

arrow

annual report

Bridging Movements, Building Intersectional Linkages for SRHR

2013

the asian-pacific resource and
research centre for women
(arrow)



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*Indian woman from Rishikesh
Source: Photostream of Edson Walker
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Reflections from the Executive Director



The title of this year's ARROW Annual Report is indeed an apt and exciting one: cross-movement dialogue was an exceptionally stimulating part of our 2013 work. The work and the ensuing title reflects our feminist position that development occurs within a particular context and achieving women's equality and women's human rights, especially sexual and reproductive rights, is part and parcel of realising all other essential rights that enable women to be equal citizens in everyday life.

In 2013, our intermovement work on the issues of migration, poverty, food sovereignty, and food security was the key highlight of ARROW's information and communications initiatives. These were cross-movement conversations and dialogues that enabled sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) researchers, activists, and advocates to forge both conceptual paradigms and critical partnerships with

the migration and food sovereignty movements. Another highlight was the inception of a 15-country project, which aims to ensure that universal access to SRHR is a message that resonates throughout the region and expands ARROW's work to countries such as Maldives, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka. ARROW also embarked on a scoping study in the region to look at opportunities and challenges for using social media at community, national, and regional levels to advocate and create public awareness about SRHR.

It was also a very fruitful year for ARROW's evidence-generation and research work for advocacy. We were able to work with partners from the Global South—from Africa, the Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa—to produce reports on the status of SRHR in their respective regions. Partners also used the reports and advocacy briefs derived from the report to advocate at the regional intergovernmental population conferences in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, and Africa that were held in conjunction with the review process of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). We also enabled an ARROW Partners Global South Youth Dialogue which tackled the issues of agenda-setting and prioritisation. The youth networks across Africa, the Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Latin America and the Caribbean have been actively involved in initiating advocacy agendas and advocacy briefs in preparation for the meeting of the Commission on Population and Development in 2014. ARROW's involvement in the ICPD Beyond 2014 processes strategically located ARROW among the leading global SRHR organisations.

ARROW also expanded its Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) programme by bringing together South Asian and Southeast Asian project partners with other national partners under the WHRAP-Asia-Pacific modality. The move into advocating as WHRAP-Asia-Pacific was strategic as there were key interventions in the year that required a stronger political constituency for organising on

SRHR around regional ICPD and post-2015 meetings. These include the “SRHR for ALL Now!” call for the 4th Post-2015 High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons Multi-stakeholder Consultation and interventions at the 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference by WHRAP-Asia-Pacific partners. ARROW partners from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Maldives, Pakistan, and the Philippines were part of their respective country delegations, enabling them to be involved in the negotiation processes. Despite the intensive discussions throughout the sessions, conference participants produced a progressive outcome document, the first in the long history of SRHR in the region.

It was also a significant year with regards to organisational development. ARROW successfully passed its internal controls audit, ensuring that our financial systems are at par with those of international organisations and meet international standards. ARROW also was able to raise a considerable amount of funding for its strategic plan, ensuring organisational funding stability. One extremely important highlight is the completion of the *ARROW Resource Kit on Leadership and Management* with the help of past and present Board members who formed the ARROW Resource Kit Steering Committee.

These successes are shared successes and would not have been possible without the passion, tenacity, and hard-work of the wonderful women and men who comprise the ARROW family, our partners, and our donors.

We look forward to sustaining the strong and strategic work we do in 2014.



Sivananthi Thanenthiran
ARROW Executive Director

arrow in 2013

the asian-pacific resource & research centre for women
championing women's sexual and reproductive rights

Who We Are



We are a regional non-profit, non-government women's organisation based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia that has been working since 1993 to advance women's health, affirmative sexuality and rights, and empowerment of women in the Asia-Pacific and the Global South.

We envision an equal, just, and equitable world, where every woman enjoys her full sexual and reproductive rights.

We 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.

What We Do

We work toward achieving sexual and reproductive health and rights for all in the Asia-Pacific through:



Knowledge sharing through information and communication



Building strong and effective partnerships and networks



Monitoring and evidence-based research for better advocacy



Improving organisational systems for better outcomes

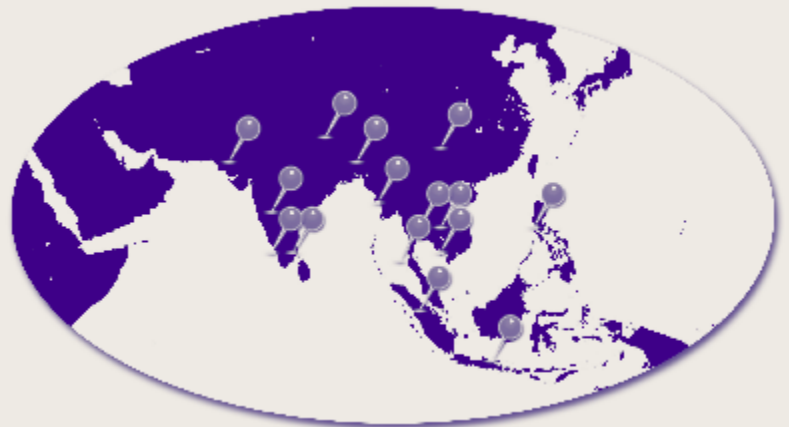


Who We Reach

We reach out to women and young girls by working directly with 19 national partners in 15 countries and across Asia and the Pacific, including Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

We work in partnership with regional organisations from Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and the Asia-Pacific.

We are able to reach stakeholders on sexual and reproductive health and rights and women's rights, health, and sexuality in more than 120 countries worldwide.



| JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| Post-2015 Consultation and CSO Consultation London Strategy Meeting on ICPD/MDG | The Global Thematic Consultation Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda - Civil Society Consultation | NGO Strategising for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia Post-2014 4th Post-2015 High Level Panel of Eminent Person Multi-Stakeholder Consultation | WHO Expert Group Meeting on Developing a Technical Guidance on Rights-based Contraceptive Services 46th Session on the Commission on Population and Development ASEAN People's Forum | Second UNESCAP Preparatory Meeting for the 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference World YWCA Training Women Deliver Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Consultation in Preparation for the Second UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration & Development | Regional Parliamentarian Champion's Conference on Advocacy for ICPD Beyond 2014 Strategic Conversation on the Changing Context for Women's Rights and Movement-Building in Southeast Asia |
| <h2>Key Advocacy Interventions</h2> | | | | | |

What We Accomplished

In championing sexual and reproductive health and rights in 2013

We shared knowledge through our



RESOURCE CENTRE
24,696 collection
9,285 users



PUBLICATIONS
1,596,395 downloads
105,658 distributed



WEBSITE
4,960,124 views
179,933 visitors



SOCIAL MEDIA
2,018 Facebook Likes
496 Twitter followers

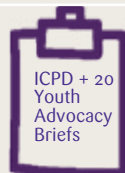
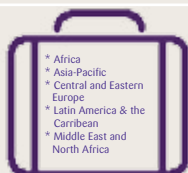
While exploring new frontiers and intersections



We tracked progress through



ICPD + 20
Global South Reports



ICPD + 20
Youth Advocacy Briefs

and studied the links between



We worked with partners on



Advancing quality reproductive health-care for women in South Asia, with 7 national partners and reaching out to 10,394 women

Advancing SRHR of young people in Southeast Asia, with 7 national partners and reaching out to 49,212 young women and men

Advancing SRHR for all in the Asia-Pacific with 13 national partners through policy reforms, advocacy and on-the-ground actions

Strengthening, networking, knowledge management and advocacy capacities of national partners in 15 countries

Advocacy on SRHR for ICPD beyond 2014 at 3 regional population conferences

We improved our systems by



Sharing our organisational practices through the publication of the *ARROW Resource Kit on Leadership and Management*

Continuing review of governance practices by ARROW Board and provision of expert advice of ARROW Programme Advisory Committee

Internal controls audit review and reviews of financial management 80% of resources for strategic plan obtained

| JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| ICPD Beyond 2014 Thematic Conference on Human Rights | 1st Annual Rights and Empowerment Working Group Meeting for Family Planning 2020 and CSO Forum | 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference Youth Task Force, World Youth Conference | Expert Group Meeting on "Structural and Policy Constraints in Achieving the MDGs for Women and Girls" | International Meeting on Monitoring and Implementation of the ICPD | International Strategy Meeting on Advancing Women's Rights and Gender Justice in the Face of Religious Fundamentalisms |
| Asia and the Pacific Regional High-Level Consultation: Gender, Food Security, and Nutrition: Ensuring the Other Half Equal Opportunities | Regional Workshops on Promoting the Rights to Nationality for Women and Children in Implementation of CEDAW and CRC in ASEAN | ICPD Beyond 2014 Expert Meeting on Women's Health | Second Global Young Parliamentarians' Consultation on ICPD and Post-2015 UN Development Agenda | International Conference on Family Planning 2nd Close Door Dialogue on Theology, HIV and Human Rights | |
| | | | | International Humanitarian Conference | |

In Memoriam Sunila Abeysekera 1952-2013

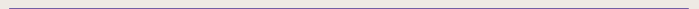


Sunila Abeysekera was a formidable voice for human rights in Sri Lanka, Asia and internationally. Her work was based on principles of feminism and human rights, whether it was grassroots level activism or advocacy in regional and international fora. Sunila passed away in September 2013 after a long battle with cancer, and we at ARROW deeply mourn her loss.

Sunila's contribution to human rights, especially women's rights, is widely recognised. She received the UN Secretary General's Award for Human Rights in 1998, was nominated for the One Thousand Women for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 and got the Human Rights Defender Award from Human Rights Watch in 2007.

Sunila was a member of ARROW's Board of Directors from 2011 until she passed away. In 2012, Sunila co-authored an ARROW publication, *Reclaiming and Redefining Rights—Guidance Series: Analysing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*, with Amy Lynne Locklear.

Sunila's unfailing spirit, commitment and numerous contributions to the women's rights and human rights movement including ARROW, would be always remembered and valued by us. She will continue to inspire us. Farewell with much love and respect, Sunila!





Source: Photo by Timothy Barco

Chinese woman carries a bundle of hay
Source: Photostream of World Bank (Flickr, Creative Commons)





Information and Communications: Championing Change

publications and disseminating critical analyses and information on SRHR and its linkages with development issues in more than 120 countries globally. We do this through our various infocom mechanisms—the ARROW website, SRHR Info Resources e-newsletter, new media technologies, resource centre, mailing lists, and exhibition booths—as well as in key advocacy platforms. We were also able to position the calls of the Asia and Pacific region and the Global South through strengthening our intermovement strategies on the intersectionality of SRHR with migration, food security and poverty, and through engaging in key advocacy interventions regionally and globally. ARROW also initiated a four-year partnership capacity strengthening project on advocacy, monitoring, knowledge management, and social media, where we played a key role in strengthening the capacities of our partners for advocacy for the regional and global processes related to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action review, and post-2015 development agenda.

ARROW's Information and Communications work is supported by our core development partner Sida, as well as other donors, such as the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, European Union, Global Fund for Women, International Development Research Centre, and Oxfam Novib, for specific projects.

EXTENDING THE KNOWLEDGE REACH

As part of ARROW's commitment to ensure that our information and communications work are responsive to the realities of the region, we regularly touch base with our partners and key stakeholders. At the Inception Meeting of the EU-supported project, "Strengthening the Networking, Knowledge Management and Advocacy Capacities of an Asia-Pacific Network for SRHR," ARROW included a session on information and communications evaluation and needs assessment for the region with the partners.

The session provided an overview of the use of information and communications as a strategy for social change. It introduced ARROW's information and communications work, assessed the type of information and communications strategies used by

ARROW's Information and Communications (Infocom) strategies work to champion positive social change by advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the Asia and Pacific region and the world. Since ARROW was established, Infocom has been an integral part of ARROW's work. As the first objective in our current strategic plan, it aims to be catalytic to strengthening ARROW's and her partners' ability to influence key stakeholders on SRHR policies and programmes; and to enable effective implementation of ARROW's projects, programmes and strategies, as a result of the utilisation of our infocom products and services.

In 2013, ARROW was able to articulate and influence the development agenda by producing ground-breaking

partners, and discussed how ARROW could support partners' needs. Feedback from the implementing partners said they use *ARROW for Change* bulletin and information and resources on the ARROW website in trainings and workshops, as references for research and in order to build up their resource centres. In terms of information needs, partners indicated that they do not have a comprehensive infocom strategy, and need human resources and technical support, particularly for developing content for and maintaining website and social media platforms. These are being addressed through capacity building workshops and funds support from the project.

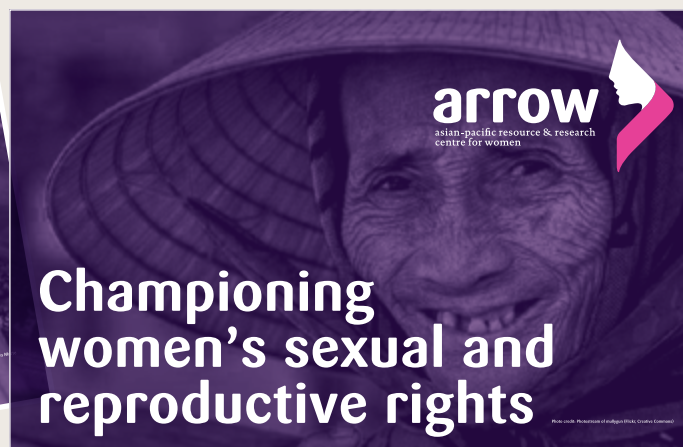
REBRANDING ARROW

ARROW's identity rebranding exercise continued this year, with the completion of design templates for more outputs and products. These included our annotated bibliography, working paper, PowerPoint presentation, brief, and banners. The rebranding exercise started in 2012 as part of our preparations for ARROW's 20th anniversary celebrations to ensure that our brand identity remains consistent with our new vision and tagline, and across all platforms and products. A grant from the Global Fund for Women and funds from our core donor Sida provided support to the rebranding exercise.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING CENTRE

The ARROW SRHR Knowledge Sharing Centre (ASK-us) is one of the few remaining SRHR and women's health-related resource centres in the region and globally that makes information available to researchers, activists, and stakeholders.

In 2013, ARROW continued to provide quality and timely SRHR information to its partners and stakeholders. ASK-us served 9,285 users in 2013 through its rich information resources and services, which include responding to requests via e-mail, resource centre drop-ins, exhibition booths, and provision for proactive information via the SRHR Info Resource. Majority were from the Asia-Pacific, North America, and Europe. The resource collection also continued to grow. ASK-us currently holds 24,696 information sources, both in print and electronic formats. There were 1,694 new acquisitions obtained through purchase, collection from conferences and events, free and complimentary copies, in exchange for ARROW's own publications, and downloaded from websites. We continuously subscribe to the Elsevier database Science Direct, a full-text scientific database offering journal articles and book chapters from more than 2,500 peer-reviewed journals and more than 11,000 books.



ARROW banners



ARROW exhibition booth
Source: ARROW Photobank

Feedback from Users

Really appreciate the information that has been provided. — Masjaliza Hamzah, formerly with Centre for Independent Journalism, Malaysia, researching on media coverage of issues related to age of marriage, female circumcision, and young people's sexuality

Thank you for your willingness to help me in my research for the social media and SRHR scoping study. — Eva Maaten, German consultant based in the Philippines researching on publications related to young people and SRHR

ARROW ONLINE

New media, online communications, and related technologies are increasingly essential to engage with a wide range of audience on development issues for advocacy and change. They help connect people to information and services, and allow for collaboration between organisations, communities

and individuals. ARROW has established a strong online presence that is growing each year, using three key modalities in engaging online: the ARROW website, the SRHR Info Resources e-newsletter, and social media platforms. The common objective of these engagements is to help build broad alliances for the SRHR agenda by popularising SRHR information.

ARROW Website

ARROW's website (www.arrow.org.my) is a dynamic SRHR information hub that makes cutting-edge information, analyses and resources on critical issues available and accessible online. It contains all of ARROW's online publications for download, the latest SRHR news updates, the SRHR status on ARROW's priority countries, and provides information on ARROW and her partners' work. New pages uploaded in 2013 capture ARROW's new initiatives, ARROW's new Anti-Corruption Policy and media interventions made for the "Beyond ICPD & the MDGs" meeting and for Women Deliver. As well, Facebook and Twitter widgets were included for visitors to see real-time social media updates, and fill-in forms for ARROW for Change subscriptions, queries, and SRHR Info Resources requests were also embedded to the website.

The website continued to grow as an information portal and advocacy tool for social change. The number of hits, visits, and page views this year show relative increases. We also uploaded nine new publications, contributing to the increase of download



statistics. ARROW publications were downloaded 1,596,395 times in 2013 compared to 43,605 in 2012 (3,561% increase).

