arrow
for change

Gender, SRHR and the Post-2015 Agenda

BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS:
To What Ends?

The process to formulate the post-2015 development agenda was unleashed upon the world in early 2013. In order to create an ambitious new global development agenda—which will influence national development strategies, global discourse, and purportedly, to be so transformational as to 'leave no one behind'—governments, NGOs, civil society stakeholders, UN agencies and inter-governmental bodies have been working relentlessly for the past two years in order to accomplish this aim.

In comparison with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which was often described as a top-down imposition by the UN on the developing world, the post-2015 process offered multifarious opportunities to influence the discussions and the negotiations through online mechanisms, national dialogues, regional meetings, and New York-based UN negotiations.

Concurrent processes around the post-2015 development agenda abound, such as the Financing for Development negotiations, the indicators and monitoring process by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs), and the creation of an accountability mechanism at various levels, including the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

The end goal is, of course, to create a seamless package for development for the next 15 years. However, since these different discussions have been happening in parallel sessions, there are serious questions on the 'seamlessness' of this development package.

At this point, it is imperative to ask critical questions: Will too much participation and too many processes yield the same results as no process and no participation? Have we been conflating participation with decision-making?

Will this post-2015 development agenda be the catalyst for the change we wish to see in our countries and our communities? Even if we pare down our expectations to the bare minimum, will this development agenda enable our governments to think about and tackle the issues we face with the perspectives and principles we would desire them to? Are the concepts of equality, including gender equality, human rights, non-discrimination, and fundamental freedoms and liberties upheld in a manner that states cannot continue to ignore and side-step these in the name of development?

The grave and disparate inequalities so obvious to all have now become a catch-phrase commonly used by member states, UN agencies and various development actors, including the private sector. However, genuine attempts to reduce inequalities will have to deal with the question of power imbalances

[G]enuine attempts to reduce inequalities will have to deal with the question of power imbalances in society: among countries; between corporations and individuals; between the few rich and the many poor; among men, women and transgender people; and between those in the centre and the masses on the margins. The grave and disparate inequalities are a result of grave and disparate power imbalances. Any development agenda that hopes to address inequalities must enable and empower individuals and organisations to check power.

in society: among countries; between corporations and individuals; between the few rich and the many poor; among men, women and transgender people; and between those in the centre and the masses on the margins. The grave and disparate inequalities are a result of grave and disparate power imbalances. Any development agenda that hopes to address inequalities must enable and empower individuals and organisations to check power.

Power imbalances are also the root causes of economic, political and social marginalisations. Those in power systematically through time seek to consolidate and maintain socio-cultural, religious, political, economic and, when applicable, military dominance. This results in the marginalisation of many different groups. Unequal economic development in the Global South regions has helped the rich and powerful further consolidate their economic, socio-cultural and political powers. Further marginalisation and disenfranchisement have ensued. The reticence and lethargy of governments to discuss and capture marginalisations due to gender and sexuality, amidst a host of other politically difficult issues such as migration, religious conservatism and fundamentalism, ethnic conflicts, foreign occupation, taxation and debts, demonstrates the inability or the disinterest of member states and the UN to find necessary solutions.

For all of us who work in the intersections of gender, women's human rights, and sexual and reproductive rights, defining and maintaining international, universal principles and standards with regards our issues is fundamental. These standards are derived from the international conventions and binding agreements signed onto by our governments. Amongst these conventions are: Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD); and the International Convention on the Protection of

> The reticence and lethargy of governments to discuss and capture marginalisations due to gender and sexuality, amidst a host of other politically difficult issues such as migration, religious conservatism and fundamentalism, ethnic conflicts, foreign occupation, taxation and debts, demonstrates the inability or the disinterest of member states and the UN to find necessary solutions.

the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. In addition to these, our governments have also signed onto agreements from the major UN conferences, such as the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD POA) and the Beijing Platform of Action (BPFA). Holding governments accountable to these standards has been a main strategy to reduce inequalities and underlying factors that cause economic, political and social marginalisation. Utilising human rights mechanisms and standards has also been a key strategy for checking power in all countries. In order to make governments accountable for delivering on the post-2015, maintaining these standards is essential, and the inclusion of these into the decisions and monitoring work of the HLPF is vital.

The focus of the post-2015 development agenda is on least-developed countries, landlocked countries, small island countries, countries in situations of conflict, and Africa. This shows that indeed this is a continuing agenda of 'developing' countries. However, it must not be forgotten that the middle-income countries demonstrate the ill-effects of development and the greatest inequalities in the world. In fact, more than three quarters of the world's poor (by income measures) live in countries classified by the World Bank as middle-income countries. This clearly demonstrates that poverty is not a result of lack of development, but is a result of

unequal and fractured development. This begets the question—is this agenda actually going to reduce poverty and inequality? It is much-needed that this agenda change the way development strategies are going to be implemented in low-incomes countries, and catalyse change in the policies and programmes in middle-income countries to enable the distribution of the benefits of development in a just manner.

Equally apathetic has been the suggestion that reporting of governments towards achievement of the post-2015 development agenda to be entirely voluntary, and only involve government reporting. The lessons of the past have taught it is essential for government reports to be compared and contrasted with shadow reports as these provide critical information for recommendations. Already there are whispers that governments should not be made to report a minimum number of times in the next 15 years. Ideally, NGOs would like our governments to be reporting every 3-5 years, ensuring at least 3-4 reports within the next 15 years. After the considerable work of creating an agenda with the participation of all stakeholders and in-built consensus, it seems that member states may not want to be held accountable for achievements.

However, this is not a reflection of the post-2015 process alone. The global scenario has been plagued by a series of crises: conflicts between states and between peoples, disasters, and financial and governance Catch-22. Moreover, there has been a glaring lack of political leadership—at the national and the global levels—in order to harness these crises and provide adequate and timely remedial measures.

> [I]t is an omission when any transformative agenda does not call at least for the assessment and audit, and if necessary, revamp and overhaul, of the institutions that seek to serve the people.

The post-2015 process evidenced the enormity of the challenges we face as a global community, and that current institutions that we have—from our local government authorities to the UN—are unable to tackle these effectively and efficiently. Hence, it is an omission when any transformative agenda does not call at least for the assessment and audit, and if necessary, revamp and overhaul, of the institutions that seek to serve the people.

We also need to look at the current democratic processes available to us as citizens. Are these processes serving to solidify existing power bases, or enabling governance and justice?

We have our work cut out for us for the next 15 years. We need to be able to form broad coalitions with peoples' movements across different sectors in order to check power more effectively and efficiently. We need to be able to form a coalition of governments, NGOs and UN agencies which continue to champion and set universal, high standards and benchmarks for development. While we can utilise the post-2015 development framework as a take off point for discussions, and to point out gaps in government implementation and achievements, it is evident that to create the #worldwewant, we may well have to roll up our sleeves and build it ourselves.

By **Sivananthi Thanenthiran,** Executive Director,
Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW).
Email: siva@arrow.org.my

FINANCING SRHR FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Financing for Development (FfD) is a crucial discussion that is currently taking place at the global level, culminating in the third FfD conference in July 2015 with a new financing framework. An independent process that began in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus,[1] the FfD decides funding contributions to and support for various sectors. While earlier discussions on FfD were limited to economic issues, such as foreign investments, debts, and macroeconomic issues, the current discussions also cover social developmental issues, such as gender equality and women's empowerment.

Why Gender, Human Rights, and Financing? Gender equality and women's rights are critical to the financing for development discussions.

Sustainable development will remain unfulfilled unless gender gaps are filled. Some of these concerns include the following: high maternal mortality in many countries, especially in the Global South; women forming the largest group of unpaid care workers; gender discrimination in the formal labour market with women being paid less and denied of a decent working environment; low literacy level of girls; low representation of women in decision-making processes at all levels and in all sectors; stigma and discrimination towards the LGBTIQ[2] population; and inaccessible and unaffordable sexual and reproductive health services, amongst others.

Lessons learnt from the past wherein the development agenda, especially on gender equality, remain unfulfilled, should be taken into account in financing decisions at all levels. These include inadequate resource allocation, lack of accountability mechanisms, and binding clauses for the implementation of international commitments.

It is also imperative that the new financing framework is bound by human rights obligations so that trade and investment agreements are conducted transparently with consultation and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including women's groups, labour unions, consumer unions, environmental protection groups and health professionals.[3]

The financing framework should be based on the following principles:

1. Transparency in terms of decisions, agreements, and resource flows.

2. Accountability of the development actors in ensuring that the human rights of all are respected in the financing framework. Accountability also lies with the state governments to ensure that commitments to the international agreements are reflected in the national laws and policies, and that they are implemented effectively.

3. Equity in opportunities for economic growth, health and overall development, especially of the poor and the marginalised.

4. Participation of all relevant stakeholders, including representatives from women and marginalised groups, in decision-making related to finances at all levels, as well as in monitoring of the implementation of those decisions.

Why SRHR and Financing? While gender issues have begun to be discussed at FfD, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are missing in these discussions. SRHR are fundamental to women and girls being able to lead full, satisfying, healthy and productive lives. SRHR encompass a range of issues, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and supplies, comprehensive sexuality education, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices such as early, child and forced marriage[4] and female genital cutting. SRHR also increase possibilities to receive an education, especially for women, and moving on to the workplace, resulting in more potential for economic growth and development[5] for

Notes & References

1   The Monterrey Consensus is the landmark agreement resulting from the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico in 2002, which was the first UN summit that addressed issues related to finance and global development. In the agreement, both developed and developing countries recognised their responsibilities on areas such as trade, aid, debt relief and institution building.

2   LGBTIQ stands for "Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer."

3   Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2015, June 2). UN experts voice concern over adverse impact of free trade and investment agreements on human rights. Retrieved June 15, 2015 from www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16031&LangID=E docs/Women-s-MG-response-to-Co-Chairs_19FOCUSAREA.pdf

4   High Level Task Force for ICPD. (2015). *Policy considerations for financing sexual and reproductive health and rights in the post-2015 era.* Retrieved June 15, 2015 from http://icpdtaskforce.org/resources/HLTFFinancingSRHRBrief.pdf

Notes & References

5   DSW. Sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). Retrieved from http://www.dsw.org/our-focus/srhr.html

6   High-Level Task Force for ICPD. (2015). *Smart investments for financing for post-2015 development agenda.* Retrieved June 15, 2015 from http://icpdtaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FinancingBriefSmartInvestments2015.pdf

7   Ravindran, T.K.S.; Maceira, D; & Kikomba, D. (2005). Health financing reforms. In *The rights reforms? Health sector reforms and sexual and reproductive health.* Johannesburg: Women's Health Project, University of the Witwatersrand.

