

arrow

annual report

Amplifying Advocacy

2014

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



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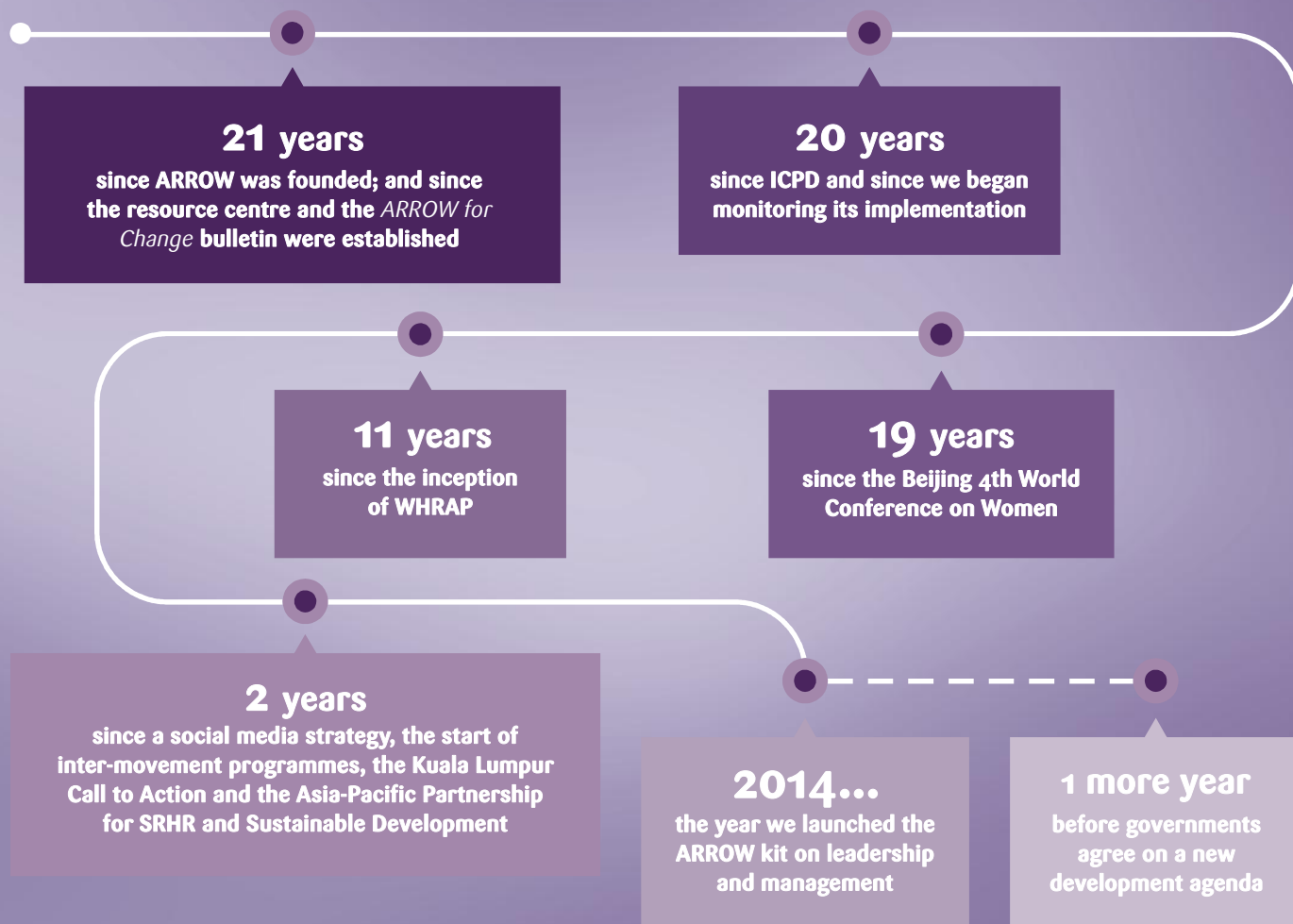
Indian young woman.

Source: Manish Balal/Flickr, Creative Commons.

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Sexual and reproductive health and rights are about enabling people to have the number of children they want, if and when they want them; to deliver their babies safely and have healthy newborns; and to have satisfying, safe and pleasurable sexual lives, free from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. All of these should happen in a context free from coercion, discrimination and violence.

Abbreviations

AFC	▶ <i>ARROW for Change</i> (publication)
APCRSHR	▶ Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights
ARWC	▶ Asian Rural Women's Coalition
ARK	▶ <i>ARROW Resource Kit on Leadership and Management</i>
ARROW	▶ Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women
ASEAN	▶ Association of South East Asian Nations
AWID	▶ Association for Women's Rights in Development
BOD	▶ Board of Directors
BBC	▶ Beyond Beijing Committee
BPFA	▶ Beijing Platform for Action
CBO	▶ Community-Based Organisation
CCIHHP	▶ Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population
CEDAW	▶ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CHETNA	▶ Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness
COP	▶ COP Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CPD	▶ Commission on Population and Development
CQC	▶ Continuum of Quality Care
CSE	▶ Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	▶ Civil Society Organisation
Danida	▶ Danish International Development Agency
DAWN	▶ Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era
EU	▶ European Union
GIZ	▶ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GFW	▶ Global Fund for Women
ICN	▶ International Conference on Nutrition
ICPD	▶ International Conference on Population and Development
ICPD POA	▶ International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action
Infocom	▶ Information and Communications
IWHC	▶ International Women's Health Coalition
MAP	▶ Migrant Assistance Program Foundation
Norad	▶ Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NGO	▶ Nongovernment Organisation
OWG	▶ Open Working Group
PAI	▶ Population Action International
RHAC	▶ Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia
RUWSEC	▶ Rural Women's Social Education Centre
SHE	▶ Society for Health Education
Sida	▶ Swedish International Development Agency
SRHR	▶ Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
TARSHI	▶ Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues
UNFPA	▶ United Nations Population Fund
WHO	▶ World Health Organisation
WHO SEARO	▶ WHO South East Asia Regional Office
WHRAP	▶ Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership
WGNRR	▶ Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights
WMC	▶ Women and Media Collective
WMG	▶ Women's Major Group

Reflections from the Executive Director

ARROW truly came into her own as a Global South advocacy organisation in 2014, exerting her voice and influence in the world by advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). With the 20th anniversaries of ICPD and Beijing, as well as the post-2015 development agenda global events, there were ample opportunities and platforms for us to enable our partners and staff to articulate our agenda to policy-makers and decision-makers at the national, regional and global levels.

The 15-country project—“Strengthening the networking, knowledge management and advocacy capacities of an Asian network for SRHR”—enabled our partners to develop nine country profiles on universal access to SRHR. Several national policy dialogues were held to urge governments to recognise SRHR for all. Through the Beijing+20 advocacy initiative, we supported eight national partners to review their government's performance on fulfilling access to health and reproductive rights as promised in the Beijing Platform for Action. This led to effective interventions by our partners at the NGO forum and the regional inter-governmental meeting later in the year.

At the global level, ARROW intervened effectively in processes such as the Open Working Group inter-governmental negotiations, the President of the General Assembly's Post-2015 Stock-Taking event, the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit, the UN General Assembly Special Session on ICPD, and the Second International Conference on Nutrition. ARROW

staff members were involved in all interventions in these events, speaking on behalf of the region on our issues. ARROW also worked with UNFPA to organise a Global Leadership Retreat to address the importance of SRHR in sustainable development, with an equal emphasis on health as well as rights. It was the first time that ARROW had ever embarked on such an endeavour, and this gave us our first taste of being able to address member states on issues that are of utmost importance to us.

Interest in ARROW's new media and social media showed a spectacular rise in 2014 (see box). To make our issues more visible and accessible, ARROW produced infographics during important advocacy events, such as International Women's Day, World Food Day, International Youth Day, and World Population Day. These were widely shared by our followers and were re-purposed for blog posts and articles by some.

2014 Online Results

- Subscribers of e-info-resource services rose by **66%** in just one year to 3,236.
- Facebook followers rose by **267%** and Twitter followers by **183%** in 2014.
- ARROW was named one of **35 “leading tweeters”** on reproductive health by the Huffington Post.

ARROW created a mobile application called “Sexuality Awareness for All” or the SAFE App, which provides a compact version of comprehensive sexuality education. Although targeted for young people, it can be used by people of all ages, given that information on sexuality remains taboo in many countries. The application, developed for both Android and Apple phones, is so far customised with information in Malaysia; however much of that can be applied by users from other countries. SAFE App has been very well received and has garnered 3,000 downloads thus far.

Our intersectional work flourished in 2014. Twelve key publications strengthened our efforts to forge an understanding of the links between poverty, food and SRHR



Source: ARROW Photobank.

and build a base for cross-movement work and advocacy. These included an issue of our flagship bulletin *ARROW for Change*, entitled, “Linking Poverty, Food Sovereignty and Security, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.” This publication and an advocacy brief on the same theme were translated into Bangla, Hindi and Tamil, and disseminated widely by ARROW and partners to key stakeholders.

We also started a new project in 2014 to enable ARROW and our national partners to generate a wider evidence base for advocacy on climate change and SRHR, and on religious extremism and fundamentalism and their impact on SRHR. Building on our initial work on these issues, the initiative would allow us to intervene effectively with the Conference of Parties procedures for climate change and use human rights mechanisms to address religious extremism. This work also

allows us to fill the gap in climate discourses and discussions that are not only gender blind, but completely miss the sexual and reproductive health and rights angle. Moreover, it will build constituencies for SRHR to hold governments accountable for their actions. It will also build bridges with diverse stakeholders, such as the Association for Women's Rights in Development, Musawah, a global network for equality in the Muslim family, and the World Council of Churches.

We also worked in partnership with the Asian Rural Women's Coalition to create the *Rural Women's Travelling Journal on SRHR*, focusing on the lives of women across seven countries in Asia and three countries in Africa. This journal speaks about the everyday lives of women, and we hope this work will reinforce the idea that sexual and reproductive rights are everyone's issues, and that gains in sexual and reproductive health will make great improvements in women's lives.

Our impact can be measured by the fact that our work is in demand in the region. We have had requests from organisations in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia to develop their perspectives and understanding of SRHR issues. Additionally, in the religious extremism project, we are working with partners in Egypt and Morocco to ensure that our perspectives are balanced and strategic.

Last, but not least, ARROW celebrated its 21st anniversary with partners, staff, PAC and BOD members and friends and allies in the region, in conjunction with the mid-term review. It seemed like we had come full circle, having reviewed our work in the past 2.5 years in the strategic plan, and yet taking time to celebrate our work and our partnership; and to joyously revel in the love, friendship and creativity of women. In the end, this is what will sustain our movement.

Sivananthi Thanenthiran
Executive Director
ARROW

About ARROW



Source: ARROW Photobank.

ARROW is a Global South, nongovernment organisation based in Malaysia working to advance women's health, affirmative sexuality, and rights—areas where progress is still slow and uneven, despite great gains in health.

Founded in 1993 to meet a demand among women's groups for information, ARROW is now established as a leading resource centre and research hub in the field. It aims to empower women through information, engagement, mobilisation and partnership. In this way, it helps lead and sustain momentum for the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) agenda.

ARROW also strengthens social movements through its intricate web of partnerships at various levels—local community-based and grassroots groups, national and regional

networks, and high-level international organisations. By creating platforms for advocacy, ARROW opens up spaces for local voices to be heard in wider arenas and retains its agency and relevance by its connections close to the ground. This has helped bring local issues to the fore and enhanced the organisational strength of both ARROW and partners.

ARROW also acts as a watchdog for progress in the field. It gathers evidence through monitoring and research with its partners, who can then hold governments accountable to promises and call for action. It offers a more holistic lens to mainstream monitoring indicators by considering gender, rights-based, and Global South perspectives.

In its work, ARROW pushes for universal access to high quality, comprehensive services for sexual and reproductive health, which are often lacking among poor and marginalised communities. Believing in an intersectional approach, it has also taken up emerging issues that impact on or may become barriers to SRHR, such as climate change, migration, religious conservatisms and fundamentalisms, and food insecurity.

Currently, about one in five women in Asia who want to avoid a pregnancy are not using contraception, or are relying on less effective, traditional methods.

Source: UNFPA Asia Factsheet 2014.

Unsafe abortion remains a major factor in maternal deaths in the region: 14% in Southeast Asia and 13% in South Asia. Some 2.3 million women in Asia are hospitalised yearly for abortion complications. To keep women safe, laws need to be liberalised, backed up by comprehensive and quality programmes and services, and stigma and discrimination needs to be addressed.

Source: Thanenthiran, S. & Racherla, S.J. (2013). *Reclaiming & redefining rights—ICPD+20: Status of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia-Pacific*. Malaysia: ARROW.

ARROW views SRHR as central to gender equality and women's empowerment, and ultimately to sustainable development. The ability and agency to decide what we do with our bodies is as important as other key development challenges.

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 and 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 for the 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:

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



MAP Foundation demands #SRHR4ALL as part of the ARROW and partners' campaign. Source: MAP Foundation.



ARROW and partners demand #SRHR4ALL. Infographic by Shirkat Gah as part of the #SRHR4ALL campaign.



ARROW pushes for universal access to high quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. Photo by Manish Balal/Flickr Creative Commons.



ARROW partners discuss achievements and challenges at the Mid-Term Review. Source: ARROW Photobank.

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, with specific contributions from project-based consultants and occasional interns. There were 20 full-time staff positions in 2014. Its operations are overseen by the management team, led by the Executive Director and supported by three Managers.