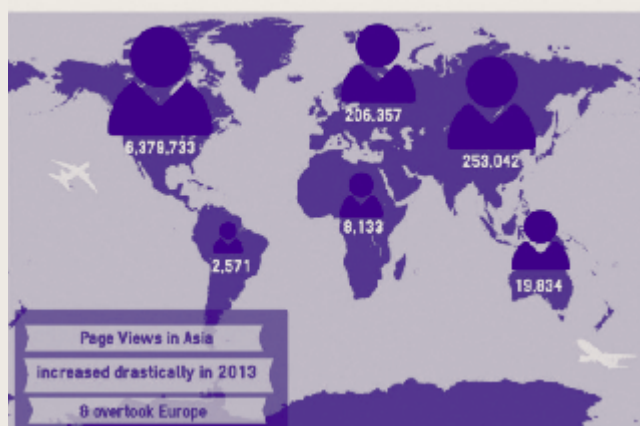
The statistics for the most viewed webpages for 2013 show that our visitors were most interested in where ARROW and partners work. There was also a lot of interest in ARROW's work with NGOs to strategise on SRHR in the Asia-Pacific, and in related outputs such as our publications, our e-bulletin SRHR Info Resources and Information Packages.

Top 10 Most-Viewed Website Pages in 2013 (Page Views)



The ARROW website also grew in terms of its regional and global reach. North America as a region garnered the most hits,

Regional & global reach of the website (page views)



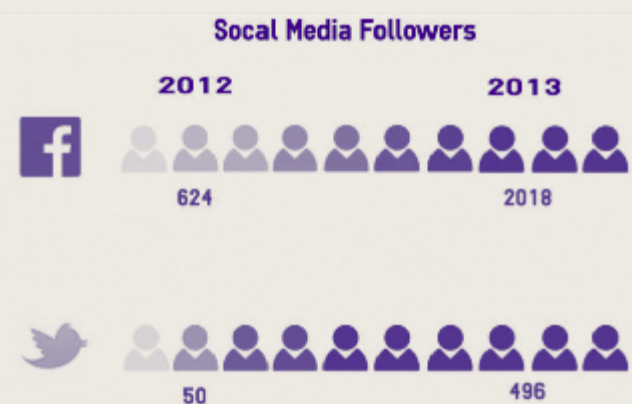
visits, and page views, followed by Asia and Europe. This can be attributed to higher bandwidth in these three regions.

SRHR Info Sources

ARROW disseminates the SRHR Info Resources, an e-information service that contains SRHR-related news and resources, calls for action and papers, upcoming events, job openings, ARROW's participation in various events, and updates from ARROW's partnerships and initiatives. Fourteen issues of SRHR Info Resources issues were produced in 2013 for 1,948 subscribers.

Social Media

ARROW's main objective in using social media is to build a wide base of popular support. In 2013, ARROW's Facebook and Twitter accounts reached 2,018 and 496 followers, respectively.



A social media strategy was implemented for the ARROW Facebook page¹ from 2012 onwards, which ensured a more nuanced approach to content. With this strategy, 2013 saw the number of followers on Facebook increased by 223%. One post in June went viral organically (no paid advertisements). By the end of the year, the post had 533 likes, 46 comments and was shared 5,530 times. The post generated a lot of interest because image-based posts are circulated more widely on Facebook and more importantly, the idea of not defining a

woman relationally was a controversial idea for many and they had difficulty understanding it which led to heated debates. ARROW continued to engage in the discussions that the post generated.

ARROW's viral post



The ARROW Twitter account (@ARROW_Women) was launched in late 2012 and the followership has been growing steadily. ARROW's Twitter maintained a steady Klout score of 51. This peaked during November 2013 at 55 and then went back to 51 by December 2013. Klout is an online tool that measures social media influence on users.

ARROW also used social media for advocacy in 2013. Amongst others, these included:

- Twitter campaign to ensure that the SRHR of migrants remained in the agenda at the 46th session of the UN Commission on Population and Development (April), where ARROW tweeted messages on the importance of SRH services to migrants and on violations of migrants, and links to our publications on migration; these were retweeted by others, exponentially increasing our reach;
- Twitter advocacy campaign, led by New York-based International Sexual and Reproductive Rights Coalition,

targeting the High-Level Panel for Post-2015 towards influencing their report (May);

- Twitter campaign for the Food Security Session of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (May), which we initiated and where we drew attention to the linkages between SRHR, food security and poverty and requested for recommendations related to these as these are missing from the current discourse; and
- Tweetathon and Facebook campaign for the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion (28 September 2013), which was organised by the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights in collaboration with the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion, major international organisations working on SRHR, several regional SRHR networks, and numerous grassroots organisations in more than 70 countries for joint actions. The campaign demanded governments to decriminalise abortion, provide access to safe and affordable abortion services, and end the stigma and discrimination towards women who choose to have an abortion.

Sample Intersectionality Tweets to the Open Working Group

- Women are disproportionately affected by food insecurity and this has significant effects on their reproductive health #OWG #Post2015
- The #foodsecurity of women and maternal mortality is intimately linked #OWG #Post2015
- 19% of #maternaldeaths in India are caused by nutritional anaemia #OWG #Post2015
- It is important to consider how #foodsecurity operates inside families #OWG #Post2015
- Investing in women is an important component of sustainable agriculture #OWG #Post2015

Social Media and Young People's SRHR

ARROW's evidence generation on the situation of young people and SRHR in Southeast Asia reveals an urgent need to inform and engage young people more closely in advocating for changes in policies and programmes. Social media is widely used by young people in Southeast Asia. It has also shown much promise in connecting and mobilising young people, such as in the Arab Spring.

A scoping study on the use of social media as a key tool for advocacy on young people's SRHR began in December 2012, as an initiative by ARROW and Oxfam Novib. The study, conducted by Eva Maaten with ARROW, covers four countries in Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. It includes a literature review, as well as interviews with key representatives from SRHR organisations, youth-led organisations, media and social media outfits, and development agencies during scoping visits. The study became the basis of a proposal for a joint project between ARROW and Oxfam Novib.

In October 2013, ARROW and Oxfam Novib, in partnership with Butterfly Works, hosted the co-creation workshop for possible partners from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Vietnam for the joint project in the developed proposal. These possible partners have experience in SRHR, youth activism, and/or social media expertise. The workshop, SRHR Meets Social Media, focused mainly on using social media for advocacy and youth engagement and resulted into a concept note proposal to the EU.

PUBLICATIONS

ARROW's knowledge products serve as an essential component of ARROW's commitment to produce quality work that contributes new knowledge and perspectives to the SRHR movement and toward advancing the SRHR agenda.

Top 10 Most Downloaded Publications in 2013

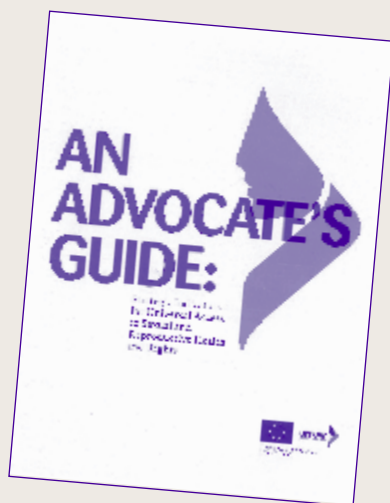


Advocates' Guide for Monitoring SRHR

ARROW developed and published *An Advocate's Guide: Strategic Indicators for Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*² to enable advocates in using solid data when advocating for universal access to SRHR at the national, regional, and global levels. Developed by TK Sundari Ravindran, the guide provides a core set of internationally cross-comparable and measurable SRHR indicators. These set of indicators were based on indicators agreed upon by ARROW and its partners—Likhaan, Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia, Rural Women's Social Education Centre, Shirkat Gah, and Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan—at the Strategic SRHR Indicators' Workshop on 21-22 August 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Produced with financial support from the EU, the Advocate's Guide has been very useful during the discussions on developing effective monitoring framework for further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and to the identification of priority indicators to be included in the post-2015 development framework. The publication has been used by ARROW's partners in developing country profiles on SRHR across 15 countries. The Advocate's Guide was distributed

at the UN Women Expert Group Meeting on “Structural and Policy Constraints in Achieving the MDGs for Women and Girls,” in Mexico City in October, and at the International Meeting on Monitoring and Implementation of the ICPD, organised by the United Nations Population Fund and the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China in November. The publication has also been featured in various listservs and websites, including the EuroGender Network, the Measurement, Learning and Evaluation Project for the Urban Reproductive Health Initiative, the Association of Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women in the Republic of Macedonia, Women’s UN Report Network, and the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS.



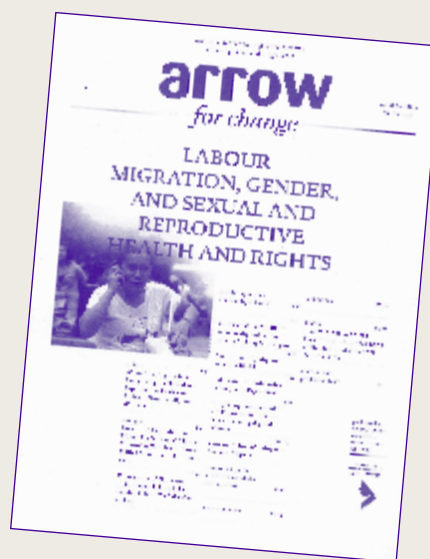
An Advocate's Guide: Strategic Indicators for Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

ARROW for Change

ARROW for Change is ARROW's flagship, peer-reviewed serial publication that aims to contribute Southern, rights-based, and women-centred analyses and perspectives to global discourses on health, sexuality, and rights and their intersections with key development issues. First published in 1995, the bulletin has become an important resource in the region and globally, and

is a platform for exploring linkages between SRHR and other development issues, and building understanding and alliances among movements. The semi-annual bulletin is meant primarily for decision-makers and programme managers in the region, but is distributed globally.

ARROW for Change: Labour Migration, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (Vol. 19 No. 1)³, the first issue for 2013, was already completed in December 2012 parallel to *ARROW for Change: Youth SRHR Movements: Claiming the Post-2015 Development Agenda* (Vol. 18 No. 2). In 2013, we worked on developing two more issues.



AFC on Labour Migration, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

*ARROW for Change: Poverty, Food Sovereignty and Security, and SRHR*⁴ aims to contribute to building a global and South-based, gender-responsive, and rights-based analysis on the links among food sovereignty (and within it, food security and nutrition security), poverty, and SRHR, with particular emphasis on the Asia-Pacific context. This issue has been

conceptualised by Guest Editor Narimah Awini, former Regional Advisor for Maternal and Reproductive Health at the WHO Regional Office for South East Asia. Meanwhile, *ARROW for Change: SRHR beyond 2015* focuses on the ICPD beyond 2014 and post-2015 development processes, and looks at how SRHR can be championed to be included in the new development frameworks. Both issues will be completed in 2014.

Subscription to the bulletin increased. The National Library of Australia, Western Theological Seminary, and the James E. Tobin Library joined the Royal Tropical Institute's Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Library, the International Council of Nurses Knowledge Library, and the London South Bank University, among others have included *ARROW for Change* in their collections. Publications this year were also featured in the e-newsletters, listservs, and websites, such as the Asia-Pacific Alliance and the Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific Region, and requested for distribution for networks and meetings. They were also used in positions and statements for the United Nations Commission on Population and Development and the World We Want 2015.

ARROW Resource Kit

After almost a decade of conceptualising and planning, December 2013 finally saw the completion of the text of the *ARROW Resource Kit on Leadership and Management*. The resource kit was launched in January 2014 in Manila, during the 7th Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, as part of our 20th anniversary celebrations. The kit was developed by consultant Susanna George, with steering and input from the ARROW Resource Kit Steering Committee, as well as from ARROW partners, ARROW staff, Board and Programme Advisory Committee members, and leaders of women's NGOs in Malaysia.

The *ARROW Resource Kit* is a compendium of ARROW's history, development, and lessons practised over the last 20 years. It is an effort to condense what has worked for ARROW and why, what challenges were faced and overcome, and what tools were used to strengthen and support its work as a regional women's network. It showcases ARROW's commitment to organisational development and strengthening internal processes to ensure an ethical women-centred learning

Feedback from Readers

ARROW's An Advocate's Guide: Strategic Indicators for Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights has been a huge help in outlining and organising the Mongolia profile. The indicators are clearly explained in terms of significance, and ARROW's suggestions of where to obtain data is so helpful. This guide would be useful for any SRHR advocate -- thank you! — Millicent Bogert, MONFEMNET, Mongolia

Congratulations on this excellent addition to resources for achieving equal rights for women! We will download a copy and forward to our partners for use in their advocacy! Well done, Siva and team! — Urmila Bhoola, IWRAW Asia-Pacific, Malaysia

I'm the executive director of Mother of Hope Cameroon, a newly created organisation fighting against Gender Based Violence in communities in the North West Region of Cameroon. I wish to know more about the Advocates' Guide, so that I could also teach others with the knowledge, to better achieve our goals. — Mbah Adah, Mother of Hope Cameroon, Cameroon

organisation and space. It contains organisational development resources that can be adapted by advocates and activists in their own contexts. It is being produced as part of a grant from the Global Fund for Women, a donation from Nina Raj, and funding from Sida and the Ford Foundation.

Thematic Paper Series

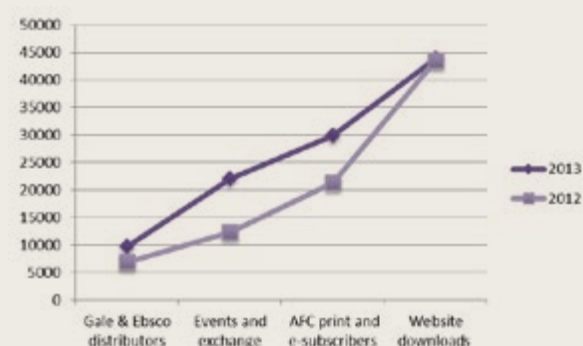
To better understand the interlinkages of food security, poverty, and SRHR, ARROW commissioned the *Bridging the Divide: Thematic Series on Linking Gender, Poverty Eradication, Food Sovereignty and Security and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*, as part of initiative on “Revitalising and Strengthening the SRHR Agenda through Intermovement Work to Impact the ICPD+20 and the MDG+15 Processes,” supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. These papers were read by the writers at ARROW’s regional cross-movement meeting in September 2013, and will be published as part of the proceedings report of the meeting (see The Right to Food and SRHR section for more information).

Additionally, selected full papers are being published. *What It Takes: Addressing Poverty and Achieving Food Sovereignty, Food Security, and Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services*⁵ by TK Sundari Ravindran, was published and released at the 7th Asian Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights.

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

Complementing the various information and communications mechanisms are the marketing and other publicity-driven actions that promote ARROW’s issues, knowledge products, and services to create social change. ARROW has continually used varied channels, including exhibition booths, electronic and print subscriptions, and agreements with global distributors. A total of 105,658 knowledge products were distributed in 2013, up from 84,211 in 2012 (25% increase).

Figure 1: Publications Distribution in 2012 and 2013



Throughout 2013, ARROW participated in 33 key global, regional, and national events. Participating staff strategically distributed 22,046 knowledge products. ARROW also set up a booth at the 3rd Global Women Deliver Conference, held in Kuala Lumpur International Convention Centre from 28-30 May, 2013. The conference featured a wide range of speakers, topics, and events related to the health and well-being of women and girls with a particular look at the future of the development frameworks. About 3,000 publications were distributed at the booth. ARROW’s booth were accessed by a total of 649 people, and about 3,000 publications were distributed at the booth.

ARROW’s contacts database, started in 1993, has been an important tool for ARROW’s Information and Communications work, which lets ARROW keep in touch with many SRHR supporters and stakeholders. At the end of 2013, there were 8,577 contacts in the database. Old database entries need to be updated with the contact’s new addresses, telephone numbers and organisational designations. About 400 contacts were updated in 2013.

INTERSECTIONAL AND INTERMOVEMENT WORK

One of ARROW’s core tenets is that social justice and development issues are intertwined and need to be addressed

holistically. Attaining SRHR is a critical part of attaining gender equality, human rights, social justice and ultimately, sustainable development. The review processes of the ICPD, MDGs, and the post-2015 development agenda offer opportunities to revisit our approaches and ways of analyses to ensure that SRHR is included in the new development framework.

ARROW is currently implementing initiatives examining the intersectionality of SRHR with key development issues of migration, food security, and poverty.

Migration and SRHR

ARROW initiated the “Promoting Better Health for Marginalised Migrants in Southeast and East Asia” project, which facilitated cross-movement knowledge creation, translation, and dissemination on issues related to migration, gender, and SRHR among researchers, policymakers, decision-makers, and implementers in nongovernment and government organisations, and other key stakeholders in Southeast and East Asia. The initiative is from June 2012 to June 2013, and was supported by the International Development Research Centre.

As part of the project, three publications—a working paper, an issue of *ARROW for Change* bulletin, and an annotated bibliography⁶—were developed to fill the knowledge gap and articulate ARROW’s analyses on gender, SRHR, and migration. Production of these publications was very timely and strategic, since there were several key regional and global meetings related to migration in 2013.

SRHR and migration groups found the publications useful in influencing global and regional development policies and frameworks, including international organisations Ipas, Stichting Rutgers WPF, and the Youth Coalition on the occasion of the 46th session of the Commission on Population and Development. Several organisations⁷ also requested copies for sharing with their networks. Cooperation with migration groups brought the publications to the attention of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health and the Migration Health Department of the International Organization for Migration in Geneva and Bangkok. Through our engagement with UNDP, these publications were also featured in the mailing list of the Joint United Nations Initiative on Mobility and HIV/

Feedback on Migration Publications

Well done! It is great to have allies in the fight to secure migrants’ SRHR! We are glad you asked us to contribute to the ARROW newsletter, and it was our pleasure to have ARROW participate at the UNSR and in the WSFM session. We hope to continue collaborating on advocacy to push for migrants’ SRHR into the future. Perhaps we could look into SOGI next... — Brahm Press, Raks Thai Foundation and Migration, Health and HIV Task Force, CARAM Asia, on AFC Vol. 19 No. 1.

