

# arrow

annual report

---

---

## Strategic Engagements: Moving the SRHR Agenda Forward

---

2016

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



---

## Production Team

The *ARROW Annual Report 2016* is the product of collaborative effort by the ARROW staff team, with written reports by:

**Azmilia Mohd Kamil, Azra Abdul Cader, Biplabi Shrestha, Dhivya Kanagasingam, Lee Mei Poh, Lim Hwei Mian, Mangala Namasivayam, Maria Melinda (Malyn) Ando, Nor Azura bt Zakaria, Norlela Shahrani, Nishalini Santharasagaran, Paremela Naidu, Pooja Badarinath, Rosnani Hitam, Sai Jyothirmai Racherla, Samreen Shahbaz, Sivananthi Thanenthiran, Teong Seow Kin, and Uma Thiruvengadam.**

Overall supervision: **Mangala Namasivayam and Sivananthi Thanenthiran**

Overall coordination and editing: **Malyn Ando**

Developed by: **Czar Tigno**

Template design: **Chimera Sdn. Bhd.**

Graphic Design and Layout: **Nicolette de Lange Mallari**

Cover photo: **Raydar/Pixabay**

Photos and images: **Photos are from ARROW's photobank, unless otherwise stated.**

The *ARROW Annual Report 2016* is also available in web and PDF formats. Interested on a resource or an activity reported here? Visit the ARROW website to access interactive links for further reading.

---

## Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

1 & 2 Jalan Scott  
Brickfields 50470  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Telephone** 00 603 2273 9913 to 15  
**Fax** 00 603 2273 9916  
**E-mail** [arrow@arrow.org.my](mailto:arrow@arrow.org.my)  
**Web** [www.arrow.org.my](http://www.arrow.org.my)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/ARROW.Women>  
**Twitter** @ARROW\_Women  
**Youtube** ARROWomen  
**Pinterest** arrowomen

---

**arrow**  
**annual report**  
**2016**



*Burmese woman in Bagan. Photo credit: Jimmy Tran/Shutterstock.*

# Contents

---

Reflections from the Executive Director	6
An Energised ARROW in 2016	8
About ARROW	10
Advancing Our Interlinked Advocacies	14
Pushing Partnerships Forward	28
Generating Evidence	44
Innovating Information and Communication	48
Improving Organisational Performance	56
Moving Forward: ARROW's New Strategic Plan 2017-2021	62
The ARROW Community	63
Notes	65

---

## Reflections from the Executive Director

The year 2016 was a stimulating one for all of us at ARROW. Early on, we were called to deliberate and strategise for our next strategic plan which starts in 2017. The global situation has become more complex, and new political affiliations and divides are emerging on a regular basis. We anticipate new and renewed threats to the realisation of sexual and reproductive rights of women and young people, and at the same time, know we need to be agile enough to capitalise on emerging opportunities.

ARROW's substantial body of knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including on its interlinkages with key development themes, along with our significant strengths in monitoring for accountability and communications outreach, will continue to hold the organisation and its partners in good stead in the coming years. We will continue to consolidate our position as a global leader from the Global South on feminist, human rights-based approaches to protecting, promoting, and fulfilling SRHR to ensure that the voices and perspectives from the region continue to be advanced in global arenas.

To navigate a rapidly fracturing global scenario, we are hoping to create an organisational structure which enables greater engagement and leadership for the SRHR agenda at the regional and global levels. The diversity of the areas of our strategic advocacy intervention has grown over the years



ARROW Executive Director Sivananthi Thanenthiran addressing the United Nations General Assembly on 21 April 2016, during the High Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Photo credit: UN Photo

*We will continue to consolidate our position as a global leader from the Global South on feminist, human rights-based approaches to protecting, promoting, and fulfilling SRHR to ensure that the voices and perspectives from the region continue to be advanced in global arenas.*

as we attempt to mainstream SRHR into key development areas. Our work in 2016 testifies to this: ARROW has been advocating for SRHR in climate change, food security and nutrition, disability, and mental health arenas, while deepening our engagement for SRHR with SDGs indicators in inter-governmental meetings at both regional and global levels.

*Ultimately, in these difficult and trying contexts, the best defence for the women's rights and the SRHR agenda will come from an organised, cohesive, collaborative, innovative, and engaged movement.*

We have always believed that our work, our perspectives, and our calls need to be firmly grounded with our partner communities, where we continue to work with grassroots organisations in key countries on mobilisation and capacity-building. Young people are a critical constituency in our new strategic plan, and the Right Here, Right Now consortium enables us to work in-depth to build capacities for youth advocacy and help mobilise the youth constituency. Long-term investment in young people is essential for the movement, and we need to enable the leaders of the next generation to be fully equipped to handle the agenda substantively and to steer it through the murky waters of global politics.

It was also a stellar year for perspective building on feminist, intersectional, and intersectionality practise. We collaborated with global and regional feminist networks to help set the regional feminist agenda by “Rearticulating our Feminist Struggles.” This exciting meeting determined the available spaces, necessary agendas, and critical lenses to accelerate women's rights in the region.

Our commitment to feminist intersectional practise and movement building was also demonstrated by the body of work we produced last year. ARROW worked with

national partners to produce intersectional work on climate change, religious fundamentalisms, and mental health. Our intersectional practise is committed to jointly producing knowledge products, collecting evidence, and conducting strategic advocacy with feminist and women's organisations from other movements. For us, this is critical to create solidarity and strengthen the women's and the feminist movement as a whole. We see this as building small bridges—as many as possible, as often as possible—to enable us to have critical conversations, enable strategic collaborations, and empower us to traverse different issues and spaces, while keeping feminist principles upfront.

Ultimately, in these difficult and trying contexts, the best defence for the women's rights and the SRHR agenda will come from an organised, cohesive, collaborative, innovative, and engaged movement. We believe if we can lead and facilitate this for the larger movement, we will gain wins for women and young people in the region and in the Global South.

Despite the challenges, the next few years will prove less trying when we harness our energies to create a paradigm shift with regards women's rights and human rights. After all, we are many; they are few.

**Sivananthi Thanenthiran**

ARROW Executive Director

# An Energised ARROW in 2016

## How ARROW is advancing its interlinked advocacies



## In collaboration with

- 8 Global partners
- 10 Regional partners
- 74 National partners

---

- 92 Partners organisations total

### COUNTRY PARTNERS

**Bangladesh:** Adorsho Mohila Sangstha; Annesha Samaj Sheba Shongho; Artha-Shamajik Shiksha Sanskritic Unnayon Sangstha; Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS); Barisal Mohila Kollayan Shongstha; Children and Youth Development Organisation (CYDO); Durbini Foundation; Jago Nari; Khan Foundation; Naripokkho; Nazrul Smriti Sangsad; Patuakhali Development Organisation (PDO); and Sangkalpa Trust

**Burma/Myanmar:** Akhaya Women

**Cambodia:** Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC)

**China:** Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA)

**Egypt:** Ikhtyar for Development, Training, Research and Consultancy

**India:** Anjali Mental Health Rights Organisation; Baba Pam Karam Das Gramin Vikas Samiti; Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA); Centre for Rural Prosperity and Research (CRPR); CommonHealth; Gram Vikas Evam Prashikshan Sansthan; Gram Vikas Navvuk Mandal Laporiya; Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti; Gramya Sansthan; Jatan Sansthan; Navachar; People's Education and Development Organization (PEDO); Pravah; Prayatn; Purvanchal Gramin Sewa Samiti; Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC); SAHAYOG; SAMA: Resource Group for Women and Health; Shikshit Rojgar Kendra Prabandhak Samiti; Srushti Samiti; and the YP Foundation (TYPF)

**Indonesia:** Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan (YJP); and Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan (YKP, also called Women's Health Foundation)

**Kyrgyzstan:** Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan

**Lao PDR:** Lao Women's Union; The Faculty of Postgraduate Studies at the University of Health Sciences (UHS)

**Malaysia:** Federation of Reproductive Health Associations of Malaysia (FRHAM); Penita Initiative; and Sisters in Islam (SIS)

**Maldives:** Huvadhoo Aid (HAD); and Society for Health Education (SHE)

**Mexico:** Elige Red

**Mongolia:** MONFEMNET National Network

**Morocco:** Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF, Morocco Family Planning Association)

**Nepal:** Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC); Child Society Nepal, Morang; LOOM; The Rural Institution for Community Development (RICOD), Lalitpur; Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC); Youth Welfare Society (YWS), Makwanpur; and YUWA

**Pakistan:** Chanan Development Association (CDA); Khan Foundation; Marvi Welfare Association; Nai Umeed; Pano Akil; Shirkat Gah (SG); Sindh Community Foundation (SCF); United Youth Welfare Organisation (UYWO); and Youth Advocacy Network (YAN)

