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# about arrow



**A**RROW is a regional non-profit women's NGO that was co-founded in 1993 by Rashidah Abdullah and Rita Raj and has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Its office is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

## OUR MISSION

ARROW promotes and defends women's<sup>1</sup> rights and needs,<sup>2</sup> particularly in the areas of health and sexuality, and reaffirms their agency<sup>3</sup> to claim these rights.

## OUR LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

ARROW's work will be done when:

- Systems, policies and programmes are reoriented to:
  - ⇒ Uphold gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); and
  - ⇒ Ensure that health systems deliver comprehensive, gender-sensitive and rights-based services for sexual and reproductive health that are accessible,<sup>4</sup> affordable, just,

1 All women, especially those who are most marginalised and socially excluded.  
 2 Some needs are not covered by rights, and we define 'needs' differently from the 'welfare' approach.  
 3 'Agency' as defined by women's ability to act on their own behalf to exercise informed choices; this encapsulates concepts of ability, capacity, claiming rights, empowerment and being agents of change, amongst others; this can be collective or individual.  
 4 From the aspect of geographical accessibility, time to reach services and the price of services.

equitable and of the highest quality.

- Women's movements<sup>1</sup> and civil society<sup>2</sup> are strong and effective in:
  - ⇒ Influencing policy agenda on women's health, sexuality and rights;
  - ⇒ Holding governments and donors accountable to international and national commitments; and
  - ⇒ Gaining sustained representation on decision-making structures.
- Women's lives and health<sup>3</sup> outcomes improve, particularly in the area of SRHR, especially for poor and marginalised women.

## OUR STRUCTURE

- ARROW is governed by a Board of Directors, made up of five committed members with experience in leading women's organisations.
- ARROW's programmes and activities are implemented by highly-qualified paid staff members from its office in

1 The full diversity of women's movements, including grassroots and Southern voices.  
 2 'Civil society' refers to organisations representing groups that are marginalised or discriminated against, and do not include religious bodies and private sector organisations, as in United Nations definitions of 'civil society.'  
 3 'Women's health' as defined in the International Conference on Population and Development's Programme of Action.

Kuala Lumpur, with specific contributions from project-based consultants and occasional interns. There were 17 full-time staff positions in 2010.

- ARROW's operations are overseen by the Management Team, led by the Executive Director and supported by a Finance and Administration Manager and two Programme Managers.
- The Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), composed of a committed set of activists knowledgeable about SRHR issues in the region, provides programme advice and direction setting.

## OUR STRATEGY

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

- Production and dissemination of innovative materials for policy advocacy and effective

SRHR policy and programme implementation;

- Policy advocacy with governments, the UN and other key stakeholders, backed by research-based monitoring of the implementation of key international commitments, including those made at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women; and,
- Capacity building of women's NGOs towards strengthening the women's movement.

## WHERE WE WORK

ARROW currently works directly with 26 national partners in 13 priority countries across the Asia-Pacific region, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, Tonga and Vietnam, and will be expanding our work in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, Fiji, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Additionally, through our information and communications and advocacy programmes, we are able to reach stakeholders on SRHR and women's health, sexuality and rights from 120 countries worldwide.

Advocating a global South perspective  
with an Asia-Pacific focus



*ARROW Programme Manager Sivananthi Thanenthiran at the 8th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development, 5-6 October 2010, Berlin, Germany. Photo taken from the Dialogue Proceedings.*

"ARROW promotes and defends women's rights and needs, particularly in the areas of health and sexuality, and reaffirms their agency to claim these rights."

ARROW's Mission

## reflections from the ED



Saira Shameem of ARROW (right) and Marge Berer of Reproductive Health Matters (left) at the Repoliticising SRHR Global Meeting, 3-6 August 2010, Langkawi, Malaysia. Source: ARROW Photobank.

2010 has been a time of continued expansion for the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), following the trend for the previous three years. Several factors have driven this expansion, including the recognition of the strategic niche occupied by ARROW and its partners in linking local, national, regional and global advocacy on women's health and rights. We also firmly established our role in

using monitoring and advocacy as a political tool to ensure government accountability to national and international policy commitments and development assistance for health in the region.

The expansion had also been enabled by a full and stable staff complement, a strong Programme Advisory Committee, and committed and experienced Board of Directors. Our number of partnerships in

various projects and programmes have experienced increases of between 50–100% or more.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, more than 35 national partner organisations participated in our Strategic Planning Meeting in May 2010.

The 10-year review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

<sup>1</sup> WHRAP-South Asia expanded from 4 to 8 countries (2010 Bridging Period); ICPD+15 Project increased in number of project partners from 8 to 23, and the number of countries from 8 to 12.

has proved to be an important opportunity for monitoring and advocacy in 2010. Despite reports at both national and international levels of progress being achieved on MDG 5 on reducing maternal deaths and achieving universal access to health, evidence shows otherwise.

ARROW and its partners identified the following as key issues for attention:

- the lack of appropriate and accurate indicators that could drive relevant, specific changes at national and local levels to effectively reduce maternal mortality and achieve universal access to reproductive health;
- the low emphasis on commitments that address gender-based and economic discriminations which are at the root of maternal mortality and morbidity and lack of access to services; and
- an imbalance in Aid Effectiveness measures that support government health initiatives without equally strengthening civil society monitoring mechanisms to ensure accountability.

ARROW's evidence-based monitoring and advocacy filled a critical gap in this regard.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010

The following are some of the highlights of achievements in 2010.

### GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ADVOCACY

- ARROW co-organised and hosted the global meeting, Repoliticising Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, in Malaysia in August 2010. The meeting discussed the critical issues related to the politics of SRHR in the post-ICPD and post-MDG era, and the need to bring back the politics of power into the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) discourse. Fifty feminists and SRHR activists from all over the world participated in the meeting.
- ARROW successfully made interventions at 15 key global meetings and 14 key regional meetings in 2010, including the UNFPA NGO Global Consultation, the 8th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development, the UN Summit of the Millennium Development Goals, the World Youth Conference, the Global Maternal Health Conference, the 10th Asia Pacific Alliance Conference

and the ASEAN People's Forum. We also did briefings on the state of SRHR and ICPD+15 implementation for key donors, government agencies, UN agencies and international NGOs such as Ford Foundation; GTZ; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands; Oxfam Novib; UNFPA-APRO and the UNFPA Asia Pacific Desk; and the US State Department Office of Population, Migration and Refugees.

### MONITORING AND RESEARCH

- ARROW produced three regional information briefs for advocacy and completed two cross-country papers on emerging themes related to ICPD+15, while partners completed 10 ICPD+15 country studies. ARROW also facilitated the creation of 10 national level policy briefs on various SRHR issues with partners; these are being used in nine national campaigns on the MDGs across the region.
- ARROW developed a dynamic, alternate, Southern database on SRHR ([www.srhrrdatabase.org](http://www.srhrrdatabase.org)) using the ARROW ICPD+15 framework of indicators to monitor SRHR progress in 12 Asian countries.

- ARROW developed a framework for linking Millennium Development Goals 3 (gender equality) and MDG 5 (maternal health), and launched the 'MDG 5 Watch: Women Are Watching Their Governments' campaign website, which monitors the progress of MDGs 3 and 5 in 12 countries in Asia.

#### INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

- ARROW's Information and Documentation Centre (IDC) continued to play a critical information support role in the region, directly serving 5,275 individual researchers and activists. ARROW's IDC is one of the few remaining women's health and SRHR-dedicated resource centres in the region.
- ARROW published a record high of 30 publications in 2010, as well as produced the 2010 edition of its DVD resource containing 73 ARROW publications that were published from 1994 to the first quarter of 2010.
- We published two issues of *ARROWs for Change* (AFC), our flagship publication that contributes Southern and Asia-Pacific perspectives to global discourses related to women's

health, sexuality and rights. The themes we focused on in 2010 were climate change, population and SRHR, and ICPD+15 monitoring. We also collaborated with national partners in India and Pakistan to produce two translations of AFC back issues in Tamil and Urdu. AFC has a circulation of at least 7,200 subscribers in 120 countries worldwide.

- ARROW's website has steadily grown to become a reputable information portal and advocacy tool for SRHR stakeholders. In 2010, it received 185,240 visitors in 2010 and generated more than 2 million hits.

#### PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS FOR ADVOCACY

- Through its six national partners and 45 community-based organisations (CBOs) in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, our Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP)-South Asia project reached out to and benefitted some 38,030 women on the ground through its advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building programmes. This has led to the improvement of and increased availability

of health services, more responsive attitudes of service providers, and to an increase in the number of women accessing health services in the project areas. Meanwhile, at the regional level, WHRAP-South Asia had meaningful engagement with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

- WHRAP-China and its partners from Beijing, Heilongjiang and Shanghai focused on migrant women's SRHR issues and reached out to 107 communities, 17 private enterprises and at least 50,000 migrant women. This was done through improved SRHR programmes, increased budget allocations and advocacy interactions.
- The WHRAP-Southeast Asia project was established in mid-2010. Through this project, we will be working with 19 networks and organisations to reach approximately 11,400 marginalised young people in Cambodia, China, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam to enhance their access to SRHR education and services.

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING

- ARROW successfully held its Strategic Planning Meeting with key national partners, Board and Programme Advisory Committee members and staff members. In this meeting, we reviewed the previous programmatic cycle and collectively set the direction for the next five-year programme cycle (2011-2016).

#### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Despite our many achievements, ARROW also faced different challenges in the area of organisational systems and structures that we strive to improve. There has been an increase in workload as a result of the expansion in the operational budget, from US\$1,265,419 in 2009 to US\$1,637,780 in 2010.

While keen attention has been paid by the Board and Management Team to the expansion of programmes, continued investments are needed to improve systems, processes and procedures.

The areas for improvement include the following: a) strengthening our finance and administrative systems

in order to deal with the growth in budgets, staff and project partners; b) improving internal reporting systems; and, c) developing an effective monitoring and evaluation system.

Although ARROW continued to attract donor interest in our work, the organisation remains caught in an annual fundraising effort to make up the fund balance for every year. To break out of the cycle of project-based funding, ARROW intends to focus in 2011 on an ARROW endowment fund, as well as on raising core funds. We hope that these will ensure the organisation's longer-term financial sustainability.

ARROW seeks to remain responsive to the needs and interests of each of our partners. This proves to be a challenge, given regional realities such as natural disasters, armed conflict, civil strife and violence. ARROW recognises the need to improve our systems and processes to more effectively build partnerships in this changing context.

A critical challenge in 2010 has been the lingering effects of the global economic crisis of 2009. ARROW and our partners have noticed a significant change in the levels of funding available for women's rights and SRHR.

Developments in other regions, such as the history shaping democratic uprisings in Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA), have also shifted some donor's priorities. It is unclear what the full future impact of these shifts will be.

Meanwhile, despite the economic crisis, the rate of privatisation of the health sector continues to expand within many countries. This has led to lack of access to health care, particularly among those who are marginalised and socially excluded, as well as to increasing indebtedness. In Malaysia, for example, where household debt levels are increasing, it is reported that 26% of credit card defaulters cited higher medical expenses as the reason for their difficulty in servicing their credit card debt.

Amidst these challenges, new opportunities are emerging. The setting up of the new integrated UN entity known as UN Women could make a difference to furthering women's rights globally. The new UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Maternal and Child Health is also a positive step forward. However, work needs to be continuously done to ensure that the implementation of the strategy responds to the challenge of achieving universal SRHR and strengthening health

systems, and not be limited to maternal and child health.

#### PRIORITIES FOR 2011

Based on the lessons learnt from challenges in 2010, some priorities for 2011 will include:

- Continued work on raising voices from the South towards influencing the UN agencies in the lead-up to the global discussions around 2015 and beyond. It is necessary to ensure that there are genuinely participatory processes put in place towards constructing a new post-ICPD and post-MDG global development agenda.
- Ensuring an evidence-based reporting and review mechanism is put in place for the ICPD+20 intergovernmental processes in 2014.
- Continued investment in ARROW's organisational development including improvements in financial and administrative processes and procedures.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ARROW's Board of Directors anchors the organisation's governance function with a deep commitment to value-based policies and practices.

Their unwavering commitment continues to help ARROW maintain its integrity and ethical function, and to provide the vision and leadership necessary to remain on track.

Our Programme Advisory Committee, selected from a broad category of engaged SRHR experts and activists from across the region, continue to provide strategic direction to our work. Their voluntary contributions are a mark of commitment and solidarity that ARROW is fortunate to enjoy.

The energy, enthusiasm and spirit of ARROW's dedicated and highly-qualified staff team have been pivotal to our successes as an organisation. It is to their credit that we are able to continue playing a critical and relevant role in the region.

We have also been extremely fortunate to work with inspired donor partners, whose vision and belief in our mission makes cooperation a pleasure and a mutually respectful learning process. The programme staff in charge in these organisations have endeavoured to help maintain ARROW's future funding potential. Our gratitude goes to ARROW's core funders Oxfam Novib and Sida, and project donors Danida via the Danish Family Planning Association, Ford

Foundation New York, Norad and UNFPA, who have maintained their commitment to SRHR in this region.

Last but not least, we hold the highest respect and admiration for all our country partners and their local CBO counterparts, without whose unwavering commitment and passion, this work would not be possible.

**Saira Shameem**  
Executive Director  
On behalf of the ARROW team



Raising the rainbow flag, signifying sexual and gender diversity, at the Bombay Pride 2009, India. Transgender people's sexual health and rights was one of the articles featured in ARROW's for Change bulletin this year. Photo by Indira Maya Ganesh.

# infocom for change

**A**ROW believes in the power of information and communications (infocom) to create change. A core strategy since ARROW's inception, infocom is done through our four main implementation mechanisms: the Information and Documentation Centre, the ARROW website, the *ARROWs for Change* bulletin, and marketing and promotions.

Through these mechanisms, we collect and organise, as well as create and generate information resources on critical issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) that are right-based, women-centred, NGO-oriented and region-focused. We then make these resources accessible through a variety of mechanisms to our stakeholders, including NGOs and social movements, United Nations (UN) agencies, government agencies, donors, the academe and others.

In the process, we advocate for our issues and contribute to global discourses on key issues affecting women in the region and worldwide.

We also foster networking and alliance building, and support the capacity development of key players within the women's, human rights, health and other

progressive social movements. We do this to strengthen their ability to advocate for changes in policies and programmes on critical women's health and rights issues. Ultimately, this leads to positive changes in the lives of marginalised women.

ARROW's infocom work is supported by core funders Oxfam Novib and Sida.

## THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Composed of six experts from across the region, ARROW's Infocom Task Force (ITF) was established in 2009 to help ensure that our Infocom Strategy is geared towards meeting the needs of the region.

The second ITF Meeting was held on 15 May 2010 in Penang, Malaysia in conjunction with the ARROW Strategic Planning meeting. It utilised a workshop modality to emphasise the ITF's mentoring function and as a body that generates ideas that support the work of the Infocom team. The meeting resulted in critical recommendations towards revitalising ARROW's focal point mechanism, as well as to improve ARROW's new website strategy.