Congratulations for the release of an entire issue devoted to Labour Migration, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights! I really enjoyed the editorial by Malu, and the entire issue is very informative, as well as timely. — Alexandra Johns, Advocacy and Communications Officer Asia-Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, on AFC Vol. 19 No. 1

For more info about the linkages between SRHR and Migration, check out this great article by our friends at ARROW “Labour Migration, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights” <http://arrow.org.my/> — Watchdog, Issue 11, April 2013 by Youth Coalition

AIDS in South East Asia that promote universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for mobile and migrant populations in Southeast Asia and southern China. ARROW also distributed 21,200 copies of the migration publications from December 2012 to June 2013.

ARROW also made several advocacy engagements on migration and SRHR in 2013 that contributed to Global South NGOs having strong voices in global discussions. These interventions include:

- **Civil Society Consultation on Population Dynamics for the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda** (18-19 February 2013; Geneva, Switzerland): ARROW participated in this CSO strategising meeting prior to the consultation where SRHR NGOs deliberated on the strategy for intervening in the meeting and key messages to push forward. ARROW joined the migration group and highlighted gender and SRHR issues and policy recommendations in the group's output which was shared at the plenary. These recommendations were incorporated into an outcome document of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- **ARROW Workshop on Women's Health, Rights and Migration: What's It Got to Do with the ASEAN?** At the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2013 (7 April 2013; Brunei Darussalam): As a result of this workshop, as well as ARROW's active participation and membership in the drafting committee of the conference's joint outcome statement, the conference statement had language pertaining to migration and health, SRHR, gender, women's rights, and sexual orientation and gender identity.



ARROW Programme Manager Malyn Ando shares recommendations coming from the ARROW Workshop on Women's Health, Rights and Migration at the plenary of the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

- **46th Session of the Commission on Population and Development** (22-26 April 2013; New York, USA): ARROW's interventions included developing a written statement and an oral statement, which was endorsed by more than 30 national, regional, and global organisations and was acknowledged by the Chair of the Session. ARROW successfully pushed for the inclusion of provision of equal access to sexual and reproductive health services, sexuality education, and other social protection mechanisms to migrants and citizens alike in CSO positions. The Chair's Text had very strong language on

rights of migrants, including young migrants and women migrants, on sexual and reproductive health and on comprehensive sexuality education.

- **Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Consultation in Preparation for the Second UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration & Development** (27-28 May 2013; Bangkok, Thailand): ARROW's presence was critical in bringing the issues of health, sexuality and rights, including SRHR, to the table. We successfully put our recommendations in the sections on labour rights, on stranded migrants, on rights for women and on redefining international mechanisms of migrants' rights protection. ARROW also built linkages with trade unions and CSOs working on migrants' health and on migrant rights in general. We were able to get their buy-in for SRHR and they have signed on to statements that we have developed/co-developed for this project. This will form the basis for ARROW's further engagements with the migration movement in the future.
- **Roundtable Discussion on Healthy Migrants, Healthy Communities: The Importance of Addressing Health and Gender Aspects of Migration at the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2013 UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development** (31 May 2013; Bangkok, Thailand): At this session co-organised by ARROW with International Organization for Migration (IOM), JUNIMA, UNFPA, and the World Health Organization (WHO), ARROW highlighted the need to integrate human rights in public health practices, and for migrant-positive policies and frameworks to advance equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services. At the regional preparatory meeting, ARROW developed a joint statement with other CSOs that called on Asia-Pacific governments to affirm migrants' rights, which was signed on by 37 migrant workers' groups, trade unions, and various CSO groups and presented at the plenary.



Roundtable Discussion on Healthy Migrants, Healthy Communities, 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

Feedback on Our Advocacy Interventions

... [T]hank you for your active participation and for highlighting the gender, health, and sexual and reproductive health and rights of women migrants during the deliberations — Agnes Matienzo, Migrant Forum Asia, organiser of the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation in Preparation for the Second UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration & Development, October 2013

The workshop is very informative, especially leading to the right to health of migrant women and advocate for accountability from ASEAN states on SHR for migrant[s]. It is also good for the members of "Live Our Groups" to learn health issues... — Usa Lerdtsrisuntad, Foundation for Women, Thailand on the ARROW Workshop on Women's Health, Rights and Migration, ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2013

The Right to Food and SRHR

ARROW's project, "Revitalising and Strengthening the SRHR Agenda through Intermovement Work with Food Security and Poverty Movements to Impact the ICPD+20 and the MDG+15 Processes," aims to integrally link SRHR with food security and poverty to provide an impetus for the SRHR agenda. This began in June 2012 and is supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Developing publications that explore the interlinkages of SRHR with food security, right to food and food sovereignty is a key activity of this project (for more, see section on publications). In addition, on the occasion of the International Day of Action for Women's Health, ARROW issued a media release on access to contraception, linked to the Women Deliver event happening in Kuala Lumpur. The press release argued for the importance of access to contraception from various perspectives: as a human right, as a critical women's empowerment indicator, as a public health and women's health concern, and finally as having critical importance to achieving sustainable

development, given its links to poverty and food security. The media release has been picked up in the blogosphere.

Building cross-movement alliances is also one of the key objectives of the project. ARROW organised the cross-movement regional meeting, "Intersectional Understandings: A Regional Meeting to Build Intermovement Linkages in Poverty, Food Sovereignty, Food Security, Gender and SRHR in South Asia," on 10-11 September 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting brought together representatives of various organisations and networks working on poverty, food sovereignty, food security, women's rights, gender justice, and SRHR issues in and across Asia. They deliberated on the intersectionalities of these movements and issues, and forged a strong cross-movement, intersectional analysis and approach that respect human rights, gender justice, and environmental sustainability.

A major output of the meeting is the *Bangkok Cross-Movement Call on Poverty, Food Sovereignty, and SRHR*⁸, which was



Regional Meeting to Build Intermovement Linkages in Poverty, Food Sovereignty, Food Security, Gender and SRHR in South Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

developed and endorsed by the participating organisations, networks, and individuals. The call noted that achieving social justice for all requires addressing issues of poverty, hunger, landlessness, gender inequality, and their root causes, and SRHR together.

ARROW organised the meeting prior to the 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference (6th APPC) and its associated CSO Forum to maximise its impact. We were successful in getting our recommendations across into the CSO Forum statement, including on gender equality and SRHR as critical to poverty eradication and sustainable development. The outcome of the APPC is a key input into the UN Secretary General's Global Report on ICPD Implementation, the 47th Session of the UN Commission of Population and Development on the Status of ICPD Implementation in April 2014, and the UN General Assembly Special Session on ICPD in September 2014.

ARROW also made its presence known in online platforms and was able to make concrete contributions and helped include SRHR in global discussions on the post-2015 agenda.

From January to March 2013, ARROW intervened at virtual thematic consultations run by various UN agencies for the post-2015 development process, including on inequalities, health, food security and nutrition, environmental sustainability, and population dynamics. Reports from these online thematic consultations made references to SRHR, food security and poverty. Moreover, the outcome document of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics and the Post-2015 Development Agenda acknowledges that population dynamics shape and are shaped by factors including food security and poverty, and puts universal access to sexual and reproductive health services for all as one concrete measure to address population dynamics. Access to essential services, including sexual and reproductive health services, as part of social protection floors, are also named as a concrete effort that should support policies for economic growth and employment towards reducing poverty and income security.

The final report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, titled "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development," makes references to SRHR, food security, and poverty. It recommends 12 goals, including ensuring food security and good nutrition and ensuring healthy lives, with SRHR as a target.

ARROW also joined or initiated several twitter advocacy campaigns targeting the High-Level Panel for Post-2015 and the Food Security Session of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (more details in the Social Media section).

***Feedback from Participants of the Regional Meeting
Intersectional Understandings: A Regional Meeting
to Build Intermovement Linkages in Poverty, Food
Sovereignty, Food Security, Gender and SRHR in
South Asia***

*Well done! This is a meeting that was long overdue.
I hope to improve the depth of my understanding on
these intersectionalities.*

*This is the sort of work that should be continued,
especially research.*

*Great learning experience, highly engaged discussion,
interactive meeting, all best to share and contribute
their valuable knowledge, wisdom and experiences.
SRHR issues should be pushed continuously.*

STRENGTHENING PARTNERS' CAPACITIES ON SRHR

The project, "Strengthening the Networking, Knowledge Management and Advocacy Capacities of an Asian-Pacific Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)," was borne out of the need to strengthen NGO

capacities for advocating SRHR for all in order to ensure that it remains high in the development agenda, particularly given the global processes happening related to the ICPD and MDG reviews. The four-year project, which is funded by the European Union with further support from Sida, began in March 2013 and is expected to run until February 2017. ARROW is working with 15 partners across 15 countries in the region. See table below.

The project's proposed action is designed to fulfil three specific objectives set out primarily to improve the situation for its final beneficiaries—marginalised women and girls in the Asia-Pacific—and the technical and management capacities of target groups and local partners working to promote SRHR within the region. It also hopes to ensure that universal access to SRHR in the Asia-Pacific region remain high on the development agenda in the future and that national and international policy- and

Table 1: Partners of the Strengthening Capacities Initiative

| Implementing Partners from Asia (national organisations) | Organisations | Country |
|---|--|-------------|
| | Likhaan Centre for Women's Health | Philippines |
| | Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC) | Cambodia |
| | Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC) | India |
| | Shirkat Gah | Pakistan |
| Network Members | Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan (YKP, also called Women's Health Foundation) | Indonesia |
| | Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) | Nepal |
| | Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP) | Vietnam |
| | Faculty of Post-graduate Studies in the University of Health Sciences | Lao PDR |
| | Federation of Reproductive Health Associations Malaysia (FRHAM) | Malaysia |
| | Migrant Assistance Program Foundation (MAP) | Thailand |
| | MONFEMNET National Network | Mongolia |
| | Naripokkho | Bangladesh |
| | Society for Health Education (SHE) | Maldives |
| | Women and Media Collective (WMC) | Sri Lanka |
| | Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA) | China |

decision-makers are improving SRHR policies and to extend the key advocacy issues of ARROW and its partners to flag the dangers of religious fundamentalism to SRHR.

Overall, the partners' roles are to generate evidence, disseminate information, strategise and implement advocacy, media and knowledge management around the issues of universal access to SRHR. They will conduct national level activities, and participate in regional meetings and workshops. In addition, issues of religious fundamentalism will be explored by seven partners, namely Likhaan, Naripokkho, Rural Women's Social Education Centre, Shirkat Gah, Society for Health Education, Women and Media Collective, and Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan. They will conduct national studies on religious extremists' impact on SRHR in their respective countries.

Key activities done in 2013 and their results are as follows:

Project Management

- **Project Inception Meeting:** Organised in Kuala Lumpur from 19-20 August 2013; brought together ARROW and the five implementing partners to reach a clear understanding of the project and how it fits into ARROW strategic plans and other initiatives. ARROW and partners also made a work plan for the year.
- **Partners' Briefing:** Held on 14 October 2013 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and familiarised eight supporting partners with the project guidelines, objectives, expected results and monitoring.

SRHR Monitoring

- **SRHR Indicators Workshop:** Held in Kuala Lumpur on 21-22 August 2013; gave the project an initial boost, injecting rigour and clarity and ensuring regional collaboration in its strategic thinking from the start. A set of 29 core



Workshop on Monitoring Universal Access to SRHR in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2013

Source: ARROW Photobank

indicators was developed to monitor governments' performance on universal access to sexual and reproductive health rights and sexual and reproductive health services, covering a range of women's health and rights issues, including among others, legal minimum, age at marriage, abortion, gender identities and gender-based violence, maternal and infant mortality. These will be used by member countries as basis for producing individual country profiles.

- **A Guide for Advocates: Strategic Selection of Indicators to Help Improve Access to SRHR Services for Marginalised Groups:** This publication was the final product of the above workshop, as further developed by Dr. T. K. Sundari Ravindran (see Publications section for more information).

Capacity Building Workshops

ARROW, with support from RHAC, organised the following capacity building workshops from 15-20 October:

- **Monitoring Universal Access to SRHR Workshop:** In this 2 ½-day workshop, former ARROW staff and monitoring expert Sai Jyothirmai Racherla served as the facilitator and resource person for this first workshop, which provided participants with an enhanced understanding of the key SRHR indicators that will inform the content of the country profiles on SRHR, the key data sources and databases available on these SRHR indicators, and human rights-based framework in analysing these data and crafting recommendations. Participants produced drafts of their country profiles and decided on a timeline for completion and publication of the country profiles.
- **SRHR Advocacy and Skills Building Workshop:** Facilitated by ARROW Programme Officer Shama Dossa and co-facilitated by ARROW Programme Manager Maria Melinda Ando, this 1 ½-day workshop asked participants to explore issue-based and stakeholder analyses and processes related to SRHR and Post-2015 and political

mappings of regional and national actors. Participants selected the top key SRHR issues particularly relevant to their countries and that they would like to focus on at the policy dialogues and produced draft national advocacy plans.

- **Knowledge Management and Use of Social Media for Advocacy Workshop:** In this two-day workshop facilitated by the Probe, participants drafted information architectures for their social media communications programmes by identifying objectives, target users, and their contexts and key messages.

Feedback from Participants of the Strengthening the Networking, Knowledge Management and Advocacy Capacities of an Asia-Pacific Network for SRHR

[I liked the] sharing of country situation on particular indicators during the advocacy workshop—opportunity to learn the similarities and differences of each country.

The resource person's explanation during the social media workshop was extremely informative and very helpful.

Universal Access to SRHR Initiative

This initiative is being implemented as part of ARROW and her national partners' efforts to ensure that universal access to SRHR services in the Asia-Pacific region remain high on the development agenda in the future and that national and international policy- and decision-makers are improving SRHR policies to achieve relevant ICPD and MDG goals. Funded through some support from the Ford Foundation and Sida, ARROW is working with 14 Asian partners⁹ in developing country profiles on universality of sexual and reproductive rights. The partners have started working their profiles and are expected to complete these in 2014. These will then be used for national level advocacy, as well as during regional and global interventions.

Advocacy Interventions and Networking

Aside from those already mentioned above, advocacy interventions related to ARROW's information and communications work were at the following events:

- Strategic Conversation on the Changing Context for Women's Rights and Movement-Building in Southeast Asia (17-18 June 2013; Bangkok, Thailand)
- ICPD Beyond 2014 Human Rights Conference (7-10 July 2013; Noordwijk, The Netherlands):
- Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) Communications Workshop on ICPD B2014/Post-2015 Agenda (16-17 July 2013; Tagaytay, Philippines)
- Second Global Young Parliamentarians' Consultation on ICPD and Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (3-4 October 2013; Colombo, Sri Lanka)
- International Conference on Family Planning (12-15 November 2013; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- Second Closed Door Dialogue on Theology, HIV and Human Rights (22-23 November 2013; Bangkok, Thailand)

Endnotes

- 1 The ARROW Facebook can be reached at www.facebook.com/ARROW.Women
- 2 The Advocate's Guide can be downloaded at www.arrow.org.my/publications/AdvocateGuide_Final_RN_Web.20131127.pdf
- 3 The AFC on Labour Migration, Gender, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights can be downloaded at www.arrow.org.my/uploads/20121218025358_v19n1.pdf
- 4 The AFC on Poverty, Food Sovereignty and SRHR can be downloaded at www.arrow.org.my/uploads/20140616121147_v20n1.pdf
- 5 The publication can be downloaded at www.arrow.org.my/publications/ARROW%20Thematic%20Paper%2001.pdf
- 6 The publications on migration can be downloaded at www.arrow.org.my/?p=migration
7. These included Action for Health Initiatives-Philippines, Asia-Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the Asia-Pacific Regional Centre of the United Nations Development Program, the Institute for Social Development Studies Vietnam, and the Women's Solidarity for Human Rights Indonesia.
8. The call can be accessed at www.arrow.org.my/?p=bangkok-cross-movement-call-on-addressing-poverty-food-sovereignty-rights-to-food-and-nutrition-and-srhr
9. The organisations are BBC, CCIHP, Faculty of Post-graduate Studies in the University of Health Sciences Lao PDR, FHRAM, Likhaan Centre for Women's Health, MAP Foundation, MONFEMNET National Network, Naripokkho, RHAC, RUWSEC, Shirkat Gah, SHE, WMC, YHDRA, and YKP.





Young women from Indonesia
Source: Photostream of ivanatman (Flickr, Creative Commons)

Monitoring and Research for Evidence-based Advocacy: Tracking Progress

The years 2014 and 2015 are crucial years for all of us working on SRHR issues globally as these are the designated target years for the attainment of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals. However, though we seem to have achieved some progress with regards to the numeric, quantitative indicators, we are still far from reaching the qualitative aspects and fulfilling the aspirational principles of the ICPD PoA and the Millennium Declaration. It is a well-recognised fact that inequalities and inequities are increasing globally. Women and girls bear the brunt of these inequalities. Instead of being spurred by this evidence of glaring gaps, States seem apathetic to the concerns and rights of women and girls. Non-governmental organisations, especially those from the Global South are excluded from international debates and dialogues around the post-2015 development framework as

most of these meetings are taking place in New York. However, ARROW is always striving to ensure participation of partners in such spaces whenever available.