**The Philippines:** Galang; Likhaan Centre for Women's Health (Likhaan); and PATH Foundation Inc. (PFPI)

**Sri Lanka:** Women and Media Collective (WMC)

**Thailand:** Migrant Assistance Program Foundation (MAP)

**Vietnam:** Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCHIP)

### REGIONAL PARTNERS

**Africa:** AIDS Accountability International (AAI) and the Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL)

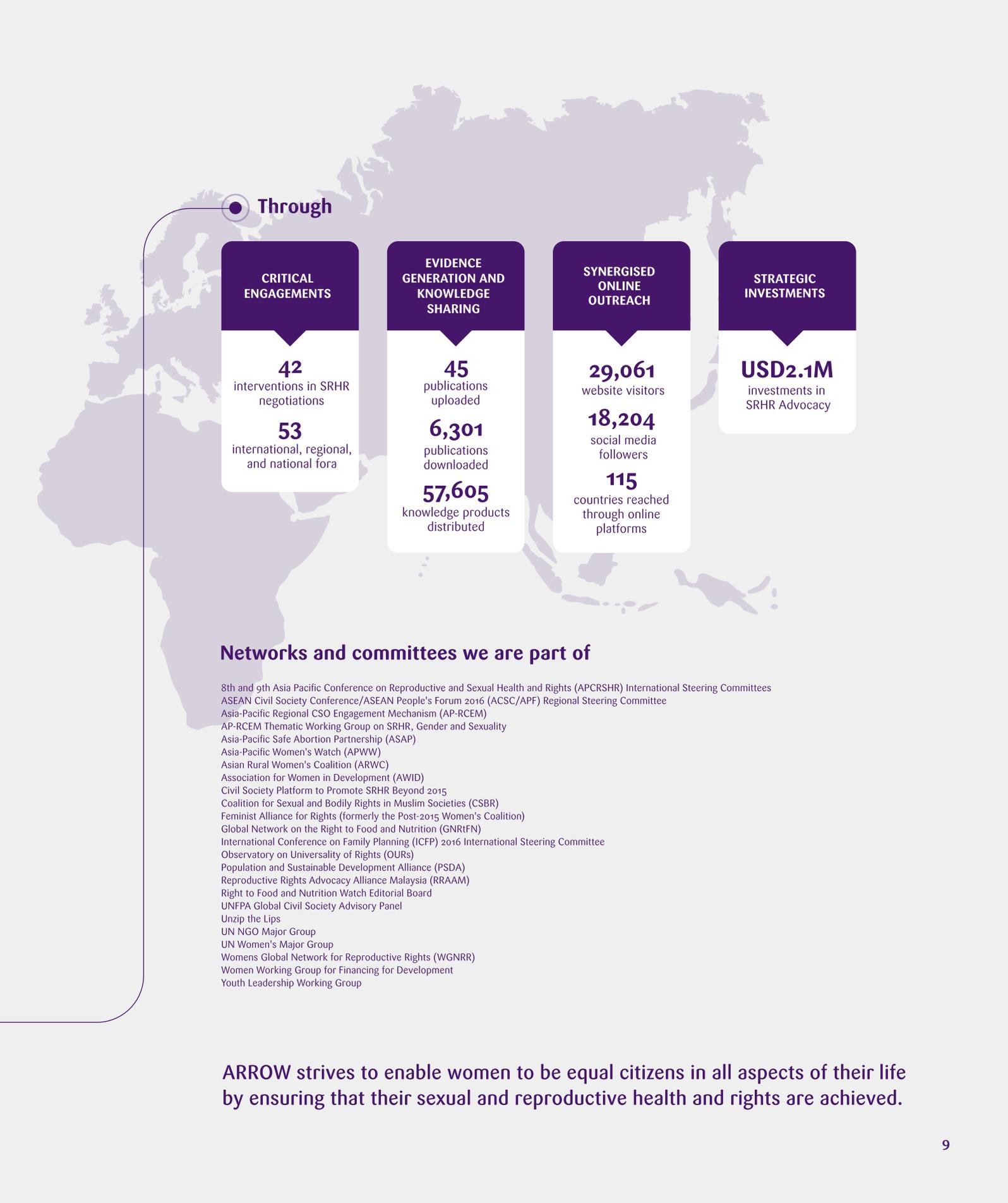
**Asia:** Asia Pacific Women's Alliance for Peace and Security (APWAPS); ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF); CARAM Asia; TARSHI; and Youth LEAD

**Europe:** Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) and Rutgers

**Latin America and the Caribbean:** Catolicas por el Derecho de Decidir (CDD)-Mexico

### GLOBAL PARTNERS

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID); Association of Progressive Communications (APC); CREA; Due Diligence Project; Feminist Alliance for Rights (formerly the Post-2015 Women's Coalition); International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN); Musawah; and Tactical Tech



● **Through**

**CRITICAL ENGAGEMENTS**

**42**  
interventions in SRHR negotiations

**53**  
international, regional, and national fora

**EVIDENCE GENERATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING**

**45**  
publications uploaded

**6,301**  
publications downloaded

**57,605**  
knowledge products distributed

**SYNERGISED ONLINE OUTREACH**

**29,061**  
website visitors

**18,204**  
social media followers

**115**  
countries reached through online platforms

**STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS**

**USD2.1M**  
investments in SRHR Advocacy

## Networks and committees we are part of

8th and 9th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) International Steering Committees  
ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2016 (ACSC/APF) Regional Steering Committee  
Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)  
AP-RCEM Thematic Working Group on SRHR, Gender and Sexuality  
Asia-Pacific Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)  
Asia-Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)  
Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC)  
Association for Women in Development (AWID)  
Civil Society Platform to Promote SRHR Beyond 2015  
Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)  
Feminist Alliance for Rights (formerly the Post-2015 Women's Coalition)  
Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRFN)  
International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) 2016 International Steering Committee  
Observatory on Universality of Rights (OURs)  
Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA)  
Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)  
Right to Food and Nutrition Watch Editorial Board  
UNFPA Global Civil Society Advisory Panel  
Unzip the Lips  
UN NGO Major Group  
UN Women's Major Group  
Womens Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)  
Women Working Group for Financing for Development  
Youth Leadership Working Group

**ARROW** strives to enable women to be equal citizens in all aspects of their life by ensuring that their sexual and reproductive health and rights are achieved.

# About ARROW

ARROW is a regional non-profit women's organisation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia that has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

## Strategic Plan 2012-2016

In 2016, our work was guided by our strategic plan for 2012-2016.

## OUR VISION

An equal, just, and equitable world that enables all women to be equal citizens in all aspects of their lives, and that protects and advances their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## OUR MISSION

We promote and defend women's rights and their needs, particularly in the areas of health and sexuality, and reaffirm their agency to claim these rights.

Our work contributes to achieving the following long-term outcomes:

**1 Systems, policies and programmes are reoriented to uphold gender equality and SRHR**, and to deliver comprehensive, gender-sensitive, and rights-based sexual and reproductive health services that are accessible, just, equitable, and of the highest quality.

**2 Strong and effective women's movements and civil society** that are vigilant in influencing policy agenda on women's health, sexuality, and rights; in demanding for governments and donors to deliver to their international and national commitments; and in claiming spaces for their representation and participation within decision-making structures.

**3 Improvements in the lives and health outcomes of all women**, particularly in the area of SRHR of the poor and the marginalised.

## HOW WE WORK

We believe that together, we must take concerted, collective, and progressive steps to achieve our vision for change.

We approach our work through a four-pronged strategy:



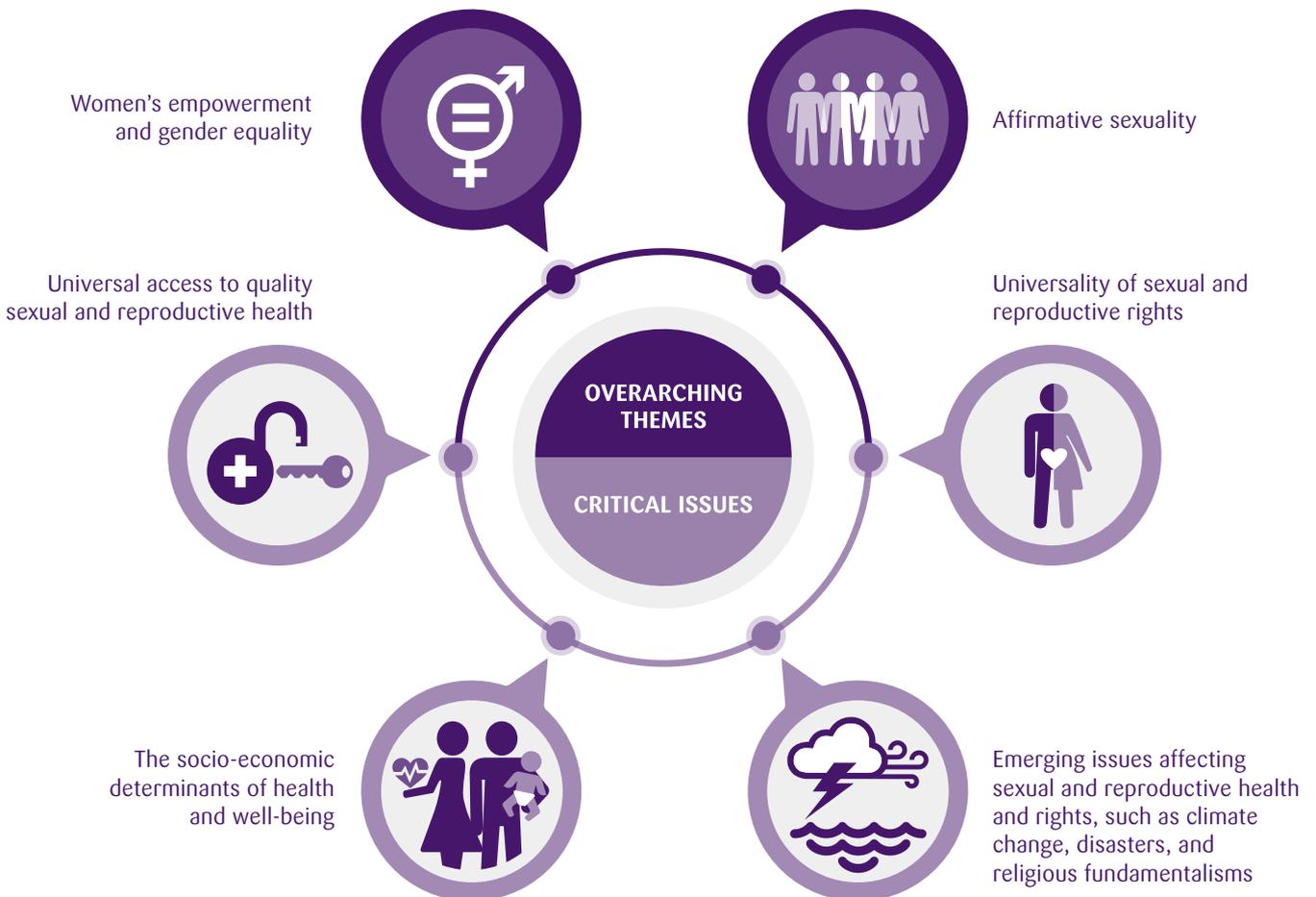
## WHO WE WORK WITH AND THE ISSUES WE WORK ON

Ultimately, we want to see significant and sustained improvements in the SRHR of women and young people across Asia and the Pacific, and globally.

We work with non-governmental organisations and social movements, health service providers and associations, governments and their institutions, international agencies, human rights institutions, and the media.

Our aim is to collaborate with them, and influence their approach so that they too are able to develop and advance rights-based and gender-sensitive policies and programmes related to health, sexuality, and rights.

With like-minded stakeholders and SRHR champions, we tackle the following topics:







*Monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is a key aspect of ARROW's work.*

## Advancing Our Interlinked Advocacies

---

As the international community embraces a new Sustainable Development Agenda, ARROW remained resolute in charting national, regional, and global progress on commitments on gender, sexuality, health, and rights. ARROW's advocacy work in 2016 was punctuated with interventions at regional and global platforms to safeguard sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the development of implementation, monitoring, follow-up, and review frameworks of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ARROW carried on with amplifying advocacies at various levels and fronts and persisted in presenting alternative frameworks that consider gender, rights-based, and Southern perspectives to UN agencies, donors, and NGOs, while also taking into consideration emerging threats and obstacles to women's health and rights.

The understanding that a woman's access to SRHR is affected by intersecting factors is paired with the belief that issues related to bodily autonomy and integrity and SRHR are integral to achieving gender equality, social justice, and sustainable development. Our interlinked advocacies thus use an intersectionality lens to broaden the understanding of barriers that prevent universal access to SRHR for all. Another part of ARROW's work in this regard is sharing this understanding with non-SRHR constituencies and building cross-movement linkages.