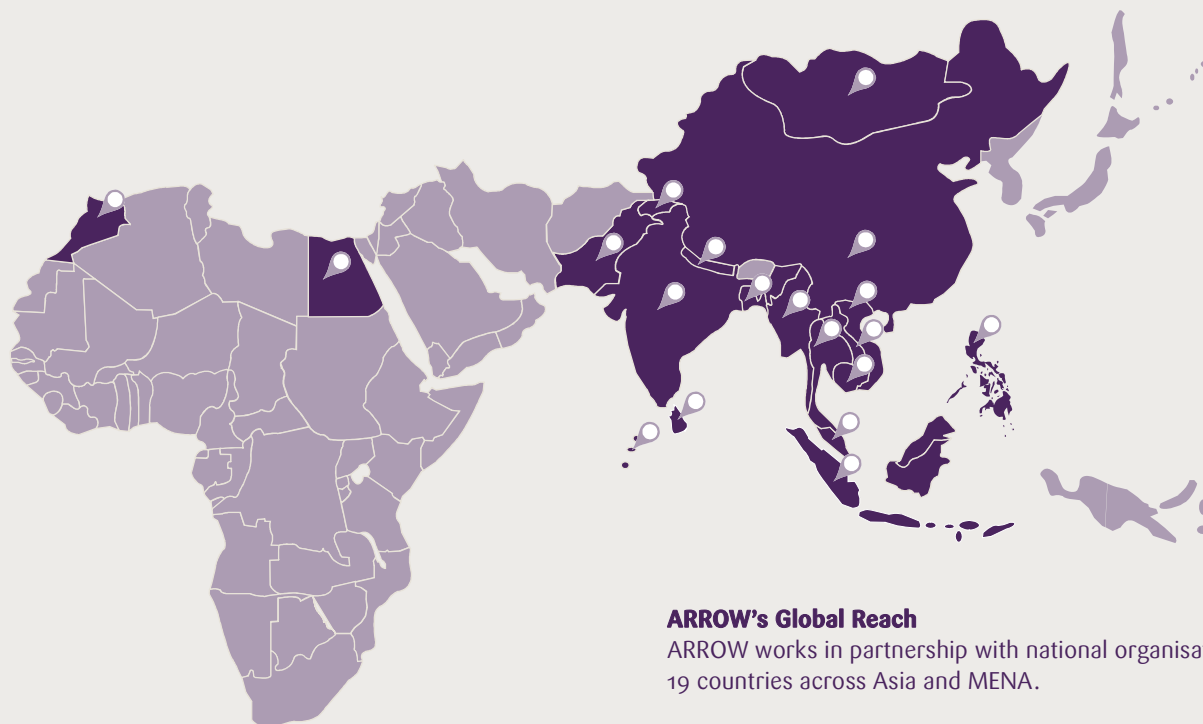
ARROW's Programme Advisory Committee, a committed set of activists knowledgeable about SRHR issues in the region, provides advice and helps sharpen its programmes.

REACH AND COVERAGE

In 2014, ARROW worked directly with 34 national partners in 19 countries across Asia and the Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa: Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Through our monitoring initiative of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, we are working with seven regional organisations in four regions of the Global South: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Finally, through our information and communications and advocacy programmes, we are able to reach stakeholders on SRHR in 129 countries globally.



ARROW's Global Reach

ARROW works in partnership with national organisations in 19 countries across Asia and MENA.



*The General Assembly Hall of the United Nations.
Source: UN Photobank.*



Advocacy for SRHR

Creating positive social change through advocacy, particularly in regional and global development discourse and policies, is a core work of ARROW. In these advocacy spaces, it represents voices from the Global South and raises concerns of women and youth from the Asia-Pacific. At the same time, ARROW shares our analysis and learnings from these meetings to our partners and networks, thus ensuring that the advocacy and information loops come full circle. Advocacy also happens offline and online, ensuring we reach as many stakeholders as possible. While our advocacy with partners happens across all levels, including local and state level to national level, this section deals mainly with regional and global advocacy. All the programme teams at ARROW contribute in our advocacy interventions and goals.

The year 2014 was exceptional for ARROW's regional and global advocacy, with the strategic use of many opportunities to advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Below are some highlights.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout 2014, ARROW actively worked to increase the influence and visibility of Global South perspectives on international commitments related to women's health and rights. The team engaged with other activists and advocates across the globe and participated at important conferences and consultations at regional and international levels.

(See Figure 1, Timeline of ARROW Key Advocacy Interventions in 2014.)

At all events and meetings, ARROW gave valuable inputs and recommendations on using progressive language on SRHR, its intersections with other issues, and rights for all people, including women, young people and marginalised communities.

ICPD: A Landmark Consensus

In 1994, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, 179 countries agreed to a bold consensus that placed the rights and empowerment of women at the centre of development. Sexual and reproductive health was recognised as a fundamental human right. Since then, inter-governmental agreements have reaffirmed and furthered commitments.

ARROW has consistently monitored the ICPD's Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific, with the support of national-level partners, to assess progress or lack of it. It has developed alternative strategic monitoring indicators on sexual and reproductive health and rights in order to do this (see section on Monitoring and Research for Advocacy for more).

Today, 20 years after ICPD, fewer women are dying in pregnancy and childbirth, and women have more access to education and employment. However, huge gaps in access remain among the most marginalised and poor communities; and little has changed in terms of maternal death, child marriage and women's overall status. The case of the women in Godda district, India (see section on Strengthening Partnerships), exemplifies this.

The work to make the vision of ICPD real, including ARROW's monitoring and advocacy, still continues. This year was critical for our advocacy as the review process culminated this year, with governments renewing their commitments to the ICPD goals and targets beyond 2014.



Figure 1: Timeline of ARROW's Key Advocacy Interventions in 2014

CPD and the Princeton Retreat

ARROW played an active role at the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) on 7-11 April in New York, which focused on assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD POA). ARROW's written statement on the significance of an intersectional approach towards the attainment of SRHR had strong CSO support, with endorsement from more than 50 organisations. ARROW successfully supported partners to participate as part of their official national delegations. These were partners from Mongolia (MONFEMNET), Nepal (BBC), the Philippines (Likhaan) and a youth representative from Fiji. Social media presence by the ARROW team was strong with live tweeting.

Prior to the event, ARROW helped organise a retreat in Princeton to prepare for CPD, in collaboration with UNFPA. This UNFPA Global Leadership Retreat on ICPD Agenda was useful in bringing together almost 50 member states on the same platform and facilitating discussions and recommendations to address the gaps in the attainment of SRHR in their countries. ARROW facilitated a session on SRHR discussing the "rights" elements of SRHR and contributed to ensuring that access to SRH services was a critical part of

discussions. Participants were also handed literature highlighting the gaps in achieving SRHR in the Asia-Pacific and globally, and providing evidence on the importance of SRHR. The retreat was an important step to address the gap in information on SRHR for government delegations. ARROW was the only CSO invited to the retreat.

UNGASS on ICPD Beyond 2014

The highlight of ARROW's advocacy efforts in 2014 was at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on ICPD Beyond 2014 (UNGASS) in September 2014 in New York. ARROW was given the honour to be one of the few NGOs invited to participate at the UNGASS, and more so, to be one of five NGOs invited to address the General Assembly. This was a public recognition of ARROW's sustained monitoring of and advocacy on the implementation of the ICPD POA. With this intervention, ARROW is part of the first group of NGOs to ever address the General Assembly, an amazing recognition of our work and achievement.

ARROW's Executive Director Sivananthi Thanenthiran addressed the General Assembly, and her speech was widely shared on social media.

APRIL

UNFPA Global Leadership Retreat on ICPD Agenda
FP2020 Rights & Empowerment Working Group Meeting
UNFPA International CSO Advisory Group Panel Meeting
47th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

MAY

Funders' Network for SRHR Meeting
Asia-Pacific Feminist Forum

JUNE

Partners for Prevention; Phase II Consultation Workshop
Youth Global Strategising Meeting
Informal Meeting with Non-state Actors on the Second International Conference on Nutrition

"We must be cognisant of the fact that sexual and reproductive health and rights are inextricable from economic, socio-cultural and political rights and must be recognised as necessary ingredients to achieving gender equality and sustainable development.... Human beings and the full realisation of their human rights must be the goal of any development framework, which aims to create a more equal, equitable, just and sustainable world. Nothing else, nothing less will do."

Sivananthi Thanenthiran

Executive Director of ARROW,
Speaking on behalf of ARROW,
partners and allies at the UNGASS
on ICPD beyond 2014



Executive Director Sivananthi Thanenthiran at the UNGASS on ICPD beyond 2014. Source: Screengrab from UN WebTv.



ARROW and partners at the 47th session of CPD. Source: ARROW Photobank.

JULY

13th Session of the Open Working Group on SDGs

Girls Summit 2014

AUGUST

Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Beijing+20 CSO Preparatory Meeting

Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum for the Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

SEPTEMBER

Panel Discussion on Child, Early and Forced Marriage Worldwide, including the Elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

High-level Forum on Culture of Peace

President of the General Assembly's Interactive Meeting with Civil Society

President of the General Assembly's High-level Stocktaking Event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Habitat Prep-com Panel on Urbanisation, Services, Inclusion and Human Rights

UNFPA International CSO Advisory Group Panel Meeting

UN General Assembly Special Session on ICPD beyond 2014

UN Secretary General's Climate Summit

Inter-faith Summit on Climate Change

Advocacy for Beijing+20

Women's health remains a key area of concern in the Asia-Pacific region, and the review of Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (BPFA) in the region was a strategic opportunity to highlight gaps in achieving SRHR. Given governments' reluctance to make advances in global commitments to health and rights, ARROW and partners implemented a multi-level approach to advocacy for the review: beginning with national actions, and intensifying with joint regional interventions. This will culminate in global advocacy next year as BPFA celebrates its 20th anniversary.



Programme Officer Arpita Das participating at the Women's Major Group discussions at the Open Working Group in New York.
Source: ARROW Photobank.

ARROW supported partners in their national level advocacy in eight countries. These were: Beyond Beijing Committee (Nepal), Forum of Women's NGOs Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyzstan), Likhaan (the Philippines), MAP Foundation (Thailand), MONFEMNET (Mongolia), Naripokkho (Bangladesh), University of Health Sciences (Lao PDR), and Shirkat Gah (Pakistan). Partners conducted national women's consultations on Beijing+20 and universal access to SRHR, which resulted in joint CSO statements that were presented to their governments and the media. These national consolidated positions led to strengthened advocacy at the regional review CSO and inter-governmental processes.



BPFA, 20 Years Ago

The 4th World Conference on Women, which took place in Beijing in 1995, solidified gains made at previous United Nations conferences. The Platform for Action (BPFA) that emerged enumerates critical concerns, including women's health, and delineates strategic actions to be taken at various levels to cater to women's needs.

The BPFA advanced progress made in Cairo at ICPD. It states, "The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health..."

At the Asia and Pacific Beijing+20 Civil Society Forum (CSO Forum), ARROW maintained a strong presence—it was a Steering Committee member and was heavily involved in preparatory work leading up to it. ARROW also made several interventions at the forum which are given below:

- ARROW's Executive Director, Sivananthi Thanenthiran, was a panellist in the opening session.

- ARROW and partners raised issues affecting people on the ground and ensured these issues were consolidated into the CSO Statement. They also aided in strategising how best to make governments accountable for the implementation of BPFA. To this end, ARROW co-organised a workshop, titled, "Our Stories, One Journey: Empowering Rural Women on Rights to Land, Food, Resources and SRHR" with the Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC). Subsequently, the participants' knowledge on the interlinkage of SRHR and other issues was strengthened. The presentation from ARROW was based on stories shared in the *Travelling Journal*, amplifying the voices of rural women.
- ARROW co-organised another workshop with several leading SRHR organisations in the region, globally titled, "SRHR in the Beijing+ 20 and the Post-2015 Agenda: From Commitment to Accountability."
- ARROW contributed significantly in the development of a series of thematic briefs for the conference participants. The Comprehensive Sexuality Education briefing paper was used by forum participants in their advocacy at the ministerial meeting.

- ARROW was also involved in organising and facilitating the Young Women's Caucus of the CSO Forum. Over 40 young women and men participated in the discussion, with diverse representation from across Asia and the Pacific. One outcome from the Caucus was a brief report identifying key areas needing prioritisation in the next 20 years. This became central to the group's advocacy.
- The team had a great opportunity and privilege to meet with UN Women's Regional Director, Roberta Clark. A statement from the Caucus was read out to Clark.

This advocacy work continued at the regional inter-governmental conference to review Beijing+20—the 6th Intergovernmental Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Three of our partners—Vanphanom Sychareun of the University of Health Science, Lao PDR; Junice Melgar of Likhaan, Philippines; and Shanta Shrestha of BBC, Nepal—were successful through ARROW's support in becoming part of their respective country delegations. ARROW also enabled other partners to participate physically, as well as shared discussion through social media. ARROW also contributed to the Advocacy Training for the conference, which was organised by the NGO CSW Asia Pacific.

Post-2015 Development Agenda

As the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals draw to a close in 2015, the global development community is developing a new framework, including a set of Sustainable Development Goals. ARROW's interventions are focused on making sure that gender equality, women's rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as the intersections of these with other development issues, are in the new agenda.