ARROW's monitoring and research for evidence-based advocacy has been geared towards two key goals—that SRHR remains high on the development agenda and that the SRHR demands remain inclusive of the demands and claims that reflect the realities of people in the Global South. Towards these ends, ARROW's activities related to monitoring and research for evidence-based advocacy in 2013 was extremely productive.

One of the most remarkable achievements was that we were able to publish five regional reports on monitoring government progress on the implementation of the ICPD PoA. This was the first time that ARROW has published cross-regional reports and it was a fantastic achievement.

This work enabled a strong position in the international community for ARROW. ARROW was one of the only organisations to be involved in all of the global ICPD+20 processes starting from the meetings on the Global Survey Questionnaire, the Human Rights Conference, the Women's Health Conference, the Global Monitoring Framework meeting, the Index Report and the Global Report. This strong position also enabled ARROW's active participation and engagement in a number of regional and international events, UN processes, conferences, and workshops on SRHR issues.

Two new projects, one looking at the intersections of climate change and SRHR, and the other on religious fundamentalisms and SRHR, have also been initiated with the commissioning of a scoping study on the inter-sections of climate change and SRHR and a learning-strategising meeting with AWID and other key stakeholders.

The year 2013 also witnessed a great emphasis on ARROW's work with young people. Young people's participation in the advocacy on SRHR, through ARROW's various programmes,

including an advocacy workshop with the Global South partners and the publication of advocacy briefs on young people and sexual and reproductive rights has brought new vitality and energy to the movement.

ARROW's Monitoring and Research work is supported by the Ford Foundation and the Packard Foundation, with additional support from Sida.

GLOBAL SOUTH PROJECT

The Global South Project saw the release of the ICPD+20 monitoring reports across the Global South (Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe) that ARROW has been coordinating with its partners in the regions. The project, "On Reclaiming & Redefining Rights: ICPD+20 — Status of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights," initiated in 2011 culminated into these five regional status reports.

ARROW's Global South regional partners that helped develop the reports included the World YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) from Africa, ASTRA Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health from Europe, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network from Latin America, and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights from the Middle East and North Africa regions. ARROW developed the Asia-Pacific report. The regional partners, with the exception of the Middle Eastern and Eastern European regions, were able to take the reports and advocacy briefs into regional population conferences in Latin-America (held in Montevideo, Uruguay in August 2013); Asia-Pacific (held in Bangkok, Thailand in September 2013); and Africa (held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in September 2013). The process of enabling and empowering women's regional networks with data analysis and evidence has been a really fulfilling experience for ARROW and enabled a core group of networks to impact these very important regional processes.



ICPD+20 Monitoring Reports across 5 regions of the Global South
Source: ARROW Photobank

GLOBAL SOUTH YOUTH

With the aim of strategising towards the UN Commission on Population and Development meeting in 2014, ARROW successfully conducted an advocacy workshop that focused on the creation and dissemination of regionally-relevant, youth-centric advocacy briefs across the global south regions.

ARROW gathered its Global South partners, including young advocates from ASTRA Youth, World YWCA Africa, and Eligé Red on 8-9 December 2013 in Kunming, China for an intensive, output-oriented workshop to strengthen advocacy by and for young people. There was a need for a collaborative, strategic, evidence-based, region-specific advocacy plan for the Global South regions that would push forward the agenda of full realisation of young people's SRHR, as part of their basic human rights, both from the perspective of the region and as a united Global South force.

Participants of the workshop developed a draft advocacy brief, discussed regional priority issues, and formulated an effective and implementable advocacy plan, including identifying key stakeholders and intervention strategies.



Regional briefs on young people's SRHR, 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank



The Global South Youth Regional partners at the Advocacy Workshop in Kunming, China, 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

Young people's leadership and active engagement in pushing forward the themes, goals, and actions outlined in the ICPD Programme of Action, SRHR, and related development agendas have made significant contributions and must be acknowledged. The continued mobilisation of youth activists at multiple forums, and the regular monitoring of international commitments by youth have seen a marked change in how young people are perceived in the international arena.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation funded a scoping study to provide an overall regional context of South Asian youth SRHR movement, highlighting country specific issues where possible, to review and cross-reference the recommendations of youth organisations identified in the following countries—India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The study aimed at identifying youth-led organisations or organisations which actively engage with young people on SRHR issues in the above-mentioned four countries. A similar scoping study envisaged for Burma, which presents a different context, that of a unique democratic and political transition, with rapidly increasing civil-society participation, increasing donor interest and funding, and a budding sexual rights movement.

GENDER, SRHR, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ARROW, through a small grant from Population Action International, undertook an evidence-based scoping study in 2012 to identify the interlinkages between climate change and SRHR in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The work aimed to explore how climate change as a cross-cutting issue impacts universal access to quality and affordable SRHR. It aimed to identify areas of policy and programme interventions in climate change adaptation and advocacy work, specifically related to improving women's health and SRHR, review existing policies on climate change adaptation, and identify gaps in the climate change adaptation policies with regard to gender and SRHR.

Building on this, another initiative was supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation: *Building New Constituencies for Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Working with Rights-Based Climate Change/ Environmental Groups and Faith-Based Groups to Build Momentum for SRHR in the Lead-Up to the New Development Framework*. The objective is to build an evidence base and an alliance of advocates that enables local and broad ownership as well as advocacy for the SRHR agenda to advance sustainable development, with particular emphasis on new challenges such as religious fundamentalism and climate change. Eight countries were selected for the dual work as they are affected by both: in South Asia-Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, and Pakistan; in Southeast Asia- Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines. Evidence generation in the above-mentioned countries is being proposed with the objective of looking at interlinkages in climate change and SRHR issues and solutions beyond the current discourse of population dynamics; and to identify areas of policy and programme interventions in climate change adaptation and advocacy work specifically related in improving women's health and SRHR.

RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM AND SRHR

ARROW was invited by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance to the Second Closed Door Dialogue on Theology, HIV, and Human Rights on 21-23 November 2013, held parallel to the 11th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. ARROW's presentation on SRHR concepts was well-received by participants, who were mostly open-minded faith-based leaders grappling with these issues vis-à-vis their faith.

ARROW was also invited to partner with AWID (Association For Women's Rights in Development), Musawah, Catholics for the Right to Decide Mexico, Global Rights Watch, and Ipas in convening a meeting on religious extremisms and its impact on women's rights in Istanbul in December. At this meeting both organisations and individuals who work within the framework of

religion and those who work outside it were brought together to jointly discuss approaches and strategies. ARROW was able to present on its project in the region and on the different platforms which were available for advocacy.

ARROW and Catholics for Choice, through the Global Interfaith and Secular Alliance, planned to make an intervention on issues of religion and its negative impact on SRHR during Human Rights Conference in The Hague. ARROW was also invited to present on religious extremisms and SRHR at Woodrow Wilson Centre, Washington and participate in a meeting with the Interfaith Office of State Department with Catholics for Choice in August 2013.

ADVOCACY INTERVENTIONS AND NETWORKING

Advocacy interventions and networking activities related to monitoring and research for evidence-generation for 2013 were carried out at the following initiatives and events:

- **London Summit (FP2020): From Pledges to Actions:** (27-28 January 2013; London, UK) ARROW was invited to FP2020, which discussed progress, follow-through, and major challenges to achieving the goal of having 120 million more women using modern contraceptives by 2020.
- **SRHR and Universal Health Coverage in the Post-2015 Framework** (20-22 March 2013; Bali, Indonesia): ARROW, together with other participants, explored ways on how to ensure that SRHR is part of the new development frameworks post 2014/2015, and that governments remain committed to current commitments and establish targets that take forward the ICPD Programme of Action and other international agreements.
- **The Asia-Pacific Regional Parliamentarian and CSO Forum on MDG Acceleration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda** (25-26 March 2013; Bali,

Indonesia): ARROW presented on the SRHR priorities in the post-2015 development agenda. Key recommendations emerged around the need for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, removal of legal restrictions, cultural, and gender barriers in access to SRH services including comprehensive sexuality education, collection and analysis of systematic data.

- **WHO Technical Consultation on Ensuring and Monitoring Rights, Equity, Choice, and Quality in Family Planning Programmes** (16-18 April 2013; Montreux, Switzerland): ARROW contributed in the provision of inputs on a framework for a rights-based approach to Family Planning programmes, validation of an evaluation process for rights indicators, endorsement of a short list of quantitative indicators for monitoring rights in family planning programmes and guidance for programmes on how to improve rights-based outcomes in family planning programmes.
- **Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference** (8-10 May 2013; Bangkok, Thailand): ARROW and partners engaged with representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam on the draft outcome document for the conference by the joint secretariat.
- **World YWCA International Training Institute** (22-29 May 2013; Bangkok, Thailand): ARROW organised a training session on evidence-based SRHR advocacy for young women using available cross-comparable country datasets and indicators.
- **Talk on the local radio station** (29 May 2013; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia): ARROW's participation in Malaysian radio programme on BFM 89.9, the Business Station focused on industries' contribution to the unmet need of reproductive health services.
- **Women Deliver Conference** (28-30 May 2013; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia): ARROW's presentations covered "Challenges in Family Planning," "ICPD Beyond 2014," and "Universal Access to SRHR in post-2015."
- **The Regional Parliamentarian Champions' Conference** (14-15 June 2013; Bangkok, Thailand): ARROW provided the parliamentarians with an in-depth understanding of SRHR and the contentious elements around it as well as facilitated discussions around key advocacy messages on SRHR.
- **ICPD International Conference on Human Rights** (7-10 July 2013; The Netherlands): ARROW worked with more than 300 representatives from the government, civil society, UN agencies and experts, and human rights defenders in identifying key achievements, barriers and emerging challenges to delivering the goals of ICPD.
- **Rights and Empowerment Group of FP2020** (20-21 August 2013; Washington, USA): ARROW was invited as a co-lead of the Rights and Empowerment group of the Family Planning 2020. ARROW was recommended by DFID and the USAID.
- **Expert Consultation Meeting on Women's Health-Rights, Empowerment and Social Determinants** (30 September-2 October 2013; Mexico City, Mexico): ARROW helped review existing evidence and information on, produce insights about, and generate recommendations on ways to accelerate progress toward universal access to an integrated package of core sexual and reproductive health services and toward protection of girls' and women's human rights, including reproductive rights.
- **Expert Group Meeting on "Structural and Policy Constraints in Achieving the MDGs for Women and Girls"** (21-24 October 2013; Mexico City, Mexico): ARROW presented, "Have the MDGs fostered progress

on women's SRHR? Effective policies and remaining challenges," to provide a deeper understanding of progress and limitations in the achievement of the MDGs and to take stock of current research.

- ***International Meeting on Monitoring and Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014*** (12-24

November 2013; China): ARROW, along with more than 60 representatives from governments in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe, representatives of UN organisations, NGOs, experts and academicians participated in this meeting.



ARROW and partners strategising for ICPD+20 and beyond (including post-2015) in Bali, Indonesia, 2013
Source: Photo by Thien Vu Pham





Women from Bangladesh
Source: Photostream of IRRI images (Flickr, Creative Commons)

Building and Strengthening Partnerships for Advocacy: Broadening Scope

ARROW heavily invests in movement building, through creating and providing regional and sub-regional partnership platforms on SRHR for leadership engagement and advocacy of national and local women's and youth NGOs in Asia and the Pacific. The Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) partnerships, which first began in South Asia and was subsequently rolled out to China and to South East Asia and will expand to include all partners in Asia-Pacific, strategically links the local and national to the regional and global. These partnerships increase the advocacy mobility of both national partners as well as ARROW, and help ensure accountability from duty bearers on their obligations. Evidence from the ground on the specific nature of the gaps between policies, programmes, and actual positive change in the lives of marginalised women is leveraged to access spaces and opportunities for policy intervention. The strengthening of the collective voices of SRHR advocates from Asia and the Pacific through the WHRAP partnership modality has enabled us to create a stronger presence at both regional and international venues, than we could have done alone.

ARROW's WHRAP programme has reached new heights in 2013. In South Asia, the partnership has continuously questioned the vertical global health prescription to bring down maternal mortality and has influenced policies and strategies for marginalised women's SRHR. In South East Asia, the partnership has highlighted the lack of comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly services for young people. In the Asia-Pacific, the partnership is gaining momentum as a platform for all ARROW partners, bringing together women-led organisations and other civil society actors for evidence-based advocacy on SRHR. WHRAP-Asia Pacific is part of the Asia-Pacific Partnership for SRHR and Sustainable Development which amplifies the Kuala Lumpur Call to Action, the outcome document of the regional meeting *Beyond ICPD and MDGs: NGOs Strategising for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region*, organised by ARROW with partners GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and UNFPA on 2-4 May 2012. The Kuala Lumpur Call to Action outlines our 12-point call to governments, international organisations, including UN agencies, development partners, and other duty bearers, for SRHR for sustainable development.

WHRAP's unique strategy of joint strategic planning, monitoring, and evidence-based advocacy puts an emphasis on making health systems accountable to address SRHR issues at the local, national, regional, and international levels. At the local level, women and young people are made aware of their rights and entitlements and are enabled to generate the evidence on the barriers and gaps that they experience in accessing the SRH services they need. WHRAP has successfully integrated locally generated evidence with national advocacy and partnership building to call policy makers attention to SRHR issues so that they are aware of the SRHR needs of marginalised women's and young people's needs. WHRAP also aims to contribute to synergies between national advocacy at the regional and international level in terms of SRHR agenda development and calling the attention to the Asia-Pacific region in terms of continued donor support.

ARROW's partnership work is funded by Danida through Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA), GIZ, Oxfam Novib and UNFPA, as well as core support from Sida.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP IN SOUTH ASIA

The year 2013 marked the end of WHRAP South Asia Phase III (July 2011 December 2013) and as such much of the year was spent on planning for Phase IV (January 2014 December 2017). ARROW serves as the regional manager, with seven national women's health and rights organisations: Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC, Nepal), Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA, India), SAHAYOG (India), Naripokkho (Bangladesh), Society for Health Education (SHE, Maldives), Shirkat Gah (Pakistan) and Women and Media Collective (WMC, Sri Lanka) and their selected CBO partners. Danida through the Danish Family Planning Association funds this initiative.

WHRAP-South Asia is focused on calling attention to the lack of context-specific policy attention to address the high rates of maternal mortality in the sub-region. The national partners with their CBOs and marginalised women have been able to present evidence-based advocacy on their lived realities to policy makers to bring about real changes to improve in the lives of women, their families, and communities.

Reaching out to Marginalised Women: The partnership has reach out to 10,394 marginalised women and young women through awareness raising activities at the community level in implementation areas in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Local to International Rights-Based Advocacy: WHRAP-South Asia's call for "a context-specific rights-based framework for Continuum of Quality Care (CQC) for women's reproductive health" is unique in the sub-region. It states that marginalised women should receive care that is accessible, affordable, effective, and acceptable, and that their births are all safe regardless of whether it is at home or in an institution.

In taking this CQC position forward at the local level, WHRAP-South Asia partners with their CBOs have claimed access, participated in, and influenced processes to bring about positive change for marginalised women. Some key results include:

- Increased accountability of duty bearers leading to better health systems and services, such as regular pathological test facilities, better medical equipment, with longer hours of services and increasing number of trained medical staffs in health facilities of Bangladesh WHRAP-South Asia implementation sites. Naripokkho's advocacy based on the maternal death reviews and monitoring of the health services has prompted duty bearers to take initiatives to improve services and address issues of service providers' negligence, undue charging of fees from patients, and interference of medical representatives during office hours. Commitments have been made by state and district level officials towards improvement in post-partum services in Uttar Pradesh, India.
- Improved quality of health services provided to women of the conflict-affected district of Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, India. With SAHAYOG's advocacy, skilled birth attendants were deployed in relief camps to provide care during childbirth, post-partum screening, and referrals. In addition, 108 ambulances have been made available and visits by the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife to the camps have been ensured. In Gujarat, services provided in the salt pan areas have improved with development of an area specific planning by all the five districts and the Salt Pan Workers' network.
- Improved health systems with the appointment of a gynaecologist in a district hospital, establishment of a separate counselling centre in a Comprehensive Abortion Care in a Zonal Hospital in Nepal, as a result of monitoring of health facilities and advocacy with hospital management committee by BBC and CBO partners.

- Increased commitments from the local level stakeholders to improve health facilities and services ensure maternal benefit entitlements to women, setting up of grievance redress mechanisms, and appointment of trained medical staff as a result of local level advocacy by CHETNA through public hearing in the project sites in Gujarat and Rajasthan, India.
- Strengthened awareness about reproductive health among young girls in the project sites in Pakistan which has helped them to open up about reproductive health issues. They have also started visiting the service providers for consultations. This is a real breakthrough impact as a result of local level advocacy by Shirkat Gah and CBO partners.
- Wide media coverage on the issues of CQC which is directly linked to sensitisation of media personnel on SRHR and CQC issues (BBC, Naripokkho, SAHAYOG, and CHETNA).