### STRATEGIC GLOBAL SRHR ENGAGEMENTS

---

In 2016, ARROW ensured a strong presence at high-level international platforms to contribute much-needed feminist perspectives and direction in global policy dialogues, highlighting that SRHR is pivotal to achieve the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**ARROW @ the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) (25-28 January; Bali, Indonesia).** ARROW contributed expertise at panels on advancing the target of universal SRHR access and on SRHR indicators in the post-2015 world. ARROW and partners also launched regional and national Calls for Action that aim to ensure human rights in the provision of comprehensive contraceptive information and quality services for young people. These were developed as part of the preparatory "Global South Youth Strategising Meeting" organised by ARROW on 24 January 2016 prior to the conference.



*ARROW and partners at the International Conference on Family Planning, 25-28 January 2016, Bali, Indonesia.*

**ARROW @ the 49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (11-15 April; New York, USA).** ARROW delivered an oral statement focused on the theme, "Strengthening the Demographic Evidence Base for the Post-2015 Development Agenda," which included recommendations focused on issues of young people, data, and methods of work. The statement was endorsed by 55 organisations globally. ARROW and partners also engaged with Member States to highlight the importance of SRHR for young people in the negotiations. The Commission plays a primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

**ARROW @ the High-Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (21 April; New York, USA).** ARROW addressed the UN Assembly in this high-level forum that brought together global political, business, and civil society leaders to kick-start the SDG implementation. ARROW called on all member states to commit to the goals on health and gender equality as they will help build an enabling environment for the achievement of all other goals.

**ARROW @ Women Deliver (16-19 May; Copenhagen, Denmark).** ARROW was a plenary speaker at this conference billed as the largest gathering on girls' and women's health, rights, and wellbeing, focusing on the importance and challenges of SDG implementation in the Asia-Pacific. ARROW also shared our contributions to the post-2015 process and the challenges we faced at a side event hosted by GIZ and partners.



*Sivananthi Thanenthiran speaking at the plenary of the Women Deliver, 16-19 May 2016 in Copenhagen, Denmark.*

**ARROW @ the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (11-20 July; New York, USA).** ARROW made an intervention at the forum, posing critical questions on the integration of SRHR within the SDGs agenda to ensure no one is left behind. The forum serves as the follow-up and review mechanism for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In collaboration with GIZ, ARROW also organised a side event that featured discussions on the implementation status of SRHR-related goals of the SDGs, including political and religious barriers at the national and regional levels.



*Sai Jyothirmai Racherla at the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Meeting, November 2016, Geneva, Switzerland.*

**ARROW @ the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Meetings.**

ARROW participated in two meetings to influence the development of SRHR indicators for the SDGs and ensure these are as progressive as possible. The Expert Group has been mandated to develop a global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

- At the meeting in Mexico City, Mexico (30 March-1 April), ARROW made an oral intervention on the SDG indicator framework, calling for standardised cross-comparable methodologies in the measurement of SRHR indicators to enable cross-country learning and fullest measurement of the targets.
- At the meeting in Geneva, Switzerland (15-18 November), when the SDG indicators tier system was finalised, ARROW delivered an oral statement which provided substantial critique on SDG indicators and associated work plans that may potentially dilute the SRHR agenda.

## CHALLENGING RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISMS

---

ARROW works to counter the negative impact of extremist and fundamentalist forces by understanding and mapping how extreme interpretations of religion have affected women's lives and rolled back past gains made on SRHR. In 2016, ARROW and partners gained further ground in challenging religious fundamentalisms through strengthening the evidence and knowledge base around these issues, participation on international and regional fora, and forging strong national, regional, and global partnerships.

### **International Strategy Meeting on Advancing Women's Rights and Gender Justice; Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms (24-26 February; Mexico City, Mexico).**

This global meeting aimed to strengthen feminist advocacy to challenge the politicisation of religion, culture, and tradition by facilitating greater exchange and collaboration across regions and religious contexts. The meeting was initiated by AWID, in partnership with ARROW, the Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL), Catolicas por el Derecho de Decidir (CDD)-Mexico, the Due Diligence Project, the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), and Musawah.

**ARROW @ the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (14-24 March; New York, USA).** ARROW and partners took the opportunity to highlight that the politicisation of religion is one of the barriers to achieving women's empowerment in the 2030 Agenda. The commission presents an important opportunity to engage with different stakeholders, inform discourses, and jointly strategise to counter the effects posed by growing conservatism and the attempts to scuttle gains that have been made on SRHR. ARROW's interventions included:

- A written statement (submitted with the Asia Pacific Women's Watch) that called for, among others, policy decisions that reduce inequalities rather than ones based on religious and identity markers.
- An oral statement at the interactive sessions on the SDGs that highlighted the ways that narrow and patriarchal interpretations of religion are used to justify child, early, and

forced marriages and female genital mutilation, among other similar practices.

- An intervention at the UN Women interactive session on participation and partnerships for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, that pushed for partnerships to work for the most marginalised communities, strive to be an equalising force, address issues of power, and abide by human rights principles.
- A presentation at the side event organised by Progreso, entitled "The Influence of Cultural Traditions and Social Norms on Access to SRHR—and What CEDAW's Got to Do with It," that called for engaging religious and traditional leaders in the development of strategies for the prevention, detection, and protection from child marriage.

ARROW also organised three side events. Two had a focus on religion and SRHR—one with national partners, and one as part of the Observatory of Universality of Rights Initiative—to raise issues against religious fundamentalisms and gain broader support on SRHR. The third one, done in collaboration with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN NGLS), focused on advocacy initiatives to ensure that gender equality and universal access to SRHR are included in national strategies, tools, and instruments for implementing the 2030 Agenda.



*ARROW and partners with Susan Alzner of the UN NGLS at CSW60, 14-24 March, New York.*



ARROW and partners at the European Development Days 2016.

**ARROW @ the South Asia Parliamentarians' Meeting on Child Marriage (22-23 March; Kathmandu, Nepal).** ARROW, together with other CSOs at the meeting, stressed the need to go beyond reproductive health and to focus on SRHR comprehensively, as well as reiterated parliamentarians' role in ending child marriage. These were reflected in the Kathmandu Declaration—the meeting's outcome document.

**ARROW @ the European Union Development Days (15-16 June; Brussels, Belgium).** ARROW organised a panel on “Challenging the Influence of Religion and Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights,” with partners Likhaan Centre for Women's Health from the Philippines and Naripokkho from Bangladesh. The session stressed the importance of capturing lived experiences of how religion affects women's lives and their SRHR; these provide a solid evidence base for advocacy, while creating the debate and discourse to include counter narratives and progressive interpretations. This session was also important in being among the very few that featured voices and experiences from Asia and the Pacific. Capacity4dev, the European Commission's primary online knowledge sharing platform on development, external cooperation, and policy, interviewed the panel about their work in the region.



Azra Abdul Cader speaking at the South Asia Parliamentarian's Meeting on Child Marriage.

**Work with National Partners.** ARROW works with faith-based and feminist organisations that operate in contexts influenced by increasing extremism and extreme interpretations of religion and work to counter these. These organisations and ARROW form a Global South partnership to further advocacy efforts.

Partners' national advocacy efforts, while localised and thematic, helped raise the issues within different contexts,

some of which are growingly constrained and insecure, and is being influenced by populist and conservative ideologies. National interventions offered partners the opportunity to use different techniques to engage in advocacy—from policy engagements to raising public awareness.

### Knowledge Building and Evidence Generation

ARROW works closely with national partners on developing knowledge products to support advocacy on religious fundamentalism and SRHR at different levels.

**National Research on the Influence of Religion, Fundamentalisms, and Extremisms on SRHR.** Reports of the research from 10 countries from South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka), South East Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines), and the Arab region (Egypt and Morocco) were developed together with national partners, focusing on various related issues and concerns, such as comprehensive sexuality education, child marriages, and family planning and contraception, among other topics.

**PARTNERS:** Ikhtyar for Development, Training, Research and Consultancy (Egypt); Likhaan Centre for Women's Health Inc. (The Philippines); Morocco Family Planning Association (Morocco); Naripokkho (Bangladesh); Rural Women's Social Education Centre (India); Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre (Pakistan); Sisters in Islam (Malaysia); Society for Health Education (Maldives); Women and Media Collective (Sri Lanka); Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan/Women's Health Foundation (Indonesia)

### BREAKTHROUGH IN BANGLADESH

Bangladesh was up for its 8th Periodic Review by the CEDAW Committee in November 2016. It was an opportunity to engage at the national and global levels, and consolidate a submission that highlighted the impact of religion on women's rights, including SRHR.

In preparation for the review, ARROW and national partner Naripokkho facilitated a CSO engagement workshop (12-14 August; Dhaka, Bangladesh) to develop a briefing note for the CEDAW Committee. The note highlighted SRHR issues, including child marriage, harmonisation of laws on marriage, young people's access to SRHR especially access to abortion services and menstrual regulation, comprehensive sexuality education, violence against women, and missing data on maternal mortality.

### THE CLIMATE CHANGE, RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISMS, AND THE SRHR NEXUS

ARROW conducted a Joint Workshop on Climate Change and Religious Fundamentalisms, entitled "Connecting the Dots: A Workshop Exploring the Nexus between Climate Change and Religious Fundamentalism and Influences on Achieving SRHR," on 18-21 October; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Our 18 partners have worked separately to build evidence and conduct advocacy-related activities on climate change and religious fundamentalisms since the project commenced in 2014.

At the Periodic Review (4-9 November; Geneva, Switzerland), our partners Naripokkho and Unite for Bodily Rights used the briefing note, as well as developed a statement. ARROW also facilitated a meeting between partners and selected members of the Committee to inform them of the key issues in the briefing note for discussion during the CSO lunch briefing and the delivery of oral statements to elicit response from the government. As a result, in their recommendation to the Government of Bangladesh, the Committee raised religion as a factor affecting the broader context, discrimination, and lack of equality, non-removal of reservations on articles 2 (on State Parties developing national policies to eliminate discrimination against women) and 16.c (on women's equal rights during marriage and its dissolution), and child marriage.

The briefing note is also being used by national organisations as an advocacy tool to push for SRHR issues beyond the review.



Participants at the Bangladesh 8th Periodic Review on CEDAW Thematic Brief Drafting and Planning Workshop.

The meeting thus aimed to gather these partners to map the interlinked influence of climate change and religious fundamentalisms on SRHR.

Through this workshop, the climate change and religious fundamentalism partners were expected to begin working together to advance women's SRHR in their respective countries in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. One of the outputs from the joint workshop was the development of a policy paper on the interconnections between SRHR, climate change, and religious fundamentalism. The work on the policy paper is on-going and will be completed by middle 2017.



Participants at the Joint Climate Change and Religious Fundamentalisms Workshop held in October in Kuala Lumpur.

## RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

Climate extreme events affect all humans and more so women and girls, aggravating their existing vulnerabilities. While there is a recognition of the linkages between climate change and gender, this has not been translated adequately to gender-responsive policies and programmes inclusive of women's rights, including their SRHR. ARROW used international platforms to raise awareness on the added challenge that climate change brings to the achievement of SRHR, forged partnerships with like-minded organisations, and developed knowledge products to support advocacy at all levels.

