

KUALA LUMPUR PLAN OF ACTION

To Accelerate the Achievement of SRHR in Asia and the Pacific

INTRODUCTION

On 2-4 May 2012, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), in partnership with the German government through GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), convened two regional meetings in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. These meetings were: "Beyond ICPD and the MDGs: NGOs Strategising for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region" and "Opportunities for NGOs at National, Regional and International Levels in the Asia-Pacific Region in the Lead-up to 2014: NGO-UNFPA Dialogue for Strategic Engagement."

Participants from 27 countries across the region sat together, discussed the key issues facing the region, and looked at the key opportunities that may arise in the next few years with the upcoming review processes for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Beijing Platform for Action. They then put together sub-regional plans of action, which were then included into this regional plan of action.

KEY ISSUES

Key issues that emerged in the sub-regional discussions were the need

to build the momentum for SRHR in a world where the MDGs is the governing paradigm for development, and that the comprehensive agenda of the ICPD, especially in the key area of sexual and reproductive rights, has been ignored. Additionally, the aggregated overall reporting figures continue to mask inequalities and inequities between and within countries. Gender inequality and inequity remains a critical issue despite educational attainments.

Universal access to comprehensive quality SRH services, supplies and information for all, continues to be a challenge. More specifically, there is a lack of services for the prevention, screening and treatment of all forms of reproductive cancers; a lack of comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly services; and access to safe abortion services. The recognition that sexuality is diverse, and that there is a life-cycle of sexuality in addition to a life-cycle of reproduction is an emerging paradigm.

Migration and climate change bring new challenges to the SRHR field, while perennial issues such as gender-based violence continue to persist. A renewed cultural- religious rights framework continues to impede the achievement of SRHR of all people.

Meaningful engagement and leadership of NGOs and progressive social movements from the

Global South as equal partners in development, particularly women-led and youth-led groups, is seen as a critical working methodology that lacks attention and investment.

It is essential to also engage with the macroeconomic framework in order to create a more just, equal and equitable world where every human being enjoys his/her full SRHR.

ACTIONS

A broad range of actions from macro-level interventions to interventions at the global, regional, and national levels were discussed.

Macro-level Interventions

- ▶ Create visibility of the issue; demand creation
- ▶ Look at new spaces and create new spaces that are not UN-driven
- ▶ Creating a research agenda for the lesser explored issues
- ▶ Initiate cross-movement work to expand the SRHR agenda
- ▶ Use of media for visibility of our issues
- ▶ Do our homework with regards 'who is with us'/'against us' across all stakeholders

Global Interventions

- ▶ Participation at the high-level fora

- ▶ Participation in global meeting venues
- ▶ Monitoring of private-public partnerships and the impact of privatisation of health on the achievement of universal access to SRHR
- ▶ Work with special rapporteurs on Health, Cultural Rights, VAW and others
- ▶ Organise side events during key global events
- ▶ Women and young people from the Global South to lead global processes

Regional Interventions

- ▶ The creation of a regional advocacy campaign and regional advocacy materials
- ▶ Regional and sub-regional advocacy capacity building workshops
- ▶ Sharing of resources and capacities across organisations across the region
- ▶ Identification of events in which to participate and intervene
- ▶ Advocacy dialogues with regional stakeholders on a proactive basis

- ▶ Create a regional/sub-regional list-serv in the lead-up to 2014/2015
- ▶ Have a sub-regional meeting to build coherence on sub-regional issues
- ▶ Organise side events at regional processes

National Processes

- ▶ Create national level network of NGOs to facilitate and push the ICPD agenda, with perhaps the formation of a national level steering committee
- ▶ National level advocacy during key days and events
- ▶ National dialogues with governments on the issues/ educating new leaders in government on SRHR and the ICPD
- ▶ Documentation of good/effective advocacy practices
- ▶ Create an NGO summit at the national level to build the momentum for SRHR
- ▶ Meet, connect and link with UNFPA at the national level
- ▶ Create and sustain national level momentum

Opportunities

Some of the key advocacy opportunities in the next three years (2014/2015) include the following:

1. ASEAN People's Forum
2. Global Parliamentarians Meeting (2012; Istanbul)
3. Rio + 20 (June 2012; Rio)
4. VAW meeting (2012; Sri Lanka)
5. SEAHNRN (October 2012; Jakarta)
6. Youth Global Forum (December 2012; Bali)
7. Women Deliver Conference (May 2013; Kuala Lumpur)
8. Asia Pacific Population Conference (2013)
9. ESCAP Regional Review (June-Sept 2013)
10. CPD (April 2013/April 2014)
11. APCRSRHR (2014; Manila)
12. United Nations World Youth Conference (2014; Sri Lanka)
13. CSW (March 2013/March 2014)
14. UNGASS on ICPD
15. ASEAN & SAARC interventions
16. PIC interventions: Health Ministers Meeting
17. Global Human Rights Meeting of UNFPA (Netherlands)
18. Global Women's Health Meeting of UNFPA
19. MDG Global processes
20. World Conference on Women

about the regional meetings

The two regional meetings that ARROW convened on 2-4 May 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with the support of GIZ and UNFPA, led to three important, concrete outcomes. One is this regional plan of action for advocacy in the lead-up to 2014, which is developed from sub-regional plans created by participants. Another is the development of the Kuala Lumpur Call to Action, which spells out 12 specific demands of more than 120 activists and advocates from across generations and organisations and movements in the Asia-Pacific region from governments, international organisations, including the United Nations agencies, development partners, and other duty bearers, to prioritise SRHR agenda for sustainable development in the region (download at: www.arrow.org.my/APNGOs/KL_Call_to_Action.pdf). Finally, the meetings led to the formation of the Asia-Pacific Partnership for SRHR and Sustainable Development, an alliance that would work towards ensuring the follow-up of the meeting outcomes.

Please access the full meeting report at: www.arrow.org.my/APNGOs/Proceedings%20Report_Final.pdf

about arrow

ARROW is a non-profit women's NGO with a consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ARROW has been working since 1993 to promote and defend women's rights and needs, particularly in the areas of health and sexuality, and to reaffirm their agency to claim these rights. We work with more than 30 national partners in 17 countries across Asia and the Pacific, as well as with partners from Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean, and with allied international organisations.

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