At the national level, the partners have highlighted ground realities of marginalised women and called for CQC at strategic spaces for advocacy. Some key results include:

- Policy change that removed the discriminatory two-child norm and age criteria from all maternity benefit schemes, such as Janani Suraksha Yojana and the National Maternity Benefit Scheme, announced by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India. This has been done by the National Alliance on Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR) in collaboration with the National Coalition on Two Child Norm. SAHAYOG is the founder and current secretariat of NAMHHR, while CHETNA is a steering committee member together with 33 other organisations from 11 states in India.
- Release of the National Adolescent Strategy in India by the Union Health Ministry. Towards this, CHETNA, as part of its ongoing advocacy, conducted a national dialogue and media events

- Submission of a draft safe abortion bill to Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population for review. As a part of the Reproductive Health Rights Network, BBC formulated this draft.
- Highlighting evidence on a number of missing maternal deaths from national records in Bangladesh. Naripokkho has been able to substantiate that a number of maternal deaths in their working areas are not included in the national data through their Maternal Death Reviews. Through a national seminar, Naripokkho was able to share this evidence with Members of Parliament, representatives from the Department of Health and Department of Family Planning, and representatives from various national and international development organisations.
- Highlighting evidence on reasons for maternal deaths in underserved areas of Gujarat, India. CHETNA's report has been well-received by the National Rural Health Mission and other networks.
- Successful engagement with human rights accountability mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review. As part of NAMHHR, SAHAYOG made a submission on maternal health to the National Human Rights Commission for incorporation into the monitoring framework for 2nd Universal Periodic Review process for India. BBC was able to raise issues related to the knowledge and access to safe abortion services for the monitoring processes of the Universal Periodic Review and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.
- Orientation by Shirkat Gah of government officials, elected representatives, government delegation for the 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference, NGOs, members of the Pakistan Health Network and media from all the provinces on the Post-2015 Development Agenda with special reference to CQC framework for women's reproductive health as a priority.



Public hearing is an important accountability mechanism for women claimants
Source: Photo by Priya Pandey, CHETNA

Feedback from a CBO partner

We are working with Naripokkho since ICPD in 1994. Sangkalpa Trust has been a WHRAP-SA partner since its inception in Bangladesh. We obtained name and confidence from the local people and also as an administrative organisation who is for women's health and rights. This WHRAP/SRHR programme provides us with fame. In future, we hope that ARROW continuous with its financial support for programmes as well as technical support and opportunity of experience sharing visiting partner organisations. ARROW is a catalyst for changing the South Asian SRHR status.
— Mirza Shahidul Islam Khaled, Executive Director, Sangkalpa Trust, Bangladesh

The partnership has gained momentum at the regional and international levels in furthering its advocacy agenda. One major intervention was the release of the WHRAP-South Asia position paper on *A Context-specific Rights-based Continuum of Quality Care (CQC) for Women's Reproductive Health in South Asia*. The paper includes chapters from all the four countries in the partnership and is being used to support its advocacy initiatives. Since its release, the unique CQC position has been acknowledged by key stakeholders. Similarly, CQC as an advocacy issue and recommendations were incorporated in the final outcome documents of the 4th Post-2015 High-level Panel of Eminent Persons CSO Multistakeholders Consultation as well in the Youth Communiqué from this event.

To present this unique position of CQC to a wider audience and to garner more support from organisations across the region, WHRAP-South Asia did the following:

- An advocacy alliance meeting in Nepal on 08 October 2013 was organised where the representatives of 15 organisations working for women's SRHR were able to see the linkages of their work at the national level with the WHRAP modality and strategies.
- The CQC paper was submitted to the independent Expert Review Group of the WHO's Accountability Commission, which was set up in relation to the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy on Women and Children. The paper has been acknowledged and now is part of their report for 2013.

To further networking opportunities, WHRAP-South Asia's partners, with support from the Danish Family Planning Association, participated in the 2013 Women Deliver Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 28-30 May 2013 and in the Family Planning Conference 2013 held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12-15 November 2013. Partners also participated in the Global Partners meeting of the Danish Family Planning Association held back-to-back with the Women Deliver Conference. This second such meeting took stock of current activities and expected results, opportunities and discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and how SRHR was being featured in it.

Feedback from a WHRAP-South Asia partner

Naripokkho and ARROW's partnership is always based on collective learning, sharing, and transference. We are doing different work but we are focused on one issue like women's reproductive health and rights. I learned that partnership has open discussions, respect, and privacy. ARROW is the type of organisation that always builds up the capacity of other people and ARROW always appreciates and is always helpful. — Samia Afrin, Project Manager & member, Naripokkho

WHRAP-South Asia's new partners from Maldives and Sri Lanka carried out baseline studies to examine the SRHR situation in their countries and map out their advocacy interventions on particular identified issues.

The Society for Health Education (Maldives) focused their baseline on the issue of abortion being disallowed for pregnancies in the cases of rape or incest. The study found out that young girls are more vulnerable inside their own household and if they have children as a result of rape, the survivors face even more social and economic challenges. This study was the evidence base for SHE's advocacy with Maldives's Ministry of Islamic Affairs.

The Women and Media Collective (Sri Lanka), through a baseline study on SRHR and health indicators for free trade zone workers in the Katunayeke and Koggala areas, found gaps in the provision of services by local health institutes. The baseline pointed to the need for more research to concretise the evidence for advocacy with identified stakeholders. Further research resulted in better informed women who are able to articulate their sexual and reproductive health needs to improve services and improved awareness of national level stakeholders on sexual and reproductive health needs and gaps in services available for women workers.

- **Improved Advocacy and Management Capacities of the Partnership:** WHRAP-South Asia has a Working Group (comprised of project implementers) and a Steering Committee (comprises of project decision makers), which have specific mandates and tasks and this has increased the effectiveness in terms of collective learning and consensual decision making of the partnership.

In 2013, as the regional manager, ARROW organised three Steering Committee meetings and one Working Group meeting. The Steering Committee has provided strategic direction given for advocacy. The meetings also set an initial planning for Phase IV with decision to focus on accountability mechanisms, downsize project and focus and rolling plan with associated budget. A special meeting

of the Committee was organised back to back with the Global Partners meeting to discuss new Results-Based Management guidelines and the changes in funding from Danida in preparation for Phase IV.

Capacities of the Working Group members were built in various areas such as in writing their national advocacy position paper with a peer review process, in developing national activity and plans with the new Results-Based Management guidelines after the Mid-Term Review Process. There has been an improvement in sharing from partners on issues, results, and challenges of the project.

Monitoring and Evaluation: As the regional manager of WHRAP-South Asia, ARROW has the responsibility to monitor progress and to ensure consultative and collective evaluative processes of the programme. As Phase III ended in December 2013 and Phase IV due to begin in January 2014, a number of monitoring and evaluation activities were added on to what was originally planned. The M&E activities that were carried out include:

- A mid-term review meeting (postponed from end of 2012 to February 2013) reflected achievements of the programme during the phase and discussed the effectiveness of the strategies being implemented to meet the targets for Phase III. Partners revised their plans for the rest of the phase given analysis of contextual changes in their countries. Partners also showcased their work through presentations, exhibiting their publications, and sharing their experiences.
- Moving into preparations for Phase IV, monitoring visits to BBC, CHETNA, Naripokkho, and SAHAYOG were made with a newly developed monitoring framework, which includes monitoring progress of programme, assessing organisational advocacy capacities, assessing finance management systems, and implementation of the newly adopted anti-corruption policies. Feedback has been provided to all partners visited and this will be followed up on subsequent visits in Phase IV.

- With the cutting short of Phase III, an evaluative retreat was organised from 3-4 October in Kathmandu, Nepal. The retreat also marked the 10th anniversary of WHRAP-South Asia and it allowed the partners to have collective insights into the challenges, recommendations and feelings of the partners regarding Phase III and the 10 years journey of the partnership. It also surfaced the strengths and weaknesses of the partnership and re-emphasised that the WHRAP-South Asia is based on the commitment towards the health rights of poor and marginalised women and girls (within the overarching framework of human rights, SRHR and gender equality), creating a comprehensive model to bring about the positive change across local, national, and global arenas. The partners committed to working together.

Strengthening Capacities of Partners: Strengthening capacities of partners on advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and other skills is one of the core aspects of WHRAP in general.

- WHRAP-South Asia partners participated in finance management workshop held on 26-27 August 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to get a better understanding on how to design, link, and implement budgets using new results based management guidelines. The workshop was also important for partners to iron out issues on budget and finance reporting for Phase III, as well as to prepare for Phase IV.
- A finding from baseline studies on organisational advocacy capacities done in 2012 found that some partners needed special attention in terms of strengthening their knowledge management capacities. As such DFPA, with support from ARROW, organised two workshops for Naripokkho and for CBO partners from 25-29 October in Bangladesh. The workshops combined project management and knowledge management training to demonstrate their connectedness and mutual interdependence. As a result, the participants have acquired essential knowledge and skills to respond to the need for focussing WHRAP-Bangladesh project activities, specifying and prioritising its indicators and targets, planning for monitoring, defining knowledge needs, and identifying knowledge management systems requirements.

Planning for Phase IV: Phase IV puts an emphasis on results based management but at the same time the partners have iterated that there should also be a balance in terms of qualitative process oriented learning from the programme.

Based on this, an M&E framework development workshop was organised from 5-7 October 2013 also in Kathmandu, Nepal where the partnership came up with their Theory of Change. Various aspects of the M&E for Phase IV were discussed and finalised with Right Based Continuum of Quality Care as the main agenda of WHRAP-South Asia. All the partners both national and ARROW worked on the indicators and activities for each outcome and spent the rest of the quarter in finalising the M&E framework.

WHRAP-South Asia Phase IV commenced in January 2014.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

WHRAP-South East Asia aims to institutionalise accountability at all levels of duty bearers, especially towards marginalised young people, leading to better policies, programmes and

services, and therefore to better SRHR outcomes for young people in South East Asia and the Mekong Region. In 2013, WHRAP-South East Asia continued to work in the region across different countries in Southeast Asia with the objective of advocating for provision of comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly health services to young people, especially for those who are vulnerable and marginalised.

WHRAP-South East Asia is implemented as a sub-regional partnership with ARROW as the regional partner and national partners from:

- Burma-Thailand: Migrant Action Program Foundation (MAP) and Burma Medical Association (BMA)
- China: Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA)
- Cambodia: Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC)
- Indonesia: Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan (YJP) (not active)
- Laos: Faculty of Post-graduate Studies of the University of Health Sciences

Feedback from an International Partner

The partnership between DFPA and WHRAP-South Asia partners has over the last 10 years been a mutual learning and capacity development experience. Moving from a partnership where DFPA played a more dominant role in terms of project management, we now have a division of labour where ARROW is managing the overall project implementation, monitoring and technical support to national partners of the WHRAP SA project, and DFPA is focusing more on the strategic dialogue with ARROW and when needed the support to ARROW in terms of project and network management. In 2013 DFPA has been providing specialised capacity building on financial management and knowledge management. 2013 has also been the year where the partnership has further strengthened its south-south position and ARROW strengthened its role as coordinator. For the future, DFPA would wish to see ARROW advance even further in their project and network management role, supporting national partners to achieve the project objectives of improved SRHS among marginalised women in Nepal, Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan. As the next phase of the project is going to be the final phase where DFPA support the partnership, we are also hoping for a successful process of building a strong and sustainable exit strategy together with all partners. Finally DFPA invites ongoing feedback from all WHRAP SA partners with regards to our role as partner, for us to learn and grow (sharpen our added value, be even more need based in our support). — Line Terp Nielsen, Program Manager & Tania Detlefsen, Head of International Department, DFPA



WHRAP-South Asia Phase III Evaluative Retreat, 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank



ARROW with WHRAP-South Asia partners during the Midterm Review Meeting, 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

- The Philippines: Likhaan Centre for Women's Health
- Vietnam: Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCHIP)

Reaching out to Young People in South East Asia: The mobilisation of young people to promote SRHR issues through meaningful youth participation has been done in accordance with partners' plans. Throughout 2013, approximately 49,212 young people (mostly women), including those working in factories, migrants, and young people affected by conflict, among others were reached through different outreach programmes and activities. The activities ranged from workshops on young people's SRHR, campaigns, meetings among women's groups, gynaecological check-ups, and others,

which were carried out in the community in collaboration with their local and national partners.

Regional Youth Moving—Increasing Visibility of the Platform

Online: Online presence of the WHRAP-South East Asia is through different channels, which are used to share relevant information on young people's SRHR, project's activities and national partners' updates. Their website, by the end of 2013 had 565 views; its Facebook page 'Regional Youth Moving' had 200 likes; and its Twitter account @SRHR4youth had 320 followers.

WHRAP-South East Asia believes in the provision of comprehensive sexuality education and assuring youth-friendly



WHRAP-South East Asia Internal Management Committee Meeting, 2013
Source: Photo by Thien Vu Pham

health services not only to provide young people with safe and healthy sexual and reproductive health, but also to make them sexually responsible towards one's and others' sexual and reproductive rights. The partnership believes in meaningful youth participation when designing and implementing programmes and policies related to their SRHR. At the local level, the partners' achievements included the following:

- Increased understanding of SRHR issues among migrant women across the Thai-Burma border, which has been facilitated by the MAP Foundation, which has reach out directly to an inaccessible group of women who now have space to share their experience through the Women Exchange Across Lands programme, launched in 2013;

Feedback from Youth SRHR activists

ARROW and WHRAP-South East Asia's support had provided space for youth and relevant stakeholders to: (1) dialogue amongst themselves about the realities of SRHR at the national, local, and regional level; (2) discuss feasible and effective interventions with regards to promoting and protecting SRHR; and (3) enhance capacities for advocacy, monitoring of young people at the local, national, regional, and global levels. Through this platform, I got the chance to interact with relevant personalities working on the ground; I learned so much about the significance of SRHR in asserting the rights and freedoms of young people. The regional youth movement has to constantly touch base with grassroots and national movements—this is the only chance the we can truly monitor our work at the regional level. The parlance of SRHR has to be mainstreamed and has to be the framework in everything that we do. I would want ARROW to be a strong partner in capacity building (research and advocacy) of young people in terms of advocacy and monitoring of their issues and strategies. ARROW has been very instrumental in empowering and providing spaces for young people in celebrating their identities, honing their capacities and meaningfully claim their full rights and freedoms. — Joel Mark Barredo, Regional Core Team Member, ASEAN Youth Movement

Through the experience gained during the WHRAP-South East Asia internship programme, I have learnt and enhanced my knowledge related to my work on ASRH such as what is advocacy and how to do it, CSE [comprehensive sexuality education], [and] YFS [youth-friendly services] ... [it has] made me understand what is SRH and rights for SRH. This not only can I use in my work in Luangnumtha district, Laos but also during the outreach or training work I do. I can say I built my capacity a lot on English language skills, I am more confident and empowered to do more. Meeting with young people on the ground—Akha community girls for this project has inspired me to work on this field. I have met new friends in international conferences who work in the same field. It gives me opportunity to share, exchange and learn from them, get some ideas to adapt to my work to be better. I think it would be good to do another internship programme (maybe we can call it Part II) to have more young people involved in each country. I like the youth internship in Kunming where they had 2 interns – one from the community and one from the main partner. This was useful as not only young people in cities build their capacities but also in the local communities. Perhaps we can use the results from the first programme to reflect and guide on how to create the new programme. — Chandavieng Phimmavong (Meenoy), trainer for peer educator training on ASRH, and outreach worker to promote and disseminate basic information on ASRH to young migrant people who come from other provinces to study/work in Vientiane, Vientiane Women and Youth Centre for Health and Development

- Coordination between various ethnic organisations by the Burma Medical Association for the promotion of healthcare among refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons;
- Promotion of youth-friendly health services among service providers by the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia through a series of forums for young people (including young advocates) and health centre staff;
- Advocacy for young worker's SRHR in Vietnam through efforts of the Centre for Creative Initiative in Health and Development, which has been successful in getting support from business enterprises. Some of those enterprises have agreed to implement corporate social responsibility programmes, while others have provided physical space and time (during the working hour) for health check-ups.

Furthermore, two enterprises are also developing sexual and reproductive health policy frameworks.

- Development of a guideline for comprehensive sexuality education for Akha, an ethnic community in Lao PDR, through the Post-graduate Studies Department of the University of Health Science in coordination with their local partner the Vientiane Youth Centre for Health and Development, in collaboration with UNFPA and Ministry of Education.

The partnership has continued to target the ASEAN as a point of intervention for greater recognition of young people's SRHR. At the ASEAN People's Forum on 6-8 April 2013 in Brunei, a youth-led delegation of the CCIHP supported by ARROW was actively engaged in the planning of the ASEAN Youth Forum,



Youth workers at the pelvic examination campaign and free consultation
Source: Photo by Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population, Vietnam



Dialogue on the provision of comprehensive sexuality education and delivery of youth friendly health services, 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

which aimed to strengthen the network of young people in the sub-region and prioritise issues that affect young people.

ARROW was also invited to participate in a regional Workshop on Promoting the Rights of ASEAN Women and Children through Implementation of the Common Issues in the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations with Focus on Girl Child. The workshop was the initiative of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and intended to enhance partnerships between the Commission, UN Agencies, and civil society in women's and children's right issues. In the workshop, ARROW presented the findings of the report *ICPD+20: Status of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia-Pacific*.