**ARROW @ COP22 and Other United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Processes.** In January, ARROW was granted Observer Status at the UNFCCC, providing ARROW more opportunities for engagement in UNFCCC workshops and intercessional meetings. ARROW is also an official active member of the UNFCCC's Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), contributing to the discussions and providing concrete inputs and recommendations, especially in the interlinkages between climate change and women's health, including SRHR, into WGC submissions to the UNFCCC.

ARROW and partners were also actively involved in the 22nd session of the Conference of Parties (COP22) held on 7-18 November in Marrakech, Morocco. ARROW called on the UNFCCC Parties to address the impact of climate change on women's health, including SRHR, in order to build a more climate-resilient community in Asia and the rest of the world. ARROW's major interventions were:

- COP22 statement, "From Targets to Action—Making the Paris Agreement Work for All!", prepared with climate change partners.
- Inputs to the WGC's Demands Statement, in which SRHR was mentioned explicitly for the first time. This document was given to negotiators and used by WGC members in their advocacy.
- Guesting on an online show ClimateMatters.TV on "Population and Climate Change," where we highlighted SRHR and climate change issues.



Nalini Singh on the ClimateMatters TV show during COP22.



ARROW joined WGC and allies at the Climate March in Marrakech.

### **ARROW @ the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2-5 November; New Delhi, India).**

The conference adopted the "Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework," a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement that recognises the state's primary role in disaster risk reduction. The conference provided ARROW with the opportunity to learn more about disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the Asian context, advocate for inclusion of SRHR in responses to disasters, and network with groups working on this issue.



Advocacy session at the provincial level to raise awareness on the integration of SRHR, health, environment, and climate change. Photo credit: PATH Foundation.



Participants of the community orientation by WOREC, Nepal. Photo credit: WOREC.

**ARROW's Engagement with the CEDAW Committee.** In December, ARROW submitted comments in writing to the CEDAW Committee on the Draft General Recommendation on Gender-related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate. ARROW proposed the inclusion of basic emergency obstetric care, referral, medical supply, and equipment to be included in the strategies, plans, and programmes for DRR and response; the inclusion of information on SRH and not limiting it only to SRH services; and consideration of gender-based differences in emerging infectious and non-infectious diseases.

**Collaboration with Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA).** As an active Steering Committee member of the network, ARROW is the lead organisation for the working group on strengthening the alliance through facilitating partnerships, building capacity, and supporting scale up of integration, and is involved in the two other working groups as well. ARROW also engaged in the COP22 preparatory work with PSDA.

**Work with National Partners.** ARROW's work on SRHR and Climate Change rests on a partnership initiative called, "Building New Constituencies for Women's SRHR: Working with Rights-based Climate Change/Environmental Groups to Build Momentum for SRHR in the Lead-up to the New Development Framework." This initiative aims to generate evidence on the interlinkages between climate change and women's SRHR, build an alliance of advocates, and strengthen partnerships that will advance the SRHR agenda within the SDGs and climate change debate. Among partners' activities are policy dialogues with various stakeholders, awareness raising campaigns, and knowledge production and sharing initiatives.

The partners continued in 2016 to advocate for the need to integrate SRHR and gender issues in partners' country climate change programmes and policies, as well as the national adaptation plans. Overall, the advocacy activities have started to create awareness and provided evidence for policy-makers and senior government officials to consider integrating SRHR into the action plans.

## CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

---

Silonay is a coastal community in Mindoro, Philippines experiencing the drastic changes of the climate like stronger, bigger waves, and more frequent and more intense typhoons. In 2010, the 41-hectare Silonay Mangrove Conservation and Ecotourism Park was established in Calapan City, Philippines. It is managed by a people's organisation, the Sama-samang Nagkakaisang Pamayanan ng Silonay (SNPS).

“For the last five years, we experienced the benefits of our environmental actions. With our mangrove reforestation activities, compared to previous years, we experience less damages to our houses, no casualties, no harm to our families, and more importantly, the fast recovery of the people after the typhoon,” said Alma Bool, a member of SNPS and an awarded people's organisation leader. She added, “And this is not possible without the help of the local government and partners NGOs,

such as PATH Foundation Philippines Inc., who is making us aware of the links of population, health, environment (PHE), including SRHR, with climate change, and supporting us with community-based PHE interventions.”



Alma Bool in action. Photo credit: PATH Foundation.

## CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS IN BANGLADESH

---

Due to its geographical location, the flood-affected Mirsharai Union Parishad (UP) in Chittagong is one of the most vulnerable in Bangladesh. Community women were uninformed about SRHR issues and are shy to speak about these due to socio-cultural norms. Most women were experiencing various SRH problems that remained untreated for long periods.

With the Khan Foundation's awareness campaigns, advocacy activities, and training of trainers, women have become informed on climate change and its impacts on women's health and SRHR. Sakina Begum, the UP representative of Mirsharai, is one of these women. Sakina shared that her participation in the training, the activation of the standing committee, and meeting with service providers made her confident and motivated to lead women to

openly express themselves about their SRH problems. She is also advocating for women to demand the allocation of government and civil society on emergency medications for those are experiencing SRH issues and for pregnant mothers, and ensure separate rooms and vehicle arrangement to motivate women to go to shelter homes during the disaster period. She is grateful to Khan Foundation for making her an effective UP representative in serving the community, especially women.



Sakina Begum in action. Photo credit: Khan Foundation.

## Knowledge Building and Evidence Generation

ARROW and partners work together in building country-specific evidence on the links between climate change and SRHR.

**Scoping Studies and Advocacy Briefs.** The climate change partners had finalised their scoping studies after addressing the feedback from national reviewers. The new versions were already uploaded on ARROW's website. They also produced advocacy briefs based on information from the scoping studies and highlighted the main findings from their research and recommendations for stakeholders. Our Indonesian partner, Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan, has also produced the brief in Bahasa Indonesia.

The scoping studies and advocacy briefs were used by climate change partners to support their national advocacy dialogues and other advocacy activities in 2016. The findings from the scoping studies and key information from the advocacy briefs were usually presented as PowerPoint presentations at the advocacy dialogues/forums.



**Documentaries.** In 2015, via a small grant from Population and Sustainable Development Alliance, PATH Foundation jointly produced with Penita Initiative three short documentary films, *Women of the Forest*, *Women of the Shore*, and *The Women of Sarawak and Mindoro: The Invisible Battle of Climate Change*. The films highlighted the voices of women living in the climate change frontlines in Mindoro, the Philippines and in Sarawak, Malaysia.

*Women of the Forest* was screened at various film festivals including the VIVA Film Festival (1-5 June; Bosnia, Sarajevo), the 4th Annual G2 Green Earth Film Festival (5-7 August; California, USA), the Wildlife Vaasa Festival 2016 (28 September-2 October; Finland), and the Visual Documentary Project 2016 (15-17 December; Japan). It won the 2nd Best Movie Award at the Climate and Environment International Film Festival in Myanmar in March 2017. *Women of the Shore* and *Women of the Forest* were both screened at the 9th International Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Fest 2016 (14-16 October; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia).

**World Environment Day Campaign.** On 6 June, World Environment Day, ARROW took the opportunity to highlight the interlinkages between climate change and SRHR an emerging issue that needs to be addressed in the context of sustainable development. The national partners' scoping studies and advocacy briefs, the climate change postcards and videos, and a blog post on the Paris Agreement were uploaded on ARROW's website, blasted on social media, as well as featured on ARROW's online SRHR Info Resource newsletter.

**PARTNERS:** Huvadhoo Aid (Maldives); Khan Foundation (Bangladesh); PATH Foundation (the Philippines); Penita Initiative (Malaysia); Sindh Foundation (Pakistan); University Health Sciences (Lao PDR); Women's Rehabilitation Centre (Nepal); Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan (Indonesia).

## SUSTAINING ADVOCACY ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD

---

Women's human rights, including SRHR, are intrinsically linked to and cannot be separated from the right to adequate food and nutrition. SRHR for all remains unattainable when people are deprived of this basic human right. ARROW's engagement on the links of SRHR with the rights to food and nutrition continues through sustaining our interactions and advocacy with various relevant networks and platforms, and using analysis from perspective-building publications produced in previous years.

**2nd Meeting of the Committee on Food Security (CFS) Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Nutrition and CFS Civil Society Mechanism Preparatory Meeting (25 February) and the Planning Workshop of the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) CSO Group (26-27 February; Rome, Italy).** ARROW provided much-needed gender and SRHR perspectives in the discussions at the meetings, as the only participating women's NGO from the Asia Pacific.

**Annual Meeting of the Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRtFN) (18-22 March; Dakar, Senegal).** ARROW presented on women's rights, sexuality, and SRHR, and their intersections with the right to food and nutrition.

**Policies Against Hunger Conference and Civil Society Preparatory Meeting (22-24 June; Berlin, Germany).** As the rapporteur of the Women's Empowerment Working Group, ARROW was catalytic in terms of ensuring that rights-based perspectives with regards to nutrition and addressing hunger were reflected in the plenary.

**Workshop on Knowledge for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda—Learning Processes and Rights to Achieve Food and Nutrition Security, organised by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) (1-2 November; Berlin, Germany).** As the only women's rights organisation from Asia and the Pacific, ARROW delivered a presentation on the crucial role of women's rights organisations at regional and national level implementation of the SDGs.

**Strategic Meeting, organised by FIAN International (4 November; Heidelberg, Germany).** ARROW provided inputs from the perspective of a women's rights and Global South organisation and was part of the small working group focused on sexuality issues.

**International Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition (12 December; Rome, Italy).** ARROW participated as part of the ICN2 CSO Group that reviewed and provided feedback on the Zero Draft of the Work Programme for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 and the Civil Society Manifesto (CSM) on the Decade of Action on Nutrition.



ARROW at the Strategising Workshop of the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) CSO Group (26-27 February 2016).



Malyn Ando sharing the results of the working group on women's empowerment at the Policies against Hunger Conference, Berlin.

## SUPPORTING DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY

---



*Organisers and participants of the CREA-ARROW-ADF workshop Advancing Gender Equality of Women and Girls with Disabilities.*

SRHR issues of women and girls with disabilities are often missed out in public discourses, policymaking, and programming. Whatever existing attention focuses more on controlling women with disability's reproductive capacities and protecting them from sexual violence. At the same time, disability organisation themselves may not always focus on gender and SRHR issues. ARROW and New Delhi-based feminist human rights organisation CREA collaborated on an initiative with the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF) to build leadership and capacities of a group of disability rights activists and practitioners from Southeast Asia on inclusive advocacy for women with disabilities' SRHR. With this collaboration, ARROW begun work on the intersections of disability rights and SRHR, complementing our ongoing plans to make our publications more accessible to people with disabilities.