8   Thanenthiran, S.; Racherla S.J.; & Jahanath, S. (2013). *Reclaiming and redefining Rights: ICPD+20 status of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia Pacific.* Kuala Lumpur: Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW). Retrieved June 5, 2015 from http://arrow.org.my/publication/status-of-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-asia-pacific/

9   WHO. (2009). *Guide to producing reproductive health sub-accounts.* Retrieved June 7, 2015 from http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241598538_eng.pdf?ua=1

10 Commission on Population and Development. (2014). *Framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014* (Report of the Secretary-General on the forty-seventh session). Retrieved June 7, 2015 from http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/sg_report_on_icpd_operational_review_final.unedited.pdf

11 Sumner, A. (2011). *Poverty in middle-income countries.* The Bellagio Initiative. Retrieved June 7, 2015 from http://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/Bellagio_Sumner1.pdf

12 Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW). (2015). Response to the zero draft of the Post-2015 Summit outcome document, "Transforming our world by 2030: A new agenda for global action" by the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), partners and allies. Retrieved June 15, 2015 from https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_URw8J9eFA1NlJ6NXkxOHloN1U/view?pli=1

communities and nations as a whole. Hence, access to SRHR leads to advancing gender equality, including reduction in maternal mortality and increased life expectancy.

Rights that fall within SRHR are recognised in international human rights agreements. Yet, the past and current economic climate have not recognised the dire need to invest in SRHR, especially of women and marginalised populations. In every country, SRHR outcomes are worse for women and girls who are poorer, lesser educated, and living in hard-to-reach places. Hence, if adequate attention is not given to resolving issues related to SRHR, the international community stands to pay a high price[5] as it will create power imbalances, widen inequalities, and perpetuate injustices, which will directly have an impact on people's health and well-being. The cost of inaction on these interlinked challenges are dire, "including tackling the dramatic and increasing the inequalities within and among the countries, effectively addressing climate change and reducing unsustainable consumption and production, or achieving gender equality, fulfilling the human rights of women and girls, adolescents and youth; and realising sexual and reproductive health and rights for all."[6]

SRHR should be prioritised in the negotiations that are taking place for the post-2015 agenda and FfD, and gender should be mainstreamed in all proposed sustainable development goals.

Health Financing and SRHR. Key overarching issues in terms of financing for SRHR cut across all sectors, including health. There are limitations in health financing, especially in resource-poor countries. Though tax revenues are a main source of financing for health, there are other social sectors that the health sector has to compete with,[7] thus leading to inadequate allocation for health needs, especially SRH.

In 19 out of 21 countries in Asia and the Pacific studied by ARROW, out-of-pocket or self-financing of health services is still the largest source of financing for health care due to inadequate public financing on health (see Table 1).[8]

Additionally, essential services packages do not include a comprehensive range of SRH services, and they are not free at the point of care**.** Although some elements of SRH may be included in the benefit package of prepayment and national insurance schemes, in many cases, they do not include coverage of a wide range of essential sexual and reproductive health services, such as normal delivery, contraception, and in-patient gynecological care; nor do they cover some of the most risky health events for women, such as delivery complications.[8]

One key recommendation related to financing is to set up sexual and reproductive health sub-accounts. Proposed by the World Health Organisation, the sub-account is a tool for setting priorities, allocating budgets, and advocacy, as well as for increasing transparency and drawing accountability from governments tasked with providing SRH services.[8] The tool aims to provide key expenditure information to guide the strategic planning of national policymakers, donors, and other stakeholders in the area of SRH care, as well as to identify all sources and uses of financial flows for SRH in the context of overall health spending.[9] All governments should establish these sub-accounts.

Donor Support. Another key issue on financing is low donor funding for the health sector. The funding level for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action increased but very slowly, and the assistance stood at $11.4 billion in 2011, nearly $9 billion short of the levels agreed in 1994.[10]

Adequate resources should be allocated, especially for the proposed goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, and goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. This can be made possible when all the developed countries fulfill their commitment to provide 0.7% of gross national income in official development assistance to developing countries. While at least 0.15 to 0.20 percent of the ODA has been demanded to go to the least developing countries, there has been no such need defined for middle-income countries (MICs), despite that ODA remains critical in the MICs. It is in the MICs where inequality is the greatest and where population of the poor people is the largest.[11] Continued support to MICs, including receipt of Official Development Assistance, and greater considerations towards the distribution of aid are needed.[12]

Table 1. Key Health Financing Indicators

Country	Total Expenditure on Health as % of GDP (2010)	General Government Expenditure on Health as % of Total Health Expenditure	Out-of-pocket (OOP) Expenditure on Health as % of Total Health Expenditure
East Asia			
China	5.0	54.3	36.6
South Asia			
Afghanistan	10.4	22.5	83.0
Bangladesh	3.7	36.5	63.4
Bhutan	4.3	84.6	11.9
Sri Lanka	3.5	45.6	44.9
Maldives	6.2	60.8	28.2
Nepal	5.1	37.4	54.4
Pakistan	2.8	28.2	50.4
India	3.7	28.2	61.1
South-East Asia			
Cambodia	6.0	21.5	40.3
Myanmar	2.0	12.1	81.1
Lao PDR	2.6	45.6	51.1
Malaysia	4.4	55.5	34.1
Philippines	4.1	36.1	54
Indonesia	2.8	36.1	38.2
Thailand	3.9	75.0	13.9
Vietnam	6.8	37.1	57.6
Pacific			
Fiji	4.2	70.2	19.6
Kiribati	11.2	81.2	0.1
PNG	4.1	75.2	15.9
Samoa	6.3	87.5	7.7

Source: WHO Global Health Repository, National Health Accounts

The new Global Financing Facility (GFF) in support of Every Woman, Every Child that was launched at the third FfD conference in Addis Ababa is expected to play a key role in financing for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) and to be a major financing source for Goal 3 of the SDGs on health. This might be important in order to "close the financing gap in RMNCAH spending, which is estimated to be around US$ 33.3 billion in 2015."

However, big concerns need to be addressed. GFF governance relies significantly on the private sector, and is dominated by private foundations, along with traditional donors.[13] Only the GFF investors group has a say in decision making on financial support of national health strategies. Moreover, GFF lacks a consultative process with various SRHR stakeholders, particularly women's rights groups and civil society, which could result in the GFF not addressing real needs on the ground. Nor is it subject to intergovernmental oversight and mutual accountability mechanisms.[13]

Notes & References

14 Civil society response to the FfD Elements Paper. (2015, January 28). Retrieved June 7, 2015 from https://csoforffd.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/cso-response-to-ffd-elements-paper-28-jan-2015.pdf

15 Ravindran, T. S. (2010). Privatisation in reproductive health services in Pakistan: Three case studies. *Reproductive Health Matters*, *18*(36), 13-24.

16 Post-2015 Women's Coalition. (2014). *An advocacy brief: Post-2015 development agenda: Finance and sexual and reproductive health and rights.* Retrieved June 5, 2015 http://www.post2015women.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Finance2.pdf

17 Malarcher, S. (Ed.). (2010). *Social determinants of sexual and reproductive health: Informing future research and programme implementation.* Geneva: WHO. Retrieved June 5, 2015 from http://www.who.int/social_determinants/tools/WHO_SocialDeterminantsSexualHealth_2010.pdf

18 Gender-responsive budgeting is a tool to promote gender equality by assessing the effect of government revenue and expenditure policies on both women and men.

19 IPPF. (2015). Financing for development (Paper presented at the CSOs and UNFPA Global Strategy Meeting: ICPD Beyond 2014 & the Post 2015 Development Agenda, 23-25 January 2015, Istanbul, Turkey).

20 Arutyunova, A. & Clark, C. (2013). *Watering the leaves, starving the roots: The status of financing for women's rights organising and gender equality.* Toronto, Mexico City & Cape Town: AWID. Retrieved from http://gender-financing.unwomen.org/~/media/files/un%20women/grb/resources/watering%20the%20leaves%20starving%20the%20roots%20association%20for%20womens%20rights%20in%20development%20awid.pdf

There is ample evidence that the privatisation of the health sector has not contributed significantly to the realisation of universal access to comprehensive SRH services. Instead, this has restricted the accessibility of the poor and marginalised to health services due to its profit-driven nature, which increases the overall burden of unpaid care work on women and girls, as well as territorial and gender inequality.

Concerns on Private Sector Involvement.
Business features prominently as the key financier in current discussions for both FfD and SDGs. This is of concern for civil society because certain sectors concerned with public goods such as health and education need to be the main responsibility of the government. Moreover, appropriate accountability measures need to be put in place to ensure that any such actions are not solely profit-driven, but should instead conform to human rights and environmental standards, "and be age, disability and gender-responsive."[12]

There is ample evidence that the privatisation of the health sector has not contributed significantly to the realisation of universal access to comprehensive SRH services. Instead, this has restricted the accessibility of the poor and marginalised to health services due to its profit-driven nature, which increases the overall burden of unpaid care work on women and girls, as well as territorial and gender inequality.[14] For example, studies of three large-scale privatisation initiatives in Pakistan on service delivery, management and capacity building functions in the health sector reveal that privatisation in Pakistan's health sector is not delivering good quality, comprehensive reproductive health services.[15]

The private health sector should complement public health services and address public health care needs including SRH services. Governments should establish regulatory

frameworks to ensure adequate levels of equity, access and quality of health services, including for sexual and reproductive health.[16] Establishing regulatory mechanisms should apply to international private-for-profit players as well. Additionally, restrictive conditions of Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Free Trade Agreements (FTA) have created monopoly in manufacturing of the medicines controlled by few countries have further eroded access to medicines, in particular for the poor and marginalised.[17] Some of the key elements of a global partnership for development should include a development-oriented trade regime, affordable access to technology and medicines for developing countries, as well democratising global economic governance, particularly in the international financial institutions.[14]

Intersectionality. Focused only on the health sector to realise SRHR is insufficient, because it is affected by various social determinants, such as poverty, hunger, migration, and recurring economic and food crisis, which are linked to each other through different ways.[18] Therefore, other sectors of development should also pay equal attention to and make investments in SRHR. Especially important for the education sector is to finance comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), as well as public education on SRHR and awareness-raising. Similarly, gender-responsive budgeting[19] should be institutionalised across all policies and sectors[20] and SRHR should be a major component of it.