In 2014, ARROW initially followed discussions of the Open Working Group remotely, contributing to various statements. We then attended the final session of the Open Working Group in July, where we met with several Asian missions and we were a key member of the Women's Major Group communications team. We also attended the High-level Stocktaking Event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and Programme Manager Maria Melinda Ando made an intervention at the President of the General Assembly's Interactive Meeting with Civil Society. ARROW collaborated with the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism, Women's Major Group, and the Post-2015 Women's Coalition in these interventions.



ARROW and partners joined other young feminist activists at the Young Women's Caucus at the Asia and Pacific Beijing+20 Civil Society Forum.
Source: ARROW Photobank.

Statements and Endorsements

With the body of evidence from its monitoring and ARROW's closeness to issues on the ground, ARROW was able to identify concrete evidence-based recommendations for the global development agenda post-2015.

ARROW developed several statements to garner support from human rights and civil society organisations. These are listed in Figure 2. These statements were widely endorsed by organisations and activists from the region and globally (except for those where time did not allow for circulation). All of these received a lot of traction on the web.

Additionally, ARROW contributed to the following statements:

- Statement for the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) by Advocates for Youth, ARROW and others;

- Statement by the Asia Pacific Women's Watch for the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women;
- Outcome Document by the Young Women Caucus of the Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Beijing+20 Review;
- Asia Pacific Beijing+20 Civil Society Forum Statement;
- CSO Forum Statement to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2);
- Public Interest Civil Society Organisations Vision Statement on Nutrition;
- Asia Rising to Demand an End to Abortion Stigma; and
- Public Interest CSO Statement to the ICN2 Open-Ended Working Group.

ARROW also helped consolidate a summary of progressive language on SRHR issues for UNFPA. This looked at various intersections of SRHR with issues such as poverty, migration, climate change, fertility, contraception, maternal health, youth and violence against women.

Figure 2: ARROW Statements and Number of Endorsements

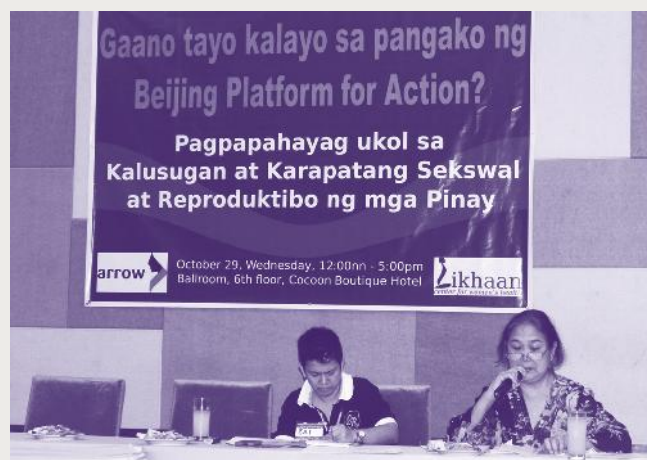
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CSO Statement on SRHR, GBV and Conflict to ESCAP-CSD Beijing+20 Review	NA
Public Statement on the Pre-COP Climate Change Process	6
Public Statement: Asia Pacific Calls for the Inclusion of SRHR in the Post 2015 Agenda	56
Statement on the Resolution by the Human Rights Council, 26th Session on Its Narrow Formulation on the 'Protection of the Family'	79



The Beijing+20 CSO Steering Committee. Source: Meeting photo.



Programme Manager Maria Melinda (Malyn) Ando speaks at the President of the General Assembly's Interactive Meeting with Civil Society for the High-level Stocktaking Event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Contributions to the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report, 10 September 2014, New York. Source: United Nations PGA 68 John W. Ashe's Facebook account.



Likhaan's national women's consultation for Beijing+20, October 2014, Quezon City, Philippines. Source: Likhaan.





*Mobile phones have become an important way to communicate and maintain social networks.
Source: Keepsmling4u/Shutterstock.*

Information and Communications for Social Change

INTRODUCTION

Accurate, comprehensive and quality information on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is the foundation for making decisions and for creating transformative social change. This is crucial for individuals to make informed decisions on their bodily rights, and for civil society and social movements to strategise and craft advocacy arguments. It is also necessary for policymakers to be equipped with the right information to develop effective policies and programmes on human rights, health and development. As such, Information and Communications (Infocom) has always been a core strategy of ARROW. Indeed, ARROW was formed out of a needs assessment showing a strong demand for practical information from women's groups, particularly in relation to SRHR.

Today, ARROW is an information and research hub, with a variety of knowledge products and formats, including the *ARROW for Change* bulletin, *SRHR Info Resources* e-news bulletin, social media platforms and a website that gets almost 21,000 visitors a year. Infocom, which reaches 129 countries globally, disseminates evidence-based information, leads debate on SRHR, and raises issues that are “against the wind” or not yet defined. The Knowledge Sharing Centre, which has a collection of about 26,000 information resources, acts as a critical information hub to researchers and activists.

Infocom also works to build capacity and support advocacy. Through this work, ARROW articulates and sustains the SRHR agenda and builds perspectives, thus positioning it at the cutting-edge of the SRHR field.

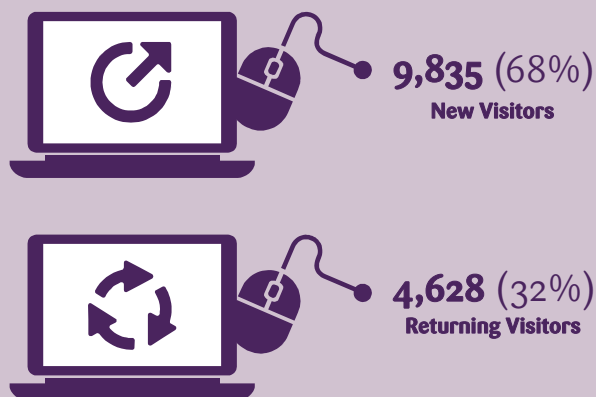


The ARROW exhibition booth. Source: ARROW Photobank.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

ARROW Knowledge Sharing Centre (ASK-us)

ASK-us is one of the few resource centres dedicated to women's health and SRHR issues in the region and globally. Through its various information and research support services, ASK-us served more than 11,000 users in 2014, including researchers, activists, health professionals, journalist, NGOs, students, and networks. This figure represents a rise of almost 20% from 2013. Services include e-mail responses to requests, exhibition booths at conferences, and contributing to the SRHR Info Resource e-news service. In addition, ASK-us also produces research tools, such as a key resource list titled *Food Security, Gender and SRHR*, and facilitates information sharing and collating resources with partners from 15 Asian countries. ASK-us has received much positive feedback from users on the timeliness, relevance and the use of resources. By supporting advocates, ARROW helps shape the SRHR agenda regionally and globally.



45,477
Page Views



20,894
Sessions



14,463
Users

Region	Sessions	%
Asia	13,714	65.64%
North and South America	3,131	14.99%
Europe	2,424	11.60%
Oceania	933	4.47%
Africa	614	2.94%
Not Set	78	0.37%

Website

ARROW's website (www.arrow.org.my) is growing into a dynamic SRHR information hub that increases reach for our information and analysis on critical women's issues globally. In 2014 alone, there were 45,477 pageviews. Of the 14,463 visitors, 9,835 were new (68%). While most users still access the website through devices (83%), a significant 12% used mobiles and 4% used tablets. Most users were from Asia (66%), followed by traffic from the Americas (15%). To increase accuracy of web statistics, ARROW is now using the Google Analytics software.

SRHR Info Resources

ARROW's e-information service contains SRHR-related news and resources, calls for action and papers, upcoming events, job openings and updates from ARROW and its partner. In 2014, 17 issues were produced, compared to 12 in 2013. These were sent out to more than 3,000 global recipients—an increase of 66% from the previous year—comprising NGOs, UN agencies, government agencies, donors and universities, and interested others. Responses from users have consistently been positive.

Social Media

Social media enables building a wide base of popular support for SRHR and for ARROW. Since establishing the Facebook and Twitter accounts in 2012, ARROW has become recognised as a key player in the use of social media. ARROW was named as one of 35 leading tweeters on reproductive health by the Huffington Post. In 2014, ARROW reached 7,423 people via Facebook (267% increase from 2013) and 1,403 people via Twitter (183% increase from 2013) using its organisational accounts. ARROW is also gradually working towards reaching the top 5% of all users of Klout (an online tool to measure social media influence), with an average score at 57% and peak score at 62.99 in November due to social media activities around Beijing+20 and 2nd International Conference on Nutrition.

A highlight in 2014 was the production and sharing of ARROW's own infographics, which were targeted for important advocacy events such as the International Women's Day and World Population Day, as well as CPD and CSW sessions. These were widely shared by followers and were repurposed by some for blog posts and articles.

ARROW also set up its YouTube channel, uploading 29 videos in 2014. These included a series produced by ARROW entitled Voices from the Global South in which partners and allies of ARROW talk about universal access to SRHR in the post-2015 development agenda. A highlight for the YouTube channel during 2014 was the response received by a screengrab video of ARROW's Executive Director Sivananthi Thanenthiran addressing the UN General Assembly during the ICPD special session on ICPD beyond 2014. It was shared widely on social media and became the most watched video on our channel. ARROW was the only CSO that posted the video of our intervention during the UNGASS, and that strategy enabled us to sustain the momentum of a powerful moment.

Social media has also been used significantly as a means for advocacy, with ARROW making various online interventions in the year, as follows:

- 7th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) in January in Manila, where tweets by ARROW were retweeted 436 times and "favourited" 150 times and ARROW was named as one of the top influencers on social media at the end of the conference.
- 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) in April, where ARROW's social media updates cut across timezones—from ARROW staff at the meeting in New York, as well as the programme officer in Malaysia.
- UN General Assembly and the President of the General Assembly events in New York in September, where ARROW live tweeted throughout the period.
- 13th session of the Open Working Group, where as part of the Women's Major Group communications team, we did

infographics on women's demands on the post-2015 agenda and popularised the #SRHR4ALL hashtag.

- Beijing+20 regional events, and the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition, which were simultaneously done in Bangkok and Rome. In Beijing+20, ARROW was one of the leading voices online during the meetings with live tweeting, Facebook updates and YouTube videos.
- Twitterthons—one organised by TARSHI on access to safe abortion, and one organised by AWID at the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which gave ARROW exposure to AWID's high number of followers.

ARROW partnered with the Post-2015 Women's Coalition, the Women' Global Network for Reproductive Rights, and the Women's Major Group, amongst others in these various interventions.



ARROW is named as one of 35 leading tweeters on reproductive health. Source: www.huffingtonpost.com

#SRHR4ALL Campaign

ARROW and 15 national partners have joined hands to run the online #SRHR4ALL campaign. The campaign website (www.srhrforall.org) was launched in May 2014 with active social media platforms (facebook.com/srhrforall and twitter.com/srhrforall). These are supported by the websites and social media platforms of project partners who contribute the latest country specific information on SRHR in various formats—news articles, blog posts, photo essays, videos and infographics.

The campaign calls for SRHR for ALL given that universal access to SRHR remains critical in Asia-Pacific and needs to be included in the post-2015 development agenda. By participating in various interventions led by allies, the campaign has mainstreamed the hashtag #SRHR4ALL among advocates.

The #SRHR4ALL campaign initiated an online intervention targeted at the UN General Assembly Special Session on ICPD beyond 2014. It consisted of a public photo campaign where partners and allies sent “selfies” (self-portraits) calling for #SRHR4ALL, as well as graphics from project partners on the status of SRHR in their countries. During the UNGASS special event on ICPD, these submissions were tweeted to the relevant UN country missions, government agencies and UN agencies and then retweeted and shared.

This campaign is part of the EU-funded project on strengthening ARROW and its network.

Publications

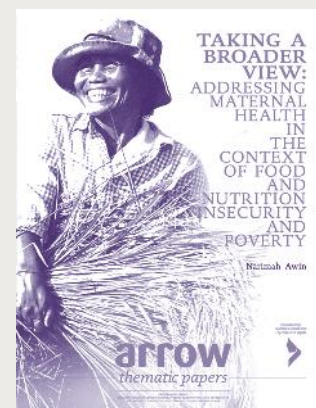
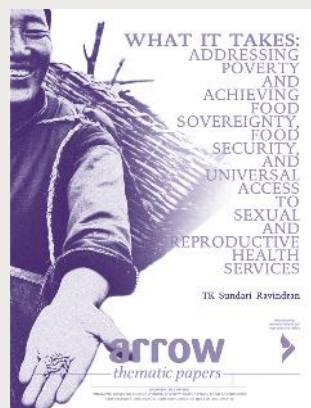
ARROW produces a range of cutting-edge publications that explore SRHR issues and their interlinkages with development issues from a Global South and women's rights perspective.

In 2014, the majority of publications focused on exploring the intersections among poverty, food security, nutrition and SRHR. These included an issue of the organisation's flagship *ARROW for Change* bulletin, a peer-reviewed serial publication that aims to contribute South-oriented, right-based and



Why SRHR4ALL? Here are some of the responses from the SRHR4ALL selfie campaign.

women-centred analyses. Other publications that explore poverty, food and SRHR linkages include an advocacy brief on SRHR in the post-2015 agenda, a key resources list, and a proceedings report of a regional cross-movement meeting organised in 2013 that looked at the linkages between poverty, food, security, gender and SRHR in South Asia. In addition, ARROW commissioned and published two thematic papers exploring links between food security and poverty with universal access to SRH and with maternal mortality. A third paper on the links with sexuality will be published in 2015.