At the international level, ARROW and WHRAP-South East Asia had a number of key interventions:

- At 45th Session of the Commission on Population and Development, as the theme was on the SRHR of migrants,

ARROW and the Migrant Action Program Foundation participated in the sessions. ARROW, together with the Youth Coalitions on SRHR, co-wrote the youth statement which was delivered during the formal sessions. The statement outlined the vulnerability of young migrant workers especially young women and girls especially in terms of their SRHR.

- WHRAP-South East Asia joined the preparatory activities for the 11th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific with UNZIP the LIPS on Women Networking Zone, including mobilising key affected women and girls. This includes the creation of a women caucus, women session within the community forum, and appointment of women speakers for the symposium sessions.
- ARROW also joined the International Task Force for the World Youth Conference which is planned for May 2014, hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka. ARROW will chair the sessions on gender and co-chair the sessions on climate change and education at the conference.

Partnership strengthening, M&E and future planning:

- The WHRAP-SEA Internal Management Committee, which has representatives from all partners, met for a day as part of its meetings in December 2013 to strategise for 2014 and ahead as the project ends its funding support from Novib. Due to its important function over the years as a regional platform for sharing of experiences of information, WHRAP-SEA partners came to an agreement to keep the network alive with or without funding. Ways to keep the information and experience sharing going among the partners that do not require financial resources were identified and agreed upon in the meeting.
- As part of ARROW's commitment to improve the young people's SRHR, a 2-day dialogue on the provision of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and delivery of youth friendly services (YFS) in Global South was organised from 6-7 December 2013 in Kunming, China with support from WHRAP-SEA partner, the Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA). The dialogue had its significance being the first platform that brought together ARROW partners from South East Asia and the Global South (Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Africa) as well as local partners from China to exchange views, share experiences and come up with a forward-looking strategy for the strengthening of CSE and YFS in the post-2015 agenda at the global, regional, and national level. A set of recommendations and a plan of action on the possible interventions that could be targeted at the national, regional, and global level was produced as an outcome of the dialogue. Specifically at the SEA sub-regional level, ASEAN was, once again identified as one of the opportunities for partners to advocate for SRHR issues. A closer linkage to the organisation needs to be built to push forward SRHR as ASEAN's top priority.

Feedback from Partners

By participating in the Kunming ARROW partners' meeting, we have enjoyed great benefits: first of all, we understand more about current situation and movement at regional and global levels with regard to women and young people's SRHR; secondly, we have learned some useful strategies and practices from other partners that merit attention for our advocacy; thirdly, our partnership and networking have been definitely strengthened through our commitment and future plan. During and after that meeting, ARROW has offered great support for YHDRA in terms of administration and information sharing. Currently, YHDRA pays more attention to young people's SRHR in China. With experiences that we learned from our partners and the great support from ARROW, we are trying to raise funds and initiate a set of researches, interventions and advocacy at national and local levels. We hope that ARROW and other partners will maintain and improve our information sharing channels, providing more backup support for YHDRA. — Rui Deng, council member and project manager, and Songyuan Tang, council member and deputy director, YHDRA

Through the Kunming meeting, we have shared our experiences from our countries and have planned for monthly issues to be shared on social media, planning for 2014 activities. For MAP Foundation, by holding women's exchange meetings, women can participate, gain more knowledge on SRHR and be able to speak out loud on their experiences. Women's exchange is very useful and important not only for women participation but also for the young women generation. With ARROW's support, WHRAP- SEA has created a network to exchange experiences and plan to implement activities on SRHR. I would like to see more support from ARROW for WHRAP-SEA to take the SRHR agenda further in SEA. — M. Hkawn Mai (Mai Mai Twe), Women Exchange Project Manager, MAP Foundation

BROADENING PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC

ARROW took advantage of a number of opportunities in 2013 to ensure that the Asia-Pacific SRHR agenda and its interlinkages

with other development issues are clearly defined to inform the ICPD+20 and beyond review process and the post-2015 development framework. It also ensured that the region is a priority for development investment.

Under the WHRAP-Asia Pacific partnership, 13 partners from Bangladesh, Burma-Thailand, China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Vietnam came together in Bali, Indonesia on 20-22 March 2013 to begin the process for “NGO Strategising for ICPD+20 and beyond (including post 2015).” The partnership took this opportunity to formulate and endorse the “SRHR for ALL Now!” call for the concurrent 4th Post-2015 High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons Multistakeholder Consultation. Some partners from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, and the Philippines and ARROW staff were able to influence the official communiqué of the consultation which contained most of our calls from “SRHR for ALL Now!”

ARROW was also the co-organiser of the 4th Post-2015 High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons Multistakeholder Consultation for the Youth in Bali, Indonesia on 23-26 March 2013. Young people from the WHRAP-Southeast Asia joined over 100 young people from 50 countries to come up with an outcome document on youth for post-2015 that focused on meaningful participation, employment, human rights, health, including SRHR, and environmental sustainability. In addition, the event saw the creation of the MDG Youth Working Group/Post-2015 Youth Working Group. This was presented to the Panel at a round-table dialogue.

WHRAP-Asia Pacific also initiated the *Strengthening Ground Support for ICPD Beyond 2014 Processes through UN Processes* project, with 13 partners on board from 12 countries in Asia, and made possible with the support from GIZ. In light of the 20th year review of the ICPD Programme of Action in 2014, the project aims to ensure that the national advocacy efforts and voices from the ground on the ICPD agenda are heard and add strength to the advocacy of the issues at the regional and international levels. This has been achieved

through evidence generation initiatives by creating advocacy briefs which were used at national policy dialogues across key countries in Asia. A regional statement was also created and used for advocacy. There have been constant lobbying efforts to the government and other relevant stakeholders using evidence based materials by the project partners and ARROW.

Initiatives in specific countries by ARROW partners have achieved some results:

- Bangladesh: Maternal Death Registration and Record-Keeping in Bangladesh: Closing the Gaps.** Naripokkho found that the decline in national maternal mortality rate does not correspond with the numbers of maternal deaths because not all maternal deaths are registered. Deaths occurring during pregnancy and within 42 days after delivery and deaths related to abortions may not be registered as maternal deaths. In 2009, a local government ordinance for the formation of “Standing Committees on Births and Deaths Registration” was passed, but until 2013 no such committees were formed. Naripokkho’s advocacy on maternal death registration has resulted in increased awareness on what constitutes maternal death among local level officials, media, and other stakeholders; formation of “Standing Committees on Births and Deaths Registration” in many Union Parishads; setting up and maintenance of separate registers to register maternal deaths correctly, and also a push for the issuance of death certificates, which note the cause of death; and initiation of coordination of maternal death information at the district level by the Health Division, Family Planning Division, and Local Government Division.
- Burma-Thailand: Exchange, Unite, Empower! The Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Experiences of Burmese Migrant Women in Thailand.** A large majority of Burmese migrant women are undocumented and do not have knowledge of their SRHR or the services they can access. Issues discussed by the Migrant Action Programme Foundation with migrant women included the use and obtainment of contraceptives, family planning, unplanned or unwanted pregnancies, experiences visiting

clinics/hospitals, midwives vs. clinics/hospitals, barriers to understanding reproductive health issues, barriers to accessing proper reproductive health services, STIs and STI prevention, domestic violence, and perceptions of LGBT Individuals. Responses from consultations point out that very little service is provided to migrant women as service providers have very little empathy for them and that more needs to be done to inform these women of their rights. Recommendations in line with these findings will be relayed to government officials for their action.

- **Cambodia: Life Skills Education for You and Me.** Life skills education for young people and comprehensive sexuality education are not reached by Cambodian young people nationwide. The initiative by the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia called for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to scale up the implementation of a nationwide education programme and for the Ministry of Economics and Finance to allocate part of the national budget for the programme's implementation. Results included greater awareness of critical challenges facing Cambodian young people (especially out-of-school and migrant youths) with regards to SRHR, e.g., sexual pattern of young people, unwanted pregnancy, STIs, HIV and AIDS, drug uses, gender-based violence, etc.; increased effort in strengthening and harmonising collaboration and cooperation between CSOs and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; and commitment from the Ministry of Economics and Finance to strengthen the allocation of national budget to support the implementation of the programme to be proposed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.
- **China: Youth Friendly Service for Ethnic Young People in Yunnan.** The integration of the health and population departments provided Yunnan Health and Development Research Association an opportunity to discuss with new officials the concept of youth-friendly services and how this be introduced into the local healthcare system for ethnic youth, especially key affected populations with HIV, and marginalised youth groups.
- **India: Young People in India.** The Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA) focused its advocacy on adolescent health and development in India and called for the release of following national policies and programme documents, specifically, the National Adolescent Health Strategy (2012) and National Youth Policy (2012) by September 2013. A fact sheet on the status of adolescents to monitor policy commitments and action plans at the national level was produced and used to advocate for the release and implementation of the above documents. After dialogues with stakeholders, the Ministry of Youth had given assurance that the policy would be released in November 2013. CHETNA was approached by UNFPA India, which is the nodal agency for drafting the strategy, to organise a National Consultation with adolescents and young people to discuss their aspirations and share views at the inaugural function of the release.
- **India: MDG5 in India: Whither reproductive and sexual rights?** Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC) in partnership with the national alliance CommonHealth, took the opportunity to advocate for maternal health with the goal of increasing accountability in maternal health with an overarching perspective of deepening democracy. The key outcomes included a common forum built on a spirit of partnership among various civil society organisations and networks to advocate for the issue of maternal health to come up with a common advocacy agenda; more space for advocacy with policy makers on the advocacy issues; and opening up of spaces through advocacy dialogue with key policymakers for engagement like the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and the Mission Steering Group.
- **Indonesia: Preventing Child Marriage to Save Woman's Life.** Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan (YKP) focused their advocacy on the issue of improving adolescent health by specifically advocating for the prevention of child marriages in Indonesia. They are seeking to change the legal minimum age of marriage for girls, from 16 to 18 years, through judicial review of Article 7, Section 2 Law No. 1/1974 on

Marriage. They have generated evidence on the number of girl-child marriages and the consequences of such early marriages and has successfully dialogued with a judge of the Indonesian Constitutional Court who has suggested effective strategies for this change in the law. YKP also liaised with the National Population and Family Planning institution to co-host a multiministerial dialogue on this issue. The Director General of Human Rights (Ministry of Justice and Human Rights) has agreed on a judicial review to change the legal age of marriage and this must be immediately submitted to the Constitutional Court. The Director General has also suggested adding in a component of sanctions for those (religious leaders) responsible for child marriage in the review.

- **Lao PDR: *Sexuality and Reproductive Health among Adolescents in Lao PDR***. With the larger goal of ensuring that adolescents in Laos are aware of their sexual and reproductive rights to make informed choices and decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health, the Faculty of Postgraduate Studies of University of Health Sciences (UHS), National University of Laos opted to advocate to the Ministry of Education to improve the contents and teaching methods of the current sexual and reproductive health curriculum so that it meets the needs of youth. UHS has collaborated with the Lao Women's Union and Lao Youth Union to dialogue with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders in ensuring that a comprehensive sexuality curriculum is implemented in schools and that there are ways in which teacher confidence can be built for this.
- **Maldives: *Liberalisation of Abortion Laws Relating to Incest and Rape-related Pregnancies*** Maldives has recently passed a *fatwa* (legal judgment or learned interpretation that a qualified jurist or *mufti* can give on issues pertaining to the Islamic law) that allows for abortion in cases of pregnancies resulting from incest and rape, through continuous advocacy and lobbying work of the Society for Health Education. The *fatwa*, released by Maldives Fiqh Academy in December 2013, states that

abortion is acceptable in cases when the pregnancy is a result of rape either by persons whom the woman allowed by law or prohibited to marry; when the pregnancy is a result of rape of a minor, whose body is too weak or not developed enough to sustain the foetus; when the foetus is determined to have a major diseases that would result in a medical deformity, and when the foetus threatens the life of the mother, even after 120 days from conception.

- **Nepal: *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women in Nepal***. The project implemented by the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) focused on developing understanding on the interlinkages among food security, poverty, and sexual and reproductive rights of women. WOREC engaged different stakeholders responsible for planning, implementing, financing, and advocating for SRHR of women along with service providers to identify pertinent issues affecting women and youth's SRHR as preparation for ICPD+20. Stakeholders such as regional and international NGOs, media, and government were invited to a national consultation, which yielded the recommendations. These included the implementation of SRHR policy to strengthen the current life cycle approach focusing on youth- and women-friendly environment of service delivery mechanism; strengthening of the referral mechanism for quality sexual and reproductive healthcare for women and youth from remote areas and for marginalised groups; and establishment of strong relations with stakeholders to increase awareness on the need for gender sensitivity in the health sector.
- **Pakistan: *Prioritise Women's Health Rights NOW!*** Shirkat Gah focused on putting the spotlight on women's SRHR issues, including prevention of unsafe abortion by working with the media and government. Meetings with the Ministry of Health (Punjab), Secretary of Population Development Department, and Chair of the National Commission on the Status of Women were organised and presented with the advocacy briefs. Shirkat Gah was able to interact directly with Pakistan government representatives to the 6th

Asia-Pacific Population Conference where they stressed the need for more progressive language in the outcome document of the conference. At the conference, Shirkat Gah representatives were invited to become technical experts to the Pakistan delegation. The Minister of Health of Punjab has been receptive to issues and recommendations raised by Shirkat Gah. The need for a code of conduct for journalists covering violence against women to safeguard

the privacy and confidentiality of survivors was also raised.

- **Philippines: Underscoring the Scientific and Human Rights Rationale for Contraceptive Programmes in the Philippines.** Given the situation that the recently passed Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 (RH Law) has been severely challenged to the extent where the Supreme Court has delayed implementation

Feedback from a Partner

Shirkat Gah enjoys a long and fruitful partnership with ARROW, notably the Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership and many others beside it. ARROW provided a unique opportunity to its partners by providing a common platform, as well as relevant technical resources as a part of a well-planned effort to organise CSOs in the region for the various regional and international processes that are culminating in and around 2014. Through various workshops, most notably the one conducted in Bali where the HLPEP was meeting to discuss the progress on MDGs, Shirkat Gah along with other partners discussed the issues around SRHR, the progresses made at national level, key challenges and the need for advocacy for assuring that SRHR does not slip off the table during the various talks and parallel processes that will eventually shape the post-2015 development agenda for the world.

Following this workshop, Shirkat Gah developed a comprehensive advocacy brief equipped with data and a summary of the situational analysis around SRHR, with support from ARROW and presented it to various national stakeholders. The advocacy brief was also presented to the members of the delegation for the 6th APPC. Just before the 6th APPC, ARROW organised a cross-movement workshop (Poverty, Food Sovereignty, and SRHR) to emphasise upon the need for taking a multisectoral approach towards SRHR. This was a very helpful exposure that contributed towards Shirkat Gah's interventions at the CSO forum for APPC. Later, Shirkat Gah, ARROW and other partners were able to strategise for advocating effectively with the delegation for progressive language in the outcome document. The APPC outcome document was by far the most progressive for Asia-Pacific with Pakistan voting "Yes" in agreement. Successful advocacy interventions at the APPC went a long way in raising the morale of the civil society in Pakistan and intensified our efforts for the CPD 2014.

Shirkat Gah remained constantly in touch with ARROW while it organised a national consultation of over 36 organisations and activists as well as elected representatives and government officials from the Population Welfare Department, Maternal and Child Health Program and the Planning and Development Department (Population and health). This consultation was a part of the ARROW sponsored WHRAP initiative. The outcome of this consultation was duly documented and is currently being printed. ARROW has been instrumental in providing a platform at a regional level to share experiences and working together for a collective strategy to advocate for prioritisation of equal rights for women in their respective countries. Shirkat Gah would like to see ARROW continue this tradition of collective learning and planning that results in amplification of a united feminist voice. — Dr. Tabinda Sarosh, Director, Shirkat Gah



Youth workers for the Health Love communications campaign
Source: Photo by Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population, Vietnam

of the law in March 2013, Likhaan Centre for Women's Health took to providing evidence and briefs to the legal team defending the law. The RH Law guarantees universal access to methods of contraception, fertility control, sexual education, and maternal care. Likhaan has written and provided policy briefs for Supreme Court Justices, Solicitor General, private lawyers of government respondents, and lawyers who have been making interventions in court in defence of the law. Likhaan has established good working relationships between the Solicitor General, lawyers, and advocates. With this, a unified approach on the question of when life begins was agreed upon. Pro-RH arguments were well-prepared and excellent. Arguments on the

constitutionality of the RH Law were delivered by a pool of dedicated and excellent speakers. Likhaan assisted in the preparation of a senatorial speech by providing research and data on RH issues and technical support during a mock trial. Likhaan has generated and maintained media and public interest to the RH Law during the trial.

- **Vietnam: Sexuality Diversity Education for Adolescent and Youth Sexual Health and Rights.** From late 2013 to early 2014, the Vietnam Parliament is reviewing several laws, including Family and Marriage Law and Law on People with Disabilities. They will issue a new law on population, mostly based on results of the Ordinance on Population

which was effective since 1993. The Parliament will also evaluate the impacts of the Law on Gender Equality and Law on Domestic Violence Prevention in 2014. Mindful of the Vietnam government's review of ICPD+20 achievements and Parliament's working agenda for 2013- 2014, the CCHIP decided to focus on advocating for (1) SRHR of youth from different communities including minority groups, and (2) sexual rights of LGBTIQ and people living with disabilities. CCIHP will include the recommendations from these communities into the civil society processes that the government and parliament have in place.