## THE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (IDC): MAKING CRITICAL SRHR INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE

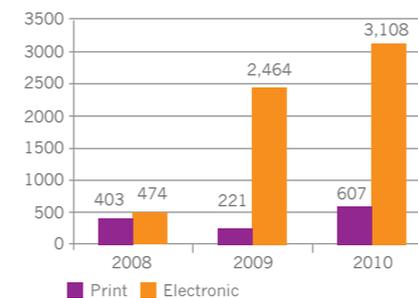
Established in 1993, ARROW's IDC is one of the few remaining women's health and SRHR-dedicated resource centres in the region. In 2010 alone, the IDC supported at least 5,275 individual researchers and activists from the region and across the globe through its various **information services**. These services include the physical resource centre, the virtual information request service, the IDC virtual catalogue and exhibition booths that were set up in 13 key advocacy events nationally, regionally and internationally.

A number of IDC users returned with further information requests, while others requested technical assistance in setting up their own resource centres. These, coupled with positive feedback from users on the timeliness, relevance and usage of the resources and services, affirm the continued value of the IDC resources and services to key stakeholders shaping the SRHR agenda in the region and globally.

The **IDC collection** plays a critical role in ensuring ARROW is responsive to information needs.

The collection currently contains more than 16,700 information sources, in both print and electronic formats. Of these, 3,715 were new acquisitions in 2010, representing a 38.3% increase from the 2,686 resources acquired in 2009. (see Fig. 1) We made this wealth of resources accessible to a wider audience this year by making the **IDC virtual catalogue** available and searchable online ([www.arrow.org.my/wwwisis/idclib.02/form.htm](http://www.arrow.org.my/wwwisis/idclib.02/form.htm)).

**Fig. 1 IDC acquisitions: Print and electronic**



We also revived ARROW's Information Management Partnerships (IMP, formerly the Focal Point Mechanism) in 2010. The **first regional IMP meeting** involving partners from 11 Asian countries was held in July 2010,

back-to-back with the MDG-SRHR Monitoring Workshop.

This meeting resulted in the collection and sharing by ARROW and its country partners of 150 resources, including national policies, laws and legislations affecting women's SRHR in 11 countries across the region. This compilation of hard-to-obtain resources essential for understanding the legal and political framework in Asia has been added to the ARROW virtual catalogue.

They will be made accessible in the country profiles section of the ARROW website. A comparative analysis of these laws and policies on SRHR will also be done in 2011.

ARROW distilled and repackaged information to produce the following **IDC products** in 2010: two annotated bibliographies (one on climate change, population and SRHR, and the other on the MDGs and SRHR) that serve as supplements to the *ARROWs for Change* bulletin; one subject bibliography on funding and SRHR; three bibliography updates on advocacy, gender-based violence and maternal mortality; and six selected titles and accession lists.

All these tools were disseminated

## BOX 1. FEEDBACK FROM IDC USERS

*Thank you so much ... for extending this helping hand. The information was...highly useful for the Asia-Pacific gender profile that I had prepared for UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. Goes without saying the quality of the information was great and that's why it was used as a reference. (Chaman Pincha, Gender Researcher, India)*

*Very impressive work! Thank you for hosting us. The briefing gave us a good understanding of status of women in Malaysia (Erum Wali Khan, NRSP, Institute of Rural Management, Islamabad, Pakistan)*

*Wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to your warm hospitality, generous sharing and your offer to help us in setting up the database of resources via CDS ISIS. Once again, thank you. (Sharleen Lee, Public Education Department, National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia)*

through the ARROW website and the SRHR Info Resources. Additionally, 944 newspaper cuttings on relevant SRHR news were compiled thematically for use by ARROW staff, Malaysian national partners and IDC users.

ARROW's IDC hosted three groups of visitors from Zimbabwe, Malaysia and Pakistan in 2010: the Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe and her team of dignitaries in February; MBA Business Law students and their professor from University College Sedaya International (UCSI), Kuala Lumpur in November; and participants and trainers of the Institute of Rural Management Pakistan's Young Professionals Leadership Programme in December. All were provided an overview of women's overall status in Malaysia and the region, including with regards to women's empowerment, gender discrimination and SRHR issues.

ARROW also provided free technical support to the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) of Malaysia to set up their resource centre and database. Further consultation is scheduled for early 2011 with NKF.

We plan to provide training to the resource centre staff and help them set up the library database.

Internally, the IDC continued to provide critical information support to ARROW's programmes and key organisational activities and meetings.

Beyond this, in 2010, the IDC piloted its **Knowledge Sharing Strategy** through the Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnerships-South East Asia project, which covers seven countries. An online hub will be created to be a repository of project documents and critical resources and information gathered by ARROW and participating partners. It is also intended to be a dynamic site where partners can interact with each other in a cost-effective manner.

**ARROW'S WEBSITE: DYNAMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SRHR INFORMATION PORTAL**

Over the past five years, ARROW's website (www.arrow.org.my) has grown from an organisational website featuring ARROW's history and work, to an information portal and advocacy tool for SRHR stakeholders.

Aside from providing ARROW's organisational information, the website also provides **up-to-date information** on ARROW's 13

priority countries in the region. This includes a comprehensive overview on the status of women's SRHR, the most recent data on selected SRHR indicators, profiles of ARROW's key partners, ARROW's relevant work in the country and ARROW publications and other resources related to that country.

The website is ARROW's top dissemination mechanism for publications. It makes available not just the 30 new publications in 2010, but all ARROW's information resources, press releases and publications since 1993 to the present, arranged according to type and also thematically. Additionally, the website hosts a range of other resources, such as the IDC virtual catalogue and services; audio files of presentations made at the ARROW-hosted global meeting Repoliticising SRHR; links to other SRHR organisations, donors, UN agencies and other relevant organisations globally; and, a live feed of the latest global SRHR-related news.

The website electronically publishes and archives the **SRHR Info Resources**, ARROW's bi-monthly information service. This e-resource listing contains critical SRHR-related news and resources, calls for papers, calls to action, upcoming

events, job openings and ARROW and partner updates. Twenty-one issues of the e-resource were sent out in 2010 to more than 1,839 NGOs, activists, researchers, government agencies, donors, students and interested others. This is an increase of 145% from the 750 recipients in 2009. A new masthead for the service was also developed this year. The service has received positive feedback.

Additionally, ARROW hosts these **blogs, project websites and campaign websites**: the ICPD+15 Monitoring Discussion Board, the WHRAP South Asia website, and the WHRAP-China website. Two new websites were launched in 2010: the "MDG 5 Watch: Women are Watching their Governments" campaign website, and the SRHR Database of Indicators. Inspired by the MDG campaign website, ARROW also entered into an ongoing collaboration with the Coalition of Maternal-Neonatal Health and Safe Abortion to develop a national information website for India.

The increased relevance of the ARROW website is shown in the increase of **visitors**: individual unique visitors to ARROW's website increased from 19,126 in 2006 to 185,240 in 2010, an 868.5% increase. Meanwhile, we reached

Fig. 2 Website visits by region

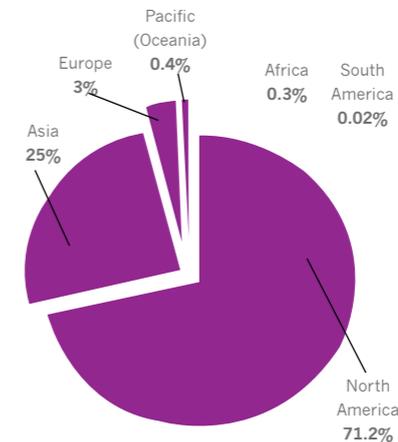
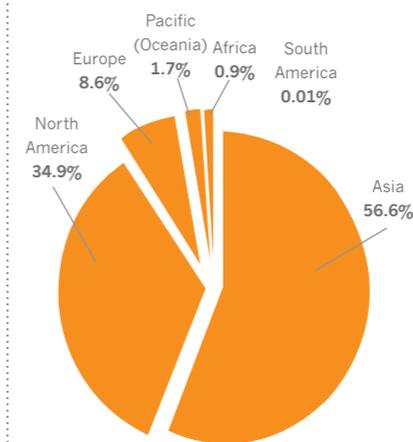


Fig. 3 Website hits by region



the **two-million-hit** mark in 2010, a milestone for the website. Hits increased from 10,328 in 2006 to 2,002,168 in 2010, a 19,285% increase. Seventy-five percent of ARROW's visitors originate from regions other than Asia-Pacific, demonstrating the global reach of the website (see Figures 2 & 3).

Even so this makes us conscious of the continued need to reach many stakeholders in our region who may still not have regular and stable internet connectivity nor adequate bandwidth to access our web resources, or may be hampered by censorship.

A factor to the continued development of the website as a powerful tool to expand ARROW's reach and influence is the production of the **ARROW Website Strategy** in 2010. The paper encapsulates the thinking that has led to the changes in the website in the past few years in terms of content, design and format.

**ARROWS FOR CHANGE (AFC): SETTING THE SRHR AGENDA**

Begun in 1995, the AFC bulletin has been an important resource in the region that has now evolved into a peer-reviewed serial publication filling a unique niche. The AFC

**BOX 2. FEEDBACK ON THE ARROW WEBSITE**

*Congratulations on your excellent website—I've made a note of it as a resource for our increasing work in the Asia-Pacific region.* (Claudia Sambo, HLSP, UK)

*The ARROW website is excellent. It is a goldmine of information and data, and is also great for advocacy.* (Helge Kjersem, Nordic Consulting Group, Consultant for Danida, Denmark)

**BOX 3. FEEDBACK ON THE SRHR INFO RESOURCE SERVICES**

*By and large, I like receiving the ARROW newsletter and I always try to take a few minutes to look through it* (Susanne Ehlers, President & CEO, Population Action International, USA)

*Some information will contribute to the enrichment of our literature resource centre for students who just do research on topics such as yours. Thank you again and congratulations to the whole team!* (Valérie Gystiane, Cameroun)

bulletin contributes a Southern/Asia-Pacific, rights-based and women-centred analyses and perspectives on global discourses on emerging and persistent issues related to health, sexuality and rights.

Through the twice-yearly thematic bulletin, we also try to explore the inter-linkages between SRHR issues and other development issues. In 2010, we produced two AFC bulletins that were very well-received:

- **AFC Vol. 15 No. 1 (In Search of Climate Justice: Refuting Dubious Linkages, Affirming Rights)**, which makes the case for why feminists and SRHR activists should be concerned about proposals to reduce the population as a solution to climate change. It poses recommendations to ensure that gender and SRHR concerns are integral to equitable and just policies, programmes and plans to curb climate change.
- **AFC Vol. 15 Nos. 2 & 3 (15 Years after Cairo: Taking Stock, Moving Forward in Asia and the Pacific)**, which is part of ARROW's consistent and systematic monitoring of the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development

Programme of Action (ICPD POA). It showcases the results of the ICPD+15 monitoring and research studies by ARROW and country partners.

We also did substantial work on two more issues: **AFC Vol. 16 No. 1 (The MDGs: A Critical Look and Some Proposals for the Post-2015 Development Framework)**, and **AFC Vol. 16 No. 2 (Repoliticising Funding: Re-energising Political Support for SRHR)**. Two **concept papers**, which are valuable resources in themselves, were done in 2010 in conjunction with the production of these two forthcoming issues.

We also **reprinted four back issues of AFC** in 2010 due to high demand: Vol. 11 Bumper Issue (Reframing Gender-based Violence as a Reproductive Health Issue), Vol. 13 No. 3 (Ground Realities: Women's SRHR in Conflict Situations), Vol. 14 Nos. 1 and 2 (Keeping the Faith: Overcoming Religious Fundamentalisms) and Vol. 14 No. 3 (Feminist and Rights-based Perspectives: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Disaster Contexts).

To make the bulletin more accessible to non-English speaking readers, and to increase the reach

**BOX 4. FEEDBACK FROM AFC READERS**

*This is so important to have in the climate change discussion.* (Radhika Balakrishnan, Centre for Women's Global Leadership, CWGL, USA, on AFC Vol. 15 No.1 2009)

*Congrats. So good to see trans/3rd gender issues being covered... and also to see the fact file focused on the Pacific...* (Di Surgey, ITF member, Australia, on AFC Vol. 15 Nos. 2 and 3 2009)

*It is an excellent reading material for policy makers and women's health advocates. The language is very simple and easy to understand by common men. While I travelled in a bus, my neighbour borrowed it and read it few pages. She said what a great resource it is...My staff in our unit felt that the information given in the book is very useful and they will share with their in their trainings and camps.* (Mrs.

Sumathy, social activist who runs a NGO, on AFC Vol. 11 Tamil edition)

*The feedback received has been positive. A regular reader writes, "Reading ARROW's bulletin has convinced me that all ARROW publications must be a rich source of information contributing to bringing about a positive change to the mindsets and lives of people." Readers have also said that they will incorporate the information provided in the bulletin in various activities including trainings.... Feedback from the Khalikdina Hall Library in Karachi was particularly appreciative. They said that the AFC bulletin was an important addition to the library's collection....* (Arifa Nazle, Translation Coordinator, Shirkat Gah, on AFC Vol. 14 Nos. 2 and 3 Urdu edition)

and impact of the bulletin, ARROW translates back issues of *ARROWs for Change* into strategic Asia-Pacific languages. In 2010, two high-quality translations were done:

- **Tamil edition of AFC Vol. 11 (Reframing Gender-based**

**Violence as a Reproductive Health Issue)**, done in partnership with the Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC) of Tamil Nadu, India. This second Tamil issue was produced in response

to requests by Indian partner RUWSEC and by Malaysian groups. To further help ensure that the issue is relevant to the Tamil audience, a new article was added, which is both available in Tamil with the Tamil edition, as well as in English as a **4-page supplement** to the original AFC issue.

- **Urdu edition of AFC Vol. 14 Nos. 1 and 2 (Keeping the Faith: Overcoming Religious Fundamentalisms)**, done in partnership with the Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre of Lahore, Pakistan. This edition makes AFC accessible to Urdu readers for the first time. The theme is particularly significant in light of the growing fundamentalisms and its impact on women's rights in Pakistan, which Shirkat Gah has written about in the English edition, and which Urdu readers will now be able to access.

