitization campaigns on SRH rights.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

While FGM is a criminal offense, only individuals performing FGM can be held criminally responsible.

Parents or legal guardians cannot be prosecuted for allowing such acts. In addition, the law does not address cross-border FGM.

No measures aimed at preventing or eradicating FGM have been adopted.

FAMILY PLANNING

The law does not guarantee access to SRH services in case practitioners raise conscientious objections.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The law does not mandate the provision of CSE in schools.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Policies to allow pregnant or parenting students to attend school have not been adopted.

WBL SRH LEGAL FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
SRH Rights	1.1 Does the law provide for the right to sexual and reproductive health?	Yes	Loi N° 06.005 du 20 juin 2006 Bangayassi Relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 7
	1.2 Does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	Loi N° 06.005 du 20 juin 2006 Bangayassi Relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Arts. 7 and 12-13
	1.2.1 If the answer to question 1.2 is Yes, does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services free of cost?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.3 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on sex/gender?	Yes	Loi N° 06.005 du 20 juin 2006 Bangayassi Relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 8
	1.4 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on age?	Yes	Loi N° 06.005 du 20 juin 2006 Bangayassi Relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 8
	1.5 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on marital status?	Yes	Loi N° 06.005 du 20 juin 2006 Bangayassi Relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 8
VAWG	2.1 Does the law criminalize FGM?	Yes	Loi N° 06.032 du 27 décembre 2006 Portant Protection de la Femme Contre les Violences en République Centrafricaine, Arts. 19-21; Loi N° 10.001 du 6 janvier 2010 Portant Code Pénal Centrafricain, Arts. 114-116; Loi N° 20.016 Portant Code de Protection de l'Enfant en République Centrafricaine, Art. 148
	2.1.1 If the answer to question 2.1 is Yes, is the individual performing the FGM procedure criminally responsible?	Yes	Loi N° 06.032 du 27 décembre 2006 Portant Protection de la Femme Contre les Violences en République Centrafricaine, Arts. 19-21; Loi N° 10.001 du 6 janvier 2010 Portant Code Pénal Centrafricain, Arts. 114-116; Loi N° 20.016 Portant Code de Protection de l'Enfant en République Centrafricaine, Art. 148
	2.1.2 Is a parent or legal guardian criminally responsible for allowing FGM to be performed on a minor under their legal custody?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	2.2 Does the law criminalize cross-border FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Family Planning	3.1 Is the law free of provisions requiring a husband or male guardian to consent for a woman to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	Loi N° 06.005 du 20 juin 2006 Bangayassi Relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 14
	3.2. Is the law free of provisions requiring parental or a legal guardian's consent for an adolescent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	Loi N° 06.005 du 20 juin 2006 Bangayassi Relative à la Santé de la Reproduction, Art. 14
	3.3 Is the law free of provisions requiring any other form of third-party consent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.4 Does the law guarantee sexual and reproductive service delivery in case practitioners raise conscientious objections?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
CSE	4.1 Does the law mandate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Right to Education	5.1 Does the law provide for the right of pregnant girls to attend school?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	5.2 Does the law provide for the right of adolescent girls to attend school after childbirth?	Yes	Loi N° 20.016 Portant Code de Protection de l'Enfant en République Centrafricaine, Art. 73

WBL SRH SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
SRH Rights	1.1 Has the government adopted a sexual and reproductive health policy or strategy?	Yes	Politique Nationale de Santé 2019-2030; Plan National de Développement Sanitaire (PNDS III) 2022-2026
	1.1.1 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include the provision of sexual and reproductive health services among its targets/strategic actions?	Yes	Politique Nationale de Santé 2019-2030
	1.1.2 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include awareness campaigns among its targets/strategic actions?	No	Insufficient evidence located
VAWG	2.1 Has the government adopted measures aimed at eradicating FGM?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Family Planning	3.1. Has the government published guidelines on family planning?	Yes	Directives Nationales sur la Délégation des Tâches en Santé de la Reproduction / Planification Familiale / Nutrition / Maladies Non Transmissibles, Ministère de la Santé et de la Population; Normes sur la Qualité des Soins dans les Services de Contraception en République Centrafricaine
CSE	4.1 Has the government published guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools?	Yes	Curriculum de Formation et d'Éducation au VIH et SIDA, Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, de l'Alphabétisation, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche
Right to Education	5.1 Has the government adopted policies to keep girls in schools?	Yes	Plan Sectoriel de l'Éducation 2020-2029 de la République Centrafricaine (PSE)
	5.2 Has the government adopted policies to allow pregnant students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.3 Has the government adopted policies to allow adolescent parenting students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located