ARROW was provided the opportunity to organise the Asia-Pacific Caucus at the Women Deliver Conference 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Delegates agreed on a number of critical issues that are still regional priorities and agreed on a number

of collaborative strategies in terms of advocating for SRHR for all in the post-ICPD and MDGs development framework. They also agreed to strengthen the regional SRHR advocacy platform by joining the Asia-Pacific Partnership for SRHR and Sustainable Development formed in May 2012.

In preparation for the 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference on 16-20 September 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, ARROW provided inputs, including on the provision on comprehensive sexuality education, access to youth-friendly services, and meaningful youth participation (as outlined in the Global Youth Forum in December 2012), for the conference's outcome document. ARROW joined the 12-member CSO Steering Committee that organised the CSO Forum prior to the conference in September 2013.



Regional Youth Forum for the 6th Asia-Pacific Population Conference, 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

After several months of preparation and strategising, the CSO Forum was convened in Bangkok on 12-13 September prior to the conference. About 120 CSO representatives from across the Asia-Pacific, including all 13 partners of the project, participated in discussions on “Advances, Challenges, and Ways Forward on ICPD Beyond 2014.” During the opening plenary session, ARROW presented the findings of our 21-country status report on SRHR for ICPD+20. The CSOs formulated a joint statement, which underscored that “gender equality, equity and sexual and reproductive rights must be recognised as central and integral to poverty eradication and sustainable development.” They also urged for “the continued involvement of civil society in all future processes within the region in support of population and development.” The CSO statement was delivered at the conference.

Also in preparation for the conference, ARROW, the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YCSRR), the South Asian Regional Youth Network (SARYN), YouthLEAD and others convened a Regional Youth Forum that brought together 50 young people from 20 countries across the Asia-Pacific region on 14-15 September. The Asia-Pacific Youth and Adolescent Regional Call to Action emphasised that young people are disproportionately affected by the incomplete ICPD Program of Action. They formed a platform to ensure that the rights of young people are met, respected, and protected, and came up with recommendations for five thematic areas: (1) Education, (2) SRHR for Adolescents and Young People, (3) Comprehensive Sexuality Education, (4) Abortion, and (5) Young People and Migration.

The 6th APPEC, convened by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), brought together over 400 delegates from 42 member states from the Asia-Pacific region, including civil society, to assess achievements made since the ICPD in 1994 and identify outstanding issues and new challenges aimed at renewing political commitments to

the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014. The conference was open and accommodating of CSO participation. ARROW partners from Bangladesh, Maldives, Cambodia, and the Philippines participated in the conference as part of their respective country delegations which enabled them to be involved in the negotiation processes. The conference’s outcome document was considered as progressive, as it dealt with sexual and reproductive rights, comprehensive sexuality education, and the need to address discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

SRHR AGENDA IN THE POST-2015 AGENDA

At the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2012, for the first time in its history, no outcome document was produced. Given this impasse, ARROW in 2013 joined various women’s networks and alliances to support calls to highlight that CSW seemed to waiver in its commitment to advance women’s human rights as demonstrated in the constant negotiation of the language in the outcome document. We called on the states to reaffirm its commitment to agreed upon standards in promoting women’s human rights.¹

As we were planning for our effective interventions in the post-2015 processes, we have to ensure that the outcome document has to advance women’s human rights and not lower the bar for women’s human rights. In our ongoing advocacy in these processes, we have stressed that future international negotiations must move forward implementation of policies and programmes that secure the human rights of girls and women. As such, in 2013, ARROW supported calls to member states of the UN and the various UN human rights and development entities to recognise and support the important role of women’s groups and organisations working at the forefront of challenging traditional values and practises that are intolerant to fundamental human rights norms, standards and principles.

ADVOCACY INTERVENTIONS AND NETWORKING

Aside from advocacies through our WHRAP programmes, ARROW collaborated and contributed to other advocacy and networking opportunities in 2013:

- **Together Life Gets Better Festival** (18-22 September 2013; Malaysia): ARROW supported the festival (previously called the Seksualiti Merdeka, “Sexuality Independence,” which was banned in 2011 by Malaysian authorities), in celebrating diversity and unity through forums, talks, workshops, book launches, art exhibition, and performances. The festival aims to raise awareness about the human rights of people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity and gender expression in Malaysia, address sexuality rights issues faced by the community, engage members of the community and the public in a friendly and open dialogue, and spread the message of peace, love, and understanding.
- **International Humanitarian Conference 2013** (28 November 2013; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). Conference convenor MERCY Malaysia invited ARROW to speak on the issue of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Marginalised Migrants.

Believing in the power of effective collaborations and partnerships, ARROW is a member of key regional and international networks such as the Asia-Pacific Women’s Watch, Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights International Steering Committee, Asian Rural Women’s Coalition, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership, Civil Society Platform to Promote SRHR Beyond 2015, Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies, FP2020 Right and Empowerment Working Group, NGO CSW Asia-Pacific, Post-2015 Women’s Coalition, Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia, Strategies from the South Initiative, Unzip the Lips, Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights and Women’s Major Group.

Endnotes

- ¹ These are articulated in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the ICPD Program of Action as well as other international humanitarian and human rights law.





Timorese woman

Source: Photostream of Graham Crumb (Flickr, Creative Commons)

Organisational Development: Improving Systems

ARROW's Organisational Development work fulfils our fourth objective in our strategic plan, which aims to strengthen and sustain ARROW as an ethical, women-centred learning organisation, which utilises management practices that reflect feminist principles and contributes towards strengthening the women's health and rights movement in the region.

Toward fulfilling this, ARROW's much-awaited resource kit on organisational management, which reflects the ARROW's 20-year journey as an organisation, has finally been developed. We fervently hope that it would help strengthen women NGOs and provide inspiration for others in the women's movement and beyond.

ARROW has also been busy with strengthening, streamlining, and improving its financial management and an internal controls system within the organisation. Intensive fundraising in 2013 ensured ARROW's continued work toward championing SRHR in the Asia-Pacific region.

DOCUMENTING GOOD ORGANISATIONAL PRACTICES

Over the years, ARROW has received many requests from NGOs within the Asia-Pacific region and beyond to share our tools and learning.

In 2013 alone, ARROW received a number of requests from the regional and local organisations in Malaysia, including the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, International Planned Parenthood Federation East and South



ARK Steering Committee members review meeting with Malaysian colleagues and activists, 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

East Asia and Oceania Region, Musawah, Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific, and the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, to share our organisational practices, and perhaps to adopt some elements to ensure they have a comprehensive tool to assess management practices and performance.

To better respond more fully and widely to other such needs, ARROW decided to share its organisational practises through the *ARROW Resource Kit on Leadership and Management* (ARK). Completed in December 2013 and to be printed in January 2014, ARK is a tool that will contribute towards ARROW's long-term objective of strengthening women NGOs and the women's movement. It documents stories, experiences, lessons learned, and tools of ARROW on leadership and organisational management and aims to support and strengthen effective and sustainable women's organisations within a social justice framework. (See more in the Publications section of the Information and Communications chapter.)

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation of ARROW's programmes occurs in a number of ways. In 2013, Programme Advisory Committee members provided critical input on ARROW's work at its annual meeting on 7-8 May 2014. ARROW staff also conducted monthly programme update meetings, and a mid-year evaluation process to take stock of achievements and to enable the team to revise current plans in order to achieve key outcomes. The ARROW staff and Board also conducted its end-of year retreat and evaluation and planning meeting on 18-19 November 2013. Both Programme Advisory Committee members and Board members are updated every quarter through the ARROW quarterly progress reports. The Board also monitors the programme work of ARROW through the work plans provided, and the annual reporting process. ARROW also develops its annual report, whereby staff check their achievements vis-à-vis the annual plan, as well as the strategic plan and the logframe. Projects and initiatives also have their own monitoring and evaluation processes.

GOVERNANCE AND PROGRAMMATIC GUIDANCE

ARROW's governing body, the Board, consists of very committed members with experience in leading women's organisations across the region. The Board provides guidance and advice on governance arrangements in line with changes in the organisation best practises, and strong leadership into 2013. The Board held three meetings throughout the year in May, June, and November, including an Annual General Meeting, to decide on various matters relating to organisational policy, appointments, and administrative issues, among others.

Meanwhile, ARROW's Programme Advisory Committee provides advice on ARROW's programmes and activities. In 2013, the Programme Advisory Committee provided input into the development and conceptualisation of two *ARROW for Change* issues, one on food security, poverty, and SRHR and the other on SRHR beyond 2014. The Committee also provided valuable input into ARROW's role in the ICPD Beyond 2014 processes and the post-2015 development framework processes.



Board Members Rashidah Abdullah, Maria Chin Abdullah, Khawar Mumtaz, and Naeemah Khan (clockwise from upper left)



ARROW Programme Advisory Committee Meeting 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

STAFF MOVEMENT

Three new positions of the Organisational Structure 2012-2016 were filled in 2013: Nadia Rajaram (Programme Officer for Research and Monitoring), Rajeswary Manakaran (Finance Officer) and Yukari Horii (Strengthening Capacities partnership project). Susan Chin (Finance Officer), Rishita Nandagiri (Publications) and Marisna Yulianti (WHRAP-Southeast Asia) also joined ARROW to replace vacant posts. ARROW had a total of 21 staff in 2013.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT

For the very first time, ARROW underwent an internal controls audit review and has been strengthening and fine-tuning our financial management system to ensure that the organisation is able to manage, process, and be accountable for the money we are receiving from donors. Sida and UNFPA also commissioned

reviews of ARROW's financial management in which ARROW performed favourably. ARROW is fully committed to enhancing its financial system and further strengthening its internal controls to advocate principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity.

FUNDING ARROW'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Implementation of ARROW's 5-year strategic plan from 2012-2016 is estimated at USD 13.167 million. In 2013, ARROW undertook intensive fundraising efforts and by the end of the year, we had achieved 100% funding for the 2014 budget. We had also garnered 80% of the total funds required for the entire strategic plan period.

Funding Sources

In 2013, ARROW received new grants from various donors amounting to USD 2,838,131 and representing 79% of the total

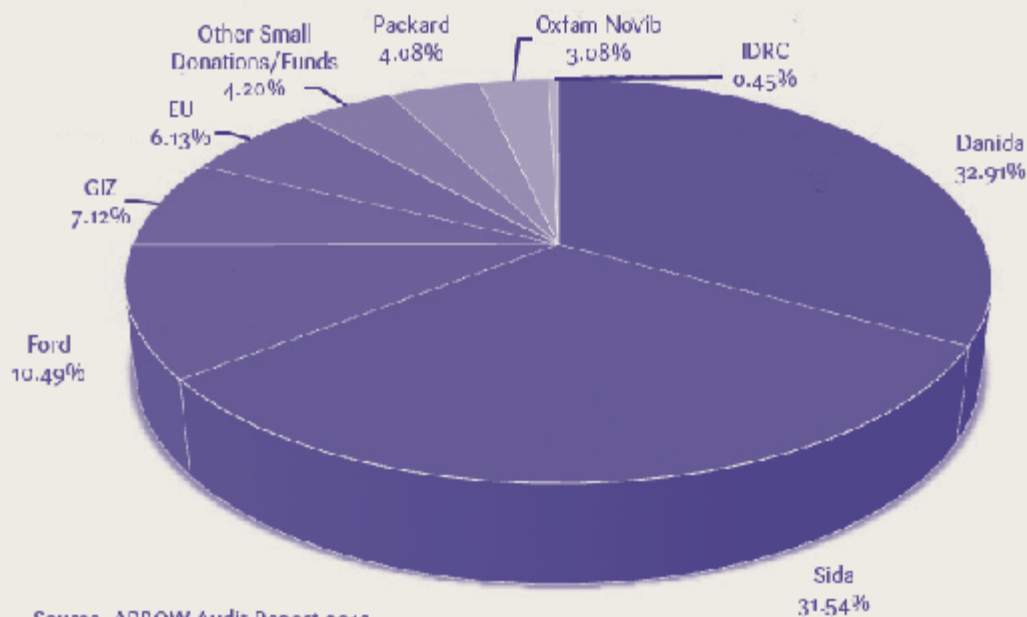
funding of USD 3,612,274. The total operational fund (available for use) in 2013 is USD 2,305,278, of which USD 866,943 was brought forward from 2012. Grants received in advance amounted to USD 1,216,517. The 2013 operational fund was about 55.8% higher than the 2012 operational fund of USD 1,479,496.

ARROW receives core funding support from Sida and the Ford Foundation. ARROW's other donors for 2013 include Danida, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), David and Lucile Packard Foundation, European Union, Global Fund for Women, IDRC Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia, Oxfam Novib, and Population Action International among others (See Figure 2).

New Grant Funding

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) approved a grant of USD 1,238,120 for June 2013 to May 2015. The overall goal is to facilitate evidence-based argumentation and alliance of advocates that will enable local and broad ownership and advocacy for the SRHR agenda to advance sustainable development, with emphasis on challenges such as religious fundamentalism and climate change, and using regional and international spaces made available by UN processes including the ICPD+20 review, Beijing review, and MDG review processes. An amount equivalent to USD 415,317 was received in 2013.

Figure 2: Funding Sources



The European Union committed USD 1,732,320 (EUR 1,443,860) for a four-year period (March 2013–February 2017) to finance the project “Strengthening the Networking, Knowledge Management and Advocacy Capacities of an Asia-Pacific Network for SRHR.” The project will allow ARROW to work with partners to boost the region’s information and communications capacity for improved SRHR advocacy. We received EUR 254,063 in 2013 for the project’s first year.

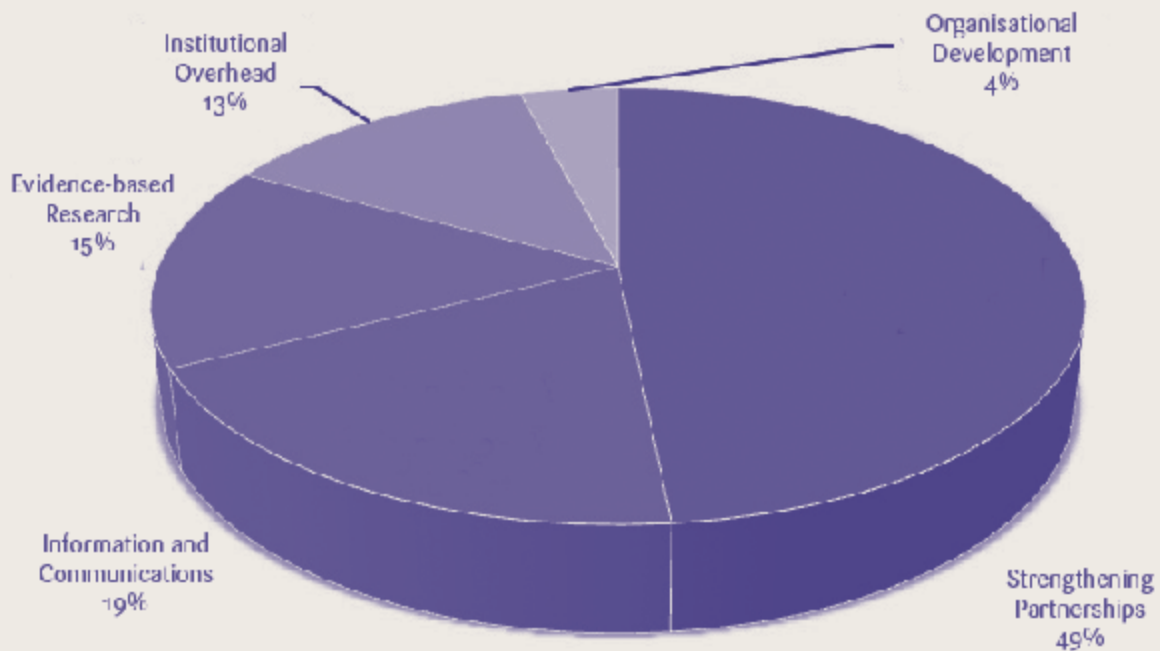
Operational Costs

In 2013, ARROW’s total operational cost amounted to USD 2,214,799, compared to USD 1,729,097 in 2012. This amount

was allocated to the four work programme objectives of ARROW’s Strategic Plan and institutional overhead cost.

ARROW’s coordination and overheads costs in 2013 represents 13% of the total operational cost. This covers the cost for being a legal entity in Malaysia, doing local and international work, and the overall governance and management of the organisation. About 34% of the total annual ARROW budget goes to partners.

Figure 3: Operational Costs



Source: ARROW Audit Report 2013

Table 2. Total Operational Cost and Particulars

| PARTICULARS | Actual Cost (in USD) | % to total cost | Allocation | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------|
| | | | ARROW | Partners |
| Programme Costs | | | | |
| Obj. 1: Information & Communications | 417,905 | 19% | 351,589 | 66,316 |
| Obj. 2: Evidence-based Research | | 15% | 183,786 | 150,310 |
| Obj. 3: Strengthening Partnerships | | 49% | 535,949 | 536,573 |
| Obj. 4: Organisational Development | 96,120 | 4% | 96,120 | - |
| Institutional, Governance & Overhead | 294,156 | 13% | 294,156 | - |
| Total Operational Cost | 2,214,799 | 100% | 1,461,600 | 753,199 |
| | | | 66% | 34% |

Moving Forward: ARROW in 2014 and Beyond

As ARROW wrapped up an exciting 2013, we remain motivated and full of plans for an equally good year in 2014.