Moreover, participation of women's rights and SRHR organisations is critical. They are key players who facilitate strong results in narrowing the gender gap, but their work is largely unrecognised and underfunded. Their contributions should be recognised and, aside from an enabling environment for CSOs, there should be multi-year core funding[21] through innovative, democratic financing mechanisms to CSOs to allow flexibility to respond to changing circumstances and contexts towards achieving sustainable development.

By **Biplabi Shretha,** Senior Programme Officer,
Partnerships and Capacity Building, WHRAP-South Asia, ARROW.
Email: biplabi@arrow.org.my

WILL THE MEANS JUSTIFY THE ENDS?

Means of Implementation and Meaningful Social Change

Central to the agenda of sustainable development are people, their health and rights in diverse human conditions and contexts—including people in rural areas, the poor, people with disabilities, migrants, sexual minorities, religious minorities, people living in regions vulnerable to climate change and disasters, and people in regions of conflict.

In order to have an equitable sustainable development agenda, it is critical to pay attention to one of the largest communities of marginalised people—women. Women suffer from one of the structural inequalities of the world—that of gender, despite their contribution towards the world and nation's economies. Women do most of the unpaid and domestic care work, which goes unaccounted for. A large percentage of value that circulates in the world is a product of unpaid domestic and care work;[1] thus, women subsidise the entire economy.

Sustainable development will remain out of reach if careful attention is paid not just to the goals set forth in the post-2015 agenda but also to the processes in achieving it, namely, the Means of Implementation (MoI). This article attempts to unpack several issues of MoI and their repercussions on the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women.

MoI describes "the interdependent mix of financial resources, technology development and transfer, capacity building, inclusive and equitable globalisation and trade, regional integration, as well as the creation of a national enabling environment required to implement the new sustainable development agenda, particularly in developing countries."[2]

Currently, MoI is laid down in Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and MOI targets have also been added to each goal (see Box). However, it is concerning that in the MOI section of draft of the outcome document of the Post-2015 summit, the targets related to MoI have been presented without the corresponding SDG targets, thus indicating a disconnect. The MoI targets should serve to achieve the goals and targets, rather than an end in themselves, and hence, both should always be tied together.[3]

A newer and strengthened method for mobilising MoI would do the following: 1) address social, economic and environmental dimensions in an integrated manner; 2) build on existing commitments and government structures; 3) enforce the post-2015 agenda; 4) garner finances and other resources; and 5) strengthen governance and accountability.[2]

Juxtaposing SRHR against another set of rights such as economic justice has been a recurrently used strategy by duty-bearers at the national level in hindering the path of sustainable development. However, attainment of economic justice, poverty reduction and debt restructuring are important issues and in tandem with the demand for SRHR. Women's SRHR are possibly the worst affected in contexts of poverty and food insecurity. Poor and marginalised women have inadequate

Sustainable development will remain out of reach if careful attention is paid not just to the goals set forth in the post-2015 agenda but also to the processes in achieving it, namely, the Means of Implementation (MoI).

Notes & References

1   Ferrant, G., Pesando, L.M. & Nowacka, K. (n.d.). *Unpaid care work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes.* OECD Development Centre. Retrieved June 5, 2015 from http://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf

2   TST Issues Brief: Means of Implementation; Global Partnership for Achieving Sustainable Development. Retrieved June 5, 2015 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2079Issues%20Brief%20Means%20of%20Implementation%20Final_TST_141013.pdf

3   Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW). 2015. Response to the zero draft of the Post-2015 Summit outcome document, "Transforming our world by 2030: A new agenda for global action" by the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), partners and allies. Retrieved 15 June 2015 from https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_URw8J9eFA1NlJ6NXkxOHloN1U/view?pli=1

[A]ttainment of economic justice, poverty reduction and debt restructuring are important issues and in tandem with the demand for SRHR. Women's SRHR are possibly the worst affected in contexts of poverty and food insecurity.

Notes & References

4   United Nations. (2014). *Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals.* https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal

5   Regions Refocus 2015, DAWN & Third World Network. *A geopolitical analysis of Financing for Development (FfD3).* Retrieved June 5, 2015 from http://www.twn.my/title2/finance/2015/fi150302/A%20Geopolitical%20Analysis%20of%20FfD3%20-%20Regions%20Refocus,%20TWN,%20DAWN.pdf

services and interventions that cater to their SRH, and thus strike at some of their most basic rights. These include access to maternal health services, contraception and abortion; interventions to prevent and manage gender-based violence; youth-friendly services; and hygienic and healthy settings that cater to their wellbeing. Moreover, lack of SRH services, including access to maternal health services, contraception and abortion, for example, take away women's control over their own bodies and their lives. This subsumes them further within the circle of poverty and therefore food insecurity.

A solid financial agenda would set the basis in advancing SRHR. Sustainable development financing comprises of financing from domestic and external resources. Although public policies and funding sources are crucial to address market failures and raising resources for long-term investments in infrastructure and high-risk investments, there appears to be a significant gap between developed and developing countries in their capacity to raise public revenues. Substantial state resources in low-income countries are tied to debt repayments[2] and developing countries remain subsumed within a cycle of debt crises. Sustainable development requires strengthening domestic resource mobilisation through international support to developing countries, fulfilment of the requirement by developed countries to implement fully their ODA commitments to developing nations, mobilisation of additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources, assisting developing nations in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as well as promoting investments for LDCs.[4]

The North-South divide becomes prominent in instances where developed nations put an undue emphasis on the responsibility of the individual state and the importance of domestic resource mobilisation towards sustainable development, thus deflecting from their historical responsibility to contribute to global development.[5] On the other hand, developing countries argue that the

responsibilities of each country should differ and depend on varying capacities, realities and developmental levels of countries.[5] Domestic resource mobilisation has also been linked to the need for international cooperation to stem illicit financial flows, including the unconditional return of stolen assets to countries of origin.[5] Widespread practices of tax evasion, and trade and services mispricing by transnational corporations, account for a bulk of illicit outflows from developing countries.[5] Robust systems of taxation, increasing the tax base, progressive taxation, efficient tax collection systems, as well as a lesser emphasis on indirect taxation, are therefore vital. Over-dependence on remittances also goes to increase the pressures over the migrant population, particularly women, who often have had to migrate not out of choice but out of necessity. As migrants, women often have the double burden of maintaining families in the country of origin as well as destination, deal with additional challenges of child rearing, go through regular screen checks for diseases and pregnancies, live with the fear of punitive measures in cases of unlawful migration, as well as live with less pay, more work hours with no or limited access to a safe and hygienic work environment.

Although it has been more than four decades that 0.7% of the Gross National Income has been promised by developed countries towards Official Development Assistance (ODA) of financially poor countries, this has hardly been implemented. Further, transition of countries to the Middle Income Countries makes it difficult for them to access ODA and provides them less access to concessionary loans. Progress from LDC to MIC status does not necessarily ensure equitable and sustainable development for all, particularly the marginalised.

Debt sustainability analyses should incorporate the impact of debt servicing on the realisation of the SDGs, as well as the public financing necessary to fulfil SDGs in developing countries. Debt is never sustainable, and there is a call for full cancellation of debt, especially for LDCs, countries going through disasters,[6] and countries going through political and socio-economic turmoil.

Enhanced North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation is needed to promote knowledge sharing, development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries. This must be done on favourable terms, with full operationalisation of Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Innovation capacity building mechanism for LDCs and augmenting the use of enabling technologies, in particular ICT.[4] Technology transfer has in the past been used to create dependence on developed countries. For example, this has hampered indigenous technologies in developing countries through inaccessibility to affordable medicines. Access to and transfer of appropriate technology is required for almost all the SDGs.

Nations are encouraged to enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all SDGs, including

A multi-pronged MoI strategy would look at concepts of universality and of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) between countries, the private and the public sector, and sound strategies that enhance resource mobilisation catering to the most vulnerable and the most marginalised.

North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.[7] It is also aimed that capacity-building support to developing countries be enhanced to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, and geographical location.[7] Additionally, ARROW, partners and allies, call for disaggregated data to be specified by citizenship status, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, occupation, HIV and health status, marital status, pregnancy status and other characteristics relevant to national contexts.[3] An equitable trading system must address the structural impediments embedded in existing trade agreements that limit developing countries' policy space to equally compete with developed countries. Rather than espousing open market policies without safeguards or specificity, governments must advance strategic regional integration in trade agreements. Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) is also used to the detriment of developing nations to control the access to essential drugs and life-saving medicines, thus making them inaccessible to the marginalised. Exemptions or amendments to IPR rules are therefore needed to develop endogenous technologies, innovations and services related to sustainability.

The failure of the public sector to provide adequately for quality health services puts an undue emphasis on the private sector, thus resulting in a huge proportion of out-of-pocket expenditures, which is detrimental to the approach of universal access to healthcare. While public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the health sector becomes predominant in a scenario of an over-emphasis on the private sector, this could possibly lead to lesser checks and controls on the private sector, particularly Transnational Corporations (TNCs).

A multi-pronged MoI strategy would look at concepts of universality and of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) between countries, the private and the public sector, and sound strategies that enhance resource mobilisation catering to the most vulnerable and the most marginalised. The

Notes & References

6   Civil society organisations all over the world have called for a full and unconditional cancellation of Nepal's debt ahead of the International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction on June 25, 2015 due to the severe damages faced by Nepal on the face of the earthquake in June, 2015. For more information, refer to: http://www.ldcwatch.org/index.php/media-centre/press-release/67-cancel-nepal-s-debt-nepali-asian-people-s-groups

7   United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for global action; Final draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda.* Retrieved 9 July 2015 from https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7603Final%20draft%20outcome%20document%20UN%20Sept%20Summit%20w%20letter_08072015.pdf

principle of universality must ensure that the development agenda that we are set for achieving is equitable and fair, gender sensitive, environmentally sound, and takes into account the most marginalised and the most vulnerable. CBDR between countries and between the different sectors is crucial on the one hand to ensure the participation by all actors within the development agenda, and on the other to acknowledge and recognise the different strengths and responsibilities of these different actors. The global North and the private sector thus have a larger role to play in realising equality and equity between and among all people, striking at the core of structural barriers of inequality, poverty and gender discrimination and ensuring that the development agenda truly reaches out and responds to every person's needs and concerns.