The workshop "Advancing Gender Equality of Women and Girls with Disabilities" (18-20 May; Hanoi, Vietnam), organised by CREA and ARROW, in collaboration with the ASEAN Disability Forum, covered advocacy on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with gender and sexuality, gender and sexual identities, and bodily integrity, specifically with respect to people with disabilities. Sixteen activists and

leaders from women with disability movements from seven countries in the ASEAN region actively participated the workshop.

ARROW also provided technical support and recommendations to the ADF's ongoing research on the policy environment on disability and SRHR in Indonesia, Laos, and Vietnam at a research workshop organised by CREA on 26-27 January in Jakarta, Indonesia. One of ARROW's key recommendations was to broaden the scope of the study, as it was found that although the research aimed to look at SRHR comprehensively, much of the case studies and information gathered dealt with issues of sexual violence and abuse.

## EXPLORING LINKS WITH MENTAL HEALTH

---

There is a tendency for discourse and programmes to be focused on physical health, and overlook mental health. At the same time, within mental health, discussions on SRHR and sexuality are hardly discussed, more so from a rights-based and affirming perspective. To address these issues and explore connections, ARROW started a new area of work is on the intersections of SRHR, sexuality, and mental health in collaboration with Anjali Mental Health Rights Organisation, a Kolkata-based organisation working on the right to positive mental health.

ARROW supported the National Conclave on Mental Health, held 15-16 July in Kolkata, India. The meeting convened by Anjali brought together various organisations working on community mental health and developed common platforms of discussion and debate to help understand commonalities and convergences. As part of this initiative, planning for a national conference on sexuality, rights, and psychosocial disability, and development of a thematic paper exploring intersections and a film featuring the lives and desires of women with psychosocial disability have begun.





*Young girl in a classroom in Skardu, Pakistan. Photo credit: khlwangchao/Shutterstock.com.*

## Pushing Partnerships Forward

ARROW engages in partnerships to maximise and inspire collective advocacy efforts. Grounding our work on the day-to-day realities of communities through our engagement with community-based, national, regional, and international partners, we ensure that our SRHR advocacy is relevant to those who matter. ARROW's major partnership work in 2016 involved overseeing Phase IV of the Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) South Asia and enabling young people as the next generation of SRHR advocates.

### COLLECTIVE STRATEGISING FOR THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

As the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is expected to drive the global and national development programmes and policies, as well as influence funding, ARROW is strengthening its partnership commitments with fellow feminists and women's rights activists, organisations, and networks.

ARROW convened the "Rearticulating Our Feminist Struggles—Strategising for Change in the 2030 Agenda World" meeting (27-29 July; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) to map out current and emerging issues that would likely shape our world in the next 15 years and beyond. The meeting identified and categorised issues under four broad themes—Bodies, Voices, Ideologies, and Resources—to guide future feminist work. The outcome is a feminist framework that recognises and strategises against systemic inequalities, prioritises marginalised groups, and identifies issues left behind as well as emerging issues related to SRHR. The participants agreed:

### STRENGTHENING SRHR PARTNER CAPACITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Much of ARROW's on-the-ground work involve capacity building and strengthening activities for national and local partners in various areas of advocacy, including awareness raising, field research, knowledge production and sharing, among other initiatives.

The 15-country initiative "Strengthening the Networking, Knowledge Management, and Advocacy Capacity of an Asia-Pacific Network for SRHR," supported by EU, runs from March 2013 to August 2017. The project aims to strengthen ARROW's network to contribute to increased effectiveness of SRHR policies and improved SRHR of marginalised women and girls in Asia and the Pacific.

- That a dedication to diversity, inclusion, and intersectionality approach should be an integral part of the feminist future that everyone envisions;
- That intersectionality analysis and social justice should be at the core of our development priorities in transforming the lives of women and girls that we represent; and
- That the concept of intersectionality be understood to include all forms of discrimination that women may experience, including discrimination based on disability, status, or sexual orientation.



At the Rearticulating Our Feminist Struggles Meeting, July 2016, Kuala Lumpur.

**ARROW @ Regional and Global Interventions.** ARROW participated in various events to ensure that SRHR remains at the centre of the development agenda.

- **8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health and Rights (23-26 February; Nyapidaw, Myanmar).** ARROW organised a satellite session to launch the Burma country study, *Breaking Barriers: Advocating for SRHR*. ARROW also chaired a session on “Monitoring Government Implementation of SRHR Policies,” which focused on the local and national experiences in monitoring government commitments in implementing SRHR policies in-country.
- **4th Session of the UNESCAP Committee on Social Development (28-30 March; Bangkok, Thailand).** ARROW made two interventions, one on health and SRHR and the other on migration.
- **Third Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development 2016: Asserting People’s Priorities to Achieve Development Justice (31 March-2 April; Bangkok, Thailand) and 3rd Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (3-5 April; Bangkok, Thailand).** At the preparatory meeting, ARROW provided inputs to the Women’s Constituency Development Justice fact sheet, Joint Response to the Regional Roadmap, People’s Roadmap, and consolidated CSO statements, and the workplans of the Women’s Constituency and the Gender, Sexuality, and SRHR Thematic Working Group. At the actual forum, ARROW provided inputs to the overall civil society statement and to various constituency statements. ARROW co-wrote and delivered the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP RCEM)’s Women’s Constituency Statement.
- **Seventy-second Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (15-19 May; Bangkok, Thailand).** ARROW was invited by ESCAP to be part of an external evaluation of the UN ESCAP Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division (MPFD).



*Malyn Ando delivering an intervention at the 4th Session of the Committee on Social Development.*



*Malyn Ando delivering the Women’s Constituency Statement at the APFSD. Photo by Suliq Waqa.*



*Biplabi Shrestha sharing the workplan of the Gender, Sexuality, and SRHR Thematic Working Group at the Asia-Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development 2016.*

- **13th AWID International Forum (8-11 September; Bahia, Brazil).** ARROW co-organised two sessions. The first was on “Successful Strategies for Sexual Rights Advocacy: Building Our Collective Power in Muslim Societies and Beyond” where ARROW shared key findings of the ten country profiles on religious fundamentalism. The other was on “What ‘Big Data’ Means for Gender and Development.”
- **Mainstreaming Gender in Internet and Development in the Asia-Pacific (2-3 October; Bangkok, Thailand) and Asia-Pacific Regional Internet and Development Dialogue: The Internet of Opportunity; Building a Sustainable Future through an Inclusive Internet in Asia-Pacific (3-4 October; Bangkok, Thailand).** The preparatory meeting discussed relevant gender and internet issues to raise at the regional dialogue, which covered policy issues around Internet for Development and addressed some of the opportunities and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **UNDG Asia Pacific Human Rights Network: Civil Society Space and Stakeholder Engagement, UN ESCAP (1 November; Bangkok, Thailand).** CSOs, including ARROW, shared challenges they have encountered while dealing with the UN system in the region. Everyone acknowledged that the issue of shrinking CSO spaces is a global phenomenon and should be tackled jointly by both parties.
- **CSO Consultation by UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Office (2 November; Bangkok, Thailand).** ARROW shared its new Strategic Plan and participated in identifying the needs of the region for UNFPA’s strategic action.
- **International Dialogue on Population and Development (11-12 November; Berlin, Germany).** ARROW shared insights on both new and emerging follow-up and review mechanisms, such as the High Level Political Forum.
- **Expert Dialogue on Effective Follow-up and Review for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (1-2 December, UN ESCAP).** ARROW ensured that effective key stakeholder engagement, especially of civil society, was a critical part of the discussion.



The ARROW-organised side events at the AWID Forum: Big data (top) and religious fundamentalisms (bottom).



Mangala Namasivayam speaks at the International Dialogue on Population and Development. Photo credit: Conference Magazine.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PARTNERS' NATIONAL ADVOCACY

The partners organised national policy dialogues aimed at sharing findings, recommendations, as well as at influencing policy makers to support policymaking, programming, and fund allocation for universal access to SRHR. In some of our partner countries, it was more challenging to conduct these dialogues due to the unfavourable political climates and threat to civil society and social movements. Bangladesh, Maldives, and Vietnam conducted their policy dialogues in 2016.

- **Bangladesh.** Naripokkho conducted two dialogues, in which findings and recommendations of the Country Profile on Sexual and Reproductive Health were shared. An interesting outcome of these dialogues were discussions with four newly elected Union Parishad members that revolved around their responsibilities to ensure access to SRH services at the district level.
- **Vietnam.** The Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population structured the national policy dialogue to fit into the “3rd National Symposium on Sexuality, Health, and Society: Cultural and Institutional Barriers to Address Sexual Violence in Vietnam” for maximum impact and reach. The country profiles on SRH and SRR were disseminated and served as background for discussions.



CCIHP's policy dialogue in Vietnam. Photo credit: CCIHP.

## UNIVERSALITY OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

ARROW's Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Rights initiative aims to ensure that sexual and reproductive rights, often seen as too contentious compared to health issues, are part of national level discussions.

Partners from 14 countries have developed profiles that provide a quick status report on the achievement of sexual and reproductive rights 20 years after governments signed on to the ICPD POA. In 2016, partners in Bangladesh, Maldives, and Vietnam completed their country profiles. Other activities include conducting national policy dialogues, and participating in a regional social media campaign on universal access to SRHR.



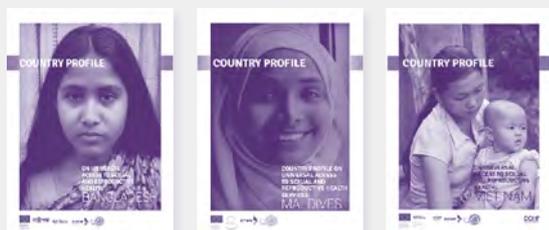
One of the policy dialogues in Bangladesh. Photo credit: Naripokkho.

## Knowledge Building and Evidence Generation

ARROW's learning materials produced in 2016 for increasing partners' SRHR advocacy capacities are:

**Country Profiles on Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health.** In 2016, all 15 country profiles, which provide a quick report on the state of achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive, were completed with the publication and dissemination of profiles from Bangladesh, Maldives, and Vietnam.

Partners who completed their profiles in 2015 have been using these for their national advocacy, whereas some have been referenced in publications. For example, MONFEMNET submitted their country profile as part of the civil society shadow report during their country's CEDAW review at the 63rd Session (February). Meanwhile, the Pakistan country profile is referenced in an article on adolescent SRHR by Iqbal and others, which was published in *BMC International Health and Human Rights*, Volume 17, No. 5. 2017.



**Agenda: Looking Back, Moving Forward.** An advocacy brief that captures the rich discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, this publication serves as a guide for ARROW and partners to identify entry points for national, regional, and global advocacy.