Two more translated editions—**Bahasa Indonesia edition of AFC Vol. 15 Nos. 2 & 3 (15 Years after Cairo: Taking Stock, Moving Forward in Asia and the Pacific)** and **Tongan edition of Vol. 11 Bumper Issue (Reframing Gender-based Violence as a Reproductive Health Issue)**, our first Pacific issue—are slated for completion in the first

Figure 4. AFC subscribers by geographical location

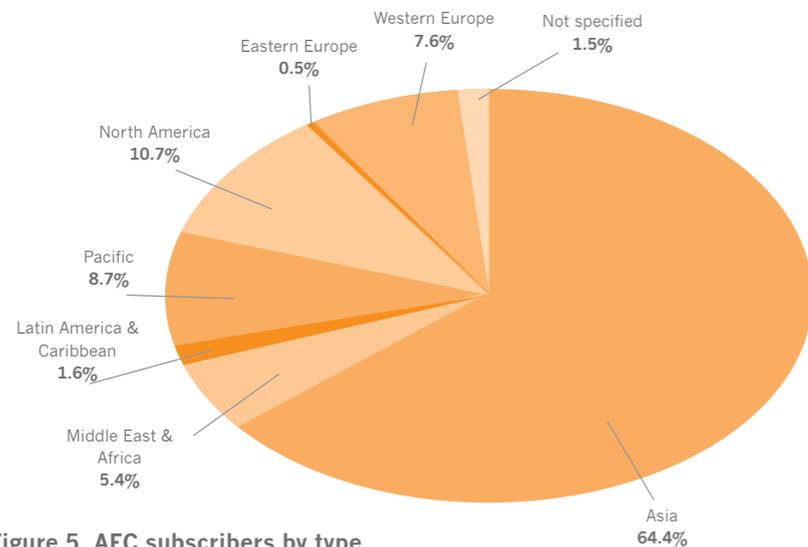
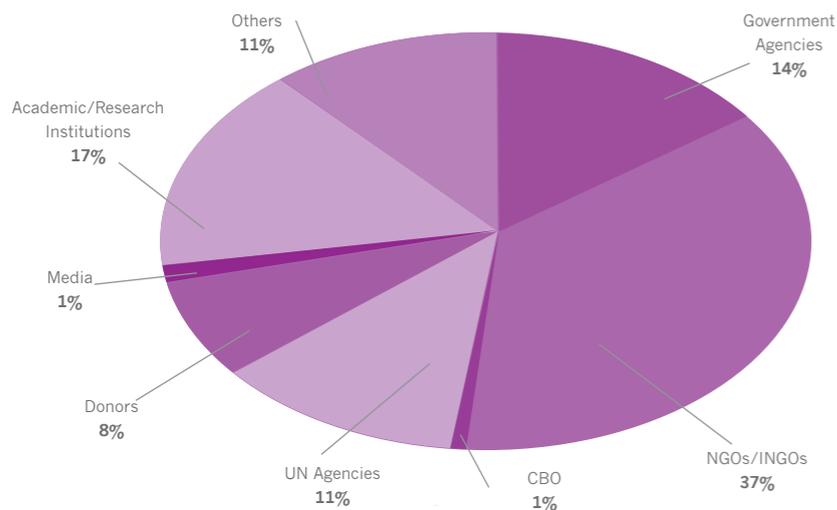


Figure 5. AFC subscribers by type



quarter of 2011.

AFC is regarded as a publication of caliber and leadership in the region. This is reflected in articles featured in AFC being cited or featured in other organisation's e-newsletters, publications and websites.<sup>1</sup>

It is also evident in the fact that relevant issues of AFC are being utilised in trainings and meetings.<sup>2</sup> On their own initiative, partners like the Yunnan Health and Development Research Association, China, have also translated selected articles and issues of AFC for their staff, partners and networks.

AFC was also used as a teaching material for university students, as a reference material for programmes, and as part of collections in NGO, university, state and community libraries.

<sup>1</sup> These include the AWID Resource Net and Women's eNews and the Worldwatch Report on Climate Change, Population and Women's Lives, as well as the websites of Asia-Pacific Human Development Network, the Population and Development Programme at the Hampshire College in the US, Our Bodies, Ourselves and Women and Social Change/Mujeres y Cambio Social.

<sup>2</sup> These include the Isis International Activist School on Engendering Climate Justice: The Southeast Asia Experience, the Pacific leg of the Gender, Economic and Climate Justice (GEEIA) Regional Consultations and Training Institute Series by the Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), the Rutgers Nisso Groep/Youth Incentives and World Population Fund International Conference: Sexuality under 18, and the Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia seminars on reproductive rights for medical professionals.

BOX 5. ARROW EXHIBITION BOOTHS IN 2010

ARROW-organised meetings:

- ARROW Strategic Planning Meeting, 16-19 May, Penang, Malaysia
- WHRAP-SEA Planning Meeting and Regional Dialogue on Young People, 7-10 July, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- MDG SRHR Policy Meeting, Focal Point Meeting, and Meeting on the Inter-linkages between Gender-Based Violence and SRHR, 19-21 July, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Repoliticising Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: A Transformative Framework for Moving Beyond ICPD, 3-6 August, Langkawi Island, Malaysia

Other meetings:

- Amnesty International, International Women's Day, 9 March, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- RRAAM Media Consultation, 29 March, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- The 2nd TARSHI Regional Training on Sexuality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, 14-18 June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- Lumpur, Malaysia
- Monash University NGO Fair, 21 September, Selangor, Malaysia
- Asia People's Forum 2010, 23-26 September, Hanoi, Vietnam
- Ist Asian Population Association Conference, 16-20 November, New Delhi, India
- Workshop on 'Asia's Engagement with Free Trade Agreement (FTAs) and the Development Space: A Dialogue with Civil Society in Asia,' 18-21 November, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- RRAAM Media Forum: Abandoned Babies in Malaysia: Dispelling the Myths, 19 October, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia
- Non-Aligned Movement Institute for the Empowerment of Women (NIEW) International Conference 2010: The Health and Wellbeing of Displaced Women, 29-30 November, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS: EXPANDING OUR REACH

We disseminated a total of 59,640 electronic and print ARROW resources in 2010 to at least 120 countries worldwide. Of this, 71% (42,223 copies) were copies of all issues of AFCs and AFC translations. Distribution was done through a variety of regular and innovative mechanisms, including our regular electronic and print subscriptions the ARROW and partners' website,

the SRHR Info Resource e-news services, ARROW's exhibition booths and agreements with global distributors Gale and EBSCO Publishing.

Additionally, since 2009, ARROW has been publishing a yearly publications compilation DVD. This handy compilation makes all ARROW publications from 1994 to 2010 available in one easily accessible and portable format. The 2010 edition has 73 ARROW publications. Two

thousand copies were produced, and 1,139 were distributed by end of 2010.

ARROW's global contact database, which also serves as the subscribers' list for the ARROWs for Change bulletin, has increased by 23% from 5,177 key contacts by end of 2009 to 6,366 by end of 2010. This database has enabled us to reach policy-makers, decision-makers and key organisations working on SRHR in the region and globally.

Our subscriptions reflect ARROW's regional focus but global reach: majority of subscribers are from Asia (64.4%), followed by North America (10.7%), the Pacific (8.7%), Western Europe (7.6%), the Middle East and Africa (5.4%) and Eastern Europe (0.5%).

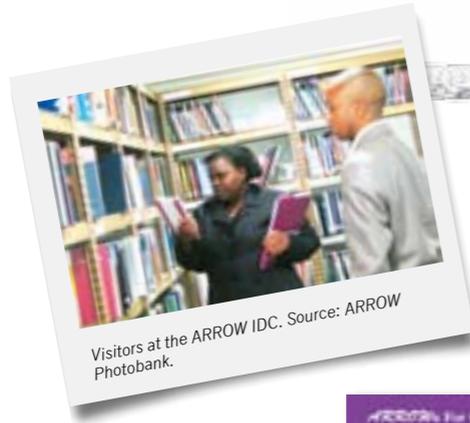
in Bahasa Indonesia, Filipino, Lao, Mandarin and Tongan; and a new series of working papers on emerging issues.

**PLANS FOR 2011**

2010 was a very intense but fruitful year for this section. We not only effectively produced and provided our products and services, we also identified strategies to continuously improve them.

Additionally, this was the first year that the IDC and the website mechanisms were incorporated into ARROW projects in a cohesive way. We were also able to effectively revitalise the Focal Point Mechanism. In 2011, we plan to build on gains made this year and ensure that our services remain responsive to the needs of the region.

New things in store in 2011 include the following: a knowledge hub for the WHRAP-SEA project; private and public blogs for partners; thematically arranged SRHR Info Resources; AFC issues on MDG 5, repoliticising funding, and disability and SRHR; AFC translated editions



Visitors at the ARROW IDC. Source: ARROW Photobank.



Through the MDG 5 Watch campaign website, ARROW 's drew attention to the need for improved processes, systems and tools for monitoring progress towards achieving the MDGs and holding governments accountable.

## monitoring and research for advocacy

Monitoring of international commitments on women's health, sexuality and rights is a powerful political tool toward ensuring accountability of international bodies and national governments. ARROW has thus consistently charted since 1994 regional and national progress on commitments made at global meetings, such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, also referred to as Cairo), the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW, also referred to as Beijing) and more recently, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). ARROW has consistently critiqued mainstream monitoring frameworks, indicators and data, and presented alternative frameworks that consider gender, rights-based and Southern perspectives, and that take into consideration emerging threats and obstacles to women's health and rights.

In 2010, ARROW accomplished the above through two projects:

- **“Reclaiming and Redefining Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights towards 2015”** (ICPD+15 project). This 4-year project enables us to consistently and systematically monitored 15 years of ICPD implementation, as well as begin monitoring the

women's health-related goals of the MDGs. ARROW is currently the only regional organisation across the globe to have done so since 1994. Supported by the Ford Foundation, Oxfam Novib and Sida, the ICPD+15 project involves 12 countries and brings together 22 national partners. In the first phase of the project (2008-2009), ARROW and partners were involved in evidence-generation and monitoring of the 15 years of ICPD implementation at the regional and national levels, followed by evidence-based advocacy at national, regional and international levels. This first phase has been evaluated. In the second phase (2010-2011), regional and sub-regional advocacy campaigns have been developed, initiated and launched to help further the alternative frameworks and intensify pressure on governments and the UN.

- **“Linking Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and MDG 5: Towards Achieving the MDGs”** (hereafter referred to as the Gender-based Violence project). This six-month project (July-December 2010), supported by the UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO), involved research and

the publication of a regional advocacy brief highlighting the linkages between gender-based violence (GBV), SRHR and achievements of the 5th Millennium Development Goal (MDG5). It is an example of how ICPD+15 findings can influence agencies like the UN and result in their implementation of projects that explore these areas further.

### DEVELOPING AND DISSEMINATING OF MONITORING AND RESEARCH PRODUCTS FOR SRHR ADVOCACY

#### Regional advocacy materials.

ARROW produced three regional information briefs for advocacy in 2010. These were built upon the evidence generated in the ICPD+15 regional monitoring report and the 12 country case studies from 2009. ARROW developed them for use by partners, women NGOs and other stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of their advocacy at national, regional and international levels.

Following are the regional briefs produced in 2010:

- **“Briefing Paper: The Women and Health Section of the Beijing Platform of Action,”** which used the ICPD+15 findings to examine progress and gaps towards meeting the Women and Health

and Violence Against Women action areas of the Beijing Platform for Action. This brief was published electronically and is available on the ARROW website. Eighty copies were specially printed and distributed at the 2010 Global NGO Forum for Women and the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2010.

- **“MDG 5 in Asia: Progress, Gaps and Challenges,”** a regional brief that focuses on the progress on UN MDG 5, and presents recommendations towards meeting these. Recommendations include the need to incorporate additional alternative indicators to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, including maternal health. This was produced for the MDG+10 Review Summit in September 2010 and for regional events pertaining to MDG advocacy in Asia. Of the 1,050 copies printed, 323 had been distributed by end of 2010. This brief has also been translated to Mandarin, and distributed to Chinese national partners and stakeholders.
- **“Understanding the Critical Linkages Between Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health and**

**Rights: Fulfilling Commitments Towards MDG+15,”** which aims to inform parliamentarians and key policymakers on the critical linkages between gender-based violence, SRHR and MDG 5. This product was developed consultatively with national partners from seven countries across the Asia-Pacific, as well as UNFPA APRO. 2,000 copies were printed. Aside from ARROW distributing 794 copies in various key events, 1,000 copies were also distributed by UNFPA APRO to its country offices.

**“SRHR Status in 12 Countries” presentation.** ARROW developed a PowerPoint presentation on the SRHR status of 12 Asian countries, in order to provide a ready to use, user-friendly format for easy presentation of the ICPD+15 research project findings. This presentation has been uploaded on the ARROW website to facilitate easy access and availability.

**Alternative SRHR Database of Indicators.** Launched in November 2010, this dynamic online data service on SRHR was created to reach the global community of individuals and organisations working towards the realisation of SRHR. This presents an alternative to currently available databases,

### BOX 6. FEEDBACK ON ARROW MONITORING PRODUCTS

*This document is very helpful and includes some excellent indicators on youth SRHR. They will be very helpful for IPPF Youth Team's work on youth SRHR indicators. (Katie Chua, IPPF, on the ARROW ICPD+15 indicators)*

*I think that it's a well-written brief and provides information at a glance on MDG 5 in Asia. (Arifa Nazle, Manager, Publication and Documentation Centre, Shirkat Gah, on the MDG regional brief)*

and uses the ICPD+15 framework of indicators developed by ARROW and partners in 2009 to monitor SRHR progress in 12 Asian countries. It also draws upon reliable databases of the UN and the WHO. This fully interactive database can be accessed online at [www.srhrdatabase.org](http://www.srhrdatabase.org). The website has generated 8,005 hits in just the short period of January-March 2011, indicating stakeholders are using the database extensively.

**ICPD+15 thematic papers.** Two cross-country papers on emerging themes have been finalised and

Table 1. ICPD+15 Country Case Studies

ORGANISATION AND COUNTRY	COUNTRY CASE STUDY
Department of Postgraduate Studies and Research, University of Health Sciences, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR	Cultural Beliefs and Traditional Rituals about Child Birth Practices in Lao PDR
Likhaan Centre for Women's Health, the Philippines	Barriers to the Timely Access to Critical Safe Motherhood Services by Poor Women in the National Capital Region (NCR) and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)
Reprocen, the Philippines	A Study on Contraceptive Use of Young People in Selected Urban Poor Metro Manila Communities
Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC), Cambodia	Barriers to Contraceptive Use in Cambodia
Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) and Federation of Reproductive Health Associations Malaysia (FRHAM), Malaysia	Increasing Access to the Reproductive Right to Contraceptive Information and Services, SRHR Education for Youth and Legal Abortion
Safe Motherhood Network Federation (SMNF), Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) and Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), Nepal	Prevalence of Uterine Prolapse Amongst Gynecology OPD Patients in Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Nepal and Its Socio-Cultural Determinants
Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, Pakistan	Investigating Barriers to Achieving Safe Motherhood: A Study in Selected Sites in Rural Sindh and Punjab
The Southeast Asian Consortium on Gender, Sexuality and Health, Thailand	Sexual Harassment and Sexual Education: Two Critical Issues on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Thailand
Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan (YKP), Indonesia	Contraception in the Decentralisation Era in Indonesia

electronically published on the ARROW website in 2010.

- "Transgender People's Access to Sexual Health and Rights: A Study of Law and Policy in 12 Asian Countries" by Neha Sood.

This is now a part of the training resources for the Talking about Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues (TARSHI), a South Asian NGO focused on sexuality rights.

- "Review of Sexual and

**Reproductive Health and Rights in the Context of Disasters in Asia**" by Ranjani Krishnamurthy. This paper was sent to the editors of Oxfam's *Gender and Development Bulletin*

on disasters at the author's request.

**National country studies.** Nine ICPD+15 country case studies written by country partners have been finalised and electronically published in 2010 on the ARROW website (Table 1).

In addition, the study by the Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA), *Monitoring 15 Years of ICPD Implementation: China Country Report*, was published in both English and Mandarin in 2009. Meanwhile, papers from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Vietnam will be finalised and uploaded in the ARROW website in 2011. There are also plans to print selected papers as part of a thematic series in 2011.

In 2010, a total of 8,145 website downloads was registered for all ARROW monitoring and research publications, including the above mentioned regional briefs, country case studies and thematic papers. These figures also includes downloads for research-related publications produced since ARROW was established.