Thematic papers on poverty, food security and SRHR.



Translations of the advocacy brief on SRHR and food sovereignty into Bangla, Hindi, and Tamil.

To further increase access and reach, the bulletin and advocacy brief were translated into Bangla, Hindi, and Tamil with the help of three national partners.

All of these publications contributed to building ARROW's evidence base, and were used by ARROW to build understanding of the importance of SRHR in achieving sustainable development, and in engaging with allies in the food and nutrition movements. Additionally, as part of the ARROW 21st anniversary celebration, the *ARROW Resource Kit on Leadership and Management* was developed and launched at the 7th APCRSHR in Manila. ARROW also developed a series of advocacy briefs on SRHR and the post-2015 development agenda, which were used during the UN General Assembly Special Session on ICPD beyond 2014.

ARROW has consistently received positive reviews from our readers, and these publications are shared with their networks and used in their programmes. Specific examples of our publications' impact include the publication of a revised version of the thematic paper, *What It Takes: Addressing Poverty and Achieving Food Sovereignty, Food Security, and Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services*, in the renowned journal *Reproductive Health Matters* (Volume

22 Issue 43 focusing on Population, Environment and Sustainable Development). The ARROW for Change article by FIAN was also reprinted in the *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch*. Lastly, the Global Fund for Women expressed that they were going to be sharing the resource kit with their grantees and perhaps sharing and using some aspects in their own office.

Travelling Journal

A major highlight for 2014 was the launch of the *Women's Travelling Journal: Our Stories One Journey; Empowering Rural Women on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*. The booklet and video documentary documented 17 inspiring life stories of rural women from 14 countries, as told by the women themselves. The Journal was initiated jointly with the Asian Rural Women's Coalition, ARROW and partner organisations.¹

The Journal has been used as an advocacy tool at different levels. Local media published the womens' stories, resulting in the women receiving more recognition for their contributions. The most noteworthy was Deepanandani from Uttar Pradesh, India, who received an honour and recognition from the state's Chief Minister and the National Rural Health Mission's director for her remarkable work on menstrual hygiene and management.



Deepanandani from India. Source: *The Women's Travelling Journal on SRHR website*.

¹ The 14 partner organisations (arranged according to how the journal travelled from country to country) were: The Philippines: Innabuyog-Gabriela; Indonesia: Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan (YKP); Thailand: Migrant Assistance Programme (MAP) Foundation; Vietnam: Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP); Mongolia: MONFEMNET; India: Centre for Health, Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA) and SAHAYOG; Sri Lanka: Women and Media Collective (WMC); Bangladesh: Naripokkho; Nepal: Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC); Pakistan: Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre and Roots for Equity; Laos: University of Health Science (UHS); and Africa: Pesticide Action Network Africa (PAN-Afrique).

Charmila Thushari from Sri Lanka writing her poem for the Women's Travelling Journal. Source: ARWC/ARROW.



The pay slip was not meant for me although it
was mine
Ate two meals and scavenged for the third,
I wasn't able to care for my parents,
Trudged over to work before the hour passed
Achieved my target before the dead line
Days before I got paid,
The credit book at the grocery shop hounded me
Rent for accommodation, electricity and
telephone bills
Feels like demanding children I once gave birth to
Leisure, enjoyment, joy and sorrow
To see only the meaningless
Are fighting each other on my front lawn to live life
Lord, is this what life is?
The haves, eat, drink while the have-nots lick up
the crumbs
They live the luxury life while stepping on the
poor man
Our life is suffering and it's hell we experience
Shattered dreams are what we've got left in life.

Poem by:
Charmila Thushari
Sri Lanka, Travelling Journal

Distribution and Marketing of ARROW Resources

ARROW published a total of 13 publications from Infocom in 2014 and several more for other programmes. All these publications, together with those ARROW produced since it was established, were compiled for the first time into a USB, for even easier access, portability and ease of use. Through distribution of its knowledge products, ARROW has immense global outreach, reaching policy-makers, decision-makers, researchers, academia, students, and key government and NGOs in at least 129 countries. For example, *ARROW for Change* is distributed to 5,421 print subscribers, as well as to 3,236 SRHR Info-Resource e-subscribers. All ARROW publications are highlighted in social media platforms and SRHR Info Resources and can be downloaded free on our website.

Additionally, 68,708 knowledge products were distributed through exhibition booths and staff participation at 55 key regional and international events. The booths were accessed by nearly 1,500 individuals—more than double the previous year. ARROW publications were requested by individuals and organisations to be used for workshop purposes and sharing the information to their networks as well. Finally, AFC and some of ARROW's other publications are distributed through a non-exclusive agreement with the global publishing distributor EBSCO.

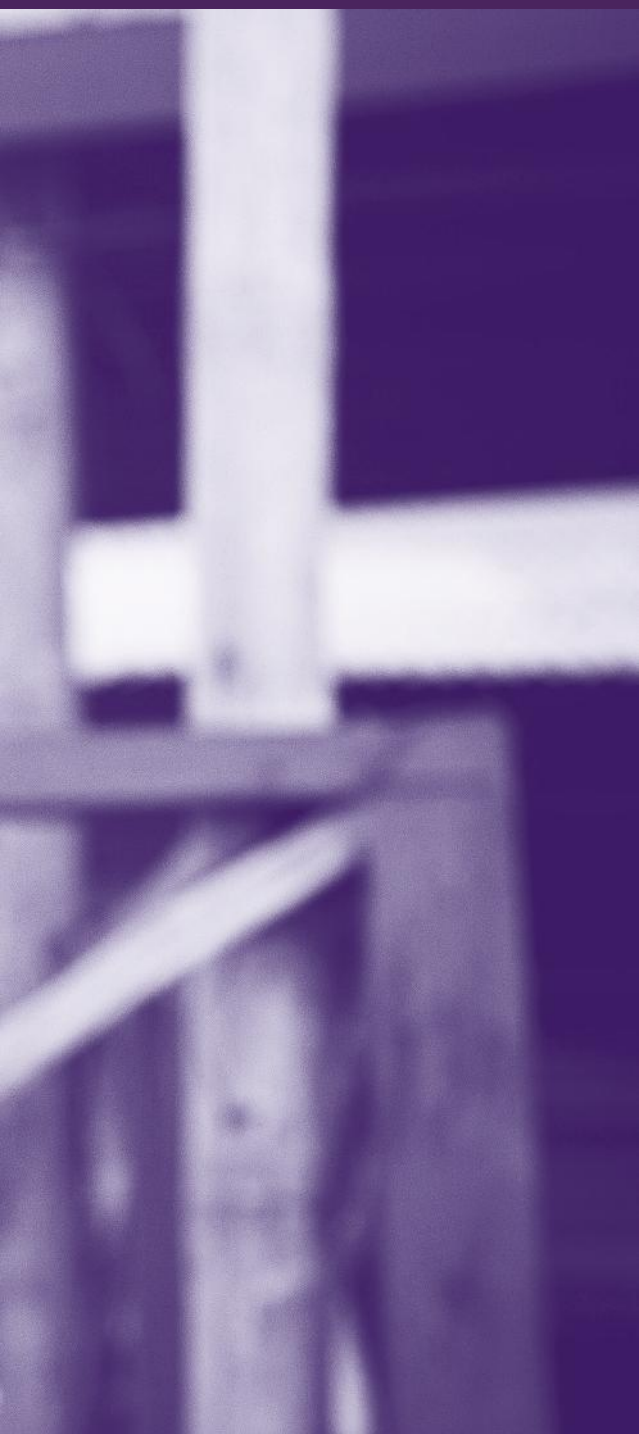
ARROW and partners in the #SRHR4ALL campaign.
Source: Photobank.





Fijian woman.

Source: Maqai Surf/Flickr, Creative Commons.



Monitoring and Research for Advocacy

ARROW was the only regional organisation that consistently monitored implementation of the International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. With its accumulated experience in the field, ARROW developed a framework of 79 indicators to compare the status of SRHR in a dozen or so countries, which provides nuanced and contextual information for civil society to monitor governments and to push them to deliver quality, comprehensive services for SRHR. It also allows for a more unified voice on SRHR.

INTRODUCTION

Monitoring and research are important pillars of ARROW's work. Monitoring is a powerful tool for advocacy and for assessing progress. National governments and international bodies can be held accountable to commitments made at global meetings. Thus, ARROW charts regional and national progress on various commitments, such as:

- the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, (ICPD POA; also called Cairo);
- the Fourth World Conference on Women Platform of Action (BPFA; also called Beijing); and
- the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

With its unique perspective, ARROW presents alternative monitoring to that of UN agencies, donors and some SRHR NGOs, by considering gender, human rights and perspectives from the global South, as well as emerging threats and obstacles to women's health and rights. Thus, it strengthens and provides a more holistic lens to the mainstream monitoring frameworks and indicators.



*ARROW and partners of the Global South ICPD+20 Monitoring Project.
Source: ARROW Photobank.*

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Monitoring SRHR Indicators in Asia and the Pacific

The ICPD+20 Global South Report, which follows previous years' monitoring of regional SRHR gains and losses, was drafted in consultation with partners and external reviewers. The report aims to highlight common challenges and concerns in the Global South to form a unified voice for advocacy.

The team is developing a database for easy access to important regional statistics. With just a few clicks, to the benefit of advocates, the database would provide information on the status of laws on SRHR, or statistics such as maternal mortality or obstetric care.

Youth SRHR in the Global South

ARROW worked towards consolidating its youth strategy and building a partnership process for young people in South Asia with a common goal towards attaining SRHR for all. In our work, there is growing recognition of the need to involve and engage young people on SRHR. Further, young people's participation needs to be meaningful and visionary, rather than tokenistic.

In 2014, there were various activities to include young people in meaningful ways. These included:

- SAFE App:** ARROW developed a mobile application called "Sexuality Awareness for All" (SAFE), which provides comprehensive sexuality education. This is in recognition of the fact that sexuality and information regarding sexuality remains taboo in many areas in the region. SAFE app, developed for both Android and Apple phone users, is so far customised with information from Malaysia; however, a large part of the information can be used and applied by users from other countries as well. This application has been very well received and has garnered more than 5,000 downloads thus far.
- Youth Study:** ARROW conducted a scoping study on youth-led organisations working on SRHR issues in Pakistan, Nepal, India and Bangladesh. A similar scoping study was prepared for Burma as well. Scoping visits were made to organisations in Bangladesh, Burma and India in this regard. The aim was to pull together organisations working or interested to work in future on SRHR issues, so as to have a resource pool of organisations led and envisioned by youth. Selected organisations were then invited to a workshop on sexuality and rights. After an envisioning exercise, the challenges, similarities and differences of SRHR in the various countries were explored and analysed. At the end of the five-day training, participants concluded youth leadership and comprehensive sexuality education were the foremost areas to focus on as a group.



News feature of the SAFE app on comprehensive sexuality education.

- Youth Regional Briefs:** ARROW also produced regional briefs based on monitoring indicators on young people's SRHR with youth partners including ASTRA Youth (for Central and Eastern Europe), World YWCA (African region), Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (Latin America and the Caribbean), and youth advocates from the Pacific. These briefs were instrumental as advocacy tools and were disseminated widely during CPD 2014. The team also actively engaged in the Advocacy & Intervention with the Youth Leadership Working Group at the UNGASS and published an article on

young people's indicators in the *CPD47 Watchdog* as well as an article titled, "Youth Want In" on the participation of young people in the post-2015 processes.



*The Global South Youth team at the 47th session of CPD.
Source: ARROW Photobank.*

Strengthening Partners' Capacities on SRHR Monitoring and Advocacy

This initiative aims to strengthen the network of ARROW and its advocacy function to improve SRHR of marginalised women and girls in Asia-Pacific, and to increase effectiveness of SRHR policies in achieving relevant MDG and ICPD goals. The project covers 15 Asian countries, wherein we work in partnership with 15 national partners.

The countries and project partners are as follows:

- Bangladesh: Naripokkho
- Cambodia: Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC)
- China: Yunnan Health and Development Research Association
- India: Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC)
- Indonesia: Women's Health Foundation (Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan or YKP)
- Lao PDR: Faculty of Postgraduate Studies at the University of Health Sciences

Strengthening Alliances for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

8th- 9th December 2014

New Delhi



RUWSEC launch of their country profile on sexual and reproductive rights in India. Source: RUWSEC.

- Malaysia: Federation of Reproductive Health Associations (FHRAM)
- Maldives: Society for Health Education (SHE)
- Mongolia: MONFEMNET
- Nepal: Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC)
- Pakistan: Shirkat Gah
- Philippines: Likhaan Center for Women's Health
- Sri Lanka: Women and Media Collective (WMC)
- Thailand: MAP Foundation
- Vietnam: Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP)

In 2014, we were able to strengthen the capacity of three partners from Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam on monitoring, advocacy and use of social media for advocacy of universal access to SRHR (in 2013, we did the same for partners from 13 countries).

As evidence is the cornerstone of advocacy, ARROW and partners across 15 countries are developing country and regional briefs on sexual and reproductive health. In 2014, nine country profiles were finalised and of these, partners from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Nepal chose to also translate their profiles into the national languages.

These profiles have had some success. They were used by the Indonesian delegation to prepare for CSW 2015, featured in a leading Philippine newspaper, and used by advocates in their countries. With these profiles, seven partners were able to organise national policy dialogues in an effort to influence key policymakers and build alliances with stakeholders. These dialogues, representing the voices of grassroots women and girls, contributed towards highlighting SRHR issues in the national agenda for better implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals. They also stressed the importance of the inclusion of SRHR in the global post-2015 development agenda. Through the initiative, we made interventions in key events such as the 7th APCRSRHR, 47th CPD, 13th session of the OWG, High-level Stocktaking Event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the ESCAP Beijing+20 review and CSO Forum.