We look forward to another productive year of knowledge sharing and advocacy through our information and communications work. ASK-us will strengthen its role as a resource centre on SRHR in the region and beyond, as well as continue to provide information support for ARROW and partners' own publications and projects. We will actively use social media for advocacy to push for the inclusion of SRHR in the new development agenda and expand our online presence to other platforms such as YouTube and Slideshare. We will continue to publish cutting-edge and timely resources, including an *ARROW for Change* issue on SRHR beyond 2014 and a set of publications on the intersections of the right to food, poverty and SRHR—including *ARROW for Change* in English and in South Asian languages. We will also build on the gains of our intermovement and strengthening partnerships

work by looking at various advocacy opportunities to push forward the cross-movement agenda of the right to food and SRHR. Finally, for the strengthening capacities for SRHR project, we will push forward with launching the SRHR4All campaign, work with partners towards finalising their country profiles, and develop the regional profiles for use in advocacy in various avenues and platforms, including at the UN General Assembly Special Session on ICPD review in October 2014.

ARROW has initiated two new research projects for evidence-based advocacy: one on climate change and its impact on SRHR and the other on the growing incidence of religious fundamentalisms in the region and its negative impact on women's SRHR. We also hope to finalise the Global South report and ensure that it fully captures the status of SRHR, as generated from findings from the regional reports, and that it reaches and proves useful to not only to the SRHR movements, but to other movements as well. Additionally, there are regional youth briefs across Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Asia-Pacific that are being generated for key regional and international advocacy events. ARROW is also working actively with the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights on developing themes, targets, and indicators for the proposed youth goal for the post-2015 agenda. A mobile phone application on comprehensive sexuality education is also on the drawing board and hopefully will be finalised and launched in 2014.

WHRAP-South Asia will commence Phase IV, which will showcase enhanced accountability mechanisms at the national, regional, and international levels. WHRAP-Southeast Asia partners are also committed to working together as a sub-regional advocacy platform in calling for ASEAN to form an SRHR Task Force. As part of the WHRAP-Asia Pacific initiative, the second phase of the "Strengthening Ground Support for ICPD Beyond 2014 Processes through UN Processes" project will be implemented. Under the project, partners will participate in the relevant international and regional events leading up to the ICPD+20 reviews next year including the 47th Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development

and the UN General Assembly Special Session on ICPD Beyond 2014. WHRAP Asia-Pacific partners have been encouraged to participate in the 7th Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) in Manila, Philippines in January 2014. As the only SRHR forum in the Asia-Pacific, the conference provides an opportunity for all our partners to learn from each other, network, and further their advocacy. ARROW is also looking at developing a cohesive strategy to utilise all human rights accountability mechanisms, including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Universal Periodic Review to push for government accountability towards SRHR standards agreed to and signed upon.

As a leading SRHR institution, ARROW expects to participate and engage actively in several key conferences, meetings, and events at the national, regional, and global levels. We are

involved in a number of key alliances, such as the Civil Society Platform to Promote SRHR Beyond 2015, Family Planning 2020, Feminist Watch on Fundamentalisms, the Global Inter-faith and Secular Alliance: Working for SRHR, the Women's Major Group, the Population and Sustainable Development Network, and the Post-2015 Women's Coalition. We also hope to continue our active role in the regional Beijing+20 and Commission on the Status of Women processes by working more closely with the newly set-up UN Women in the region. The post-2015 processes are also of especial interest to ARROW and partners.

We look forward to another fruitful year with a full team on board, energised towards achieving our goals for 2014 and beyond.

The ARROW Team



ARROW staff and Board of Directors at the ARROW Retreat and Evaluation Meeting (Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia), 2013
Source: ARROW Photobank

About ARROW

ARROW is a regional non-profit, nongovernment women's organisation co-founded in 1993 by Rashidah Abdullah and Rita Raj. It has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

ARROW works to advance women's health, affirmative sexuality and rights, and empowerment of women in the Asia-Pacific region. ARROW's current work spans information and communications, knowledge exchange and transfer, evidence generation for advocacy, consistent monitoring of progress towards relevant international commitments made vis-a-vis women's health, capacity building, partnership building for advocacy, engagement at international and regional forums, and enhancing the organisational strength of both ARROW and her partners.

VISION, MISSION, AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

An equal, just, and equitable world, where every woman enjoys her full sexual and reproductive rights.

Mission

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.

Objectives

ARROW's goals will be met when:

- Systems, policies and programmes are reoriented to:
 - Uphold gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights; and
 - Ensure that health systems deliver comprehensive, gender-sensitive, and rights-based services for sexual reproductive health that are accessible, equitable, just, and of the highest quality.
- Women's movements and civil society are strong and effective in:
 - Influencing policy agenda on women's health, sexuality, and rights;
 - Holding governments and donors accountable to international and national commitments; and
 - Gaining sustained representation on decision-making structures.
- Women's lives and health outcomes improve, particularly in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially those poor and marginalised.

THEMATIC AREAS AND CRITICAL ISSUES OF WORK

ARROW works within the following themes and critical issues:

Overarching Themes

- Women's empowerment and gender equality
- Affirmative sexuality

Critical Issues

- Universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services
- Universality of sexual and reproductive rights
- The socio-economic determinants of health and well-being
- Emerging issues affecting sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as climate change, disasters and conflict

STRATEGIES

ARROW believes in the power of effective collaborations to make a difference in women's lives, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Our partners are integral to our structure, and capacity building initiatives with them are an important mechanism to facilitate their effective participation in achieving our goals.

ARROW's strategy in the 2012-2016 work programme includes the following measures:

- Information, knowledge sharing, and communications for social change
- Monitoring and research for evidence-based advocacy
- Building and strengthening partnerships for advocacy
- Organisational development

STRUCTURE

ARROW is governed by a Board of Directors, comprising five committed members with experience in leading women's organisations.

ARROW's programmes are implemented by committed and competent staff members from its office in Kuala Lumpur, with specific contributions from project-based consultants and occasional interns. There were 20 full-time staff positions in 2013.

ARROW's operations are overseen by the management team, led by the Executive Director and supported by three Managers.

ARROW's Programme Advisory Committee, a committed set of activists knowledgeable about SRHR issues in the region provides advice and helps sharpen the programmes of ARROW.

REACH AND COVERAGE

In 2013, ARROW worked directly with 19 national partners in 15 countries across Asia and the Pacific, including Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. We will also be entering an agreement with a national partner in Mongolia in early 2014, which will bring our reach to 16 countries. Through our monitoring initiative of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, we are working with regional organisations in five regions of the Global South: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Middle East and North Africa. Finally, through our information and communications and advocacy programmes, we are able to reach stakeholders on sexual and reproductive health and rights and women's health, sexuality, and rights in more than 120 countries worldwide.





Kalash women from Pakistan
Source: Photostream of manalahmadkhan (Flickr, Creative Commons)

Who We Are

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Maria Chin Abdullah, Executive Director, Empower and Chair, BERSIH 2.0, Malaysia
- Rashidah Abdullah, Founder and Director, Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM), Malaysia
- Sunila Abeysekara, Freelance Consultant, Human Rights Activist, Sri Lanka (until September 2013)
- Naeemah Khan, Fiji
- Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Pakistan

PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Hoang Tu Anh, Director, Consultation of Investment in Health Promotion (CIHP), Vietnam
- Tara Jyothi Smiles Chetty, Programme Manager, Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM), Fiji
- Rozana Isa, Project Coordinator, Musawah, Malaysia (until December 2013)
- Zhang Kaining, Director, Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA), China
- Norhayati Kaprawi, Director, Lensa Sri Kandi, Malaysia
- Rishita Nandagiri, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), Philippines (until June 2013)
- Babu Ram Pant, Freelance Consultant, Nepal
- Sundari Ravindran, Professor, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (from August 2013)
- Ouk Vong Vathiny, Executive Director, Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC), Cambodia

FULL-TIME STAFF

- Maria Melinda Ando (Malyn), Programme Manager (Information and Communication)
- Susan Chin, Finance Officer (from April)
- Shama Dossa, Advocacy Officer (WHRAP South Asia) (until December)
- Rosnani Hitam, Executive Assistant
- Yukari Horii, Programme Officer (EU) (from June)
- Suloshini Jahanath, Website Officer (until July)
- Rachel Arinii Judhistari, Programme Officer (WHRAP South-east Asia) (until July)
- Shubha Kayastha, Programme Officer (WHRAP South Asia)
- Yap Bee Khim, Finance and Admin Manager
- Siva Rajeswary Manakaran, Finance Officer (October 2013)
- Gaayathri Nair, Media and Outreach Programme Officer (until September 2013)
- Leong Mei Nan (Mei Yun), Finance Officer (until June 2013)
- Rishita Nandagiri, Programme Officer (Publications) (from June until December 2013)
- Sai Jyothirmay Racherla, Programme Officer (Monitoring and Research) (until August 2013)
- Nadia Nantheni Rajaram, Programme Officer (Monitoring, Research and Advocacy)
- Paremela Naidu Ramamoorthy, Administration Officer
- Nalini Singh, Programme Manager, Advocacy and Capacity Building (WHRAP)
- Sivananthi Thanenthiran, Executive Director
- Uma Thiruvengadam, Assistant Programme Officer ASK-Us!
- Marisna Yulianti, Programme Officer (WHRAP Southeast Asia) (until December 2013)
- Nor Azurah Zakaria, Assistant Programme Officer

CONTRACTUAL STAFF

- Mallika a/p Karuppaiah, Housekeeping

VOLUNTEER

- Nadzirah Samsudin, Website

Who Supports Us

ARROW warmly thanks everyone who supported our work, extended solidarity and friendship, and shared a common commitment to enhancing women's SRHR.

DONORS

- Danish International Development Agency (Danida), through the Danish Family Planning Association (Danish FPA)
- David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- European Union
- Ford Foundation
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- IDRC Regional Office for Southeast & East Asia
- Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (Oxfam Novib)
- Population Action International (PAI)
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERS

- Africa: World Young Women's Christian Association (Wold YWCA)
- Eastern Europe: ASTRA Network
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Latin American and

Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN)

- Middle East and North Africa: Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)

COUNTRY PARTNERS AND THEIR LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS

- Bangladesh: Adorsho Mohila Shongstha; Annesha Samaj Sheba Shongho; Artha-Shamajik Shikkha Sanskritic Unnayon Sangstha (ASECED); Barisal Mohila Kollayan Shongstha; Children and Youth Development Organisation (SYDO); Community Based Development Project (CBDP); Development of Economical & Social Centre (DESC); Dr. Dheeran Shikder Foundation (DDS); Integrated Social Welfare Association (ISWA); Jago Nari; Naripokkho; Nazrul Shriti Shongshod (NSS); Patuakhali Development Organisation (PDO); Porag Nari Kollayan Shongstha; Shangkalpa Trust; Shaplaful Social Development Organisation (SSDO); Shuktara Mohila Shongstha
- Burma: Burma Medical Association; Migrants Assistance Programme (MAP) Foundation; Myanmar Positive Women Network (MPWN)
- Cambodia: Action for Health; Agir Pour les Femmes En Situation Precaire; Angkor Hospital for Children; Buddhism for Development; Cambodia Women's Crisis Centre; Cambodian Women for Peace and Development; Cooperation for a Sustainable for Cambodian Society Making a Difference for Good; Men's Health Cambodia; Minority Organisation for Development of Economy; New Hope Cambodia; Partners for Health and Development; Partnership for Development in Kampuchea; Phnom Srey Organisation for Development; Reproductive and Child Health Alliance; Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC); Salvation Centre Cambodia; Supporters for Mental Health the Lake Clinic-Cambodia
- China: Beijing Zhongze Women's Legal Counselling and Service Centre (formerly Beijing Women's Law Studies and Legal Aid Centre); Heilongjiang Women's Federation;

Shanghai Women's Health Care Institute; Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA)

- India: Academy for Nursing Studies and Women's Empowerment Research Studies (ANS-WERS); Ahmedabad Women's Action Group (AWAG); Akhil Bhartiya Gramin Uthan Samiti Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA); Astitva Samajik Sansthan; Baba Ram Karan Das Gramin Vikas Samiti; Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ); Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA); Ebtada Sansthan; Gramin Punar Nirman Sansthan; Gramya Sansthan; Janpath Network; Jan Shiksha Evam Vikas Sangathan; Jatan Sansthan; Navachar Sansthan; Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC); SAHAYOG; Social Action for Rural and Tribal Inhabitants of India (SARTHI); Shikhar Prashikshan Sansthan; Tarun Vikas Sansthan; Yoganjali Kelwani Mandal
- Indonesia: Aliansi Remaja Independen; Centra Mitra Muda; Global Citizen Corps; Ikatan Remaja Muhammadiyah, Ikatan Remaja Muhammadiyah Padang, Indonesia Youth Conference; Mitra Inti; Palang Merah Indonesia; Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia Padang; Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan (YKP); Yayasan Bandungwangi; Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan (Women's Journal Foundation or YJP); Yayasan Kusuma Bongas
- Lao PDR: Faculty of Postgraduate Sciences, University of Health and Social Sciences; Lao Youth Union; Lao Women's Union; Norwegian Church Aid
- Malaysia: Federation of Reproductive Health Associations of Malaysia (FHRAM); Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)
- Maldives: Society for Health Education (SHE)
- Nepal: Ashmita Nepal; Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC); Child Society Nepal (CS Nepal); Himalayan Human Rights Monitors (HimRights)-Makawanpur; Rural Institution for

Community Development (RICOD); Women Skill Creation Centre (WOSCC); Youth Welfare Society—Makawanpur

- Pakistan: Alshahbaz Social Welfare Association; Saath Development Society; Sawani Saanjh; Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre; Umeed Welfare Society
- Philippines: Likhaan Centre for Women's Health; Reproductive Health Rights and Ethics Centre for Studies and Training (ReproCen) of the University of the Philippines
- Sri Lanka: Women's Media Collective (WMC)
- Thailand: MAP Foundation; Southeast Asian Consortium on Gender, Sexuality and Health
- Vietnam: Central Enterprise Youth Union; Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP); Family Health Research and Development Centre (FHRD); Institute for Reproductive and Family Health (RHAF); Research Centre for Gender, Family and Development (CGFED); Vietnam Youth Federation

NETWORKS AND STEERING COMMITTEES

- 7th Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) International Steering Committee
- Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC)
- Asia-Pacific Partnership on SRHR and Sustainable Development
- Asia-Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)
- Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)
- Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)
- Feminist Watch on Fundamentalisms
- FP2020 Rights & Empowerment Working Group
- Global Interfaith and Secular Alliance: Working for Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (GISA)
- Global Youth Forum International Steering Committee (Co-Chair)

- International Task Force for the World Youth Conference 2014
- NGO CSW Asia Pacific
- Population and Sustainable Development Network
- Post-2015 Women's Coalition
- Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)
- Steering Committee of the Civil Society Platform to Promote SRHR Beyond 2015
- Strategies from the South Initiative
- UNFPA Global Civil Society Advisory Panel
- Unzip the Lips
- Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
- Women's Major Group
- Orient Escape Travel Sdn. Bhd, Travel services
- Patricia Kong, Insurance services
- S Selvi, Brothers Base Bentre (M) Sdn. Bhd, Toner supplier
- S Syed Ibrahim, Newspaper delivery services
- SJ Grant Thornton, Chartered accountants/External auditors
- Sterling Pure Sdn. Bhd., Drinking water
- Sunil Vijayan, Legal advice services
- Sync Consulting Sdn. Bhd, Accounting software company
- Tun Muhammad Ali Jinnah Basir, Promotional materials development and publications design
- Wong Kum Fatt, Ng Ah Meng Sdn. Bhd, Landlord

VENDORS

- Al-Zam Sdn. Bhd., Company Secretary
- Anand Ponnudurai, Bodipalar Ponnudurai De Silva, Pro bono legal advice services
- Chimera Sdn. Bhd., Branding
- CYF Contracts & Marketing, Printing services
- DHL Mailing services
- E-Maximus Solution Sdn. Bhd., Toner supplier
- ERA Agencies, Insurance services
- Fazli Fadzil, Office maintenance contractor
- Good Point Enterprise, Air conditioner contractor
- Grand Lotus Travel Agencies, Travel services
- Heritage Marketing Services, Photocopy services
- Heway Mailing services
- Jason Tan Z Kiat, IT technical support
- KA Fazal Enterprises Sdn. Bhd., Stationery supplier
- Ken Chong, IT technical support
- Mac Nogas Sdn. Bhd., Printing services
- Maybank KL Sentral, Banking services
- Micom Sdn Bhd., Printing services
- MM Ally's Sdn. Bhd., Money changer
- Nand Digital Corporation Sdn. Bhd., DVD design and animation
- NetonBoard Sdn. Bhd., Webhosting services
- Nicolette Mallari, Design Archipelago, Publications design





Farmer from Cambodia
Source: Leonard G. Reyes in Travelling Journal Booklet: Our Stories, One Journey Empowering Rural Women in Asia

championing women's sexual and reproductive rights

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