**STRENGTHENING PARTNERS' CAPACITIES IN DEVELOPMENT OF ADVOCACY TOOLS**

**ARROW Regional MDG-SRHR Monitoring Workshop and Capacity Strengthening Workshop on Development of National Briefs cum Campaign Planning Meeting.** This regional meeting, held on 19-21 July 2010, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, brought together ARROW partners from 10 Asian countries. Utilising a peer-assist approach supplemented by resource persons, this meeting resulted in the strengthening of partners' perspectives on the critical linkages between SRHR and selected MDGs.

It also strengthened partners' capacities in the development of materials for policy advocacy. Partners and ARROW decided on additional indicators to be included to monitor the SRHR-related goals of the MDGs. The website modality for the regional campaign was also agreed upon at this meeting. At the end of the workshop, ten draft national level advocacy and policy briefs were written and peer-critiqued.

**Workshop on Linking Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and MDG 5: Towards Achieving the MDGs.** As part of

the UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office-supported project, ARROW organised a one-and-a-half-day workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in July 2010. At this meeting, the linkages between gender-based violence and SRHR, and their importance in achieving the MDGs were developed.

The workshop used a peer-assist methodology to incorporate perspectives and voices of key women's NGO activists from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga and Vietnam who are working on violence issues. The workshop resulted in a draft advocacy brief that was further developed through email conversations with partners, reviewers and the UNFPA APRO.

**REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENTS**

**MDG campaign website.** ARROW launched a web-based campaign on MDGs 3 and 5 in 2010. The campaign website, "MDG 5 Watch: Women Are Watching Their Governments" ([www.mdg5watch.org](http://www.mdg5watch.org)) presents the call to make the MDGs more meaningful to women. It draws attention to the need for improving processes, systems and tools for monitoring progress

towards achieving the MDGs and holding governments accountable.

The website simultaneously provides a “Living MDG5 Shadow Report,” which compares national numeric reporting with local evidence and research to show gaps in achieving MDGs 3 and 5 in 12 Asian countries. It provides a space for NGO activists to air their alternative opinions on the reporting provided by governments, and serves therefore as a reminder to governments and international agencies that women’s organisations around the region are still monitoring them closely on their promises on gender equality and universal access to reproductive health.

The website went live in August 2010, and has registered 2,700 hits by end of 2010. Additionally, the call was circulated to ARROW’s networks, partners and ARROW’s SRHR Info Resources. The call also went out to all 199 United Nations Permanent Representatives. The campaign-report garnered the support of 41 individuals and organisations from 20 countries around the world. It has been featured in at least five websites in 2010.

**Global and regional engagements.** Throughout 2010, ARROW utilised

the findings of the ICPD+15 research to strengthen its interventions at key international and regional advocacy arenas. A range of briefings were also conducted with donors and influential agencies to present the findings to key officials within them.

Through these, ARROW participated actively in global and regional discourses, and actively advocated a Southern perspective with an Asia Pacific focus. Briefings and presentations were made at the following:

- UNFPA-APRO Planning Meeting (February, Bangkok, Thailand): presentation to UNFPA country office heads of all the 19 countries in the Asia Pacific region. ARROW was the sole non-UNFPA participant present in this meeting of more than 40 participants.
- UNFPA-NGO Global Consultation (February, New York, USA): presentation to about 80 representatives of donors and NGOs, majority of whom were from the global North, with very minimal representation from the Asia-Pacific.
- US State Department Office of Population, Migration and Refugees (February, Washington DC, USA): Briefing to the head and six staff members of this

office.

- UNFPA Asia Pacific Desk (February, New York, USA): ‘brown bag’ presentation to about 15 UNFPA staff and a ‘webinar’ that is available to all UNFPA staff throughout the whole world.
- Malaysian mission at the UN (February, New York, USA): briefing with the Malaysian representative at the UN.
- Ford Foundation (February, New York, USA): meeting with relevant programme staff.
- University Sains Malaysia, KANITA Seminar Series (April, Penang, Malaysia): presentation to 20 university staff and students and NGOs based in the Penang area.
- Talking about Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues (TARSHI) Second Regional Training on Sexuality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia): presentation on sexual rights findings to 23 training participants from South and Southeast Asia.
- International Council on Management of Population Programmes (ICOMP) meeting on “Rights-based approaches to reducing maternal mortality” (June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia): presentation to 15 government

health officials from the non-aligned states.

- Oxfam Novib Office (June, the Hague, the Netherlands): briefing attended by five staff members.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands (June, the Hague, the Netherlands): briefing attended by four officials from the Ministry.
- Strategic Options for NGOs (SONGS) Meeting (July, Brussels, Belgium): presentation of ICPD+15 findings to at least 30 members of EuroNGOs.
- ASEAN People’s Forum, (September, Hanoi, Vietnam): presentation on ICPD+15 monitoring on Health Financing in the ASEAN region to 50 civil society representatives.
- 8th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development: Making Sexual and Reproductive Rights a Reality (October, Berlin, Germany): presentation at the ‘measuring’ section of the dialogue attended by 80 participants. The outcome documents of the meeting captured ARROW’s technical intervention.
- GTZ Office, (October, Eschborn, Germany): briefing to GTZ staff members.
- 10th Asia Pacific Alliance Conference (October, Penang,

Malaysia): plenary presentation, together with UNFPA Regional Director, Nobuko Horibe and Shoko Ishikawa, UNIFEM East and South East Asia. ARROW also facilitated a session on gender equality and SRHR at the conference. About 50 key SRHR stakeholders in the region attended this conference.

**National level advocacy on MDG-SRHR.** Ten draft national advocacy and policy briefs on MDGs 3 and 5 in ten Asian countries were produced in 2010 by partners with ARROW’s support.

These national policy briefs, which were also built on the evidence generated in the ICPD+15 project, aimed to integrate SRHR into the MDGs. Of these ten partners, nine national partners entered into a partnership with ARROW to conduct national level advocacy on MDG-SRHR (see Table 2).

**Additional ICPD+15 activities at the national level.** An ICPD+15 dissemination meeting was held on 24 April 2010 in Orissa, India by the Academy of Nursing Studies and Women Empowerment Research Studies (ANSWERS), which had more than 50 participants representing Health and Family Welfare, Women Development and

Child Welfare, researchers, NGOs, project officials, service providers, and officials from other government departments. The meeting discussed the Orissa State study on anaemia, and its inter-linkages with rights violation, neglect and discrimination with respect to food availability. The case study on anaemia by CHETNA was shared with Myrada, an NGO that focuses on rural development programmes in South India.

#### EVALUATION OF PHASE I OF THE ICPD+15 PROJECT

The evaluation of the first phase of the ICPD+15 project was completed in 2010. The report findings pointed out the following as some of the strengths of ARROW and the project:

- ARROW fills a critical gap as the only regional organisation that consistently monitored ICPD POA with her partners since 1994.
- ARROW plays a critical role in encouraging collaborative research partnerships among social science and health science researchers, academic and research institutions, and NGOs or activist groups. Collective processes established partners’ ownership of the project and also provided capacity

Table 2. National Policy Briefs and Advocacy Efforts

ORGANISATION AND COUNTRY	NATIONAL POLICY BRIEF AND NATIONAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS
Beyond Beijing Committee, Nepal	MDGs and SRHR in Nepal: Aside from developing this brief, the partner is collaborating with Nepal TV towards the production of a film on safe abortion and uterine prolapse to be used for national level advocacy.
Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA), India	Young People Access to Reproductive and Sexual Health Services and Information
Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand	Erasing Gender Disparity in Contraceptive Use in Promoting Maternal Health and Unwanted Pregnancy Prevention: Given the Thailand Ministry of Public Health's focus on male involvement in reproductive health, and not just family planning in general, IPSR decided that it would not be strategic to take up the issue of erasing gender disparity in contraceptive use at this time.
Naripokkho, Bangladesh	Maternal Mortality in Bangladesh and Eclampsia—The Vital Link: Naripokkho is focusing on ICPD+15 advocacy activities related to eclampsia and maternal deaths.
Reprocen, the Philippines	Sexuality Education Must Be Taught in All Public and Private Schools: The brief has been revised to cater to issues that have arisen in the Philippines after the workshop. The brief has been utilised in advocacy events in provinces where Reprocen has been requested to speak. It is also posted on Reprocen's website.
Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC), Cambodia	Enhancing Male Responsibility in Contraceptive Use and Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Cambodia: This has been finalised and translated to Khmer. The brief will be utilised as the main tool at a national media advocacy workshop for journalists to be concluded in 2011.
Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED), Vietnam	Adolescent Abortions in Vietnam: This brief has been finalised. Both this document and the regional MDG brief are being translated into Vietnamese. 600 copies of both materials will be printed in 2011 and disseminated through workshops with policy makers and young people.
University of Health Sciences, Faculty of Postgraduate Studies, Lao PDR	The Inclusion of Misoprostol and Mifepristone in the National Essential Medication List: A policy dialogue has been conducted with the Ministry of Health and the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Association in Lao PDR. Advocacy is also ongoing at the ministerial level.
Women's Health Foundation, Indonesia	Effective and Gender Sensitive Family Planning Services: While the draft was developed, the partner decided to focus its advocacy on the development of the government regulation process for the recently passed Health Law. WHF has also developed a factsheet on abortion in Indonesia.

ORGANISATION AND COUNTRY	NATIONAL POLICY BRIEF AND NATIONAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS
Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA), China	Female Migrant Workers in China: A Vulnerable Group in Terms of Access to Reproductive Health Services: As a result of this brief, the Department of Maternal and Child Health of the Yunnan Provincial Health Bureau has extended the safe motherhood services to migrant pregnant women, not just those with residency permits. Additionally, one provincial hospital and two clinics invited the YHDRA MDG-SRHR research team to give a lecture to health providers on the topic. The national policy brief was also utilised in a Public Health Management course in Kunming Medical University as an example of how to design and use a policy brief. A representative of Yunnan Provincial People's Congress has also asked for 50 copies of the policy brief to distribute them in the 11th Yunnan Provincial People's Congress in March 2012.

strengthening opportunities to partners in monitoring and advocacy. Despite their long years of working on advocacy, partners appreciated the learning opportunity provided by the above processes that ARROW invested in.

- The equal emphasis to national and regional advocacy, and explicitly delineated responsibilities for the regional and national data collection are also strengths of the project. The list of 79 SRHR indicators—which monitored trends over three points in time focusing on women's empowerment, reproductive health, reproductive rights, sexual health and sexual rights—are also seen as a significant way forward.

Furthermore, the evaluation also pointed to areas in which there were some significant outcomes from the

project period at the national level. These included contributing to the following:

- repeal of policy directives (e.g., the ongoing campaign for the repeal of Executive Order 003 in Manila City, Philippines on not providing 'modern' contraceptives in government hospitals and clinics: Likhaan and ReproCen);
- pushing for amendments to existing laws and policies (e.g., Indonesia's health bill amending the abortion law; Nepal's policy on providing free surgery for uterine prolapse);
- supporting the passage of pending bills (e.g., Philippines's Reproductive Health bill: Likhaan and ReproCen);
- contributing to the shaping of policy directives (RRAAM's contribution to Malaysia's Strategic Population Plan, CGFED's contribution to

- Vietnam's RH Strategy Plan 2011-2020);
- highlighting an issue and making it a priority of governments (CHETNA and the Academy of Nursing Studies and Women's Empowerment Research Studies in India); and
  - fully implementing existing laws (e.g., RRAAM in Malaysia). Some partners' feedback are in Box 7.

**PLANS FOR 2011**

In 2011, ARROW will focus on the implementation of national and sub-regional campaigns on key issues identified by national partners. These campaigns include: a) a sub-regional campaign on religious fundamentalisms and/or women's access to contraception and safe abortion in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines; b) a sub-regional campaign on access to sexuality education and reducing

teen pregnancies in Thailand and Vietnam; c) a maternal and neonatal indicators website campaign in India; and, d) an information and advocacy around gender-based violence in Pakistan. A thematic studies series on *Reclaiming and Redefining Rights* is also planned. Finally, ARROW will work towards ensuring that Southern perspectives are heard in the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. Preparatory work towards conducting global and regional meetings in 2012 will begin next year.



ARROW Regional MDG-SRHR Monitoring Workshop and Capacity Strengthening Workshop on Development of National Briefs cum Campaign Planning Meeting, 19-22 July 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Source: ARROW Photobank.



**BOX 7. CRITICAL REFLECTIONS BY SOME PARTNERS DURING THE PROJECT EVALUATION**

- Atashendartini Habsjah of Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan, Indonesia, noted that the workshops organised during the course of the project served as “a good foundation” for the research partners carried out at national level. She also said that ARROW’s regional review was extremely useful as a tool for advocacy, particularly in the Indonesian context. The regional review could goad the Indonesian government to act as “it is always looking at other ASEAN countries” for comparisons.
- Balasubramanian P., Executive Director of RUWSEC, India, explained, “ARROW facilitated us

- to learn new research techniques with a gender perspective, particularly in the preparatory workshops where we learnt new ways of collecting data.” He appreciated the report-writing workshop and considers this as part of enhancing the partners’ capacities. It helped him write a “clear research report.”
- Alongkorne Phengsavanh of the National University of Laos, Laos PDR, acknowledged that the project strengthened the capacities not only of the university’s networks and organisations, but also of the individuals who were involved in the research.



A Gujarati community woman speaks during the WHRAP-South Asia field visit to CHETNA’s project areas. CHETNA is one of ARROW’s two national partners in India. Photo by Nalini Singh.

## building and strengthening partnerships

The Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) project is part of the vision shared by ARROW and our partners to move forward the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) agenda in Asia-Pacific region. It supports joint strategic planning, monitoring and evidence-based advocacy by women NGOs to ensure government commitments to SRHR at local, national and regional levels. Through these joint actions, WHRAP aims to achieve real and relevant changes in SRHR-related policies and programmes and ultimately, in marginalised women's and young people's lives.

ARROW currently coordinates three projects utilising this modality: WHRAP-South Asia, WHRAP-China and WHRAP-South East Asia.

### WHRAP-SOUTH ASIA (WHRAP-SA): ADVOCATING FOR MARGINALISED WOMEN'S SRHR

WHRAP-South Asia is a partnership project supported by Danida between ARROW, five national partner NGOs, community-based organisations (CBOs) and local implementing partners, and the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA). WHRAP-SA is implemented in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. It aims to institutionalise

accountability at all levels of duty bearers toward ensuring better policies, programmes and services for marginalised women in South Asia. The project is now moving into the third phase (Phase I: 2003-2005; Phase II: 2006-2010).

**Regional level achievements.** 2010 marked the successful completion of Phase II of the project, which included a three-month no-cost extension (June-September 2010), and the commencement of a bridging period (October 2010-June 2011). As such, regional activities focused on the evaluation of Phase II of the project, the completion of various project reports, and planning and preparation for Phase III. Phase III commences from July 2011.

**Completion of Phase II.** A month-long final evaluation exercise of WHRAP-SA Phase II was carried out in February 2010. The external evaluators were involved in partner visits in India and Nepal, a visit to the ARROW team in Malaysia, and a range of interviews with WHRAP-SA national partners and other stakeholders. The draft evaluation report was presented at the Final Evaluation and Planning Meeting in April in Dhaka and finalised thereafter. The Phase II completion report was also submitted in December (see Box 8 for highlights).