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 in the Asia-Pacific region remain high on the development agenda in the future, and that national and international policymakers and decision-makers are improving SRHR policies to achieve relevant ICPD and MDG goals. ARROW has been working with 15 Asian partners in developing country profiles on universality of sexual and reproductive rights since 2013. By end of 2014, ten partners completed their country profiles. The profiles have been widely distributed both online and offline in various meetings at different levels. Furthermore, three partners conducted a consultation meeting to influence policy makers and expand allies in their countries, where they used the profiles as their evidence base for advocacy.



BBC launches its Nepal Country Profiles on Universal Access to SRHR. Source: BBC.



ARROW partners' country profiles on universal access to sexual and reproductive health and on sexual and reproductive rights. Source: ARROW photobank.



At the Youth Envisioning Exercise. Source: ARROW Photobank.



Pramada Menon facilitated the Youth Envisioning Exercise.
Source: ARROW Photobank.





*Woman in Indian Himalaya mountains drying wheat.
Source: 2xSamara.com/Shutterstock.*

Intersectional and Intermovement Work

ICPD+20 and the MDG+15 Processes,” ARROW has built cross-movement alliances among food sovereignty and security, poverty and SRHR movements. The project aimed to integrally link SRHR with food security and poverty to provide an impetus for the SRHR agenda.

In 2014, aside from developing publications mentioned in the information and communications section, ARROW organised two advocacy events exploring the interlinkages amongst these issues: a satellite session at the 7th APCRSRHR, and a workshop co-organised with four other networks at the ASEAN People's Forum. Further, ARROW made several advocacy interventions in various food security and nutrition-related global advocacy events, the most significant of which is the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition. ARROW was a member of the CSO Liaison Group, which organised the conference's CSO Forum. ARROW was the only SRHR group in this advocacy space. During the ICN2 process, ARROW contributed to three statements, ensuring that SRHR is highlighted as a concern. These are: the CSO Forum Statement to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2); the Public Interest Civil Society Organisations Vision Statement on Nutrition; and the Public Interest CSO Statement to the ICN2 Open-Ended Working Group.

These interventions led to growth in dialogue, intermovement alliances, and greater recognition and support for SRHR issues. For example, the ICN2 CSO Forum statement issued by 200 CSOs contained women's rights, addressing violence against women and support for SRHR. ARROW also has built strong ties with FIAN International; they featured ARROW's work in the article “Women's Rights as a Unifying Factor” in their *Right to Food Journal* and also recommended that we become part of the Editorial Board of the *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch*, an annual publication produced by the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition.

As the external evaluation noted, this project, which concluded in December, was a successful one which scored positively on the criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact.

INTRODUCTION

One of ARROW's core beliefs is that social justice and development issues are intertwined and need to be addressed holistically. Achieving SRHR is a critical part of attaining gender equality, human rights, social justice and ultimately, sustainable development. At the same time, achieving SRHR would be empty unless we also achieve the right to food, the right to development and address climate change and the impact of religious fundamentalisms.

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.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Food Security, Poverty and SRHR

Through the two-year project, “Revitalising and Strengthening the SRHR Agenda through Intermovement Work to Impact the



Speakers of the Building Cross-movement Alliances for Food Sovereignty, Ending Poverty and SRHR in the ASEAN: A Workshop at the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2014, 22 March 2014; Yangon, Myanmar. Source: ARROW Photobank.

Climate Change, Gender and SRHR

Asia-Pacific is at the forefront of experiencing the impacts of climate change. However, the ways in which climate change can impact the most vulnerable and marginalised women's SRHR is not well understood or articulated. Though there is an acknowledgement of the linkages between climate change and gender issues, this has not translated into changes in policies and programmes that are gender-responsive and inclusive of women's rights. Because of this, ARROW started a project titled "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." Eight countries in Asia-Pacific were selected to participate in generating evidence and conducting advocacy interventions on addressing the interlinkages of climate change and SRHR: Bangladesh,



Meeting with PSDA and Janet Macharia, UNEP's Senior Gender Adviser in Nairobi, Kenya, at COP20. Source: Nalini Singh/ARROW Photobank.

Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines. The overall goal of the project is to facilitate an evidence-based argumentation and a partnership of advocates, which enables local ownership, as well as advocacy for the SRHR agenda to advance sustainable development.

The First Partners Meeting was held in June 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The interactive discussions and sharing of experiences amongst the partners verified that there is indeed limited literature and knowledge about the connections of climate change and SRHR. Additionally, as the partners developed their plans of action for advocacy, there was an affirmation that national policies are not coherent and effective in addressing the challenges of climate change. Lastly, the partners' discussion of their regional partnership strategy was an expression of their desire to work together and assist each other in achieving their goals.

Following this, partners worked on the drafts of their national scoping studies, which look at the links of climate change and SRHR. The studies aim to generate evidence on how climate change exacerbates women's vulnerabilities, especially women who are already marginalised. They look at how women's SRHR are affected by climate change because of disasters, food insecurity, lack of access to clean water, as well as identify gaps in national policies that relate to climate change. The studies are currently undergoing review. Also in progress are a



ARROW and climate change partners at the first meeting for the new initiative, “Building New Constituencies for Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights,” June 2014, Kuala Lumpur. Source: ARROW Photobank.

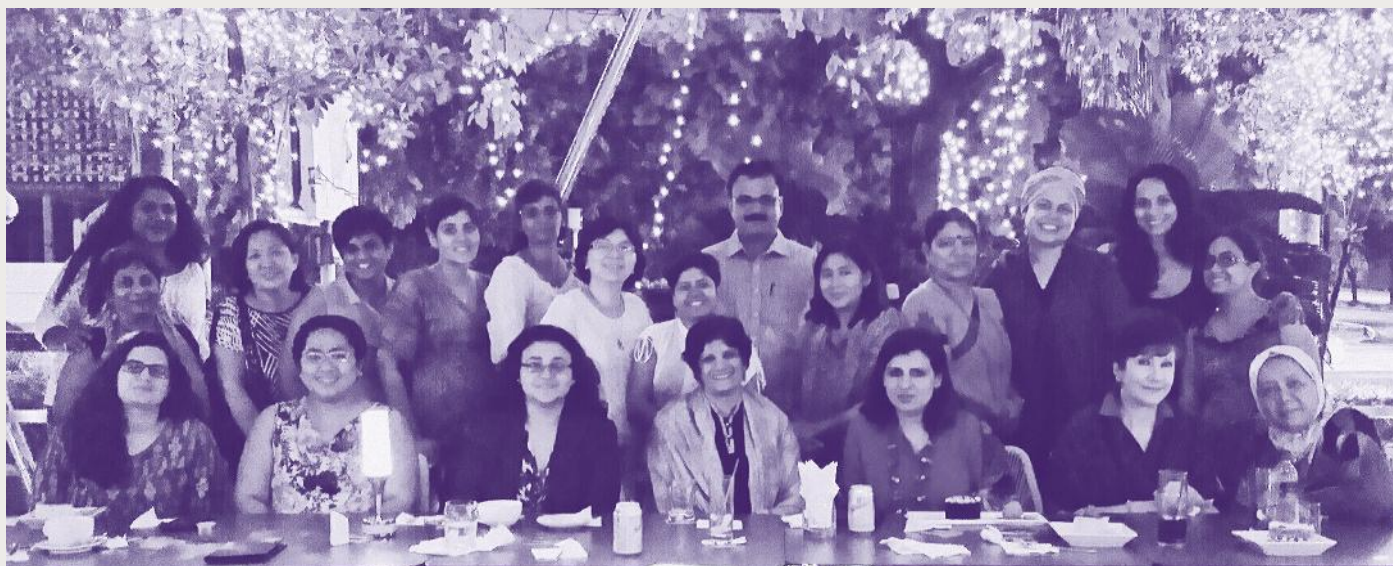
set of postcards, featuring stories of how women's lives are affected by climate change, to support advocacy. The postcards will be used in raising awareness about the climate change impact on women's SRHR and learning from women's resilience, strategies, and innovativeness in addressing climate change.

ARROW also issued two public statements on the impact of climate change to SRHR to draw support from CSOs participating in the Pre-Conference of Parties and calling for the UN Secretary-General to continue to champion the rights of women and girls, including SRHR, during and beyond the international climate change negotiations. ARROW was selected to help select civil society attendees and speakers for the first-ever UN Secretary-General's Climate Change Summit in September 2014. In December, ARROW also participated at the Conference of Parties (COP) in Lima, Peru during December, making various advocacy interventions, including daily coordination meetings of key constituencies.

Religious Fundamentalisms and SRHR

ARROW aims to organise a strategic group of representatives from faith-based and women's organisations to counter the negative impact of religious extremism and the groups that advance them in policy making, especially in international settings. It also aims to create an evidence base that critically analyses the interlinkages between religious extremism and fundamentalism and SRHR, and its influence on women's and young people's lives. This will be used for national advocacy that will facilitate cross-movement building and stronger regional alliances, and counter the closing spaces for women's groups due to increasing religious fundamentalism and extremism.

This year, ARROW organised two meetings in May and October, bringing together 10 partners who would be part of a Global South Alliance. The Partners' Meetings resulted in all partners finalising the thematic focus for each national research, including the advocacy outcomes that they intended to



ARROW partners' meeting for the religious fundamentalisms aspect of the project "Building New Constituencies for Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights", May 2014, Kuala Lumpur. Source: ARROW Photobank.

achieve. Throughout the year, partners engaged in research on several critical themes that they identified as needing further evidence, discourse and policy action at their local level and that are also relevant at the regional level. India and Bangladesh focused on the provision of comprehensive sexuality education for young people and the influence of religious beliefs and interpretation on developing and delivering these services. For Egypt, this is relevant as they consider the influence that religious interpretation and family have on bodily integrity of youth. Pakistan, Maldives and Indonesia are researching family planning and contraception and how women's access to these services are hampered and controlled by religious beliefs. On the other hand, Morocco's focus is on the inability to meet these needs and the lack of safe abortion services for women in the Arab region. Malaysia and Indonesia are working on understanding the effects of religion on child marriage practices. Sri Lanka is researching the influence that religious fundamentalism has had on women's access to SRHR more generally, while Philippines is unpacking the influence that religious fundamentalist views have had on the development and implementation of the Reproductive Health Law.

ARROW issued a statement with its partners after the Partners' meeting, calling for developing the evidence base of links between fundamentalism and SRHR, as well as monitoring, creating safe spaces for dialogue on the issue, and advocating against fundamentalism. It also called for donor agencies and UN bodies to engage on the issue and governments to remove barriers based on religious conservatism.

The research feeds into ARROW's international advocacy on human rights, with a particular focus on the CEDAW Committee reporting processes. ARROW's work on SRHR indicates human rights reporting mechanisms have not been optimally used to report on SRHR and ensure governments are made more accountable to their commitments. Capacity building of partners and mapping exercises were undertaken during the year in order to focus its approach. This is being done in partnership with Musawah, a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family.





*A worker plucking green chilis from Thabul-pind vegetable fields in Pakistan.
Source: Visual News Associates /World Bank /Flickr Creative Commons.*

Strengthening Partnerships for Accountability

INTRODUCTION

Partnerships are the backbone of how ARROW operates. It is through a rich range of partnerships, tiered from local grassroots groups to national networks across the region, that ARROW remains connected to activities at every level, giving it the agency and relevance to take on issues of the movement.

Through partnerships, ARROW aims to build movements and expand advocacy platforms. This aim is embodied in its Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) programme, which has expanded advocacy to heighten demand for better health services, governance and accountability in the region.

Women from various levels of WHRAP—through CBOs and NGOs—actively participate in evidence gathering, awareness raising, capacity building, mobilisation and advocacy, and so collectively contribute towards improving SRHR, and the lives of marginalised women, youth and their communities. Advocacy has been real and practical—WHRAP has given a voice to women in communities where silence prevailed, and has strengthened existing voices or taken them to higher platforms. These voices, and evidence from the ground, raise issues specific to local communities, bringing a diversity that enriches the partnership.

ARROW's WHRAP programme has grown tremendously since it began in 2003 in four countries. Today, it involves more than 120 activists and advocates from across Asia and the Pacific. ARROW's role involves coordinating WHRAP's overall activities, advocacy at regional and international levels (these are already mentioned in the Advocacy for SRHR section), as well as forging new alliances to strengthen the collective voice. In this way, ARROW remains deeply involved in the very movement and women that it stands for.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

ARROW's WHRAP programme is split in two initiatives—WHRAP-South Asia or WHRAP-SA, which covers Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, and WHRAP-South East Asia or WHRAP-SEA, covering Burma, Cambodia, China, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. WHRAP-SA is particularly concerned with issues over rights, voice, access to quality care and accountability related to maternal health from those in charge. WHRAP-SEA, however, is more focused on youth, SRHR services, and sexuality education. WHRAP-Asia-Pacific brings together all these partners and other stakeholders in a wider platform.