By **Arpita Das**, Senior Programme Officer, Monitoring, Research and Advocacy, ARROW. Email: arpita@arrow.org.my

Gender and SRHR-related Goals and Targets, Including on MOI [7]

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG Targets

3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1000 live births

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

3.4 By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

3.6 By 2030, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents and, in the interim, by 2020, stabilise and then reduce global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

MOI Targets

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG Targets

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

MOI Targets

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Additionally, **Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development**, provides targets on the following areas: finance, technology, capacity building, trade, systemic issues on policy and institutional incoherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and data, monitoring and accountability.

MONITORING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATING THE TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA

Notes & References

1   Ambassador Minami further said that the preamble and the declaration of the outcome document of the UN Summit would be good tools for this purpose. Women's groups, including ARROW and the Women's Major Group, however, feel that the political declaration of the outcome document needs to be strengthened and not shortened and simplified. Gender equality and human rights of women and girls should be cross-cutting throughout the political declaration. A response from ARROW, partners and allies can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_URw8J9eFA1NlJ6NXkxOHl0N1U/view?pli=1 On the other hand, the Women's Major Group issued a document, *10 Red Flags for the Zero Draft of the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, which can be found here: http://bit.ly/RedFlagsWMG 2

2   United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development http://www.uncsd2012.org

3   United Nations Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit

4   The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development was established in January 2013, following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. They were composed of 30 members and tasked with developing a proposed set of sustainable development goals. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html

5   The #SRHR4ALL campaign is one piece of ARROW's various interventions, both online and on ground, in advocating for the inclusion of SRHR in the post-2015 agenda.

6   http://www.srhrforall.org

7   The Women's Major Group was created at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, where governments recognised women as one of the nine important groups in society to achieve sustainable development. Since then, the Women's Major Group has been recognised by the UN in the sustainable development processes. It is self-organised and open to all interested organisations working to promote human rights based sustainable development with a focus on women's human rights, women's empowerment and gender equality. http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/

As we approach the final stages of negotiating the post-2015 development agenda, governments are discussing how to communicate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the general public. During the 6th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGNs), H.E. Hiroshi Minami, the Ambassador of Japan, spoke of the need to communicate and explain the goals and targets to ordinary citizens.[1]

While communicating the SDGs is important, communicating and explaining the journey from Rio+20[2] to September 2015[3] key asks to be included in the next development agenda, as well as what was won and what was lost on the way, is as important. ARROW, our partners and allies have been engaged in this crucial but often neglected aspect, starting from the Open Working Group (OWG) process.[4] The modalities for most of these communications campaigns have been online and engaging with other media.

While advocacy and communications do not always overlap, the two are not mutually exclusive either. Media and communications campaigns are useful advocacy tools and spaces. This is even more so in spaces like the IGNs where access to member states can be very limited for CSOs and major groups, and there is a need for alternative and creative ways of sharing key asks and language recommendations with them.

Below are examples of two women-led, rights-based campaigns around the post-2015 agenda.

#SRHR4ALL in the #Post2015.[5] ARROW has been calling for the inclusion of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the post-2105 development agenda, including under ARROW's flagship of the #SRHR4ALL campaign.[6] The campaign is based on the premise that 20 years down the road from the landmark International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), many people, particularly the most marginalised, still lack access to SRHR. Regionally and globally, the statistics for maternal mortality ratio, adolescent birth rates, unmet need for contraception, and other SRHR indicators remain serious concerns.

The campaign's call to action is organised around a hashtag: #SRHR4ALL. Initially used by ARROW and partners only, the hashtag has gained immense popularity and is frequently used by fellow SRHR advocates, especially in efforts directed at the post-2015 development agenda.

#WhatWomenWant in the #Post2015. The Women's Major Group (WMG), which consists of women's and feminist organisations and individuals from around the globe,[7] has been consistently monitoring global and regional policy positions of the UN and member states around the Rio+20 outcome and the post-2015 development agenda. The group has been carrying out communications efforts through various platforms, including their website and social media and online platforms belonging to various WMG members from across the world.

With the onset of the intergovernmental negotiations this year, the WMG has been making a more concerted effort to mobilise their members to carry out a two-fold communications strategy, and ARROW has been actively leading and participating in it. On one hand, the work encompasses

communicating the ongoing negotiations back to the WMG membership and netizens by posting live updates (mostly via Twitter) from the negotiations in New York, and highlighting the progressive, as well as regressive, language proposed by various member states. These messages are retweeted by WMG members, sometimes with country-specific commentary and analysis producing a multiplier effect. A good practice adopted by those live tweeting the negotiations is to rally behind friendly/progressive member states by tagging them in supportive messages and encouraging them to maintain their positions.

On the other hand, the communication efforts are also aimed to convey key asks, proposed language and certain red flags[8] to the member states through targeted messaging. For example, in June 2015, the WMG released ten red flags[9] highlighting areas that need to be strengthened in the zero draft of the outcome document of the UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda. These were disseminated vigorously throughout the entire four days of the 6th IGN via an online campaign, "#WhatWomenWant in the #Post2015."

A social media toolkit was shared with the WMG membership. While most of the content was in English, some translations were crowdsourced[10] through WMG members. A twitter rally was held for an hour each morning where WMG members from around the world tweeted the sample messages, as well as country and region-specific messages, often tagging their respective member states.

Simultaneously, a photo campaign was carried out with WMG members sharing photos holding up messages containing key asks from member states. For synergy, on the on-ground advocates used the tag, "What Women Want" whenever they made an intervention during the IGN. The overall outcome was a holistic and effective communications of messages and asks to a wide array of stakeholders throughout the week.

Claiming Our Space. It is estimated that an average of 6,000 tweets are sent out per second globally[11] and these online communications efforts around the post-2015 agenda are but a tiny speck in this grand landscape. However, it is evident[12] that these efforts continue to reach their target groups, including the member states, and that the online space, as well as media and communications, would be a critical component as the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda commences later this year.

Notes & References

8   A red flag is a sign that there is a problem that should be noticed or dealt with.

9   Women's Major Group. (2015, June 20). *10 red flags for the zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda.* Retrieved July 1, 2015 from http://bit.ly/RedFlagsWMG

10   The practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people and especially from the online community rather than from traditional employees or suppliers.

11   http://www.internetlivestats.com/twitter-statistics/

12   As evidenced by personal testimonies, from member states retweeting messages and/or marking them as favourites, and from member states following the Twitter accounts of ARROW, WMG and members.

By **Sachini Perera,** Programme Officer, Communications (Website and Social Media), ARROW.
Email: sachini@arrow.org.my

VOICE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Solidifying CSO Voices in the Region

With a population of 4.2 billion people, Asia and the Pacific is a region that is extremely diverse in terms of wealth distribution and development. As the development world was gearing up towards discussions on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), after the Rio+20 conference, CSOs in the region realised the need for a common platform that would best amplify and broadcast their voices in the global arena. The Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) was formed in 2014 at the Civil Society Forum of the inaugural session of the Asia-Pacific

Notes & References

1   Ramakant, B. (2015, May 21). Bodily autonomy and sexual rights are integral to development justice. *Asian Tribune*. http://www.asiantribune.com/node/87017

2   People living with HIV

3   Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer

Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). AP-RCEM is a platform that is initiated, owned and driven by CSOs to ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes at regional and global levels.

AP-RCEM came together again on 16-18 May 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand for a civil society forum focusing on Consolidating Peoples' Agenda for Development Justice in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This also served as a preparatory meeting for CSOs attending the second APFSD convened by UNESCAP on 21-22 May 2015.

With 17 constituencies represented in RCEM, the meeting was instrumental in ensuring that the CSOs, while presenting one voice, were also effectively presenting the unique view-points of the diverse groups they represented. As part of the Women's Constituency, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), together with its allies, ensured that sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) was expressly included in statements prepared for the APFSD.

Making a Case for the Inclusion of SRHR in the Development Agenda. To further drive home the point that development justice is not possible without the strongest language on women's rights and the inclusion of SRHR, ARROW carried out a side event at the CSO forum in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Alliance for SRHR (APA), IPPF South Asia and East Asia & Pacific Regions, and the Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). ARROW Senior Programme Officer Maria Melinda Ando presented a strong case for why SRHR is pertinent in all discussions related to sustainable development in the post-2015 agenda (see quote). The side event was well covered by the media.[1]

The event also provided a platform for our Sri Lankan partner Sepali Kottegoda of Women and Media Collective to share challenges in the national context, while representatives from the migrant, PLHIV,[2] youth, people living with disability, and LGBTIQ[3] communities highlighted and discussed SRHR issues related to their constituencies.

"SRHR are a set of interconnected human rights related to sexuality and reproduction of a person recognising international laws, international human rights and consensus documents, and based upon the principles of bodily autonomy and integrity ('my body and my rights'); right of self-determination; equality (amongst men, women, transgender and intersex people); and respect cultural diversity.... SRHR concerns all human beings. If we cannot control our own bodies, sexualities, or fertility, then we cannot also fully access other rights such as economic, social, and cultural rights....SRHR is central in achieving gender equality, women's empowerment and in achieving sustainable development. Poverty, disasters, climate change and conflicts are also linked to SRHR. Moreover, SRHR is a smart investment for governments."

Initial groundwork was laid for setting up of a thematic working group at the AP-RCEM for Gender, Sexuality and SRHR, which received support from other constituencies such as women, migrants, youth, PLHIV, urban poor and NGOs. It is envisioned that the SRHR Thematic Working Group will eventually function as a cross-constituent civil society platform with the aim of promoting holistic awareness of and increasing commitment on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia and the Pacific as a function of the RCEM.

Synergy between Roles of Member States and Rightful Space for CSOs. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) was convened by UNESCAP for soliciting Asia-Pacific regional input to the High-level Political

Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2015. The theme of this year's session was "Strengthening integration, implementation and review for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific."