**Bridging period.** This period marks the closure of Phase II as well as the inception of Phase III. WHRAP-SA implementation continued in this period. The main activities in the bridging period include the following:

- Final Evaluation and Planning Meeting, held in April, which focused on providing feedback on the Phase II evaluation report, and on planning for Phase III. It was decided at this meeting that Phase III will focus largely on advocacy at all levels, with a major focus on the three critical issues identified as affecting women's SRHR in South Asia: continuum of quality maternal health services with assured referrals for all women; nutrition and food security; and, private sector regulation of health care. The WHRAP-SA vision and mission statements, as well as outputs and indicators for Phase III, were also revisited and agreed upon.
- Visit by the DFPA International Project Officer and Finance Controller to ARROW in June to conduct an initial assessment of the financial management systems of ARROW. ARROW scored 5/5 in the MANGO's Health Check, a financial assessment tool, indicating very low risk in terms of

financial management and implications. The meeting also further clarified that role and relationships between DFPA, ARROW and national partners.

- Phase III proposal submission, wherein ARROW supported DFPA in preparing the concept note and documents related to the proposal for submission to Danida in 2011.
- Regional Advocacy Strategy Development meeting, held in October in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which defined strategies and

identified targets and allies for advocacy in the three critical issues of WHRAP-SA. Additionally, ARROW's MDG Policy Brief and the CHETNA Briefing Kit for Advocacy were also launched at this event.

- Regular coordinative meetings. In 2010, the Steering Committee met thrice and the working group thrice. Regular virtual communication was also happening via the WHRAP google group.
- Submission of the bridging

project progress report covering regional and national achievements to DFPA in December.

**Regional interventions.** In 2010, WHRAP-South Asia engaged SAARC officials in further discussions on SAARC's initiatives for gender and women's health. This builds upon the foundations of connections established with SAARC in the previous two years. High-level SAARC officials were invited to the second RTF meeting (16-

### BOX 8. KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE FINAL EVALUATION REPORT OF WHRAP-SOUTHEAST ASIA PHASE II

- WHRAP-SA Phase II has made good progress towards achieving its objectives. Considerable results have been achieved within the allocated budget by leveraging resources from varied sources.
- The project has activated a broad range of stakeholders from local to the global level, to achieve its results. These include: grassroots communities beginning to demand accountability; increasing responsiveness of the health care providers and health systems; greater public visibility of SRHR and maternal health issues; monitoring role being played by media; alliances and partnerships at various levels for SRHR and maternal health; and many others.
- WHRAP-SA Phase II has been able to make significant progress towards strengthening capacities of marginalised women to demand accountability.
- A major value addition of WHRAP-SA is the evidence base for their advocacy efforts. Evidence has been collected by the affected groups themselves, which gives the data greater efficacy. The first-hand experience of evidence gathering has empowered grassroots women and enabled them to articulate their demands more confidently.
- The grassroots mobilisation, monitoring and advocacy is leading to increased responsiveness of health care providers, small improvements in health care infrastructure and staffing.
- Partnerships and alliances are forming at various levels within the countries and are working for greater visibility of SRHR and maternal health issues.
- The regional capacity building opportunities in Phase II are rated highly by almost all national partners and by ARROW.
- In relation to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), a significant amount of groundwork was done by the Regional Task Force Members to establish strategic contact points.
- In Phase II, the introduction of google-groups and electronic listserv has significantly enhanced both the potential and clarity of collective decision making of information sharing and joint strategising as compared to Phase I.

17 February) to share SAARC's viewpoint on MDG 5, targeting to reduce MMR. They committed to facilitate possible collaboration between WHRAP-SA and SAARC. A follow-up team from WHRAP-South Asia met two SAARC Secretariat Directors to further explore possible engagement between WHRAP-SA and SAARC at the regional level. This includes the SAARC Gender Info Base Project, as well as the relevant women's ministries focal points.

Additionally, ARROW and partners showcased WHRAP-SA experiences at three global events. These were:

- Global Maternal Health Conference (30 August- 01 September, New Delhi, India), organised by the Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF) and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). WHRAP-SA organised a panel titled "Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership in South Asia: Advocating to Influence Policies for Improved Women's Sexual Reproductive Health and Right."
- International and Interdisciplinary Round-table on "Maternal Mortality, Human Rights and Accountability" (2 September, Geneva, Switzerland). SAHAYOG and Naripokkho attended this meeting organised by the

International Initiative on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights (IIMMHR), Clemens Nathan Research Centre, CARE Peru, SAHAYOG, Health Equity Group (East Africa) and Human Rights Centre, University of Essex. SAHAYOG made a presentation on the WHRAP experience on ensuring government accountability for maternal mortality reduction.

- MDG Summit 2010 (20-22 September, New York, USA), wherein ARROW, BBC, CHETNA and DFPA participated in some side events, such as that of IPPF, Women Deliver and UNFPA. As participants had limited access to the main event, this participation allowed partners to reflect on how best to maximise capacities and resources for strategic advocacy.

**Local and national level achievements.** In 2010, WHRAP-South Asia's five national partners and 45 CBOs reached out to and benefitted an estimated 38,030 women on the ground. Results are as reported in the Key Conclusions of the Final Evaluation Report (See Box 8).

**a. Bangladesh: Naripokkho.** Naripokkho works at the local level with 13 CBO partners in five districts of the Barisal division to

monitor the facilities available at 65 government health facilities and the role of the Hospital Management Committees. Data gathered is used to advocate for changes with the relevant hospital management committees and the Union *Parishad* Standing Committee.

The district level health alliances initiated by Naripokkho in Barisal and Patuakhali Districts petitioned the Divisional Director and district civil surgeon respectively, as well as conducted mobilisations to highlight vacant posts in government health facilities. Additionally, the Pathuakhali district alliance has also begun monitoring private clinics in their locality. CBO partners also organised 11 meetings at district and *upazilla* levels in September 2010 to share observations and experiences from WHRAP-South Asia Phase II, and raise awareness on the problems faced by women seeking services in government health facilities. About 70 stakeholders from different levels of government and civil society participated at each of these meetings.

The events facilitated greater understanding of constraints faced by service providers and created a space where public commitments to improve the quality of services could be made. Public attention was

drawn to the issues raised through coverage in 26 local newspapers and in seven national TV channels.

**b. India: Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA).** CHETNA's activities at the local level in partnership with its eight CBO partners in the state of Gujarat and Rajasthan involved awareness raising among grassroots women on the issue of continuum of care. Health officials and service providers were lobbied to ensure availability and regularity of service providers at the health facilities, availability of equipment and information about services provided by the facilities.

At the state level, CHETNA, along with other civil society partners, held a meeting in June with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. CHETNA's community empowerment efforts to improve maternal health in Gujarat and Rajasthan states were shared at this meeting. The Commission acknowledged CHETNA's efforts and requested detailed recommendations for review and further action.

Findings of a study on knowledge of danger signs, birth and complication preparedness, and

access to maternal health services were disseminated at a state level workshop with CBOs, media and the district health official in December. Additionally, a consultation on universal access to reproductive and child health services for the underserved populations in Gujarat in partnership with Gujarat Department of Health and Family Welfare was done. Five state level workshops were also organised to review and identify priorities in terms of access to reproductive and child health services for the underserved population in Gujarat.

Meanwhile, CHETNA's curriculum for NGO master trainers and reference book for members of the Village Health and Sanitation Committees (VHSCs) in Gujarat and Rajasthan was completed in 2010. The state-level orientation training held in March involved 45 master trainers, state and district level coordinators, managers and technical experts.

At the national level, CHETNA organised a national level think-tank in November to map the advocacy agenda for reducing maternal mortality in underserved areas. Held in New Delhi, this event drew the participation of 15 national advocates from civil society and 15 representatives from the print

media. This meeting resulted in media articles in four national newspapers and an international women's news feature service highlighting maternal health care concerns in India.

CHETNA also produced a briefing kit on community advocacy efforts to improve maternal health in Hindi and English. This was shared with the Planning Commission with recommendations in the 12th five-year national plan of India.

**c. India: SAHAYOG.** In 2010, SAHAYOG continued its advocacy activities at the local level through 10 CBO partners in 10 districts in the state of Uttar Pradesh, as well as through a grassroots organisation called Mahila Swasthya Adhikar Manch (MSAM, meaning Women's Health Rights Forum), which has over 11,000 members across the 10 districts.

In 2010, MSAM members began using pictorial tools to monitor sub-centres on the basis of the Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS). They have been able to utilise evidence gathered to advocate for improved health services to health officials, administrators and elected leaders. They do these both at the state capital of Lucknow, as well as through district dialogues

that is attended by thousands of women. This level of advocacy by MSAM leader has been enabled by SAHAYOG's sustained capacity building for MSAM leaders. This year, it included an orientation in May on the issue of local elected councils (*Panchayats*) followed by a study tour to an NGO in Nainital, Uttarakhand.

In addition, the women have attempted to work with their local councilors (*Pradhan*) and frontline health workers to improve local services for health and nutrition.

MSAM registered an outstanding success when a total of 180 MSAM members contested the *Panchayat* elections and 111 of them were elected to various posts. MSAM conducted a campaign on women's issues during the election, covering 109 village Panchayats of 22 blocks across 10 districts in Uttar Pradesh.

At the state level, SAHAYOG worked through the Uttar Pradesh Health Watch Forum and others in an alliance known as the Forum against Health Privatisation. The Forum opposes the move of the government of Uttar Pradesh to hand over the public health infrastructure to the private sector in four districts. SAHAYOG, as the Secretariat of the Forum, has submitted cases of maternal death and negligence to

the Minister of Health in the state on two occasions.

At the national level, a big achievement for SAHAYOG was the formation of the National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR) in January. NAMHHR aims to highlight the need to strengthen maternal health as an issue of women's human rights. The NAMHHR secretariat is currently hosted by SAHAYOG, and run by an 11-member Steering Committee. Seven NAMHHR state-level meetings were organised in 2010. A campaign on maternal nutrition is also underway in collaboration with the national Right to Food Campaign.

Another critical intervention in 2010 was the dialogue on the maternal mortality report in India with the UN Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the Right to Health. This was organised in August in collaboration with NAMHHR and brought 75 key stakeholders into this dialogue. The National Planning Commission invited SAHAYOG to present the UNSR's report to them in October. SAHAYOG has also been invited to join a high-level expert group on universal health coverage of the National Planning Commission.

**d. Nepal: Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC).** In 2010, BBC's

focus remained on awareness and advocacy for safe abortion and uterine prolapse prevention and cure facilities that ensure quality, accessible and affordable services. BBC continued its work with its four CBO partners in 28 Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Makawanpur district. Information dissemination events were also organised at the district level.

These involved sharing WHRAP experiences, as well as street theatre focusing on the issues of maternal and child health and reproductive health of women. The participants, mostly service providers, expressed an increased awareness about SRHR issue of women in the district through this exposure. Hetauda FM, the local district level FM, aired the events.

At the national level, BBC's Policy Dialogue on Safe Abortion and Uterine Prolapse in June brought together 77 participants in a dialogue to agree on the need for proper implementation of laws. Constituent Assembly members present promised to make these issues as their priority agenda. BBC's study assessing women's level of knowledge, attitude and practice about abortion and maternal health in Makawanpur District was released in September.

120 stakeholders from both government and civil society attended the launch.

In 2010, BBC also focused on making a TV series on unsafe abortion and uterine prolapse. They aim to broadcast the series on a national TV channel in early 2011.

**e. Pakistan: Shirkat Gah.** Shirkat Gah continued its local level activities through its five CBO partners in five districts of Punjab and Sindh provinces. Efforts to enable community women to obtain documents necessary for receipt of government entitlements, including for health, continued. These have resulted in an increase in number of birth registrations, and in the organising of a camp where 75 community members obtained their identity cards.

Additionally, Shirkat Gah and partners' meeting with doctors in-charge of basic health units (BHU) and the Executive District Officer have resulted in a medical camp on Tetanus vaccination being held and benefitting 50 pregnant women. Shirkat Gah and partners also requested the appointment of a lady doctor as well as increases in the supply of medicines at the BHU. Meanwhile, pregnant women in the project areas shared that

the behaviour of their husbands towards them has improved. More women now go for antenatal check-ups. This has largely been due to last year's programmes on women's reproductive health and rights, which involves men.

Additionally, the CBO partners also held dialogues with local religious leaders at all the five districts discussing myths and misconceptions regarding family planning, abortion and early age marriage issues. They published a booklet giving the perspective of a progressive religious scholar on questions raised by the community and the local religious leaders.

**WHRAP-CHINA (WHRAP-CHINA): ADVANCING CHINESE MIGRANT WOMEN'S SRHR**

WHRAP-China aims to overcome social, economic and gender inequalities and inequities by strengthening China's response to women's SRHR needs. It focuses on migrant women in urban centres, the current most vulnerable population in China.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Due to the unique household system (*Hukou*) in China, the migrant population is not entitled to the equal rights and services as their urban counterparts. This includes areas such as the reproductive health and family planning services, access to information, social insurance coverage and others. China's migrant population reached a record 211 million in 2009, and will hit 350 million by 2050.

In Phase I (2008-2010), which was funded by Oxfam Novib, WHRAP-China, together with its partners from Beijing, Shanghai and Heilongjiang, used strategies such as evidence generation, capacity building and advocacy to establish a broad local and national partnership on migrant women's SRHR with 39 Chinese government agencies, institutes, NGOs and nine mass media agencies.

It reached out to 107 communities, 17 private enterprises and directly benefitted at least 50,000 migrant women in China. It also successfully managed to increase budget allocations and advocacy interactions to improve programmes for migrant women. WHRAP-China is currently undertaking resource mobilisation for Phase II.

**Regional level achievements.** At the regional level, ARROW's work in 2010 was focused on these areas: evaluation of Phase I; facilitating exchanges between Chinese partners and other ARROW partners; partnership expansion; and, resource mobilisation.

**a. Final evaluation of Phase I and final project evaluation meeting.** The final evaluation meeting was held in 13-15 January in Harbin, China, to mark the completion

of Phase I of the WHRAP-China project. ARROW's WHRAP-China team, the project partners and four resource persons reflected upon the project strategies, outputs, achievements, the lessons learnt and challenges for the next phase. Partners reached consensus that partnership building and advocacy initiatives at various levels should be strategically planned to address migrant women's needs. The partners are passionate about furthering WHRAP-China work on migrant women's SRHR in Phase II.

#### **b. Facilitating sharing between Chinese partners and the region.**

The WHRAP-China partners participated in ARROW's Strategic Planning Meeting in May in Penang, actively contributing perspectives from Chinese civil society. They informed the other ARROW partners on the context in China regarding SRHR issues and the work of the Chinese partners in this field.

At a Solidarity Event held during this meeting, the Chinese partners highlighted the current detrimental situation that NGOs highlighted by the recent deregistration of the WHRAP-China partner in Beijing by Peking University. The evening proved to be an enlightening and positive sharing experience for all.