The programme's results were remarkable in 2014. In South Asia, the partnership continuously demanded accountability from duty bearers for improved health systems and called for a continuum of quality care (CQC) for women's reproductive health to bring down maternal mortality in the region. In South-east Asia, the partnership continued to highlight the lack of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and youth-friendly services for young people. WHRAP also played a significant role at interventions in international and regional platforms in 2014, in the lead up to the post-2015 agenda. Monitoring work was also carried out in 2014, with visits to Bangladesh and Nepal. A field visit was also made to Lalitpur, where the team held a discussion with 25 women from a local CBO on safe abortion.

Continuum of Quality Care

WHRAP's partners came together to press for Continuum of Quality Care (CQC) across a woman's lifetime—from preconception to pregnancy, to post-partum or post-abortion to menopause—and across various locations, including the home and health facilities. CQC is defined as the “ability to access effective care on an efficient and equitable basis for the optimisation of health benefit/ well-being for the whole population.”

This framework differs from the World Health Organization's Continuum of Care because it recognises the ground realities of many developing countries, where care may be neither continuous nor integrated due to an inadequate health system infrastructure. Also, the reality is that many births in some countries still take place at home with a traditional birth attendant rather than at a facility with a skilled birth attendant. In Nepal, for example, more than 80% of women give birth at home without the presence of a health professional.

In South Asia, the partnership called for universal access to a context-specific, rights-based CQC for women's health to bring down maternal mortality in the region. At the regional and international levels, a broader base of support for the CQC call was successfully built through a regional advocacy dialogue with more than 50 representatives from 38 different civil society organisations in Asia and the Pacific. Additionally, the CQC call of action resulting from the regional advocacy dialogue was released and disseminated.

WHRAP-SA also promoted CQC to WHO with three submissions for:

- WHO's call for CSO's comments for the finalisation of their Every Newborn Action Plan;
- WHO's Independent Expert Review Group on documentation of good practices and obstacles from CSOs; and
- the Working Group of Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality.



Monitoring and Evaluation visits in June 2014 by the ARROW WHRAP Team with DFPA to Naripokkho in Bangladesh (top) and BBC in Nepal (bottom). Source: ARROW Photobank.

WHRAP-South Asia

Now in Phase IV, WHRAP-SA involves the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) as an international partner, ARROW as a regional partner, and five leading South Asian national women's organisations in Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India:

- Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) in Nepal—a human rights, feminist, national organisation working with three CBOs at local levels (in Lalitpur, Makwanpur and Moran districts);
- Centre for Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA) in India—a unique NGO working on the health and development of women, youth and children from a rights perspective at the national level and, through 10 CBOs, at local levels (in Rajasthan state);



Community women partners from Bangladesh. Source: Photo by Biplabi Shrestha/ARROW Photobank.

- Naripokkho in Bangladesh—a membership-based, women's activist organisation working with nine CBOs at the local level (in Barishal division);
- SAHAYOG in India—a grassroots organisation promoting gender equality and women's health using human rights frameworks, working with three CBOs, of which two are large alliances, at the local level (in Uttar Pradesh state);
- Shirkat Gah in Pakistan—a leading women's rights organisation working at the national level and at the local level (in Sindh and Punjab provinces) through three CBOs.

WHRAP-SA works by joint strategic planning, monitoring and evidence-based advocacy at all levels. At the local level, the aim is to empower marginalised, grassroots women by evidence-generation and building capacity. Locally-generated evidence is then integrated with national-level advocacy, and policies and programmes reoriented to more accurately address the needs of grassroots women. This is then integrated with advocacy at the regional and international arena.

At the country level, the partnership had many direct benefits.

- a) Mobilised voices—The voices of marginalised women were strengthened in many interventions. In some cases, with increased commitment from duty-bearers, this resulted in improvements in health systems.

- In very conservative project areas of Nepal and Pakistan, 115 marginalised women articulated their views and demand for quality SRHR services.
- Also, in Nepal and Pakistan, about 100 local “champions” were identified and trained, leading to awareness raising among 1,120 women of services, rights and available obstetric care.
- In the implementing districts in Nepal, 85 women demanded access and availability of safe abortion services. Lobbying by CBOs at public health offices led to the resumption of comprehensive abortion care in three villages and, in one village, easy access to a safe abortion room with a separate counselling room.
- Advocacy work from CHETNA and CBOs with local leaders led to discussion of maternal health in Gram Sabhas, village parliament meetings open to adults. This led to 26 local meetings. Of the 1,687 people participating, 616 were women. Maternal health concerns were raised by 168 women and 44 resolutions were passed on various issues, including the building of health facilities and labour rooms. This led to further women's participation in Gram Sabhas.



WHRAP South Asia has built women's capacity to claim their rights. Source: CHETNA.



A leader of Mahila Swastha Adhikar Mancha (MSAM) shares her experience at a community level dialogue for women's health. Source: SAHAYOG.



One-day session on community accountability at Nawan Kaly village, Charsdda district. Source: Shirkat Gah.

b) Stronger alliances—Civil society networks actively pushed for CQC and quality services.

- SAHAYOG worked with its partner Health Watch Forum (HWF) to get the government in Uttar Pradesh (UP) state to implement the Clinical Establishment Act (CEA), a law passed in response to frequent gross irregularities in private health care. A signature campaign collected more than 5,500 signature from several districts in UP. This was later presented to UP's Health Minister, who SAHAYOG also met twice with over the issue.

- Advocacy dialogues were also held over the CEA.
- In one, women shared cases of negligence and catastrophic expenses occurred while seeking private health care. This formed the evidence for advocacy around CEA.
- Data on the quality of village antenatal services caught the attention of senior state-level health officials due to efforts from leaders of Mahila Swastha Adhikar Mancha, a large grassroots organisation comprising women from marginalised communities, with the support of SAHAYOG, in Uttar Pradesh.
- In India, CHETNA strengthened the network Rajasthan White Ribbon Alliance through trainings to members, which led to improvements in infrastructure and human resources at local health facilities.
- In Bangladesh, health facilities at district levels in project areas were improved, in terms of regular doctors' visits, functioning ambulances, and clean facilities, as a result of advocacy by Right to Health Alliance members, following capacity building by Naripokkho.

c) Increased public support—Support for the right of women to have quality sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services was bolstered through various activities of partners.

- In Bangladesh, Naripokkho and CBOs rallied public support for SRH services through celebrations of International Day of Action for Women's Health, which drew more than 1,100 people. Also, media sensitisation led to increased press coverage of maternal health issues, with coverage in five national newspapers, two television stations, and 21 local dailies.
- After a series of sensitisation workshops for provincial and local media by Shirkat Gah, coverage by 14 print media helped raise awareness and lift taboos, as well as change attitudes of media personnel when reporting on SRHR issues.

- d) Strengthened oversight mechanisms—Partners increased their influence on the functioning of facility-based oversight mechanisms, including committees to supervise the hospital management.
- A report by SAHAYOG compiled complaints made to their toll free helpline service about informal payments for medicines, diagnostics and ambulances. SAHAYOG was later invited to be a part of the government team to review the functioning of the Rogi Kalyan Samitee, which acts as a group of trustees that manages hospital affairs.
 - Following capacity building workshops by Naripokkho and CBOs for health committee members of Union Parishad in Bangladesh, there were regular committee meetings, visits to health facilities and no more illegal transactions of money.
- e) Guardian institutions engagement—Partners have worked with human rights “guardian institutions” over SRHR violations and the failure of governments to deliver quality services.
- The chairperson of Bangladesh's National Human Rights Commission issued a letter to the relevant ministry calling for better health care services in Barguna district, following a report from Naripokkho and the Women's Health Movement Alliance.
 - In India, a public hearing on informed choice and quality of care was attended by 212 people from 10 states representing 69 different organisations. Through testimonies in the hearing, the biased attitudes towards poor women among health workers, and the hold of “targets” in family planning programmes were highlighted. A list of recommendations was later adopted by 93 organisations. The event, which was covered by press, was organised by the National Coalition Against Coercive Population Policies and the National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR) through its secretariat SAHAYOG.

Camp of Wrongs—A Rights Issue

In November 2014, 14 women, all in their 20s and 30s, died after undergoing botched operations at a government mass sterilisation “camp” in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh. Seventy more women were also hospitalised in critical condition. The doctor who operated on the women reportedly conducted 83 operations in six hours, breaching guidelines. He was reportedly under pressure to meet state targets.

Such camps are common in the state, as part of population control efforts. As the report, *Camp of Wrongs: The Mourning Afterwards*, notes, the principal method of population control in India is sterilisation, accounting for 75% of contraceptive methods, with an average of 4.5 million surgeries performed every year.

The report, produced by two NGOs and the National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR), noted conditions at the camp were “unsafe and unhygienic” and in clear violation of “ethical and quality norms.” The report was shared with a parliamentary committee, several members of parliament and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India. As secretariat of NAMHHR, SAHAYOG also engaged in a series of activities to protest the tragedy.

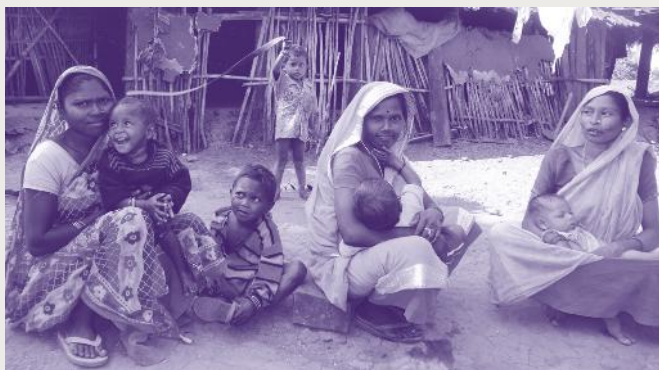


Community women pressing their demands before the chief medical officer at a public hearing. Source: CHETNA.

Godda Deaths

NAMHHR also submitted a report to the NHRC and to parliamentarians on the large number of maternal deaths among tribal women in Godda District, Jharkhand State. A fact-finding mission had revealed the women did not have access to basic health services, including antenatal care and immunisation services for children, and there was no functioning blood storage facility in the entire district.

After a parliamentary committee took up the matter, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was held accountable. It responded with a list of measures taken in Godda to improve maternal health among tribal people.



Women from Godda. Source: NAMHHR.

WHRAP-South East Asia

WHRAP-SEA, which aims to improve SRHR outcomes for young people in South East Asia, completed its last phase in 2014. The partnership works with all partners both in funded and non-funded modalities, with ARROW as the regional manager and seven national partners.

In 2014, the partnership continued to highlight the lack of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and youth-friendly services for young people. At the regional level, effectiveness of partnership with youth leadership was highlighted at the 7th Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health

and Rights (APCRSHR). The challenges of young people in accessing SRH services and SRHR issues of young people were also highlighted at the 2014 ASEAN People's Forum.

At the national and local levels, ARROW and her partners reached out to marginalised young people through awareness raising sessions, peer educator sessions, youth camps, campaigns, community and policy dialogues, and publications with a specific curriculum for CSE, developed by national partners. WHRAP-SEA contributed to the growth of youth-led networks on the issue of young people SRHR.

The national partners and their activities in 2014 were:

- The Centre for Creative Health Initiatives in Health and Population (CCHIP) in Vietnam, which promotes equality, diversity and health for all in society through a multi-disciplinary approach of action, research, advocacy and interventions. For this project, CCHIP held policy dialogues and distributed information on sexual and reproductive health among migrant workers.
- The University of Health Sciences in Lao PDR contributes to production of knowledge and education of high quality health personnel. For this project, due to their work, the Lao government committed to improve sex education in schools after an advocacy workshop.
- Migrant Action Programme (MAP) Foundation in the Burma-Thai border seeks to empower migrant communities from Burma living and working in Thailand. MAP held skills-building sessions for 142 ethnic migrant women from 22 locations and an International Women's Day parade which raised awareness of ethnic migrant women and SRHR.
- Burma Medical Association (BMA), which is active in the Burma border, provides holistic health care services to internally displaced and migrant populations inside Burma. As part of this project, BMA provided services and outreach in remote villages in Burma, despite the ongoing conflict.
- Yunnan Health Development Research Association (YHDRA) in Yunnan, China provides research, personnel



Migrant workers were excited to play games in the "Safe for Love" communication program. Source: CCIHP.



Mobile education vehicle teaching villagers about contraception in Takeo Province, Cambodia. Source: RHAC.

training, and social services to promote public health and societal development. YHDRA worked at developing programmes to suit different age groups of youth.

- Likhaan Centre for Women's Health in the Philippines is engaged in providing direct health care services to women in marginalised communities as well as national policy advocacy. Likhaan developed Comprehensive Sexuality Education Standards to be reviewed, which will be presented to the Department of Education for endorsement.
- Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC) in Cambodia provides a wide range of services including community and public health support, youth health, HIV and AIDS programmes, health equity fund as well as clinical services on SRH. RHAC conducted a national policy and advocacy dialogue workshop where about 40 university students discussed SRHR issues with parliamentarians.

WHRAP-Asia Pacific

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." This meeting was organised by ARROW in 2012.

In 2014, the partnership reached new heights and gained momentum as a platform for all ARROW partners in the region, bringing together women-led organisations and other civil society actors for evidence-based advocacy on SRHR. One high point was two new partnerships in Central Asian countries—in Mongolia through our "Strengthening Networking" project, and in Kyrgyzstan through our "Beijing+20" national initiative. This enabled ARROW to better represent the region at regional and global advocacy fora. In addition, the women's NGOs in these two countries were able to advocate more effectively for women's health and rights, particularly SRHR.