-  1,229 - Facebook reach
-  863 - Twitter impressions
-  353 - Downloads

**Animated Videos.** A series of short animated videos are being produced based on the findings and recommendations of the country profiles produced by partners. The first five videos of the series were uploaded in the fourth quarter, and their corresponding number of views are:

- 99** - Safe Abortion Services in Cambodia
- 66** - Comprehensive Sexuality Education in China
- 90** - Access to Contraception in India
- 327** - Safe Abortion Services in Nepal
- 160** - Access to Safe Abortion in the Philippines

**#SRHR4ALL Campaign** The #SRHR4ALL campaign, launched in 2014, advocates that sustainable development is not possible without SRHR for everyone, and provides information and updates on partners' SRHR initiatives.

- <http://srhrforall.org>
- <http://facebook.com/srhrforall>
- <http://twitter.com/SRHRforALL>



**PARTNERS:** Beyond Beijing Committee (Nepal); Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (Vietnam); Faculty of Post-graduate Studies in the University of Health Sciences (Lao PDR); Federation of Reproductive Health Associations of Malaysia (Malaysia); Likhaan Centre for Women's Health (Philippines); Migrant Assistance Program Foundation (Thailand); MONFEMNET National Network (Mongolia); Naripokkho (Bangladesh); Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (Cambodia); Rural Women's Social Education Centre (India); Shirkat Gah (Pakistan); Society for Health Education (Maldives); Women and Media Collective (Sri Lanka); Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan/Women's Health Foundation (Indonesia); Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (China).

## CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN DELIVERING QUALITY SERVICES IN SOUTH ASIA

The Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP)-South Asia, an ARROW-initiated partnership, works toward ushering in real changes in the lives of marginalised women, young people, and grassroots communities. The partnership advocates for a rights-based continuum of quality care in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Now in the third year of Phase IV of the project (January 2014-December 2017), WHRAP-South Asia continues to be implemented in collaboration with partner international, regional, national, and community organisations.

ARROW has been spearheading WHRAP-South Asia's implementation in the past 13 years. As the regional partner, ARROW is responsible for international and regional advocacy, including with accountability mechanisms, and building linkages and synergies with the realities on the ground. ARROW also strengthens partners' capacities, and is in charge of overall project coordination and monitoring.

**CQC Advocacy.** In 2016, ARROW and WHRAP-South Asia made a submission to the High-level Working Group on Health and Human Rights of Women, Children, and Adolescents advocating for consideration of rights-based continuum of quality of care (CQC) for marginalised women throughout their life cycle, from adolescence and pregnancy to post-partum/post-abortion and to menopause, in the home, community, and health facilities. Elements of CQC was included into ARROW's statements and submissions, including in the briefing paper to the CEDAW Committee on SRHR and statements for COP22. ARROW wrote a blog post explaining and unpacking CQC to commemorate the International Day of Maternal Health on 6 April.

**Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child's Health and the Independent Accountability Panel.** ARROW and WHRAP-South Asia provided inputs to the partnership and the panel to include context-specific local level accountability in their strategic direction and objectives, and to prioritise SRHR as a key element of women's health. The Independent Accountability Panel is mandated to produce the annual *Status of Women, Children and Adolescents' Health Report* to be

presented to the UN General Assembly as part of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescent's Health 2015-2030 and for monitoring SDG3 implementation.

**Regional Advocacy Dialogue: Frameworks for Accountability for Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the Sustainable Development Goals Era (7-8 December; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia).** ARROW organised the dialogue to strategise on ways forward to link global and local accountability on women's SRHR in the implementation of 2030 Agenda. The Independent Accountability Panel participated in the dialogue to understand accountability work at the local level, as well as to share their mandate and avenues for advocacy. At the dialogue, the partners presented on key areas of their work.



*The Regional Advocacy Dialogue: Frameworks for Accountability for Women's SRR in the SDGs. Pooja Badarinath makes a presentation (top); ARROW team and participants (bottom).*

**Highlights of National Partners' Work.** Considering WHRAP-South Asia's Theory of Change and their specific local contexts, national partners developed their own frameworks that guided the design and implementation of their advocacy, particularly their work towards ensuring rights-based CQC. New work in 2016 involved monitoring of oversight accountability mechanisms.

- **Mobilised Voices.** By increasing awareness about women's rights and enabling champions and advocates, WHRAP-South Asia further increased women's capacity to demand for better health services and dialogue with local leaders. In Nepal, Beyond Beijing Committee's Community Health Education Sessions increased awareness of 180 women participants and empowered them to demand for abortion services. In Pakistan, Shirkat Gah enabled 35 champions to demand for better reproductive health services.
- **Active Civil Society Networks.** National partners participated in SRHR alliances. In Bangladesh, Naripokkho's advocacy dialogues resulted in hospital authorities and local administrations committing to improve local health facilities and services. In India, the National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights, which receives secretariat support from SAHAYOG, lobbied for better maternity benefits through a public hearing. In Nepal, civil society organisations gathered to celebrate the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion on 30 September, led by the Reproductive Health Rights Working Group.
- **Responsive Public.** National partners organised campaigns, public dialogues, and meetings with the media to sensitise them on quality reproductive health services and CQC. In Bangladesh, 847 people participated in the International Day of Action for Women's Health celebration, organised by the Right to Health Alliance and community-based organisations, to raise awareness on maternal death registration. In Pakistan, 90 people from six villages participated in a local campaign and policy dialogue to raise community awareness on birth registration to prevent child marriages.
- **Responsible Health Institutions Through Oversight Mechanisms.** The capacity of health-facility-based oversight mechanisms in financial management, health personnel training, and healthcare facilities maintenance was strengthened. In Bangladesh, Hospital Management Committees followed the government directive to provide oversight, while Naripokkho's community-based organisations monitored the implementation of committees' decisions. Information on 119 maternal deaths and eight case studies were collected by CBO partners and used for local and national level advocacy. In India, three patient welfare committees were activated and began oversight work, including petitioning for better health facilities and services. In Pakistan, the oversight mechanism focused on monitoring the hospital and dealing with informal payments for SRHR services, which should be provided for free.
- **Responsible Political Action.** National partners made submissions regarding SRHR and CQC to identified human rights guardian institutions. In Bangladesh, an advocacy dialogue on "Determining Responsibilities to Protect Women's Health and Reproductive Right" was organised with the National Human Rights Commission and Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Affairs. Naripokkho submitted a recommendation paper to the National Human Rights Commission, which then submitted the recommendation to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfares. A Birth and Death Registration Programme was also implemented. In India, SAHAYOG met with the National Human Rights Commission to provide inputs on how to reduce infant mortality and prevent maternal mortality. CHETNA made a submission to the Universal Periodic Review, focusing on adolescent and youth health and CQC. At the local level, SuMa expanded engagement with the local government to improve infrastructure and human resources, which are essential to increase access and availability of health services.

## Knowledge Building and Evidence Generation: WHRAP–South Asia

### **Stories of Change: Sharing Success Stories of Women’s Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership—South Asia.**

The publication highlights the success stories of the partnership which will be useful for future advocacy.



818 - Downloads

**WHRAP-South Asia Oversight Mechanism Toolkit.** The toolkit aims to measure the functionality of oversight mechanisms and the impact of the WHRAP South Asia work by documenting the challenges that partners and CBOs face at the local level.



Alliance member Jahirul Islam discussing about opinion poll on Day Celebration 2016 programme at Dashmina upazila. Photo credit: Naripokkho.

**NATIONAL PARTNERS.** National partners provide direct and indirect support to community-based organisations (CBOs). WHRAP-South Asia involves five national women’s organisations: Beyond Beijing Committee (Nepal); Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (India); Naripokkho (Bangladesh); SAHAYOG (India); and Shirkat Gah (Pakistan).

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS.** WHRAP-South Asia works with 28 CBOs through five national partners:

**Bangladesh:** Naripokkho collaborates with nine CBOs: Sangkalpa Trust, Artha-Shamajik Shikkha Sanskritic Unnayan Sangstha, Jago Nari, Nazrul Smriti Sangsad, Adorsho Mohila Sangstha, Patuakhali Development Organisation, Annesha Samaj Sheba Shongho, Children and Youth Development Organisation, and Barisal Mohila Kollayan Shongstha.

**India:** CHETNA collaborates with 10 CBOs: Gram Vikas Evam Prashikshan Sansthan, Srushti Samiti, Jatan Sansthan, Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal Laporiya, Centre for Rural Prosperity and Research, Navachar, Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti, Prayatn, People’s Education and Development Organisation, and Shikshit Rojgar Kendra Prabandhak Samiti.

**India:** SAHAYOG collaborates with three CBOs: Gramya Sansthan, Baba Pam Karam Das Gramin Vikas Samiti, and Purvanchal Gramin Sewa Samiti.

**Nepal:** Beyond Beijing Committee collaborates with three CBOs in three districts: The Rural Institution for Community Development, Youth Welfare Society, and Child Society Nepal.

**Pakistan:** Shirkat Gah collaborates with three CBOs: United Youth Welfare Organisation, Marvi Welfare Association Pano Akil, and Nai Umeed.

## VOICE OF A WHRAP CHAMPION

At the Lady Aitcheson Hospital in Saleem Kot, Pakistan, custodian staff at the hospital expect money and sweets from new mothers and their families in celebration of the birth. This was what happened with Najma Atif. While Najma's case was handled with care and responsibility and her delivery was successful, the custodian staff requested more money, despite having already received Rs.100.

Sakina Javed, who accompanied Najma to the hospital and who had received SRHR trainings from Shirkat Gah, refused to give more money since the staff receive a monthly salary. When the staff continued harassing Najma for more money, Sakina decided to go to the office of the Medical Superintendent to lodge a complaint. As soon as the custodians realised that Sakina was going to take action, they stopped harassing the family for more money. Sakina said that she was only able to raise her voice because of her trainings with Shirkat Gah.

## WHRAP CHAMPIONS SET UP WOMEN'S CAMP

A free medical camp for the women of the remotely located Pathan Colony in KPK Pakistan was organised, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Mian Muhammad Riaz, the new Superintendent of the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Ferozewala, gynaecologist Dr. Bushra Farooq, and Venus Hameed of Shirkat Gah partner Nai Umeed Welfare Society. Venus, who had participated in WHRAP's capacity-building, conducted a mobilisation visit to Pathan accompanied by the polio team; she went door-to-door to inform pregnant women about the free medical camp and to set up banners across the colony.

The WHRAP champions team discussed logistical issues pertaining to services, equipment, and functioning of the medical camp. Once set up, the champions visited the camp and thanked Nai Umeed Welfare Society for their cooperation and initiative. The camp provided health services to pregnant women, such as ante-natal and post-natal care, ultrasounds, family planning, and general check-ups. Thirty pregnant women received healthcare services. Post-camp, this has also resulted in the hospital staff fully cooperating with the WHRAP Champions.



One of the graphic recordings at the youth strategising meeting.

## STRENGTHENING YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN SRHR ADVOCACY

ARROW believes that young people are critical in achieving sustainable development as a key constituency who have unique challenges and issues. In 2016, ARROW scaled up and further expanded her work with young people through partnership initiatives that heavily focus on capacity strengthening, evidence-based and rights-based advocacy, and meaningful youth participation.