**c. Partnership expansion.** WHRAP-China regarded 2010 as the extension period before moving to Phase II. Partnership expansion and intensive advocacy were the main focus for WHRAP-China this year. After consultations with the WHRAP-China Programme Advisory Committee and current partners, ARROW conducted prospective partner assessments in September. Based on the assessment, the Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA) will be included as another national partner.

The Ningxia Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) is also being considered to become a partner, pending completion of the assessment in 2011. As YHDRA and NPFPC operate in the western region of China, their inclusion in WHRAP-China will enable the project to be more geographically representative as a national project. This expansion will be implemented in 2011.

**d. Resource mobilisation.** Resource mobilisation was a key focus for the WHRAP-China team in 2010. ARROW secured funding support from Population Action International (PAI) to hold the Workshop on Linking MDG 3 and 5 in the Context of Chinese Migrant Women's SRHR.

This workshop will take place in Beijing in March 2011 with

the participation of civil society representatives and research institutes. The WHRAP-China team is also negotiating with other donor agencies for cooperation next year.

#### **Local and national level achievements.**

In 2010, WHRAP-China partners have undertaken the following initiatives: public interest litigation; networking with diverse government sectors and legislative bodies on the issue of sexual violence against migrant women; facilitation of increased access to the maternal health care; and, advocacy on migrant women's equal rights on health and employment.

#### **a. Beijing Zhongze Women's Legal Counselling and Service Centre.**

In 2010, the Centre focused its efforts on forming partnerships with the media, law practitioners, the judiciary, other NGOs and gender experts to monitor, redress and defend the rights of the migrant women who have suffered sexual violence at the workplace.

The Centre filed four sexual violence cases, organised seminars, sought expert legal opinion, and captured the attention of the media, including the internet, newspaper, magazine and TV programmes. This effort sought to highlight to the public that legislation on sexual abuse, domestic

violence and sexual harassment are in urgent need of revision.

In order to make the most out of the limited resources, the Centre integrated work being done for the WHRAP-China project with its other reproductive health-related project resources and experiences.

#### **b. Heilongjiang Women's Federation.**

The Federation has laid a solid foundation for advocating policies in favour of women's rights and interests. Its policy brief on migrant women's SRHR, which was shared in the provincial People's Congress in 2010, has had significant results:

a) migrant women will be covered under the provincial government's Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Scanning project in 2011; and, b) government funding will be allocated for migrant women with cancer.

The Federation's has been actively involved in consultations to revise the 11th Guideline for Women's Development at a provincial level. Cooperation with various related provincial departments has also increased. In the province-wide inspection on the enforcement of the Law of People's Republic of China on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests, the Federation also took the initiative to solicit

support from relevant provincial government officials.

Furthermore, through education, training and legal aids, the Institute has provided aid to women, migrant women included, to safeguard their rights and interests concerning maternity insurance, reproductive health, participation in state affairs and others.

#### **c. Shanghai Women's Healthcare Institute.**

The Institute improved the monitoring network for pregnant migrant women in Shanghai in 2010, based on its successful pilot in Phase I. A working group was formed in every community all over Shanghai, enabling earlier identification of pregnant women and their earlier entry into the maternal health care system. Through this well-established four-tier MHC network, the registration rate of migrant women in their first trimester of pregnancy has increased by 14%, while the systematic maternal health care rate has increased by 15.8%.

Additionally, to ensure quality maternal health care service to migrant women, the Institute conducted the survey and supervision of 23 low-cost maternity hospitals in August 2010. Identified problems of management and

quality control were reported back to the Shanghai Health Bureau. All hospitals will be rectifying and improving their management and quality based on the feedback from this supervision exercise.

#### **WHRAP-SOUTH EAST ASIA (WHRAP-SEA): ADVOCATING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SRHR**

WHRAP-South East Asia is a seven-country partnership project covering Burma, Cambodia, China, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Currently in its first phase of implementation (December 2009-April 2012) and funded by Oxfam Novib, WHRAP-SEA aims to institutionalise accountability at all levels of duty bearers towards marginalised young people, leading to better policies, programmes and services. The WHRAP-SEA project has a direct outreach of approximately 11,400 marginalised young people.

**Regional level achievements.** In 2010, ARROW set in place the WHRAP-SEA partnership platform involving 19 youth-led networks and organisations with strong grassroots linkages within marginalised communities of young people. Interventions at regional and global events also enabled pushing of youth SRHR issues.

**a. Regional Dialogue on Linking Gender, Human Rights and Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights** (7-8 July, Kuala Lumpur). This regional meeting involved leaders from youth-led initiatives and representatives from regional organisations working on young people's issues in Asia, WHRAP-South East Asia partners and ARROW staff members.

The meeting mapped current and emerging issues related to young people's SRHR in the region. It also explored cooperation mechanisms between established NGOs working in the field of SRHR, with young people-led networks and organisations working in the area of young people, HIV and AIDS and sexuality education.

The issues identified in the dialogue were taken into consideration when shaping project strategies in the planning meeting that followed.

**b. WHRAP-South East Asia Planning Meeting** (8-10 July, Kuala Lumpur). The first planning meeting for the project involved partners from six countries, and focused on shaping the project design, prioritising issues and planning strategic activities.

ARROW and partners agreed on the

following issues:

- Addressing the human rights of young people: rights to comprehensive sexuality education and access to the complete range of youth friendly SRHR services;
- Addressing the gender imbalance on SRHR and HIV/AIDS response: Right to comprehensive education for young women and girl, early marriage, and early unintended pregnancy;
- Addressing the diversity of young people to involve marginalised young people; and
- Using a partnership framework between emerging young people-led networks with established organisations to achieve sustainable leadership for young people's movement in the area of SRHR (Cross-cutting issue).

Core activities at the national level will include evidence generation, capacity building and organising dialogues on specific YSRHR issues of national concern. Partners also decided to establish a knowledge sharing platform to capture and share experiences and evidence on young people's issues in the South East Asia.

**c. Regional and international engagements.** Since the project

began in June 2010, WHRAP-SEA has achieved visibility through ARROW's and partners' interventions at international and regional events. These include:

- UNFPA APRO's Youth Peer Education Network (YPEER) Regional Meeting (19-21 June, Pattaya, Thailand), where ARROW shared its plans for the WHRAP-SEA project with other regional organisations.
- The Hong Kong Family Planning Association and the Hong Kong's Institute of Education's 4th Asian Conference on Sexuality Education (16-19 August, Hong Kong, China), where WHRAP-SEA partners from Lao PDR, the Philippines and Vietnam led youth groups at the meeting in make recommendations on sexuality education for NGOs and governments at the conference.
- UNFPA and UNIFEM's World Youth Conference (23-27 August, Leon, Mexico), where ARROW shared the results of its Regional Dialogue on Young People at a plenary session.
- ASEAN Youth Forum (23-24 September, Hanoi, Vietnam), which was co-organised by the Vietnamese WHRAP-SEA partner, Center for Creative Initiatives on Health and Development (CCIHP). ARROW joined 25 other young people working on

a variety of development issues in this forum. The declaration at the end of the meeting included a call to ASEAN governments to address young people's SRHR.

**Local and national level achievements.** With the exception of Burma in which ARROW is still in the process of selecting a suitable national partner, activities for marginalised young people have been designed and began to be implemented in 2010.

**a. Cambodia: Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC).** In 2010, RHAC, together with the Ministry of Health, pioneered a standard module for Youth-Friendly Health Services for community health centres.

A rapid assessment for the project found that most of the community health centres did not provide SRH services to young people in some areas of Siem Reap province. As a follow up, RHAC initiated a dialogue with relevant local government officials, which has resulted in commitment to participate in WHRAP-SEA activities. RHAC also conducted educational meetings for 70 young people from 35 villages in Siem Reap in an effort to increase their leadership and skills in evidence generation and advocacy. Peer

educators have also been recruited for future advocacy activities.

**b. China: Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA).** YHDRA has piloted a research and capacity building intervention project in four communities in a township in the Yunnan-Burma border area. The project's target group is young people from the De'ang and Jingpo ethnic groups where youth, especially young women and girls, have little access to sexuality education and related health services.

YHDRA held an experts' consulting meeting to better understand the socio-cultural background of the ethnic groups, and to ensure that cultural sensitivities was factored into the project design. Additionally, a local project executive team (PET), consisting of local authorities, health providers, teachers, community members and young people, has been established to enable collaborative community action in promoting YSRHR. An ethnic youth leadership network was also established to build young people's capacity and enhance their agency in decision making on SRHR. The PET and the ethnic youth leadership network have had its first leadership training.

Finally, a baseline survey on ethnic young people's knowledge, attitudes and practices related to sexual health, contraception and HIV prevention was carried out. The results of this study were presented to a national expert meeting.

**c. Lao PDR: The Faculty of Postgraduate Studies, University of Health Sciences.** The Faculty has chosen to focus on the young people of Akha, one of the indigenous groups in the northern part of Lao PDR, which borders Burma, China and Lao PDR. There are little research and project interventions conducted in this area due to infrastructure and transportation challenges.

The Faculty conducted research on knowledge and attitudes towards SRH among adolescent girls and their access to adolescent SRH services in Luangnamtha province. There is an on-going health education intervention with young Akha women and girls in this community.

Apart from this research, another key component of the project is the creation of a partnership with local NGOs and emerging young people-led networks to encourage sustainable leadership for a youth-led SRHR movement. Moreover,

relevant local authorities are supportive of this partnership. Lao Youth Union, Lao Women's Union and the Norwegian Church Aid have been identified as key local partners.

**d. Indonesia: Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan (YJP).**

YJP has facilitated and taken a leadership position for the creation of a national young people's SRHR advocacy group called *Konsorsium Nasional Kesehatan Reproduksi dan Hak Seksual Remaja*. The group is comprised of 30 youth-led and run networks that work locally and nationally on diverse issues. This advocacy alliance works at the local and national levels on issues such as youth leadership, human rights, environment, fair trade, HIV and AIDS and SRHR.

YJP has also utilised its networks to create a capacity building and partnership building strategy in Indramayu, Java and Padang, Sumatera, which are two areas in Indonesia with widespread influence of Islamic fundamentalist practices.

As part of these activities, YJP also prepared for the first youth led-sexuality research and its dissemination strategy through the creation of documentaries and handbooks on youth sexuality.

*e. The Philippines: Likhaan Women's Centre for Health.* Likhaan has selected adolescent and young women in urban poor communities in Metro Manila as the focus of the project.

In 2010, Likhaan completed all key preparatory activities, including the putting together and orientation of people who will implement the project; the review of demographic and health survey data on sexual and reproductive health conditions among adolescents and young people; the completion of a research design; training project staff in organising and facilitating focus groups discussions (FGDs); and initial discussions with community stakeholders.

The operational research will go through a qualitative research phase to generate key areas of measurement and intervention for preventing unintended pregnancies among adolescents aged 15-19 in an urban poor community for the next quantitative phase.

All five targeted FGDs have been completed, and the project staff members are currently drafting the questionnaire to be used in the next phase. Participants to this study have been identified with the support of a local youth

organisation and a women's association allied with Likhaan in the study site.

In addition, a resurgence of fundamentalist ideals in some partner countries poses a greater battle in advocating for young people's SRHR. A national youth consortium that works to advocate the Reproductive Health Bill has been formed in the Philippines in response to this challenge. A lesson that emerges from this project is the importance of collaboration between women's organisations and youth initiatives to present a more united front in the face of these challenges.

*f. Vietnam: Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP).* In 2010, CCIHP mapped different stakeholders in the field of YSRHR in Vietnam. Its initial plan to form a partnership with the Vietnam Youth Federation (VYF) was not pursued due to delays. CCIHP will now seek partnership with the Vietnam Youth Union to deliver an SRHR programme for young people who work in factories.

**PLANS FOR 2011**

2011 will see an expansion in WHRAP's partnership and networking at all levels: local, national and regional. With this

expansion, ARROW is closer to establishing WHRAP as a regional partnership modality for improving capacities of civil society to advocate for SRHR across Asia-Pacific.

WHRAP-South Asia Phase III will begin in 2011, marking an important shift as it moves from the current project modality to a programme modality with longer-term support from Danida. The activities in 2011 will focus on planning as well as putting a monitoring and evaluation system in place for Phase III. WHRAP-South Asia will also be expanded to Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka, thus enabling the project to cover the entire South Asia. ARROW will also employ a WHRAP-SA Advocacy Officer in 2011.

Meanwhile, WHRAP-China will move to Phase II which would have a stronger advocacy component towards the advancement of migrant women's SRHR in China. The original four partners will continue their respective work to address migrant women's SRHR in their different geographical regions, while two new partners will focus on minority women's SRHR among the migrant population. Resource mobilisation will be a key focus for the project in 2011.

Finally, for WHRAP-SEA, partners will utilise the evidence generated to carry out capacity building and information and education programmes for young people. Advocacy groups will also be created and utilised to target stakeholders to acknowledge issues of young people's SRHR. At the regional level, the focus will be on strengthening internal governance mechanisms, completing the project website and implementing the project's Knowledge Management Strategy. A seven-country young women leaders' internship programme will also begin in 2011.



Community information sharing session on contraception by RHAC, the WHRAP-SEA Cambodia partner. Photo courtesy of RHAC.



Jashodhara Dasgupta, Coordinator of SAHAYOG, WHRAP-South Asia partner, speaking at Public Dialogue on the Report of the Mission to India of UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. Photo courtesy of SAHAYOG.



The WHRAP-China Phase I Project Evaluation and Planning Meeting. Source: ARROW Photobank.



Conducting the Baseline Study with Ethnic Youth, Ruli Township, Yunnan, China. Photo courtesy of YHRA.



Actor and activist Shabana Azmi releases the maternal health advocacy material prepared by CHETNA, our WHRAP-South Asia partner. Photo courtesy of CHETNA.

## advocacy and networking



The WHRAP-SA panel, "Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership in South Asia: Advocating to Influence Policies for Improved Women's Sexual Reproductive Health and Right," at the Global Maternal Health Conference 2010. Photo by Biplabi Shrestha.



ARROW Programme Officer Rachel Arinii speaking at the World Youth Conference. Photo by Leny Zakaria.



Repoliticising SRHR Global Meeting, 3-6 August 2010, Langkawi, Malaysia. Source: ARROW Photobank.



ARROW Programme Officer Sai Jyothirmai Racherla making a plenary presentation at the 10th Asia Pacific Alliance Conference, October, Penang, Malaysia. Source: ARROW Photobank.

Strategic policy advocacy and capacity strengthening are cross-cutting strategies for ARROW. It encompasses our evidence-generation and monitoring work and the Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) projects, and also our information and communications work. This section covers global and regional advocacy and networking interventions not thoroughly covered in previous sections, including a global meeting on the post-ICPD agenda that we hosted in 2010, advocacy at the UN and with European NGOs and networking engagements.

### REPOLITICISING SRHR: A TRANSFORMATIVE FRAMEWORK, BEYOND ICPD

ARROW hosted the Repoliticising Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights global meeting on 3-6 August in Langkawi, Malaysia. ARROW co-organised the event with the global organising committee brought together by *Reproductive Health Matters*. This global meeting involved 50 participants, including academics, activists, civil society representatives, donors and policymakers. It was held with the aim of proposing a transformative agenda for moving beyond ICPD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Amongst other concerns, the conference highlighted the narrowing of the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) agenda, the fragmentation of the SRHR movement and the decrease in SRH activism for social justice. The gathering called for greater collaboration of activists across the spectrum of SRHR agendas to bring back a focus on equity and equality.