Attended by more than 400 participants, the 2-day forum clearly demonstrated the strength of CSOs in articulating the viewpoints and making relevant demands to be heard at the highest level of decision making and truly embodying the spirit nothing for us without us. While the final outcome document of the forum was lacking in capturing all points articulated

by the CSO, it did expressly capture the need for gender equality as below:

> Many participants also highlighted gender equality and the empowerment of women as major actors in ensuring sustainable development. In relation to the centrality of gender equality to sustainable development, the increased participation of women in the labour market and their access to decent work, their equal participation in policymaking processes and addressing their rights to basic services were highlighted.[4]

By **Mangala Namasivayam**, Senior Programme Officer,
Strengthening Capacities of an SRHR Network, ARROW.
Email: mangala@arrow.org.my

Notes & References

4   Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2015, May 22). *Report of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on its Second Session; Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2015, Bangkok, 21-22 May 2015*. Retrieved June 2, 2015 from http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/FSD2_3E.pdf

ENGAGING AT THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development serves as the key United Nations platform on sustainable development. Labelled as the "apex of a global network of review processes" for the post-2015 development agenda, it is tasked with the follow-up and review of the implementation of the new development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is expected to foster "sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies."[1]

Importantly, the HLPF, through UN General Assembly Resolution A/67/290, accords civil society a significant participatory role.[2] This role is expected to be reinforced in the outcome document of the post-2015 summit.

Given its relevance, ARROW participated in this year's HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC, held from 26 June to 8 July 2015, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. We made several interventions, highlighting Global South perspectives and issues from the Asia-Pacific region.

Maria Melinda Ando was a lead discussant at the moderated discussion on "Reaching Out to the World: Communicating the Post-2015 Agenda." She represented ARROW, the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) and the Women's Major Group. In her intervention, she emphasised that while communicating the post-2015 agenda is important, the various hurdles to participate and to make one's voice heard must also not be forgotten. This includes addressing gender inequality, and other social norms and power structures in our societies that silence the voices of women, girls, and other groups on the margins. She also brought up the point that when communicating the post-2015 agenda, we must all adhere to human rights, gender equality, and ethical principles and standards.[3]

Additionally, ARROW also spoke at three side events. In the first one, HLPF for the Future We Want, which was organised by the Division for Sustainable Development of UNDESA on 26 June 2015, Sai Jyothirmai Racherla spoke about our proposed indicators framework and the role of the HLPF. She also shared ARROW's regional initiative on post-2015

1   United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for global action; Final draft outcome document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Retrieved from https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7603Final%20draft%20outcome%20document%20UN%20Sept%20Summit%20w%20letter_08072015.pdf

2   United Nations. (2013). *Format and organisational aspects of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development* (Resolution 67/290). Retrieved from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/290&Lang=E

3   Read Maria Melinda Ando's statement at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1l5bd_EGHgKwcdy7juWhM1Ns1WCgNz-gePl8E4Xn6XW8/edit?usp=sharing

national level implementation at the side event, Building Effective Bottom-Up Partnership for Sustainable Development Goals, organised by Voluntary Association for Agriculture, General Development, Health and Reconstruction Alliance (VAAGDHARA) on 2nd July 2015. Lastly, Maria Melinda Ando presented ARROW and AP-RCEM's position on accountability and the HLPF at the side event, Integrating Three Levels of Accountability for a Robust and Effective Review Mechanism at HLPF, which was organised by the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON) on 1st July 2015.

The HLPF ended with a Ministerial Declaration affirming governments' commitment for "establishing a strong, universal, ambitious, inclusive and people-centred post-2015

development agenda that will build on the foundations laid and experiences gained during the Millennium Development Goals process, complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges."[4] However, the modalities of how the HLPF will monitor the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda have been left unanswered, and will have to wait for decisions from the Financing for Development in July and the Post-2015 Summit in September.

Next year will be the first year for HLPF to review the post-2015 development agenda. As such, it would be even more important for civil society, particularly women's groups from the Global South to engage and ensure that governments, UN agencies, and businesses are held accountable to promises made this year.

By **Maria Melinda Ando**, Senior Programme Officer,
Publications, Communications and Advocacy, ARROW.
Email: malyn@arrow.org.my

INTEGRATING SRHR IN THE POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The United Nations, along with Member States and other stakeholders, is in the process of defining the post-2015 development agenda, which it proposes to launch during the September 2015 Summit. This development agenda is proposed for the next 15 years until 2030 and is seen as a successor to the Millennium Development Goals. Global processes have been in place at the UN since 2012, with member states taking the lead and with the participation from the Major Groups and other civil society stakeholders.

To ensure the SDG agenda incorporates gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in its implementation at the national level, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) organised a regional meeting titled,

"Integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights within the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda—Regional Strategising Meeting," from 12 to 15 May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This regional meeting was organised to ensure that advocacy gains made at the global level are sustained and implemented at the national level not only in the areas of gender equality and SRHR, but also in the areas of accountability, means of implementation and financing.

Twenty-five partners participated at this meeting. They were from the following subregions and countries in Asia: Southeast Asia—Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam; South Asia—Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka; and East and Central Asia—China, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia.

There were also representatives from Africa— Curious Minds: Ghana and AIDS Accountability Initiative; and Latin America—ELIGE RED.

The meeting aimed to enhance national partners' understanding of the global post-2015 processes, especially around the themes of goals, targets and indicators; means of implementation; financing for development, and accountability mechanism. Other objectives include development of respective national level advocacy strategies and advocacy briefs to engage with the post 2015 process at the national level; and enabling national partners' active participation in the post-2015 processes at the national level.

Using the peer-assist methodology, this capacity enhancing meeting cum write-shop was able to develop draft national and regional advocacy plans and advocacy briefs. The draft advocacy briefs developed will be finalised and reviewed at the national level and will be used for national level advocacy.

Even as member states will gather and decide on the post-2015 agenda in September 2015, civil society needs to be prepared to ensure policy and programme implementation of SRHR and gender equality commitments at the national level. Only then can a sustainable development agenda be achieved.

By **Sai Jyothirmai Racherla**, Programme Manager, Research, Evidence-Generation and Advocacy, ARROW. Email: sai@arrow.org.my

FORMTHCOMING KEY POST-2015 AND RELATED EVENTS

- **Women's Forum: "Feminist Perspectives on the Third International Conference on Financing for Development"**, 10 July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. https://wwgonffd.files. wordpress.com/2015/07/women_s-forum-on-financing-for-development_10-july-program.pdf

- **Civil Society Organisation Financing for Development Forum**, 11-12 July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. https://csoforffd.wordpress.com/

- **Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD)**, 13-16 July 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/conference.html

- **Intergovernmental Negotiations on Post-2015 Development Agenda—Seventh and Eight Sessions**, 20-24 July and 27-31 July 2015, New York, USA. https://sustainabledevelopment. un.org/post2015

- **UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda**, 25-27 September 2015, New York, USA. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit

- **UN Climate Change Conference: 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC**, 30 November-11 December 2015, Paris, France. http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en

- **47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC)**, 8-11 March 2016, New Yotk, USA. http://unstats.un.org/unsd/default.htm

RESOURCES FROM THE ARROW SRHR KNOWLEDGE SHARING CENTRE

ARROW's SRHR Knowledge Sharing Centre hosts a special collection of resources on gender, women's rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). It endeavours to make critical information on these topics accessible to all. To contact the centre, write to dc@arrow.org.my or arrow@arrow.org.my

Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: Accountability, Monitoring and Evaluation

EuroNGOs. (2015). *Tool kit: Accountability for the post-2015 framework.* Brussels: EuroNGOs. Retrieved from http://www.eurongos.org/fileadmin/files/We_Do/Learning_and_training/EuroNGOs_Accountability_Toolkit_February_2015_24022015.pdf

This toolkit, developed by EuroNGOs, provides a set of core advocacy and knowledge products on accountability in the post-2015 development agenda. It makes accessible current discussions on accountability and the post-2015 development framework. It also enables readers to identify key areas and challenges in relation to accountability framework in the post-2015 agenda.

Fukuda-Parr, S. (2015). *Post-2015: A new era of accountability?* Retrieved from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/statcom_2015/seminars/post-2015/docs/Panel%201.3_FukudaParr%20.pdf

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were criticised by many for failing to address the issue of governance and accountability as its "aid and exhortation" model only focused on national accountability and performance against indicators, and was not able to address structural irregularities. This report sheds light on the limitations of accountability mechanisms adopted by MDGs. It also advocates for an accountability framework, which emphasises the responsibility of agenda-setting bodies.

Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. (IEAG). (2014). *A World that counts: Mobilising the data revolution for sustainable development.* Retrieved from http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/A-World-That-Counts.pdf

There is no denying that data is the lifeblood of accountability and evaluation frameworks. Without the availability of effective data, providing the needed information on the indicators, conceptualising and implementing effective monitoring and evaluation programmes would become an impossible task. However, data needs improvement and needs to be documented to the highest level of detail required for decision-making by policy makers. This report entails an overview of the opportunities, as well as challenges presented by the data revolution. It also provides recommendations for data usability for sustainable development through proactive measures.

Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Plan International, & Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. (2014). *Young people's engagement in strengthening accountability for the post-2015 agenda.* London: ODI. Retrieved from http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9165.pdf

The need for an effective accountability framework in order to ensure that states honour the commitments made in the post-2015 development agenda has been widely acknowledged. However, accountability to 'whom' and for 'what' still needs to be defined. This paper argues that young people aged between 15 and 24 should be included as key stakeholders, not only within the goals and targets of the framework, but also in the post-2015 monitoring and accountability mechanisms. The paper also puts forward recommendations for meaningful participation of young people in ensuring effective implementation of accountability mechanisms at local, national, regional and global levels.

United Nations Development Group. (UNDG). (2014). *Participatory accountability mechanisms for the post-2015 development agenda.* Retrieved from http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/UNDG%20Paper%20Participatory%20Accountability%20Mechanisms%20P2015%20for%20Asia-Pacifi....pdf

Proactive and participatory accountability mechanisms can improve the credibility and effectiveness of the Post-2015 Agenda and make processes more transparent, more inclusive and more responsive to peoples' needs. While a global level accountability architecture is a key site to ensure that accountability principles are being followed, there is a strong need for national accountability mechanisms which will serve as a crucial foundation. The paper highlights key features of a successful post-2015 accountability system.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) & Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR). (2013). *Who will be accountable? Human rights and post-2015 development agenda.* New York & Geneva: OHCHR & CESR. Retrieved from http://cesr.org/downloads/who_will_be_accountable.pdf

In order to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda translates into tangible results, it needs to be backed up with a framework for accountability which clearly articulates *who* is responsible to *whom* and for *what.* This report makes a case for the need of an accountability mechanism which effectively and explicitly aligns goals with the binding obligations that states already have under various international human rights treaties in order to establish clear and measurable benchmarks.