**Youth Strategising Meeting.** ARROW kick-started 2016 with the Youth Strategising Meeting on 7-8 January in Penang to develop a youth strategic plan to ensure that ARROW's work in the region is reflective of young people's needs, challenges, and realities. The meeting enabled an environmental mapping of youth issues in the region and in the Global South; discussed challenges, root causes, and strategies for change; and informed and enabled ARROW to develop strategic

programmes and projects fitting the priorities of young people. It facilitated ARROW to strategically choose issues which are in line with young people's priorities and relevant to the context in which we are operating. Participants from across Asia-Pacific, as well as representatives from Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America recognised the need for youth-led accountability through data analysis and monitoring, resources for youth-led and youth-serving organisations, and the need to build and sustain youth organisations and movements through capacity strengthening. The meeting's outputs were consolidated into the ARROW youth strategy for action.

**Right Here, Right Now.** Right Here, Right Now (RHRN) is a strategic partnership that aims to address the limited protection and respect, and hindered fulfilment of SRHR. Others in the partnership (also known as Global Consortium) include the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rutgers, CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality (CHOICE), dance4life, and Hivos. It operates in three regions: Asia with ARROW as the regional coordinator, Africa with the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPFAR), and Latin America with the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN). Advocacy and capacity strengthening for advocacy are the core strategies of RHRN. The modality of the RHRN is unique, especially at the national level, where there are country platforms established to carry out advocacy by young people for young people's SRHR. The country platforms consist of youth-led, youth-serving, and LGBTIQ organisations who are working at the national and local levels.

Launched in 2015 in Asia, RHRN works with young people in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, and Pakistan. In 2016, RHRN focused on establishing country platforms, coordination of country proposals, and regional and international advocacy.



*Right Here Right Now partners; from top to bottom: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, and Pakistan.*

**ARROW's RHRN Advocacy Interventions.** ARROW's RHRN advocacy at regional and international levels highlighted young people's SRHR.

- **Third Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development 2016: Asserting People's Priorities to Achieve Development Justice (APCSF3) (31 March- 02 April).** ARROW's participation contributed to ensure that SRHR, including youth-friendly services, safe abortion, and comprehensive sexuality education, was highlighted as a regional priority.
- **Pakistan Universal Periodic Review Engagement Workshop (5-9 December; Islamabad, Pakistan).** Pakistan's Third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is scheduled for 2017, ARROW organised a capacity strengthening workshop attended by 10 youth RHRN platform members to contribute to a report for the review. The inputs from the workshop and subsequent youth consultations amongst their different constituencies will contribute to a Youth Submission to the UPR review.
- **49th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (11-15 April; New York, USA).** ARROW collaborated with the RHRN consortium members to develop the written RHRN statement which focused on the importance of youth involvement and comprehensive sexuality education for young people. ARROW also took part in the RHRN side event which involved the Netherlands Minister.
- **65th Session of CEDAW Review (4-9 November; Geneva, Switzerland).** ARROW supported the participation of an RHRN platform member from Bangladesh, United for Body Rights (UBR), at the CEDAW review session for Bangladesh's 8th Periodic Report in Geneva to ensure that young people's SRHR was reflected in the recommendations. Issues raised included child marriage, youth-friendly services, and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).
- **ILGA World Conference (28-30 November; Bangkok, Thailand).** ARROW participated in the world conference as part of RHRN's advocacy work around SOGIE issues. The conference offered a good opportunity for networking with

key stakeholders and to map ongoing work in regard to SOGIE issues at regional and global levels.

**Establishment of Country Platforms.** One of the key achievements of 2016 for RHRN is the establishment of country platforms in all the four RHRN implementing countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, and Pakistan.<sup>1</sup> Four scoping studies of the situation of young people's SRHR guided the start-up process in the four countries, which also mapped existing national level laws and policies and helped identify youth-led and youth-serving organisations, networks, and alliances (ONAs) as potential members of the national platforms.

Convening workshops organised from June to August 2016 brought 15 ONAs in Indonesia, 12 in Pakistan, 15 in Bangladesh, and 16 in Nepal to get to know each organisation in a more holistic manner and have a shared understanding on the RHRN partnership and Theory of Change. Advocacy priorities and capacity needs and challenges and opportunities in working in collaboration were identified. All 15 participating ONAs in Indonesia signed up to join the platform; whereas 11 out of 13 did in Pakistan; 13 out of 15 in Bangladesh; and 15 out of 16 in Nepal. An advocacy capacity assessment survey of all organisations was carried out to identify strengths and gaps in terms of platform and capacity to carry out the advocacy interventions.

ARROW organised and facilitated follow-up envisioning workshops in all four countries to formulate the national theory of change for each country platform, as well as advocacy and capacity strengthening strategy. The workshop also served as a platform to discuss and finalise the operational structure of the platform, including the formation of governing bodies. One of the key outcomes of the envisioning workshop was the selection of three priority issues for each country. The platforms also identified risks and formulation of risk management strategy.

**Submission of Country Proposals.** Each national platform was required to submit a country proposal to Rutgers for appraisal by an independent committee. The country proposals outlined the context, theory of change including long and short term outcomes until 2020, and interventions until 2018. Submissions

of the country proposals by the four platforms were all successfully done on time, with the platforms' commitment and ARROW's extensive support.

**Contribution to the Global Consortium.** ARROW has also successfully coordinated and actively participated in activities of the global consortium, thereby significantly contributing to effective management and delivery of outputs. Among ARROW's contributions were:

- Chairing the International Advocacy Working Group in 2016 and coordinating its workplan 2017 development process;
- Contributing to the concept note formulation for both convening and envisioning workshops of the Capacity Strengthening Working Group, as well as in defining RHRN values;
- Participating in the regular financial working group meetings facilitated by Rutgers, Global Programme Team, and Steering Committee that took place both face-to-face and online; and
- Providing inputs to the baseline report prepared by Rutgers for submission to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the semi-annual report (January to June 2016), and to three quarterly financial reports submitted in 2016.

**Building the Next Generation of Movement Leaders and Organisations in South Asia for Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.** From July 2015 to June 2017, with the support of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, ARROW is implementing a youth partnership initiative in four South Asian countries: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. This project has emerged out of a felt need to build a partnership initiative for youth organisations in South Asia that incorporates elements of capacity building on a variety of issues (e.g., gender, sexuality, and rights) and skills (e.g., advocacy, monitoring, and evidence generation) so they may carry out interventions on SRHR with young people in South Asia. The formation of such a group is intended to help strengthen advocacy initiatives for young people and to form a unified voice on issues of SRHR.

This partnership process began with a rigorous process of selecting youth-led organisations working on SRHR in South Asia through two scoping studies and several scoping visits.

A kick-off meeting in the form of a two-day training on sexuality and rights, followed by youth envisioning exercise, was organised in Kuala Lumpur in October 2014 to bring the different groups together to identify and set common priorities for advocacy on young people's SRHR.

A second partnership meeting on 21-25 June in Kuala Lumpur with 11 partners—the four Packard partners, and seven core-funded partners from Cambodia, China, Laos, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. The discussion revolved on partnership issues, reflections on the implementation of year one activities, and plans for the coming year. This meeting also opened up an opportunity to discuss challenges that partners may be facing in their projects and think of innovative ways of working around those challenges. The regional advocacy plan was also discussed during this workshop.



*2nd Partnership Meeting of the Packard-supported Youth Initiative.*

**Internship Programme.** In February, as a follow-up and to further strengthen capacities of young people, ARROW organised a week-long internship programme in India with TARSHI as the host organisation. The internship programme intended to build capacities of young people on a variety of issues, including sexuality, rights, advocacy, research, and comprehensive sexuality education. Participants will be writing reflection papers on their learnings from their youth work.

**International Youth Day Campaign.** In conjunction with the International Youth Day on 12 August, ARROW facilitated an online regional advocacy campaign with the eight partner organisations. The objective of the event was to galvanise the platform to collaborate on pushing for advocacy on CSE in all four countries in the region. This activity enabled country partners to voice out country-specific concerns related to CSE. A social media toolkit, logo, and hashtag (#SouthAsiaYouthTalkSRHR) was developed by ARROW to facilitate the week-long event.



**Highlights of Partners' Achievements.** Organisations from the same country are jointly working on their CSE advocacy briefs and organising related advocacy activities.

- **Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bangladesh)** organised a capacity strengthening workshop for 20 participants from various CBOs on the Universal Periodic Review Process. An essay competition on SRHR and human rights was also organised to inform adolescent and young people of SRHR issues. An SRHR helpline service was established to provide correct information on SRH and related issues. A Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre was established with about 700 publications on SRH and human rights, including ARROW's.
- **Chanan Development Association (Pakistan)** mapped youth-led organisations working on CSE in Pakistan by conducting a baseline survey on their CSE interventions and capacity building needs. The survey results were fed into a workshop attended by 22 representatives from 10 youth-lead organisations. Other activities included production and dissemination of awareness raising materials, CSE advocacy with concerned departments and parliamentarians, and social media campaigns.
- **Durbin Foundation (Bangladesh)** organised an SRHR capacity building training for its members; interested members who had potential were later invited for a training of trainers, which focused on human rights, SRHR, and approaches to talk about SRHR with different age groups. Other activities included the "Know Your Body and Rights" for Rajshahi University students and a "Human Chain" with 30 different organisations to protest against cybercrimes, particularly against girls and women.
- **LOOM (Nepal)** organised "Young Women Meet" that brought together 24 young women to create a platform and contribute to building movements, bridge theory and practice through knowledge building, and bridge capacities and discourses between generations of women toward ending discrimination. LOOM also participated in the First Nepal Girl Summit organised by UNICEF and DFID, and highlighted the importance of including CSE in school curricula.
- **Pravah (India)** organised a 10-day group exposure to engage 12 young people on a learning and leadership journey and social action projects on CSE. The exposure incorporated a good mix of classroom sessions and community actions. While the basecamp for the exposure was a school in Rajasthan, participants had several opportunities to interact with communities from adjacent villages to apply the learning from the classroom sessions. The 12 young change-makers implemented social action projects on SRHR and gender.
- **The Youth Parliament Foundation (India)** conducted a mystery-client audit to assess the quality of youth-friendly health services across 27 health centres in the city of Lucknow. The project aimed to create young leaders equipped to assess and advocate for stigma-free health services. Nineteen youth leaders were trained in on SRHR issues and research methodologies. Rich qualitative and quantitative data was captured through a mapping tool,



At the Youth Strategising Meeting, January 2016, Penang, Malaysia.

focus group discussions, and in-depth interviews with health providers.