ARROW successfully raised funds for this meeting from a new donor partner, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). Two ARROW Board members participated in the meeting and several ARROW programme staff came as observers and documentors. A compilation of the meeting papers and the meeting report will be published and disseminated in 2011.

### ADVOCATING REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY AT THE UN

ARROW's interventions at regional and international levels of the UN included the following:

- **UNFPA Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (UNFPA APRO) Annual Internal Planning Meeting** (1-5 February, Bangkok, Thailand), where ARROW made a presentation on the remaining

gaps in implementing the ICPD POA and recommendations to UNFPA' on priorities until 2014. The presentation was well-received by the heads of 19 UN country offices in the Asia-Pacific region.

- **UNFPA-NGO Global Consultation** (15-17 February, New York, USA), where ARROW presented the Berlin Call to Action that came out of the Global NGO Forum in September 2009 on behalf of the Steering Group. ARROW also pushed for a comprehensive review of ICPD implementation at the global level in the years preceding 2015, and called for better Southern presentation at similar processes.
- **Meetings at UNFPA Asia-Pacific desk and the technical division** (February, New York, USA), where ARROW made a presentation of the ARROW ICPD+15 findings to UN New York staff at their brown bag lunch session. A 'webinar' (web-based seminar) made at this event is now available to all UNFPA staff globally.
- **UNDP Asia Pacific Human Development Network (APHD-Net) e-discussion on population climate change and development** (4 February-6 July 2010), where ARROW contributed a paper arguing for

a people-centred, rights-based, women's empowerment approach to addressing climate change.

- **43rd session of the Commission on Population and Development** (CPD, 12-16 April, New York, USA), where ARROW signed onto a statement submitted by the Centre for Health Policy and Innovation with a number of other NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The statement, which was read out at the General debate on the future of the ICPD POA, welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to convene a Special Session during its 69th session to assess the status of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. It called for the full participation of civil society in this event.
- **UNFPA APRO's Youth Peer Education Network Regional Meeting** (19-21 June, Pattaya, Thailand), where ARROW shared its plans for the WHRAP-SEA project with other regional organisations.
- **UNFPA and UNIFEM's World Youth Conference** (23-27 August, Leon, Mexico), where ARROW shared the results of its Regional Dialogue on Young People at a plenary session.
- **UN Summit of the Millennium Development Goals** (20-22

September, New York, USA), where ARROW and national partners were engaged in a series of side panels that were enriching and useful in terms of networking and strategising.

- **Letter to incoming head of UN Women**, in which we mobilised 22 country partners from across Asia-Pacific to send a joint letter to Under-Secretary General Michelle Bachelet calling for the inclusion of SRHR in the agenda of newly established UN Women. The letter was delivered personally to Ms. Bachelet through our Vietnam country partner Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED). A copy was also sent to New York together with ARROW publications.

**ADVOCATING WITH EUROPEAN NGOS**

ARROW also continued to engage with the European SRHR community to ensure that Southern voices and the Asia-Pacific regional perspectives are heard in global spaces. These include:

- **8th Berlin International Dialogue on 'Population and Sustainable Development: Making Sexual and Reproductive Rights a Reality'** (5-6 October,

Berlin, Germany), organised by the European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development (EuroNGOs). ARROW gave a presentation on the indicators that had been used for the regional ICPD+15 monitoring report. Many of ARROW's recommendations were incorporated into the outcome document, which will be utilised in EuroNGOs dialogues with German parliamentarians.

- **EuroNGOs Annual General Meeting** (8-9 November, London, UK), wherein ARROW presented the draft advocacy road map that it developed for the EuroNGOs task force on ICPD+20 processes. ARROW also introduced the 'MDG 5 -Women Are Watching Their Governments' web campaign. Both presentations were well received.

**JOINING CAMPAIGNS ON VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

ARROW joined several important campaigns in 2010, as part of our overall commitment to gender equality, human rights and social justice goals. This also supports ARROW's linkages and solidarity building with other movements.

These campaigns include the following:

- Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO)'s Open Letter to UN Secretary General on the High Level Advisory Board on Climate Change Financing, expressing the need for women to be part of the all-male board;
- Memorandum on III Representation and Discrimination of the Queer Community in the Media in Malaysia by Malaysian queer activists to the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM);
- Médecins Sans Frontières' 'Europe! Hands Off Our Medicine' campaign;
- Canadian National Abortion Federation's (NAF) signature campaign to the Canadian government addressing the Prime Minister on their government's position within the G8 on maternal health; and
- Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development's (APWLD)'s call for endorsements of Kamala Chandrakirana from Indonesia and the Malaysian Joint Action Group for Gender Equality's (JAG) nomination of Mary Shanthi Dairiam from Malaysia as independent experts to the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in

law and practice.

**NETWORKS**

ARROW believes that joint action is crucial for social change and is committed to strengthening its partners with key networks in the region and globally.

ARROW continued to actively engage with the following key networks: the Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW); the Asian Rural Women's Coalition; the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP); the Coalition of Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR); the Strategies from the South initiative; and, the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR). ARROW is also a member of the editorial board of the renowned SRHR journal, *Reproductive Health Matters* (RHM) and the Repoliticising SRHR Group convened by RHM.

We are also a member of key bodies in the region, such as the International Steering Committee of the Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) and UNFPA Indonesia Youth Advisory Panel. ARROW also joined a newly formed initiative this year: the Realising Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ), which aims to bring

collective global South (mostly young) feminist voices in lobbying for the need to renew ICPD commitment beyond 2014.

**OTHER ENGAGEMENTS**

Participating in strategic events at the international, regional and national levels enables ARROW to contribute an Asia-Pacific, Southern perspective on women's SRHR issues. ARROW sees these events as opportunities to promote its own and its national partners' work. These events are also excellent venues to promote and disseminate our resources, showcase the special collection hosted at ARROW's Information and Documentation Centre (IDC) and its information service, and expand our own resource collection. These also provide different opportunities for making linkages with other stakeholders in the women's rights, SRHR and other movements.

Key events that ARROW participated in 2010 include the following:

- Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)'s Development Debates: Re-imagining Feminist Politics and Strategies in the Global South (18-20 January, Mauritius)
- Oxfam Novib's Learning Event (12-16 April, Johannesburg),

which included these two events:

a) HIV/Culture Confluence: Changing the River's Flow, Possibilities and Challenges and the HIV/AIDS, b) Gender and Education: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

- Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD)'s Gender and Politics, Level 2 Asia Pacific Regional Pilot Training Workshop (9 June, Kuala Lumpur)
- 6th ASEAN People's Forum and ASEAN Youth Forum (23-26 September, Hanoi)
- The Changing Landscape of Global Public Health Conference (24-26 October, New York), organised by Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, in partnership with the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)'s SRHR Meeting (1-6 November, New York)
- Third World Network (TWN)'s Workshop on 'Asia's Engagement with Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and the Development Space: A Dialogue with Civil Society in Asia' (18-21 November, Kuala Lumpur)
- Non-Aligned Movement Institute for the Empowerment of Women

(NIEW) Conference- Health and Well-Being of Displaced Women (29-30 November, Kuala Lumpur)

**ENGAGEMENTS IN MALAYSIA**

ARROW's national engagement in Malaysia, where it is based, is mainly through our membership with the **Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)**. RRAAM is a multi-sectoral alliance set up in 2007 to promote Malaysian women's access to reproductive rights and services and, in particular, abortion and contraception. As a regional organisation, ARROW contributes to planning and decision-making of the alliance and provides general information support. ARROW also provides critical institutional support to RRAAM as part of our principle of supporting new organisations working in SRHR. In 2010, ARROW participated in two key RRAAM events held in Malaysia. ARROW will also be participating in RRAAM's project to develop women's digital and written stories on contraception, pregnancy and abortion, which will be fully implemented in 2011.

ARROW also participated in a range of other key national events related to SRHR organised both by the

Malaysian government and other civil society sectors.

**PLANS FOR 2011**

In 2011, ARROW will engage more actively with the strategic networks that we are a part of. We also plan to participate in a number of key national, regional and international events, particularly around global development agenda-setting in relation to the MDGs and ICPD.



Workshop on Linking Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and MDG 5: Towards Achieving the MDGS, July 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Source: ARROW Photobank.



The WHRAP SEA Regional Dialogue on Linking Gender, Human Rights and Young People's SRHR. Source: ARROW Photobank.



WHRAP-SA 2nd Regional Task Force Meeting, February 2010, Kathmandu, Nepal. Photo by Nalini Singh.



ARROW and partners at the Strategic Planning Meeting, May 2010, Langkawi, Malaysia. Source: ARROW Photobank.

## the way we work

ARROW places equal emphasis on organisational development. This includes accountable and transparent decision-making mechanisms, concrete division of responsibilities between governance and implementation, good human resource management policies, effective financial and administrative procedures, and efficient practices in programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. We believe that these provide an organisational foundation that is critical for civil society organisations to grow, learn from experience, and become more effective.

### PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING OUR WORK

**Planning strategically for the next five years.** ARROW held its five-yearly regional strategic planning meeting on 16-19 May in Penang, Malaysia to review the previous programmatic cycle, and collectively set the direction for our next five-year programme cycle (2011-2016). More than 35 partners from across the region joined the ARROW Board of Directors (BOD), Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) and staff members in this meeting.

**Internal planning, staff and management meetings.** ARROW

held its internal annual planning meeting in April 2011, while the various teams met to plan their work for 2010 in January to February. The BOD and staff members also had its annual retreat on 7-8 December, where we explored ARROW's theory of change, its role as a regional SRHR organisation and a deeper exploration of our niche in the region.

Aside from the above, staff and management team meetings were regularly conducted in 2010. Both meetings serve as internal accountability, monitoring and decision-making mechanisms, and add to the efficiency of the organisation.

**Evaluations, assessments and monitoring of progress.** 2010 was also a period of assessing and evaluating many of our projects. The series of external evaluative processes and procedures conducted this year include:

- WHRAP-China Final Evaluation meeting with partners, 12-15 January;
- WHRAP-South Asia External Evaluation, December 2009-January 2010;
- The ICPD+15 Project Evaluation, September;
- WHRAP-South Asia Final Evaluation and Planning

- Meeting, April;
- The Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA)'s Organisational and Financial Assessment of ARROW as part of the assessment procedure for WHRAP Phase III 2011-2014, 1-3 June;
- The partner assessment of Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition as part of the conclusion of WHRAP Phase II and towards preparation of Phase III; and the
- WHRAP South Asia Phase II and ICPD+15 final project report preparation.

Reports for the above evaluations and meetings are available with ARROW, and have been shared with BOD, PAC, staff, partners and donors.

**Keeping track and reporting our work.** The final versions of ARROW's annual reports for 2009 were produced in the first week of July. The longer, internal version which serves as an evaluative and reflective document, was shared with ARROW Board, PAC and staff members, as well as our donors. Meanwhile, the abridged, 'popular' version was published and posted on the ARROW website, garnering 342 downloads by end of the year. An announcement was sent

to the 2,170 AFC e-subscribers in August, and to the SRHR Info Resource in September informing our stakeholders of its availability. Of the 750 copies printed, 461 were distributed by mid-August to 261 core stakeholders. We received positive feedback on the report.

Project and donor reports and organisational quarterly reports were also produced throughout the year.

### DOCUMENTING GOOD ORGANISATIONAL PRACTICES

**ARROW Resource Kit.** Led by the Board of Directors (BOD), the ARROW Resource Kit for Women's Organisations (ARK) is aimed at strengthening leadership and management of organisations in the region. We will be using case studies, sharing tools and illustrating the positive impact of tried and tested organisational practices of ARROW. By doing so, we hope to capture the ethos and values that underpin an effective women's organisation.

A good discussion was held in the May 2010 PAC and board meetings, led by Di Surgey, a past board member and presently a Friend of ARROW. ARK's outline and objectives have been clarified and agreed on at

these meetings. More work on this will be done next year. Funds will be raised for this important project.

**Enhancing coordination between programmes.** Coordination between sections needs sustained and continued investment and capacity development. The Google Applications training, which was conducted in November 2010, is a start, opening new doors for the use of technology in improving our inter-team effectivity.

**Organisational Salary Review.** This exercise is part of our standard operation procedure every five years, and is designed to coincide with the construction of every new strategic plan.

It enables the organisation to review new posts, salary structures and other changes in the organisation's overall staff structure in light of the needs of the new Work Programme and Budget. It also aims to address issues of competitiveness, regional-national salary equity, internal equity issues, and to deal with staff concerns as they may arise. Phillip Wong, a consultant with extensive Human Resource and NGO management experience, was commissioned for this review.

Completed in November 2010, the review will be presented at

### BOX 10. NETWORK FEEDBACK

*I have been impressed by your programme for women's health, priorities for action with the UN, and most of all your organisational skill with a superb staff and members. APWW is fortunate to have ARROW as one of its members, and we do appreciate your cooperation in raising the status of women, politically, economically and health-wise—especially in the Asia Pacific Region. [Mitchiko Nakamura, Japan Women's Watch (JAWW), Japan]*

the BOD meeting in February 2011 for approval of relevant recommendations.

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF PARTNERS

ARROW's finance team organised meetings throughout 2010 with relevant project finance officers and programme officers of our national partners. These meetings aimed to train project staff on financial and narrative reporting standards and project monitoring processes. Post-training support was also provided through emails, especially during the

annual report writing process where financial reports are being prepared. In 2010, this kind of training, input and capacity building occurred both in the WHRAP-South Asia project partnership, WHRAP-South East Asia, WHRAP-China and with the ICPD+15 project partners.

### THE RITA RAJ WOMEN'S SPACE

The Rita Raj Women's Space in ARROW continued to provide a comfortable meeting environment for local activists and women's organisations at a reduced cost. In 2010, 13 events were organised in this space involving 220 participants and facilitated by four different organisations: All Women's Action Society (AWAM), Knowledge and Rights with Young People through Safer Spaces (KRYSS), Transformations Group and Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance of Malaysia (RRAAM).

### GOVERNANCE

We continued to benefit from the commitment, experience and expertise of our Board of Directors in maintaining our governance and accountability structures within ARROW.

The ARROW BOD meeting on 21-22

May 2010 discussed the following issues: the ARROW Resource Kit (ARK); our partnership strategy; membership of the Board; the results of the ARROW Strategic Planning Meeting of 2010; the occupational health and safety policy for the organisation; approval of annual operational budgets, audit reports and other financial governance issues; approval of the ARROW Annual Report 2009; review and feedback on the Executive Director's report; approval of the process for developing the organisation's next strategic plan; discussion on the upcoming External Evaluation of the organisation; and the framework for the 2010 organisational salary review.

The two Malaysian representatives of the board, Rashidah Abdullah and Susanna George, also met on three other occasions to complete the performance assessment for the Executive Director, and to provide inputs on the salary review exercise.

### GUIDING OUR PROGRAMMES

Our Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) continued to provide critical programme advice and direction. PAC members were actively engaged in the Strategic Planning Meeting process, in the

development of project proposals and the various *ARROWs for Change* concept notes. Several PAC members also served as contributors or expert external readers of the bulletin, while others were consultants and resource persons to different ARROW projects.