World Vision International. (2015). *Grassroots to global: Seven steps to citizen-driven accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals.* Retrieved from http://www.wvi.org/united-nations-and-global-engagement/publication/grassroots-global-seven-steps-citizen-driven

In this report, World Vision International proposes seven key guiding principles to define citizen-driven planning and monitoring processes at local level. Once the development needs are identified and prioritised at the local level and its implementation are contextualised in a participatory manner, a robust accountability framework should be set up with foundations at the grassroots levels. Collaboration among key players and actors would also be important to ensure that policy targets are fulfilled. Citizen-generated information and data can provide critical information about the quality of service. In this context, governments would also need to create spaces for sharing of citizen-generated evidence. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) can hence play an important role. Importantly, administrative and institutional remedies would be required to advance accountability.

Financing the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

Fonn, S., & Ravindran, T.K.S. (2011). The macroeconomic environment and sexual and reproductive health: A review of trends over the last 30 years. *Reproductive Health Matters*, *19*(38), 11-25. doi: 10.1016/S0968-8080(11)38584-9

The quality and accessibility of public health services are directly dependent on resource allocation. How allocated funds are utilised and how services are prioritised can have an implication for the provisions of health services, including sexual and reproductive health services. A review of trends of the last 30 years, this report provides a review of factors which have influenced key decisions about resource allocation for sexual and reproductive health services across the world. It also examines the role played by donors in determining how services are prioritised and their lack of accountability.

High-Level Task Force for ICPD (HLTF). (2015). *Policy considerations for financing sexual and reproductive health and rights in the post-2015 era.* Retrieved from http://icpdtaskforce.org/resources/HLTFFinancingSRHRBrief.pdf

The commitments related to sexual and reproductive health and rights in the post-2015 development agenda will require increased and sustained funding. Despite the proven benefits of spending on investments on SRHR, underfunding of programmes to promote SRHR persists globally. That also explains why the core goal of achieving universal access to SRHR still remains unfulfilled. The focus of donors has remained on the provision of SRH services only, whereas a more holistic approach is needed in order to be able to meet the goal of universal access to SRHR. Broader investments and a multi-sectoral approach is the need of the hour. Additionally, national level financial plans for SRHR and tracking of resource flows for SRHR are also required.

Hill, P. S., Huntington, D., Dodd, R., & Buttsworth, M. (2013). From Millennium Development Goals to post-2015 sustainable development: Sexual and reproductive health and rights in an evolving aid environment. *Reproductive Health Matters, 21*(42), 113-114. doi: 10.1016/S0968-8080(13)42737-4

Using case studies from various countries, this paper provides an overview of the structural changes in development economic framework and its impact on policy making around provision of sexual and reproductive health services at national level. It also provides an insight into how a greater focus by donors was brought on by the MGDs, but at the expense of a broader sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda. It also calls advocates to claim inclusion of a broader sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda by linking it with all elements of sustainable development framework: gender inequality, education, population dynamics, but also urbanisation, migration, and climate change.

Olsen, S. H., Zusman, E., Miyazawa, I., Cadman, T., Yoshida, T., & Bengstsson, M. (2014). *Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): An assessment of means of implementation (MOI).* Paper presented at ISAP Conference. Retrieved from http://www.iges.or.jp/isap/2014/PDF/IPSS_SDGs_conference_paper.pdf

The paper argues that more focus is needed to articulate, aggregate and convert diverse needs into the policies and to allocate and distribute resources, which are in compliance with those policies. The paper also provides an overview of existing literature and examines how the linkages between governance, sustainable development and implementation have been conceptualised. It also offers a critical overview of the same in MDGs. It outlines a framework for means of implementation that hinges upon three core features: articulation of needs; resource allocation and distribution; and monitoring and evaluation. Lastly, the paper argues for a similar criteria for both national level and global level MOI and governance frameworks.

Overseas Development Institute (ODI). (2014). *Financing the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals: A rough roadmap.* London: ODI. Retrieved from http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9374.pdf

This paper provides an overview of three main components of a global development financial model across different countries and areas for investment. It argues that the financial models for sustainable development goals should be made at the national level so that trade-offs and interdependencies across various funding types can be explored and the potential of public and private resources can be unlocked. It also provides an overview of the implications of such an approach at the global level. Lastly, the report looks into the role that multilateral development banks (MDBs) can play and sets outs four areas of reform, including systemic reforms of MDBs.

The World Bank Group. (2013). *Financing for development: Post-2015.* Washington, DC: The World Bank. Retrieved from https://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Poverty%20documents/WB-PREM%20financing-for-development-pub-10-11-13web.pdf

In September 2015, heads of the states will agree on the Sustainable Development Goals, which is meant to revitalise the means of implementation as well as global partnership for development. This paper provides an overview of existing and emerging financial resources for development. It also provides insight on how to best support developing countries in harnessing diverse resources. The paper also entails discussion on issues of aid effectiveness and ways to provide smarter, more effective aid.

OTHER RESOURCES

Agarwal, D. (2014). Health in post-2015 development agenda: Deliver on health promotion. *Indian Journal of Community Medicine, 39*(1), 1-2. Retrieved from http://www.ijcm.org.in/text.asp?2014/39/1/1/126338

Bhattacharya, D., & Ali, M. A. (2014). *The SDGs: What are the "Means of Implementation"?* (Future United Nations Development System Briefing Papers). New York: Future United Nations Development System, CUNY. Retrieved from http://www.futureun.org/media/archive1/briefings/FUNDS-Briefing21-SDGsMoI.pdf

Bilney, S., Domingo, L., Rajivan, A., Roth, S., Shiroishi, Y., & Woods, B. (2013). *Building development effectiveness post-2015: A results-based approach* (ADB Sustainable Development Working Paper Series). Manila: Asian Development Bank. Retrieved from http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/30361/adb-wp-26-development-effectiveness-post-2015.pdf

Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). (2014). *Background note for Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.* Bangkok: ESCAP. Retrieved from http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Background%20paper_RCA_FINAL.pdf

Economic and Social Council United Nations (ECOSOC UN). (2014). *Summary of the key messages of the General Assembly Interactive Dialogue on Elements for an Accountability Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.* New York: ECOSOC UN. Retrieved from http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/pdf/5202014Accountability_Framework_Dialogue_PGA_Summary.pdf

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). (2014). *An urgent need for clarity: On the post-2015 development agenda and financing for development.* New York: FES. Retrieved from http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/global/10889.pdf

Green, D., Hale, S., & Lockwood, M. (2012). *How can a post-2015 agreement drive real change? The policy economy of global commitments.* United Kingdom: Oxfam GB. Retrieved from https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/dp-politics-post-2015-mdgs-revised-211112-en.pdf

Hulme, D., Savoia, A., & Sen, K. (2014). *Governance as a global development goal? Setting, measuring and monitoring the post-2015 development agenda* (ESID Working Paper No.32, University of Manchester). Retrieved from http://ssrn.com/abstract=2425238

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF). (2014). *Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.* Retrieved from https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4588FINAL%20REPORT%20ICESDF.pdf

Lucci, P., Khan, A., & Stuart, E. (2015). *Means of implementation and the global partnerships for sustainable development: What's in it for emerging economies?* London: ODI. Retrieved from http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9654.pdf

Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), the University of Athens Department of Economics, Division of International Economics and Development & the Southern Voice Network. (2014). *Financing and other means of implementation in a transformative post-2015 context.* Retrieved from http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/events-documents/5159.pdf

Overseas Development Institute (ODI) & United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2014). *Where next for aid? The post-2015 opportunity.* New York & London: UNDP & ODI. Retrieved from http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Poverty%20Reduction/Development%20Cooperation%20and%20Finance/UNDP-ODI--Where-Next-for-Aid-the-Post-2015-Opportunity-FINAL.pdf

Overseas Development Institute (ODI). 2014. *Governance targets and indicators for post-2015: An initial assessment.* London: ODI. Retrieved from http://www.odi.org/publications/8159-governance-targets-indicators-post-2015-initial-assessment

Powell, J. (2015, March 26). *Financing the future of 2015: Some hits and misses on the future of development finance.* Retrieved from http://aiddata.org/blog/financing-the-future-2015-some-hits-and-misses-on-the-future-of-development-finance

Save the Children. (2013). *Mandatory corporate reporting of non-financial performance: A potential indicator of the private sector's contribution to a post-2015 framework.* London: Save the Children. Retrieved from https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Private_sector_transparency_briefing.pdf

The North South Institute (NSI). (2014). *Measuring progress post-2015: An Assessment of proposals.* Retrieved from http://www.nsi-ins.ca/publications/measuring-progress-post-2015/

United Nations Global Pulse. (2013). *Big data for development: A primer.* Retrieved from http://www.unglobalpulse.org/sites/default/files/Primer%202013_FINAL%20FOR%20PRINT.pdf

World Economic Forum (WEF). (2012). *Big data, big impact: New possibilities for international development.* Geneva: World Economic Forum. Retrieved from http://www.weforum.org/reports/big-data-big-impact-new-possibilities-international-development%20

World Health Organization (WHO). (2014). *Sexual and reproductive health beyond 2014: Equality, quality of care and accountability.* Geneva: WHO. Retrieved from http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112291/1/WHO_RHR_14.05_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1

Yilmaz, S, Beris, Y., & Serrano-Berthet, R. (2008). *Local government discretion and accountability: A diagnostic framework for local governance* (The World Bank Social Development Working Paper Series). Washington, DC: The World Bank. Retrieved from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/Resources/244362-1193949504055/LocalGovernmentDiscretionandAccountability.pdf

Compiled by **Samreen Shahbaz**, Programme Officer, Knowledge Management and Research Support, ARROW. Email: samreen@arrow.org.my

SELECTED ARROW RESOURCES

Below are key ARROW publications from the past five years. All can be downloaded for free at http://arrow.org.my/our-publications/

2015

Varma, A. with Das, K. *Sexuality: Critical to addressing poverty and food insecurity.*

2014

ARROW. *Sexual and reproductive health and rights in the post-2015 agenda: Taking their rightful place.* (Avail. in Bangla, Hindi & Tamil)

ARROW. *Sexual and reproductive health and rights beyond 2014: Opportunities and challenges.*

ARROW. *Setting the adolescent and young people SRHR agenda beyond ICPD+20.*

ARROW. *ICPD+20 Asia youth factsheet.*

ARROW. *Fulfilling women's right to continuum of quality care.*

ARROW. *ARROW resource kit on leadership and management.*

ARWC & ARROW. *Our stories, one journey: The travelling journal on sexual and reproductive health and rights.*

Awin, N. *Taking a broader view: Addressing maternal health in the context of food and nutrition security and poverty.*

Racherla, S. & Dzhanaeva, N. *Country profile on the status of sexual and reproductive health and rights: Kyrgyz Republic.* (Also available in Russian).