ARROW, together with WHRAP-AP partners, took a number of opportunities to ensure the regional SRHR agenda and its interlinkages with voices and evidence generated from the ground were highlighted at all levels.



*March to support the reproductive health bill in the Philippines.
Source: Likhaan Center for Women's Health.*

Utilising Human Rights Mechanisms

ARROW embarked on a programme to develop advocacy using human rights mechanisms focusing on three mechanisms—CEDAW, Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, and the UN Special Rapporteur complaints procedure (particularly on Health and on Violence Against Women). The “SRHR—Challenges and Opportunities: Human Rights Accountability Mechanisms Workshop” was held for nine partners from the WHRAP programme and was facilitated by feminist lawyer Madhu Mehra, the Executive Director of Partners for Law in Development. The workshop aimed to impart an enhanced knowledge of the human rights framework and mechanisms on SRHR and improve capacities to use these mechanisms for realisation of SRHR concerns.

An Advocates' Tool for Rights-Based Contraceptive information and Services

ARROW worked together with FP2020 to produce a tool which enables civil society to find practical ways to hold service providers accountable to the WHO technical guidance and recommendations on ensuring human rights in the provision of contraceptive information and services. The idea is that if NGOs can be empowered to understand how these concepts translate on the ground, they can hold service providers directly accountable.

The tool was tested with two large, local, well-networked organisations in India and Indonesia. It was timely because it was piloted just prior to the Chhattisgarh tragedy (see box on Camp of Wrongs—A Rights Issue) and these stakeholders could actively engage immediately.

For ARROW this was also an important learning in creating a tool based on technical guidance standards. We could see that ministries of health, service providers, and international agencies could be made accountable to standards enumerated by WHO, and NGOs on the ground could use this as an accountability tool.



*At the ARROW Mid-Term Review, October 2014, Kuala Lumpur.
Source: ARROW Photobank.*



Organisational Development

INTRODUCTION

ARROW sees itself 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. Activities aimed at strengthening these aims follow.

KEY ACTIVITIES

ARROW's 21st Anniversary

ARROW celebrated her 21st anniversary on 10 October 2014 along with members of the Board and Programme Advisory Committee, partners, and friends of ARROW from all over the region and world. It was a day of reflection and celebration

with participants taking stock of ARROW's milestones in the journey so far and strategising on ways forward. A video for the anniversary was developed.¹

Mid-Term Review

ARROW held its mid-term review on the 11-12th October 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, back-to-back with the 21st anniversary, to provide ARROW and her partners with evidence-based assessments of achievements in the first half of the strategic plan. It also helped strengthen the strategic direction and guide the future planning of the organisation's work for the next half of the strategic plan. Approximately nine key documents were reviewed during this process, which included the organisation's annual reports from the two previous years, the ARROW Resource Kit, and the ARROW website. An overarching impression was the need for ARROW and her partners to integrate reflexive processes as part of a conscious commitment to the common goals. Also, there is a need to take stock and evaluate both internally in the organisation and movement, and externally in the current regressive climate the SRHR movement is facing. There was also a movement towards strategic processes (quality as opposed to quantity) to deepen partner relationships and ensure optimal usage of staff time, expertise and capacities.



At the ARROW 21st anniversary celebrations, October 2014, Kuala Lumpur. Source: ARROW Photobank.

¹ The video can be found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjjNCZSrEh8



ARROW with partners and supporters at the ARROW 21st Anniversary Celebrations and Mid-Term Review, October 2014, Kuala Lumpur. Source: ARROW Photobank.



ARROW with partners and supporters at the ARROW Mid-Term Review, October 2014, Kuala Lumpur. Source: ARROW Photobank.

Monitoring and Evaluation

ARROW organised a two-day “Board-Staff Retreat” on 9 and 10 December 2014 in Kuala Lumpur to evaluate the work that was done over the past year and plan for the future. Staff also discussed how to strengthen ARROW and create an open space to tackle issues raised by staff with regards to organisational development towards further improved work life at ARROW.



The BOD-Staff Retreat 2014, November 2014, Cyberjaya, Malaysia. Source: ARROW Photobank.

Documenting Good Organisational Practices

The *ARROW Resource Kit on Leadership and Management* (ARK) was finalised and launched on 22 January 2014 at the 7th APCRSR in Pasay City, Philippines. It is a compendium of ARROW's history, development and lessons practiced over the last 20 years. It condenses what has worked for the organisation 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. The kit was produced as part of a grant by the Global Fund for Women and a donation from Rita Raj. ARROW also revised its Management and Administrative Policies and Procedures (MAPP), a document of ARROW administrative guidelines to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation covering all areas of programme and management.



The cover of the ARROW Resource Kit on Leadership and Management.

Governance and Programmatic Guidance

In 2014, the Board held four formal meetings—two meetings of Board of Directors in May and November, an Annual General Meeting in June, and an Extra-ordinary General Meeting in June. Three new members—Bishakha Datta, Pramada Menon and Rozana Isa—were inducted into the Board of Directors with a newly developed orientation process by the co-founder of ARROW, Rashidah Abdullah, who also tendered her resignation after a planned transition.

ARROW's Board members are also tapped to contribute to our programme development. For example, Pramada Menon, one of ARROW's new Board of Directors, helped facilitate a workshop organised by ARROW and David & Lucile Packard Foundation to bring youth-led organisations together to talk about common goals related to SRHR in the region.



ARROW Founder and outgoing Board member Rashidah Abdullah with newly inducted Board member Pramada Menon. Photo by MalynAndo/ARROW Photobank.

In 2014, ARROW had 10 full members of the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), of which four were appointed within the year itself. A meeting was organised in May 2014 where PAC members and guests provided evaluative comments and feedbacks on ARROW's work and discussed the future direction of ARROW and its programmes.

Staff Development

ARROW believes that staff members are the heart of the organisation. ARROW organised a two-day “Team Building” event on 27-28 November 2014 in order to enhance team bonding, and to rejuvenate after a very intense year of work. Activities helped build a stronger team, which at the same time enhanced the level of teamwork, brainstorming capacity, decision-making and leadership. Staff also had the opportunity to attend development opportunities throughout the year, including webinars on “Social Media Best Practices for Non-Profits”, “Advocacy in Practice” workshop, trainings on sexuality, human rights and accountability, and on most significant change and qualitative analysis.



ARROW Teambuilding 2014, Ipoh, Malaysia.
Source: ARROW Photobank.

Financial Accountability and Management

ARROW achieved 100% funding for the 2014 budget as a result of intensive fundraising efforts in 2013. We underwent audits in the first half of the year from DFPA and EU, as well as the usual statutory required organisational audit of ARROW. Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) also commissioned reviews of ARROW's financial management in which ARROW performed favourably. In 2014 and beyond, ARROW remains fully committed to enhancing its financial system and further strengthening its internal controls to advocate principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity.

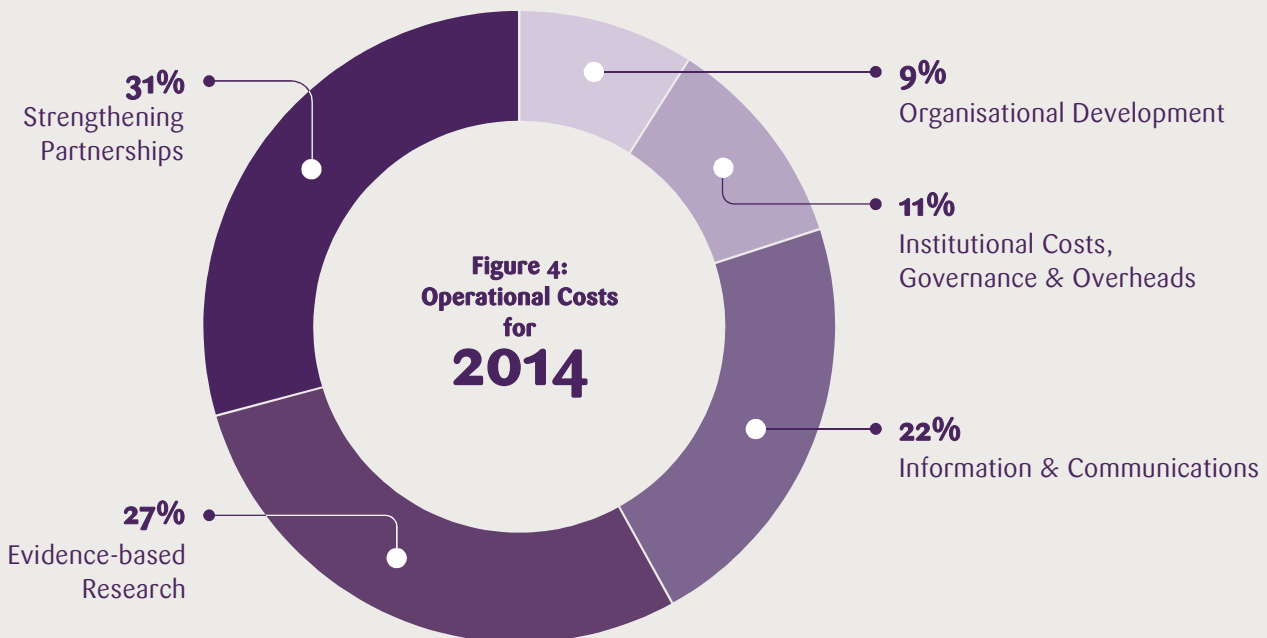
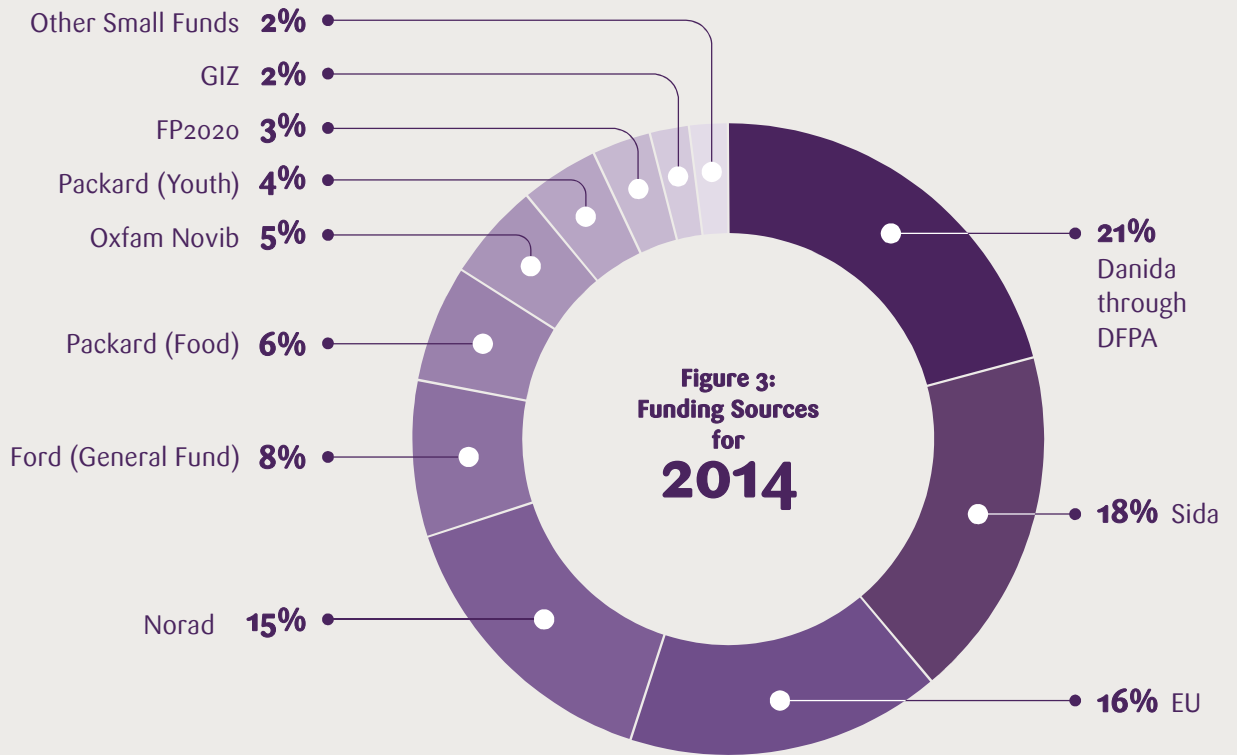
Below and on the next page are ARROW's funding sources and operational costs for 2014.

Table 1: Total Operational Costs and Particulars

PARTICULARS	ACTUAL COST (US\$)	% TO TOTAL COST	ALLOCATION	
			ARROW	PARTNERS
PROGRAMME COSTS				
Obj. 1: Information & Communications	669,880.55	22%	371,938.55	279,942.00
Obj. 2: Evidence-based Research	806,430.85	27%	384,763.51	421,667.33
Obj. 3: Strengthening Partnerships	943,911.41	31%	435,650.08	508,261.33
Obj. 4: Organisational Development	276,349.80	9%	276,349.80	—
Institutional, Governance & Overhead	325,438.19	11%	325,438.19	—
TOTAL OPERATIONAL COST	3,022,010.79	100%	1,794,140.13	1,227,870.67
About 41% of the total annual operational costs went to partners, compared to 34% in 2013.			59%	41%

*About 41% of the total annual operational costs went to partners, compared to 34% in 2013.

Source: ARROW Audit 2014







ARROW staff, Board and Programme Advisory Committee members with allies and partners at the 21st anniversary celebration, October 2014, Kuala Lumpur. Source: ARROW Photobank.