The 2010 PAC Meeting was held immediately after the Strategic Planning Meeting. This time, the PAC meeting was spent reviewing and expanding upon the discussions from the previous meeting. For the first time in ARROW's history, a male PAC member, Zhang Kai Ning, joined the meeting. He is from the Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA), a national partner involved in the WHRAP SEA project. One of the two youth positions on PAC was also filled on a rotational basis by Shradha Pandey from Sahayog, a partner in the WHRAP-South Asia project.

### OUR STAFF AND INTERNS

ARROW's programmes and activities are implemented by highly-competent paid staff members from its office in Kuala Lumpur, with specific contributions from interns and project-based consultants. There were 17 full-time staff positions in 2010. Of these, there

were four management positions, two officer level staff within the admin and finance section, seven programme officers and four assistant officers who supported the overall work of the organisation.

New staff who joined us in 2010 included Norlaily Husein (Administrative Officer) in April and Rachel Arinii Judhistari (Programme Officer, WHRAP-SEA Mekong) in May 2010. On the other hand, we bade farewell to Kulani Geeta Kulasingam (short-term project officer for Marketing and Promotions) and Norlaily Husein (Administrative Officer) upon the conclusion of their contracts in December 2010.

ARROW also benefited from having four interns during the year: Anja Ritcher and Jalia Mariam Hussein, who both supported the WHRAP-South Asia project; Saida Lulu Abdul Karim, who was assigned to the ICPD +15 project; and Sara Djahim, who provided support to the WHRAP-SEA project.

### DEVELOPING OUR TEAM

Staff development is a high priority for ARROW. The management team continued to implement a 70:20:10 ratio in the expenditure of staff development funds. The ratio means that 70% of staff

development funds are prioritised for capacity development towards meeting organisational priorities, 20% to career development and 10% to staff selected training and development opportunities.

The key joint staff capacity building activity this year included a workshop using Microsoft Powerpoint for improved presentations in November. We also had an all-staff training session in September on the use of Google Applications to organise calendars, work plans and as a main tool for email management. ARROW has since made a shift from an in-house server based email management to Gmail in November.

Some ARROW staff members also participated in issue-based capacity development opportunities such as:

- Second Regional Training on Sexuality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, conducted by Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues (TARSHI), 14-18 June 2010, Hotel Grand Seasons, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (attended by Ambika Varma, Programme Officer for Information and Documentation Centre);
- International Workshop on Enhancing Policy Effectiveness:

the Role of Impact Evaluation, 13-17 September 2010, Beijing, China (attended by Mei Li, Programme Officer, WHRAP-China);

- First Asian Population Association (APA) Conference, 16-20 November 2010, New Delhi, India (attended by Uma Thiruvengadam, Assistant Programme Officer for Information and Documentation Centre, as well as Ambika Varma, Sai Jyothirmai Racherla and Suloshini Jahanath, the Programme Officers for Website, Information and Documentation Centre and ICPD+15 respectively); and
- Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) Workshop on Communicating Women's Stories of Abortion, 11-12 December 2010, ARROW Office, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (attended by Ambika Varma, Programme Officer for Information and Documentation Centre).

### PLANS FOR 2011

In 2011, ARROW will continue to improve its systems, processes and procedures to ensure improved support of the administrative and finance team to programmes, and to further improve our financial

# our finances

reporting. Work on the ARROW Resource Kit project will also be done. Completing the Strategic Plan based on the Strategic Meeting this May will be a main focus of the team in 2011.

This process will be supported with further meetings with BOD and PAC members to work through the details of the Strategic Plan. Besides this, an external evaluation of the organisation is also planned in 2011. Finally, financial sustainability of the organisation will also be a priority.



Top: ARROW mindmap. Bottom: ARROW and BOD at the ARROW Retreat and Planning Meeting. Source: ARROW Photobank.

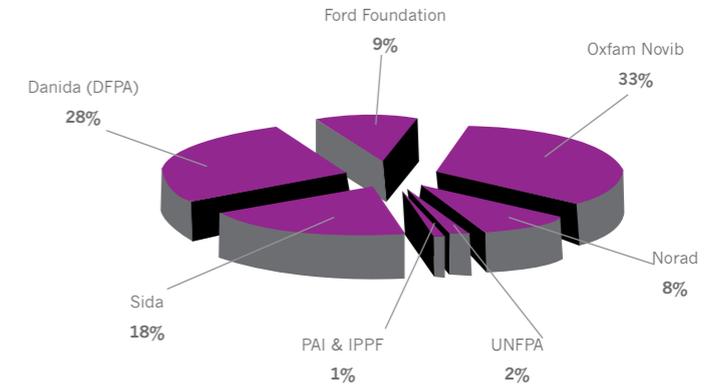
## INCOME FOR 2010

In 2010, ARROW received grants amounting to RM3,842,828 (US\$1,259,943), representing 99% of the total income of RM3,880,899 (US\$1,272,425) for the year. An additional RM38,071 (US\$12,688 or 1% of the total income) came from ARROW's own income, which is derived from interest on fixed deposits and its information services. In addition, RM2,784,706 (US\$913,018) was available for expenditure in 2010 from balances carried forward from funds received in 2009. Thus, the total available funds for 2010 was RM6,665,605 (US\$2,185,400).

Following are the funding highlights of the year:

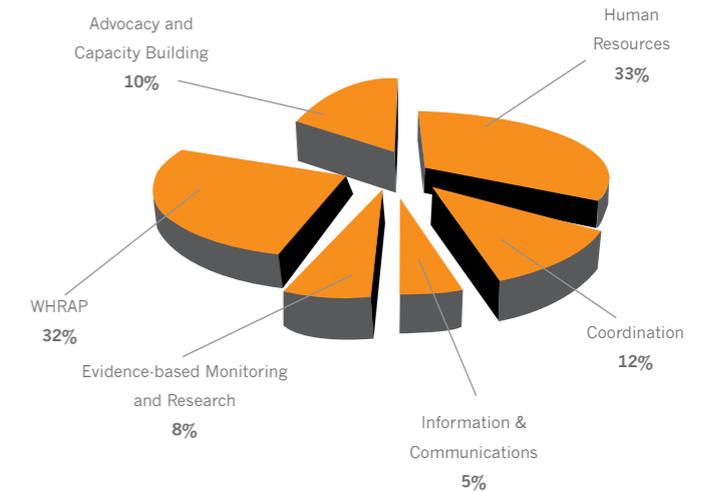
- **Oxfam Novib's** four-year core organisational funding (November 2006-December 2010) continued to support activities in women's health and rights advocacy and overall institutional costs. In November 2010, Oxfam Novib approved a supplementary contribution from the innovation fund for WHRAP-South East Asia's internship programme for young SRHR advocates in seven countries, for a total of EUR70,000 (US\$95,000). Oxfam Novib support constitutes 33% of

Figure 6. Source of ARROW Grants for 2010



Source: Audit Report 2010

Figure 7. ARROW's Expenditure



Source: Audit Report 2010

## who supports us

- ARROW's total income in 2010.
- **Sida's** five-year core organisational funding (January 2008-December 2012), continued supporting ARROW's programme and institutional costs. Sida's grant of SEK1,500,000 (US\$220,000) for 2010 constitute 18% of the total available income.
- **Danida** has continued funding the WHRAP-South Asia Phase II project, currently active in four countries—Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. The WHRAP-SA Phase II project ended in September 2010. A bridging fund was negotiated for the interim period between the end of Phase II and the start of Phase III (October 2010-June 2011), with a total project funds of DKK1,622,897 (US\$287,485). The Danida support constitutes 28% of total income.
- **Norad** approved a grant of NOK1,000,000 (US\$ 166,650) to support the Repoliticising SRHR global meeting. The one-year funding (March 2010-February 2011) represents 8% of the total income.
- **The Ford Foundation** approved a total grant of RM823,500 (US\$270,000) for the regional monitoring of and advocacy for ICPD+15 (March 2010-February

- 2012). In 2010, the Foundation's support constitutes 9% of the total income.
- **The UNFPA Asia Regional Office** approved a grant of US\$50,000 for the development of an advocacy brief linking gender-based violence to SRHR and conducting a regional meeting, within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This six-month grant (June-December 2010) corresponds to 2% of the total income.
- ARROW also received two small grants from **Population Action International (PAI)** and **International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)** in the amounts of US\$15,000 and US\$10,000, respectively. The grant from PAI was for the MDG-SRHR Monitoring and Advocacy in China (October 2010-September 2011). The grant from IPPF was for the project titled "Advocating for young people's SRHR in the Philippines" (October 2010-September 2011). These two grants constitute 1% of the total income for 2010.

Aside from the above, ARROW also received a total of RM91,500 (US\$30,000) on behalf of Reproductive Rights Advocacy

Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM).<sup>1</sup> RRAAM activities were funded by Ipas, USA.

### EXPENDITURE FOR 2010

In 2010, ARROW's total expenditure amounted to RM4,850,878 (US\$1,590,450).

ARROW's programme costs constituted 55% of the total expenditure. This is divided into expenditures for advocacy and capacity building (10%), evidence-based monitoring and research (8%), information and communications (5%), and WHRAP (32%). Meanwhile, human resources comprised 33% of expenditure, while coordination<sup>2</sup> was 12% of the 2010 expenses.

It should be noted that the above expenditures for programmes include only expenses directly related to services and outputs, and do not include the cost of ARROW programme and project staff who do the work.

<sup>1</sup> RRAAM is an alliance formed in February 2007 by individuals and organisations committed to ensuring that all women have access to affordable contraception and safe and legal abortion in Malaysia.  
<sup>2</sup> Coordination refers to overhead costs, administrative costs, management and governance including Board meetings, Programme Advisory Committee meetings and others.

ARROW warmly thanks everyone who supported our work, extended solidarity and friendship, and shared a common commitment to enhancing women's sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Asia-Pacific region.

### ARROW'S DONORS IN 2010

- Danish International Development Agency (Danida) through the Danish Family Planning Association (Danish FPA)
- The Ford Foundation, New York
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
- Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (Oxfam Novib)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- Population Action International (PAI)
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- United Nations Population Fund - Asia Pacific Regional Office (UNFPA APRO)

### OUR COUNTRY PARTNERS IN 2010

- **Bangladesh:** Adorsho Mohila Sangstha; Annesha Samaj Sheba Shongho; Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC); Barisal Mohila Kollayan Shongstha; Children and Youth Development Organisation (SYDO); Community Based Development Project (CBDP); Doorbar Network; Integrated Social Welfare Association (ISWA); Jago Nari; Naripokkho; Nazrul Shriti Shongshod (NSS); Palash Service

Centre; Patuakhali Development Organisation (PDO); Porag Nari Kollayan Shongstha; Shagata Service Centre; Shangkalpa Trust; Shiplaful Social Development Organization (SSDO); Shuktara Mohila Shongstha; Tangail Service Centre

- **Cambodia:** Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC)
- **China:** Beijing Zhongze Women's Legal Counselling and Service Centre (formerly Beijing Women's Law Studies and Legal Aid Centre); Guangpa Village Administrative Team; Heilongjiang Women's Federation; HIV/AIDS Prevention Office of Ruli; Huyu Township Government; Huyu Village Administration Office; Leigong Village Administrative Team; Mangnong Village Administrative Team; Ruli City Centre for Disease Control; Ruli People's Congress; Shanghai Women's Health Care Institute; Yinshan Village Administrative Team; Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHRDA)
- **Denmark:** Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA)
- **India:** Academy for Nursing Studies and Women's Empowerment Research Studies (ANS-WERS); Assisi Health Centre; Astitva Samajik Sansthan; Baba RamKaran Das Gramin Vikas Samiti; Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA); CHETNA-Sabarkantha; Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ); Ebteda Sansthan; Gramin Punar Nirman Sanstha; Gramya Sansthan; Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal; Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS); Hadoti Hast Shilpa Sansthan; Jatan Sansthan; Mahila Swasthya Adhikar Manch (MSAM); National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR); Purvanchal Gramin Seva Samiti (PGSS); Public Education Development Organisation (PEDO); Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC); SAHAYOG; SARTHI; Savitri Bai Phoole Dalit Mahila Sangharsh Morcha; Seva Mandir; Shikhar Prashikshan Sansthan; Tarun Vikas Sansthan; Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) Association Gujarat; White Ribbon Alliance-Rajasthan
- **Indonesia:** Women's Health Foundation (WHF), Aliansi Remaja Independen; Centra Mitra Muda; Global Citizen Corps; Ikatan Remaja Muhammadiyah; Ikatan Remaja Muhammadiyah Padang; Indonesia Youth Conference; Mitra Inti; Palang Merah Indonesia; Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia Padang; Yayasan Bandungwangi; Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan; Yayasan Kusuma Bongas
- **Lao PDR:** Faculty of Postgraduate Sciences, National University of Laos; Lao Youth's Union; Lao Women's Union; Norwegian Church Aid
- **Malaysia:** Federation of Reproductive Health Associations of Malaysia (FRHAM); Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)

who we are

- **Nepal:** Asmita Nepal; Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC); HimRights; Nari Sip Srijana Kendra; Reproductive Health Coordinating Committee (RHCC); Youth Welfare Society
- **Pakistan:** Al-Shahbaz Social Welfare Association, Pakistan Reproductive Health Network (PRHN), Pirbhat Women's Development Society, SAATH Development Society, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, Swani Sanj, Umeed Trust
- **The Philippines:** Kabataan; Likhaan Centre for Women's Health; Pilakk Youth; Reproductive Health Rights and Ethics Centre for Studies and Training (ReproCen), University of the Philippines
- **Thailand:** The Southeast Asian Consortium on Gender, Sexuality and Health
- **Tonga:** Tonga Women and Children Crises Centre
- **Vietnam:** Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP); Family Health Research

and Development Centre (FHRD); Institute for Reproductive and Family Health (RHAF); Research Centre for Gender, Family and Development (CGFED), Vietnam Youth Federation, Vietnam Youth Union

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- *Reproductive Health Matters* Editorial Board
- "Repoliticising Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" Group
- Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)
- Realising Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)
- Strategies from the South initiative
- Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)

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...tion of the basic right of all couples  
...sponsibly the number, spacing and tim-  
...formation and means to do so, and the  
...sexual and reproductive health. It also  
...concerning reproduction free of dis-  
...expressed in human rights documents.  
...to safe, legal and accessible abortion  
...nt of all persons, free of coercion, dis-  
...est attainable standard of health in re-  
...o sexual and reproductive health care  
...ormation and education related to sex-  
...hoose their partner; decide to be sexu-  
...relations; consensual marriage; decide  
...ren; and pursue a satisfying, safe and  
...also include the right to personhood  
...equality between and among men,  
...respect for diversity in the context  
...inciples are not violated. The freedom

Sexual rights embrace human rights  
tional laws, international human rights  
documents. They include the right of  
crimination and violence, to: the high  
relation to sexuality, including acce  
care services; seek, receive and impa  
sexuality education; respect for bod  
decide to be sexually active or not;  
sensual marriage; decide whether or  
pursue a satisfying, safe and pleasu  
include the right to personhood, th  
equality between and among men  
and respect for diversity in the c  
three principles are not violated,  
to sexuality and sexual policy impli  
meaning that sexual rights are inex  
tural, and political rights. Freedom

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