Ravindran, T.K.S. *What it takes: Addressing poverty and achieving food sovereignty, food security, and universal access to SRHR.*

Turagabeci, P. & Bronwyn, T. *Pacific young people's SRHR factsheet.*

Woods, Z. *Identifying opportunities for action on climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights in Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines.*

Various authors. Country profile series on universal access to sexual and reproductive health. Available for Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR (also available in Lao), Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, & Sri Lanka.

Various authors. Country profile series on universal access to sexual and reproductive rights. Available for Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR (also available in Lao), Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, & Thailand.

2013

ARROW. (2nd ed.). *Sex & rights: The status of young people's sexual & reproductive health & rights in Southeast Asia.*

Ravindran, T.K.S. *An advocates' guide: Strategic indicators for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.*

Thanenthiran, S., Racherla, S.J., & Jahanath, S. *Reclaiming and redefining rights: ICPD+20 status of SRHR in Asia-Pacific.*

Various authors. *Reclaiming & redefining rights—Setting the adolescent and young people SRHR agenda beyond ICPD+20.*

2012

ARROW. *Thematic papers presented at the "Beyond ICPD and MDGs: NGOs strategising for sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia-Pacific Region" and "Opportunities for NGOs at National, Regional and International Levels in the Asia-Pacific Region in the Lead-up to 2014: NGO-UNFPA Dialogue for Strategic Engagement."*

ARROW. *The Essences of an innovative programme for young people in South East Asia.*

ARROW. *Proceedings of the regional meetings "Beyond ICPD and MDGs: NGOs strategising for sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia-Pacific region" and "Opportunities for NGOs at national, regional and international levels in the Asia-Pacific region in the lead-up to 2014: NGO-UNFPA dialogue for strategic engagement."*

ARROW. *Leadership experiences of young women in South East Asia: Reflections on advancing young people's SRHR agenda.*

ARROW. *Kuala Lumpur Call to Action: Beyond ICPD and MDGs.*

ARROW & World Diabetes Foundation (WDF). *Diabetes: A missing link to achieving sexual and reproductive health in the Asia-Pacific Region.*

Marin, M.L.S. *International Labour Migration, Gender, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.*

Raghuram, S. *Reclaiming & redefining rights—Thematic studies series 5: Poverty, food security, sexual and reproductive health and rights—Integrating and reinforcing state responsibilities, integrating societal action.*

2011

ARROW. *Reclaiming & redefining rights—Thematic studies series 3: Reproductive autonomy and rights in Asia.*

ARROW. *Reclaiming & redefining rights—Thematic studies series 1: Sexuality & rights in Asia.*

ARROW. *Reclaiming & redefining rights—Thematic studies series 4: Maternal mortality and morbidity in Asia.*

Ravindran, T.K.S. *Reclaiming & redefining rights—Thematic studies series 2: Pathways to universal access to reproductive health care in Asia.*

2010

ARROW. *Understanding the critical linkages between gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights: Fulfilling commitments towards MDG+15.*

ARROW. *Regional overview—MDG5 in Asia: Progress, gaps and challenges 2000-2010.*

ARROW. *Briefing paper: The Women and Health Section of the Beijing Platform for Action.*

ARROW & WHRAP. *Making a difference: Improving women's sexual & reproductive health & rights in South Asia.*

DEFINITIONS

Notes & References

1   Pompii, P. (2014). *Toolkit: Accountability for the post-2015 framework; A set of core resources for SRHR advocates worldwide.* Brussels: EuroNGOs. Retrieved from http://www.eurongos.org/fileadmin/ files/We_Do/Learning_and_training/ EuroNGOs_Accountability_Toolkit_ February_2015_24022015.pdf

2   Transparency and Accountability initiative. www.transparency-initiative.org/ about/definitions Cited in Pompii.

3   United Nations. (2013). *Who will be accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.* Cited in Pompii.

4   World Bank. (n.d.). *Accountability in governance.* Cited in Pompii.

5   A distinction is often made between national accountability frameworks and international ones, where the latter usually have an 'oversight' role rather than an 'enforcement' one. United Nations. (2013). *Who will be accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.* Cited in Pompii.

6   http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

7   Processes included the Open Working Group of the General Assembly, which developed a proposed set of sustainable development goals, the report of an intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing, GA dialogues on technology facilitation, interactive hearings by the President of the General Assembly, including with civil society, and other processes. Governments are currently discussing the post-2015 agenda through a series of informal intergovernmental negotiations at the General Assembly.

8   https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/ post2015

9   World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). (1987). *Our common future.* Oxford: Oxford University Press. Retrieved from http://www.un-documents. net/wced-ocf.htm

10 http://www.uncsd2012.org/

11 United Nations. (2012). *The future we want.* (Outcome document adopted at Rio+20.) Retrieved from http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/ documents/727The%20Future%20We%20 Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf

Accountability:[1] At its most basic, it means "ensuring that officials in public, private and voluntary sector organisations are answerable for their actions and that there is redress when duties and commitments are not met."[2]

"In public policy contexts, accountability is generally understood as the obligation of those in authority to take responsibility for their actions, answer for them and be subject to some form of sanction if and when needed.[3] It has a corrective function by addressing grievances and sanctioning wrongdoing as well as a preventive function, by identifying what is working and what needs to be adjusted."[3]

"It is useful to think of this relationship as involving four distinct and sequential stages:[4]

- Standard-setting. Setting the behaviour expected from the 'accountee', and therefore the standards or criteria by which the 'accountee' will be judged.

- Investigation. Look if the 'accountee' has met the standards/criteria.

- Answerability. A process in which the 'accountee' is obliged to provide information about its decisions/actions and to justify them.

- Enforcement. A process in which the 'accountee' can be sanctioned for falling below the agreed standards."[5]

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Eight goals that 189 governments agreed to at the Millennium Summit in 2000, which was meant to guide global development efforts in order to combat poverty and hunger, promote gender equality, end diseases like HIV, and provide universal primary education, amongst others. The goals were meant to be achieved by 2015.[6]

Post-2015 Development Agenda: Development priorities that need to be meet by the global community from 2016 to 2030, after the MDGs have ended. The United Nations has been in the process of defining the post-2015 agenda since 2012, with governments, civil society and other

stakeholders.[7] The new agenda will be launched at the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda on 25-27 September 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.[8]

Sustainable Development: The most commonly cited definition is from the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) report: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts:

- the concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and

- the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organisation on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs."[9]

Sustainable development has three essential and inseparable dimensions—**economic, environmental, and social**. The Outcome Document of UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)[10] mandated the development of sustainable development goals, which should address all three dimensions in a balanced way and consider their inter-linkages.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Governments agreed at Rio+20,[10] to begin a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals, which will build upon the MDGs and will form the basis of the post-2015 development agenda. The Open Working of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals proposed a set of 17 goals and 169 targets[11] which are currently being discussed at the inter-governmental negotiations.

While all goals have SRHR interlinkages, those that have explicit targets on both are goals 3, 4, and 5. These goals and targets are listed in the article "Will the means justify the ends?" as well as in the Factfile.

Compiled by **Maria Melinda Ando**, Senior Programme Officer,
Publications, Communications and Advocacy, ARROW.
Email: malyn@arrow.org.my

ACHIEVING SRHR IN THE SDGS:

Proposals for Critical SRHR Indicators to Achieve SRHR Targets

Monitoring is a political exercise. Performance review is critical to ensuring accountability of governments to their citizens. Monitoring the implementation of international commitments pertaining to gender equality and women's health has been a key strategy of ARROW and her partners since it was founded in 1993.

ARROW and our partners have consistently monitored the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD POA), the Beijing Platform for Action (BpfA), and the Millennium Development Goals. Of especial interest are the ICPD reviews in 1999,[1] 2004,[2] 2009,[3] and 2012-2014.[4] In 2009, we improved upon our indicator base and selected only cross-comparable ones, and applied these to 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.[3] In the latest review, we expanded our monitoring to include 49 countries in the Global South regions of Sub-Saharan Africa,[5] Latin America and the Caribbean,[6] Middle East and Northern Africa,[7] and Eastern Europe.[8]

The process of monitoring has involved assessing progress using a defined set of indicators, which were developed and refined primarily by ARROW in cooperation with women's organisations, researchers, activists, and academicians over time. These covered the areas of reproductive health, reproductive rights, sexual health, sexual rights, gender equality and health financing—all of which are critical to the full realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

The final draft of the outcome document of the Post-2015 Development Summit in September

> Monitoring is a political exercise. Performance review is critical to ensuring accountability of governments to their citizens.

2015 enumerates a global proposal with 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. Some of the goals (Goals 3 and 5) specifically discuss gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (SRHR).[9]

The Statistical Commission has endorsed the formation of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the first IAEG-SDGs meeting was held in June 2015. The process of developing the indicator framework for the SDG targets is currently ongoing and is poised to be endorsed at the 47th session of the Statistical Commission in 2016.

Global indicators selected need to be strategic, measurable and sensitive to enable us to chart progress in much-needed areas. Critical indicators which we feel will make an essential difference in the area of women's health and rights are given in Table 1. We also present indicators (highlighted) that are being proposed by ARROW and other SRHR organisations to provide a comprehensive list of indicators to be included in the SDG framework.

It is important that the indicators in the following pages are taken into consideration in the indicator framework for the SDGs being developed by the IAEG-SDGs to make it more meaningful for women.