Who We Are

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Bishakha Datta, Executive Director, Point of View, India (joined June 2014)
- Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women, Pakistan (until August 2014)
- Maria Chin Abdullah, Executive Director, Empower and Chair, BERSIH 2.0, Malaysia (until June 2014)
- Naeemah Khan, Fiji; Currently pursuing her Master in Gender and Development at the Institute of Development Studies, UK
- Pramada Menon, Independent Consultant, India (joined June 2014)
- Rashidah Abdullah, ARROW Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM), Malaysia (until December 2014)
- Rozana Isa, Coordinator, Musawah, Malaysia (joined January 2014)

PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Babu Ram Pant, Freelance Consultant, Nepal
- Hoang Tu Anh, Director, Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCHIP), Vietnam
- Maya Indira Ganesh, Director, Evidence & Action, India
- Otgoonbaatar Tsendemberel, Board Member, Monfemnet, Mongolia
- Rachel Arinii Judhistari, Co-Coordinator, Young Feminist Activism, Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Indonesia

- Renu Khanna, Founder Trustee and Board Member, Society for Health Alternatives (SAHAJ), India
- Sundari Ravindran, Professor, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, India
- Tara Jyothi Chetty, Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)
- Titi Soentoro, Policy Advisor, Aksi for Gender, Social and Ecological Justice, Indonesia
- Zhang Kaining, Director, Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA), China

STAFF

Full-time Staff

- Arpita Das, Programme Officer, Monitoring, Research & Advocacy
- Azra Abdul Cader, Programme Officer, Inter-Faith Advocacy for SRHR
- Biplabi Shrestha, Programme Officer, Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP)-South Asia
- Erika Sales, Programme Officer, Publications (from May 2014)
- Lee Mei Poh, Admin and Finance Manager (joined August 2014)
- Lor Yin Yin, Finance Officer (joined September 2014)
- Maria Melinda (Malyn) Ando, Programme Manager, Information & Communications
- Nadia Rajaram, Programme Officer, Monitoring and Research & Advocacy
- Nalini Singh, Programme Manager, Capacity Building & Advocacy
- Neesha Fakir, Programme Officer, Climate Change, Gender and SRHR (January-October 2014)
- Nor Azurah Zakaria, Assistant Administrative Officer
- Paremela Naidu, Administrative Officer
- Rosnani Hitam, Executive Assistant
- Sachini Perera, Programme Officer, Website and Social Media (joined Feb 2014)

- Shubha Kayastha, Programme Officer, Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP)-South East Asia (until May 2014)
- Siva Rajeswary, Finance Officer
- Sivananthi Thanenthiran, Executive Director
- Susan Chin, Finance Officer (until September 2014)
- Uma Thiruvengadam, Assistant Programme Officer, ASK-us! and Marketing
- Yap Bee Khim, Admin and Finance Manager (June 2014)
- Yukari Horii, Programme Officer, Strengthening Capacities of an SRHR Network

Temporary Staff

- Dhivya Kanagasingam, Short-Term Programme Officer, Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP)-South East Asia (joined August 2014)
- Suloshini Jahanath, Short-term Programme Officer (Sept-Dec 2014)

Contractual Staff

- Mallika a/p Karuppaiah, Housekeeping



ARROW staff, Board and Programme Advisory Committee members with allies and partners at the mid-term review, October 2014, Kuala Lumpur. Source: ARROW Photobank.



*Vietnamese woman.
Source: CiaoHo/Flickr, Creative Commons.*



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 (DFPA)
- David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- European Union (EU)
- FP2020
- Ford Foundation
- Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (Oxfam Novib)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- Population Action International (PAI)
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- United Nations Foundation

PARTNERS

International and Regional Partners

- Africa and Pacific: World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)
- Asia: Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC); Musawah
- Eastern Europe: ASTRA Network; ASTRA Youth
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN); Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos A. C. (RedLAC)

Country Partners and Local Civil Society Partners

- Bangladesh: Adorsho Mohila Sangstha; Annesha Samaj Sheba Shongho; Artha-Shamajik Shikkha Sanskritic Unnayon Sangstha; Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS); Barisal Mohila Kollayan Shongstha; Children and Youth Development Organisation (CYDO); Jago Nari; Khan Foundation; Nazrul Smriti Sangsad (NSS); Naripokkho; Patuakhali Development Organisation (PDO); Sangkalpa Trust
- Burma: Burma Medical Association; Migrants Assistance Programme (MAP) Foundation
- 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; Lake Clinic-Cambodia; 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
- China: Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA)
- Egypt: Ikhtyar for Development Training, Research and Consultancy

- India: Action Aid India; Baba Ram Karan Das Gramin Vikas Samiti; Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA); Centre for Rural Prosperity and Research (CRPR); FIAN India; Gram Vikas Evam Prashikshan Sansthan (GVPS); Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal Laporiya (GVNML); Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (Gravis); GRAMYA SANSTHAN; Jatan Sansthan; Navachar; People's Education and Development Organization (PEDO); Pravah (New Delhi); Prayatna; Purvanchal Gramin Sewa Samiti (PGSS); Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC); SAHAYOG; Shiskshit Rojgar Kendra Prabandhak Samiti (SRKPS); Srushti Samite; Society for Health Alternatives (SAHAJ)
- 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; Women's Health Foundation (YKP); Yayasan Bandungwangi; Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan (Women's Journal Foundation or YJP); Yayasan Kusuma Bongas
- Kyrgyzstan: Forum of Women's NGOs in Kyrgyzstan
- 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); Penita Initiative; Sisters in Islam
- Maldives: Huvadhoo Aid; Society for Health Education (SHE)
- Mongolia: MONFEMNET National Network
- Morocco: Morocco Family Planning Association
- Nepal: Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC); Child Society Nepal (CSN); Rural Institution for Community Development (RICOD); Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC); Youth Welfare Society (YWS)
- Pakistan: Marvi Welfare Association Pano Akil District Sukkur; Nai Umeed; Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre; Sindh Community Foundation; United Youth Welfare Organisation

- Philippines: Likhaan Centre for Women's Health; PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc.; 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
- Vietnam: Central Enterprise Youth Union; Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP); Vietnam Youth Federation

NETWORKS AND STEERING COMMITTEES

- 2nd International Conference on Nutrition CSO Liaison Group
- 7th Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) International Steering Committee
- ActionAid's Young Urban Women Project
- Asia-Pacific Partnership on SRHR and Sustainable Development
- Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCEM)
- Asia-Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)
- Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)
- Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC)
- Civil Society Platform to Promote SRHR Beyond 2015 Steering Committee
- Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)
- Feminist Watch on Fundamentalisms
- FP2020 Rights & Empowerment Working Group (Co-Chair)
- Global Interfaith and Secular Alliance: Working for Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (GISA)
- Global Youth Forum International Steering Committee (Co-Chair)
- International Conference on Family Planning Indonesia Steering Committee
- International Initiative on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights (IIMHR)
- International Women and Health Meeting (IWHM)
- Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA)
- Post-2015 Women's Coalition Steering Committee

- Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)
- UNFPA Global Civil Society Advisory Panel
- Unzip the Lips
- Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
- Women's Major Group
- Youth Leadership Working Group

CONSULTANTS

- Aleah Taboclaon, Copy Editor, popular CQC paper
- Ambika Varma, Coordinating Editor, *What It Takes: Addressing Poverty and Achieving Food Sovereignty, Food Security and Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services*; Issue Co-Editor, *ARROW for Change* Vol. 20 No.1; Report Writer of *Proceedings Report: A Regional Meeting to Build Intermovement Linkages in Poverty, Food Sovereignty, Food Security, Gender, and SRHR in South Asia*
- Atashendartini Habsjah, Reviewer, Indonesia Universal Access to SRHR country profiles
- Baochang Gu, Reviewer, China Universal Access to SRHR country profiles
- Bina Pradhan, Reviewer, Nepal Universal Access to SRHR country profiles
- Cezar Tigno, Copy Editor, thematic papers on food sovereignty and *Proceedings Report: A Regional Meeting to Build Intermovement Linkages in Poverty, Food Sovereignty, Food Security, Gender, and SRHR in South Asia*
- Clare Westwood, Writer, *SRHR in the Post-2015 Agenda: Taking Their Rightful Place*
- Enkhee Khorloo, Reviewer, Mongolia Universal Access to SRHR country profiles
- Eva Maaten, Reviewer, donor reporting for the project Strengthening the Networking, Knowledge Management and Advocacy Capacity of an Asia-Pacific Network for SRHR; External Evaluator, Revitalising and Strengthening the SRHR Agenda through Inter-Movement Work to Impact the ICPD+20 and the MDG+15 Processes
- Jac SM Kee, Social media workshop, Strengthening the Networking, Knowledge Management and Advocacy Capacity of an Asia-Pacific Network for SRHR
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- Lester Añonuevo, Layout designer, popular CQC paper
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- Madhu Mehra, Facilitator and Resource Person, Human Rights Accountability Mechanisms Workshop
- Melanie Reyes, Writer, *Key Resources on Food Security, Gender, and SRHR*
- Narimah Awin, Writer, *Taking a Broader View: Addressing Maternal Health in the Context of Food and Nutrition Insecurity and Poverty* (Thematic Paper)
- Nazme Sabina, Reviewer, Bangladesh Universal Access to SRHR country profiles
- Nicolette Mallari, Graphic designer, thematic papers on food sovereignty and marketing materials for various events
- Oddly, Website Audit and Website Redesign, SRHR4ALL Website Development
- Pramada Menon, Facilitator, Youth Envisioning Exercise
- Rachel Arinii, Facilitator, Stakeholder consultation, Indonesian National consultation to discuss the *Advocate's Guide to Rights-based Contraceptive Information and Services*
- Rashidah Shuib, Facilitator, Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP)-South Asia Regional Advocacy Dialogue
- Renu Khanna, Facilitator, Advocacy workshop, Strengthening the Networking, Knowledge Management and Advocacy Capacity of an Asia-Pacific Network for SRHR
- Sai Jyothirmai Racherla, Facilitator, Monitoring Workshop for Strengthening the Networking, Knowledge Management and Advocacy Capacity of an Asia-Pacific Network for SRHR; Facilitator, Training Workshop, World

YWCA's International Training Institute on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and HIV; and reviewer, Universal Access to SRHR country profiles

- Sengchanh Kounnavong, Reviewer, Lao PDR Universal Access to SRHR country profiles
- Sin Somuny, Lim Phyrin, and Chhay Kim Sotheavy, Reviewers, Cambodia Universal Access to SRHR country profiles
- Stella Marquez, Editor, thematic papers on food sovereignty
- Sunitha Bisan, Facilitator and Resource Person, First Partners Meeting, Building New Constituencies for Women's SRHR: Climate Change and SRHR
- Swapna Majumdar, Consultant, development of popular CQC paper
- TK Sundari Ravindran, Writer, *What It Takes: Addressing Poverty and Achieving Food Sovereignty, Food Security, and Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services* (Thematic Paper); and Writer, *Advocate's Guide to Rights-based Contraceptive Information and Services*
- Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues (TARSHI), New Delhi, Facilitator, Training on Sexuality and Rights
- Thiloma Munasinghe, Reviewer, Sri Lanka Universal Access to SRHR country profiles
- Zonibel Woods, Facilitator and Resource Person, First Partners' Meeting, Building New Constituencies for Women's SRHR: Climate Change and SRHR; and Writer, *Working Paper: Identifying Opportunities for Action on Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines*

VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS

- Al-Zam Sdn. Bhd., Company Secretary
- CYF Contracts & Marketing and Micom Sdn. Bhd., Printing services
- Claire Florist, Florist
- Fazli Fadzil, Office maintenance contractor
- Good Point Enterprise, Air conditioner contractor
- Grand Lotus Travel Agencies, and Orient Escape Travel, Sdn. Bhd., Travel services
- Heway and DHL, Mailing services
- Heritage Marketing Services and Redland Sales & Services, Photocopy and printing services
- Ismail and Saman Bin Sarip, Transport services
- Jason Tan Z Kiat and Ken Chong, IT technical support
- K.A. Fazal Enterprises Sdn. Bhd., Stationery supplier
- M.M. Ally's Sdn. Bhd., Money changer
- Maybank KL Sentral, Banking services
- MHL Digital System, Telecommunications supplier
- Nand Digital Corporation Sdn. Bhd., USB supplier
- NetOnboard Sdn. Bhd., Web-hosting services
- Patricia Kong and ERA Agencies, Insurance services
- S. Syed Ibrahim, Newspaper delivery services
- SJ Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants/External Auditors
- Sterling Pure Sdn. Bhd., Drinking water
- Sunil Vijayan, Legal advice services
- Synic Consulting Sdn. Bhd., Accounting software company
- V Tone Technologies Solution, Toner supplier
- Wong Kum Fatt, Ng Ah Meng Sdn. Bhd., Landlord
- Xintel Sdn. Bhd., Discounted call service provider

Office Renovation

- Afiah Trading, Furniture supplier
- Bangsar Valley Services, Office cleaning after renovation
- Chimera Sdn. Bhd., Design of ARROW signage, glass door stickers and posters on wall
- Gloria Design, Contractor
- Genuine Cleaning Enterprise Sdn. Bhd., Cleaning of carpets, upholstery
- SMA Global Logistics (M) Sdn. Bhd., Movers
- YCK Advertising, Contractor for Signboard and sticker installation





*A Mongolian older woman in the steppe.
Photo by Pierre-Jean Durieu/Shutterstock.com.*

championing women's sexual and reproductive rights

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