

## **Latin America and Mexico: New Paradigm of Reproductive Health Rights, a Human Right**

The aim of this course is to acquire knowledge and to be able discuss relevant issues of reproductive health rights. Conceptualizations and arguments will be supported with evidence base information, with particular attention to Latin America and Mexico. The course will take students to a historical journey from the late 19th century to the most recent situation in the XXI century of the topic and its evolution. This will consider aspects such as the initiation of fertility decline to a global trend of smaller families; and to become familiar with the new framework of reproductive health rights that substituted the old vision of government programmatic actions. In the past, health services were delivered to achieve certain government policy. But a wider vision promoted by the civil society overturned the view of health to one that incorporates the empowerment of women and human rights. This change of paradigm took shape at the International Conference on Population and Development of 1994, where the governments of 179 countries agreed in a program of action that incorporated reproductive health with a wider perspective enabling people to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health as a matter of a fundamental human rights. Thus, the concept of reproductive health and rights became broader encompassing many inter-related aspects (unintended pregnancies, contraception, HIV/STIs, among other). Under this perspective, it is considered that choices on reproductive health can improve the well-being of women, girls and the family, transform societies and accelerate global development. Now, 25 years later from the commitment of 1994, no country can claim to have achieved the reproductive health rights of the families. There have been advances but also barriers that still persist: poor quality health systems, economic barriers -that include low-paid jobs, absence of childcare-, gender inequality, among other. Finally, we will discuss the feasibility of the new 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development that reinforces these principles.