By **Sai Jyothirmai Racherla,** Programme Manager, Research, Evidence-Generation and Advocacy, ARROW. Email: sai@arrow.org.my

Endnotes

1   ARROW. (1999). *Taking up the Cairo challenge: Country studies in Asia-Pacific.* Kuala Lumpur: ARROW. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/publication/taking-up-the-cairo-challenge-country-studies-in-asia-pacific/

2   ARROW. (2004). *Monitoring ten years of ICPD implementation: The way forward to 2015.* Kuala Lumpur: ARROW. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/publication/regional-overview/

3   Thanenthiran, S., & Racherla, S.J. (2009). *Reclaiming & redefining rights; ICPD+15: Status of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia.* Kuala Lumpur: ARROW. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/publication/icpd15-status-of-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-asia/

4   Thanenthiran, S., Racherla, S.J., Jahanath, S. (2013). *Reclaiming and redefining rights: ICPD+20 status of SRHR in Asia-Pacific.* Kuala Lumpur: ARROW. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/publication/status-of-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-asia-pacific/

5   World YWCA. (2013). *Reclaiming and redefining rights; ICPD+20: Status of SRHR in Africa.* Geneva: World YWCA. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/publication/status-of-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-africa/#

6   Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN). (2013). *Latin and Caribbean Report: LACWHN looks at six Latin America and Caribbean countries—Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic—Cairo +20, 2012.* Quito: LACWHN. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/publication/lacwhn-looks-at-six-latin-america-and-caribbean-countries-argentina-brazil-colombia-mexico-nicaragua-dominican-republic-cairo-20-2012/

7   Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR). (2013). *Reclaiming and redefining rights; ICPD+20: Status of SRHR in Middle East and North Africa.* Cairo: EIPR. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/publication/icpd20-middle-east-and-north-america-monitoring-report-2013/

8   Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health (ASTRA). (2012). *Reclaiming and redefining rights; ICPD+20: Status of SRHR in Central and Eastern Europe.* Warsaw: ASTRA. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/publication/icpd20-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-central-and-eastern-europe/

9   United Nations. (2013). *Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals.* Retrieved from https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html

Notes & References

10 Say, L., et al. (2014). Global causes of maternal death: A WHO systematic analysis. *The Lancet Global Health*, 2(6): e323-e333. Retrieved from http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/langlo/PIIS2214-109X(14)70227-X.pdf.

11 The limitation of Demographic and Health Surveys is that it is carried out in selected countries. Monitoring countries progress universally can be a limitation.

12 Guttmacher Institute & World Health Organisation. (2012). *Facts on induced abortion worldwide.* New York, Washington, D.C., & Geneva: Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved from http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_IAW.pdf

Table 1. Critical SRHR Indicators That Can Make a Difference in Achieving Respective SRHR Targets

Recommended Indicators to Achieve Targets	Rationale	Data Availability
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.		
Target 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.		
Indicator a: Coverage of Post-partum/Post-natal Care within 48 hours/2 days of delivery by a skilled health provider (At least one visit)	From 1990-2013, MMR reduced by 47-50%, but this is still short of the 75% reduction targeted.[10] Causes of maternal deaths include haemorrhage—27.1% (19.9-36.2); sepsis—10.7% (5.9-18.6); abortion—7.9% (4.7-13.2).[10] Reducing global maternal mortality to less than 70/100,000 live births will require focused interventions in the post-natal period.	ARROW has been monitoring this indicator since 2004.[2] Data on this indicator is available from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS).[11]
Indicator b: % of health facilities that provide care for complications related to unsafe abortion or, where it is not against the law, that provide safe abortion	Complications from unsafe abortion accounted for an estimated 13% of all maternal deaths in 2008.[12] Nearly half of all abortions worldwide are unsafe, and nearly all unsafe abortions (98%) occur in developing countries. Evidence shows highly restrictive abortion laws are not associated with lower abortion rates.	ARROW has been monitoring qualitative data around the indicator of health facilities that provide Post-Abortion Care, and health facilities that provide safe abortion services where legal since 2004. This indicator is also being proposed by many SRHR organisations. Data source for this indicator has been from scientific journals, partner country reports and research by country partners at the national level. There is no centralised monitoring of these indicators at the national, regional and global levels.
Indicator b: Grounds under which abortion is legal	This adds a dimension to the above two indicators of the legal status of abortion, and necessitates policy reforms to liberalise grounds on which abortion is permitted in respective countries and enable accurate policy communications.	ARROW has been monitoring this indicator since 2004. Data on this indicator is available from UN DESA Population Division periodic publication: *World Abortion Policies*.

Recommended Indicators to Achieve Targets	Rationale	Data Availability

Target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases.

Recommended Indicators to Achieve Targets	Rationale	Data Availability
Indicator a: Percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who are enrolled in ART lifelong	Antiretroviral therapy (ART) use during pregnancy, and its continued use after pregnancy, is critical both for preserving maternal health and for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, as well as overall health and well-being of women. It needs to be noted that ART lifelong has to be a priority indicator to ensure women's well-being post pregnancy.	ARROW has monitored percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who are enrolled for ART since 2009. Data on this indicator is available from the report on Global AIDS Epidemic published by UNAIDS annually. This indicator being proposed by SRHR organisations is comprehensive and includes access to lifelong ART for pregnant women.

13 UNFPA & Guttmacher Institute (2014). *Adding it up: Investing in sexual and reproductive health.* New York: UNFPA & Guttmacher Institute. Retrieved from http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/383%20AIU3%20Global%20Fact%20sheet%20ENG%2011.20.14%20FINAL_1.pdf

14 Ravindran, T.K.S. (2013). *An advocates guide: Strategic indicators for universal access to SRHR.* Kuala Lumpur: ARROW. Retrieved from http://arrow.org.my/publication/an-advocates-guide-strategic-indicators-for-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights/

Target 3.7: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

Recommended Indicators to Achieve Targets	Rationale	Data Availability
Indicator a: % of family planning demand met with modern contraceptives (benchmark: 75%)	Access to safe, voluntary contraceptive services is a human right. Contraception access for all irrespective of marital status is central to gender equality and women's empowerment. As of 2014, more than half of all women of reproductive age in developing regions want to avoid pregnancy. However, one-fourth of these women—225 million—are not using an effective contraceptive method. These women, who are defined as having an unmet need for modern contraception, account for 81% of all unintended pregnancies in developing regions.[13]	ARROW has been monitoring the unmet need for contraception since 2004. The proposed indicator is much more evolved, and data is available on this indicator from DHS and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) for women age 15-49. However the DHS data is limited to few countries. In Asia and in the Middle East regions, only married women are surveyed and this is a limitation with regards this indicator.
Indicator b: % of women using contraception who were informed about side effects of their method and how to deal with them, were informed about other contraceptive options, and who participated in the decision to use contraception	This indicator is on informed choice and quality of care. It is critical as this indicator lets us know if women were advised on the range of methods available to them, and of the side effects of all of the methods, and what to do if they experienced the side-effects.	ARROW has monitored this indicator since 2009. This indicator is also being proposed by SRHR organisations. The data is available from DHS for women aged 15-49. However, the indicator needs to be assessed comprehensively to include all parameters.

Recommended Indicators to Achieve Targets	Rationale	Data Availability
Indicator c: Adolescent birth rate (10-14, 15-19)	Early motherhood has a negative impact on the educational status, socio-economic independence and status of the young woman, aside from being a contributor to child and maternal mortality, morbidity and psychosocial aspect of health. This is therefore an important indicator of adolescent reproductive health, as well as reproductive rights.[14]	ARROW has monitored this indicator since 2009. The adolescent birth rate measures the annual number of births to women 15 to 19 years of age per 1,000 women in that age group. It is important to extend this definition to include births in the ages 10-14 as well. Estimates are available from UN Population Division, and DHS provide this data disaggregated by various characteristics.
Indicator d: Availability of sexual and reproductive health services at different levels of care include: gynecological services; maternal health care including access to EmOC; contraception; HIV/STI prevention; screening for cervical and breast cancer; safe abortion services for indications permitted by law; and post-abortion care	This set of indicators assesses the broad-based availability of a comprehensive set of SRH services. Women and girls require a continuum of SRH services throughout their life-cycle and this needs to be made available to all, at minimal cost to ensure the best outcomes.	ARROW has been monitoring this indicator since 2009. This indicator is also being proposed by other SRHR organisations. Currently there is no centralised data source for indicators on availability of SRH services. Information may have to be gathered from published/unpublished studies or though government sources. DHS provides limited information; health service statistics at national level can provide data but not on all indicators. There is a need to develop a centralised health services data at the national level with regards to this indicator.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

Indicator a: Schools in which comprehensive sexuality education/basic knowledge about sexual and reproductive health is available as a percentage of all schools	Comprehensive sexuality education includes age-appropriate information to children and young adults throughout theirs schooling age, and its content includes at least 4 components: a) Information about human sexuality, including growth and development; sexual anatomy and physiology; reproduction; contraception; pregnancy and childbirth; HIV and AIDS; STIs; family life and interpersonal relationships; culture and sexuality; human rights empowerment; non-discrimination; equality and gender roles; sexual behaviour; sexual diversity; sexual abuse; gender-based violence; and harmful practices; b) Values, attitudes and social norms; c) Interpersonal and relationship skills; and d) Responsibility.[14]	ARROW has monitored this indicator since 2012. Currently, data is not available at the national level on this indicator and information on this indicator is derived from UNESCO sources, articles and reports.

Recommended Indicators to Achieve Targets	Rationale	Data Availability
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.		
Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.		
Indicator a: Provision of national legislation prohibiting child marriage; early marriage; forced marriage and female genital mutilation	This indicator reveals the extent of policy commitment to prevent all forms of violence against girls and the kind of legal recourse girls have when they experience violence.	ARROW has been monitoring this indicator since 2009. The UN Secretary General's Database on Violence Against Women previously provided UN member state information related to laws, and policies, and related information. Currently, the database is not active.
Target 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.		
Indicator a: Availability of grievance redressal mechanisms for universal access to sexual and reproductive health services	In a human rights framework, accountability combines elements of responsiveness, answerability and redress. This indicator assesses government accountability for making SRH services available, by examining whether there are mechanisms for grievance redressal when users have complaints related to the availability, access, affordability, acceptability or quality of SRH services.	ARROW has been monitoring the redressal mechanisms indicator since 2009. Cross-comparable data is not available currently. However, in monitoring this indicator in the past, we have relied on national level reports by partners.
Indicator b: Do local programmes and policies recognise young, unmarried people's rights to access SRH services? Does the law recognise marital rape? Does the law provide for non-discrimination for SRH services on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity?	Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights would encompass laws and regulations at the national level that guarantee the right to access SRHR information and education; informed choice; right to privacy and confidentiality; right to access SRH services without stigma, discrimination and violence; and age and marital status limitations.	ARROW has been monitoring the indicators since 2009. The Secretary General Database on Violence against Women captures some data on the indicators mentioned.