- **Youth Advocacy Network (Pakistan)** collaborated with the Steps College of Arts to take CSE forward in Pakistan using the arts as a medium for advocacy through support and training of 30 young artists and writers, exhibition and fairs of youth leaders and artists' products, and a petition to include CSE at the policy level.
- **YUWA (Nepal)** conducted a Training of Trainers for the Youth Activists Leadership Council Members and conducted six peer education sessions in various school clubs in Kathmandu. YUWA also supported a school speech competition at Bernhardt school in celebration of Adolescent Rights during International Women's Day and a school programme at the Maharajgunj Medical Campus that highlighted the importance of women in society. On International Hygiene Day, YUWA organised an online consultation called "Menstruation Matters." As part of its media outreach, YUWA organised a community puppet show and guested on a radio talk show to talk about the importance of young people's SRHR and CSE.

## Right Here Right Now Campaign

### Key Campaign Messages for Policy Makers and Donors

- Take a rights-based approach by incorporating the comprehensive sexuality education in the school curriculum.
- Ensure young people and youth-led organisations as equal stakeholders to designing and monitoring of life skills-based education and comprehensive sexuality education.
- Ensure adequate allocation of resources towards the fulfilment of this objective.

### Key Messages for Young People and the General Public

- Let's talk about sexuality—break the silence!
- Create a culture of affirmative sexuality.
- Sexual rights are human rights—Claim leadership for your SRHR!

### PARTNERS OF THE BUILDING NEW GENERATION OF MOVEMENT LEADERS AND ORGANISATIONS INITIATIVE:

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bangladesh); Chanan Development Association (Pakistan); Durbin Foundation (Bangladesh); LOOM (Nepal); Pravah (India); Youth Advocacy Network (Pakistan); Youth Parliament Foundation (India); YUWA (Nepal).





*A pregnant woman getting examined in Udon Thani, Thailand. Photo credit: Moteelec/Shutterstock.com.*

## Generating Evidence

ARROW charts national, regional, and global progress on international commitments on women's health, gender, sexuality, and rights, through research and data gathering to generate crucial evidence to further our advocacies. ARROW has previously monitored the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Declaration and its accompanying Millennium Development Goals, and, now, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. ARROW presents alternative frameworks to UN agencies, donors, and NGOs that use gender, rights-based, and Southern perspectives, and consider emerging threats and obstacles to women's health and rights.

Apart from ARROW's knowledge production for its various advocacies, ARROW embarked on the following knowledge work to generate evidence on SRHR progress.

**Integrating SRHR into the 2030 Agenda.** In 2015, ARROW embarked on the project "Integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All within the SDG Agenda," which brought together 12 partners from Asia and the Pacific and two Global South partners from Africa and Latin America. The partners developed country monitoring and advocacy plans for the integration of SRHR in national development plans. They also developed advocacy briefs on indicators, means of implementation, financing, and accountability.

Work by AIDS Accountability International, our partner in Africa, continues in order to integrate universal access to SRHR in the national development plans of six African countries—Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. They are also developing an African SRHR Scorecard, which will be used to increase accountability towards the implementation of SRHR-related targets at the national level across the African continent.

### **Comprehensive Sexuality Education for the Youth.**

Young people have sexual and reproductive rights, which includes to information and education about their sexuality and SRHR. However, the social taboo on sex and sexuality serves as a strong barrier to open discussions and effective implementation of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programmes.

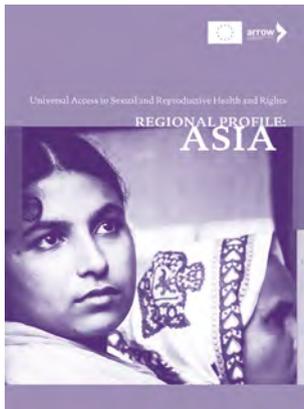
On 21-25 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ARROW organised a three-day workshop on "Monitoring and Advocacy on Comprehensive Sexuality Education" for 15 partners from 11 countries. The meeting aimed to develop a common understanding and definition on CSE, examine the progress that countries in the region have made since ICPD, identify the restrictions and gaps hindering governments from fully committing to CSE, and discuss how partners would want to take work on CSE forward.

A unique monitoring framework was developed that looked at the elements of CSE according to international standards from a rights-based and affirmative lens.<sup>2</sup> This was used to develop the monitoring-based advocacy briefs, which will be the basis of partners' advocacy at the national level. These briefs will be published in 2017. Furthermore, partners developed respective national advocacy plans that focus on advocacy actions around CSE/education curricula in the respective countries. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

**SRHR Database.** ARROW's SRHR Database of Indicators was updated in 2016 to provide the latest data on SRHR monitoring indicators across 50 countries from the Global South to measure the progress towards achieving SRHR. Core indicators monitored are on the areas of reproductive health, reproductive rights, sexual health, sexual rights, women's empowerment, and health financing.

**Webinar on SDGs Advocacy.** ARROW organised its first webinar entitled, “An Advocate’s Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicator Process,” just before the Third Inter-agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on SDGs. Over 80 people registered for the webinar, which provided an overview and highlights of the Global SDG indicators process, with analysis on goals 3 and 5. It also identified opportunities and avenues for civil society organisations and advocates to engage with this process on national, regional and global levels.

**Presenting Evidence on Progress to Achieving Universal Access to SRHR.** Based on 15 country profiles on SRHR developed by partners with ARROW, as well as regional data, ARROW published the *Asia Regional Profile on Universal Access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights* in 2016. This regional profile on the status of achieving universal access to SRHR in Asia and the Pacific serves as an advocacy tool to highlight the importance of SRHR, moving forward during the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2030.

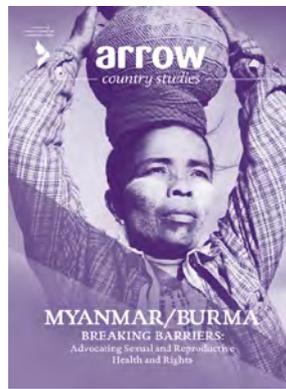


**f** 2,531 - Facebook reach  
**t** 624 - Twitter impressions  
**PDF** 183 - Downloads

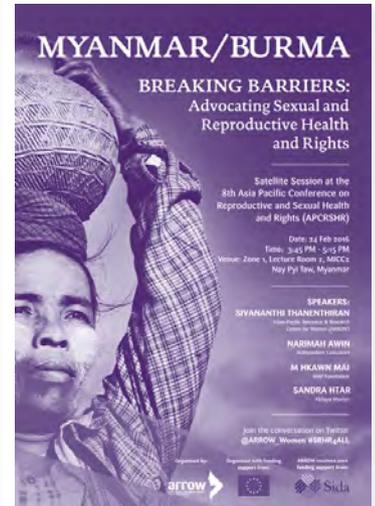
**Youth-friendly Health Services Assessment Tool.** ARROW is supporting Youth Voices Count to develop an assessment tool, “Jumping Hurdles: Advocacy for Youth-friendly/sensitive HIV Health Services.” The tool will facilitate a collaborative assessment of existing HIV health services in selected countries in terms of their LGBTIQ sensitivity/friendliness, particularly with regards to: availability of information; environment; counselling; and expectations and requirements

of LGBTIQ and young people. The tool is under development and is expected to be completed in 2017.

**Monitoring SRHR in Burma.** ARROW’s scoping study in central Burma and in Eastern states along the Thai-Burma border in 2014 offers an overview and analysis of the status of SRHR in the country vis-à-vis government policies and services that were implemented from 2011 to 2015, and identifies key gaps, challenges, and opportunities for SRHR advocacy. *Breaking Barriers: Advocating Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights* was launched at the 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health and Rights in Myanmar.



**f** 1,867 - Facebook reach  
**t** 2,259 - Twitter impressions  
**PDF** 671 - Downloads



*Launch of the Breaking Barriers: Advocating Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at the APCRSRH.*





*Vietnamese woman with child using her mobile phone. Photo credit: Thien Vu Pham.*

## Innovating Information and Communication

As we enter a new phase in sustainable development for women's and young people's rights, ARROW is amplifying our SRHR engagements by fully implementing our information and communications strategy and boosting our knowledge management capacity. In 2016, ARROW implemented a revamped knowledge management strategy to ensure that organisational information and knowledge assets are centralised and easily accessible for timely and strategic decision-making, while ensuring a more plausible and effective sharing of resources to external stakeholders. We also continued to develop knowledge products that advance the SRHR agenda from Global South feminist and rights-based perspectives.

### REVITALISED KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

ARROW's refreshed knowledge management strategy makes use of an integrated approach in capturing, distributing, and effectively utilising its organisational information and knowledge assets.

**Systematised Knowledge Management.** ARROW's Management Information System was introduced to all staff in September, along with a comprehensive user manual and an orientation. The system offers centralised data storage and facilitates ease of access of information for timely strategic decision-making.

**Digitised ASK-us.** The development of the digital ARROW's SRHR Knowledge Sharing Centre (ASK-us) continues. The digital ASK-us, expected to be launched in 2017, will provide

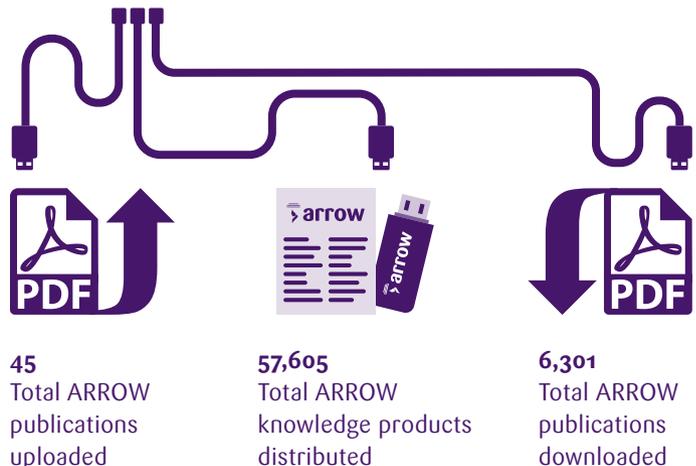
free, online information on women's health and SRHR. To date, the ASK-us collection consists of 28,175 publications. The resource centre is open to the public, Mondays through Fridays, at the ARROW office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Knowledge Partnerships.** ARROW embarked in 2016 on two major knowledge sharing partnerships on comprehensive sexuality education and on ensuring sustainability of our SRHR for All initiative.

### BETTER KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND SHARING

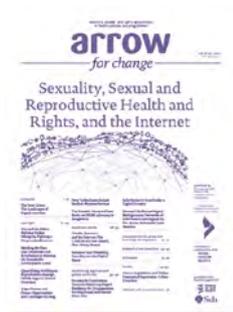
Developing knowledge products serves as a central means for ARROW to build perspectives, stimulate discourse, and thus advance the SRHR agenda from Global South and women's rights perspectives. In 2016, ARROW developed more knowledge products for both print and online platforms and implemented new and innovative ways of online marketing and dissemination. ARROW's knowledge products are available in limited print editions or can be downloaded for free at the ARROW website. Some have also been included in various online databases, libraries, and websites, while others have been referenced in other publications or used as readings in academic courses.

### BY THE NUMBERS



**ARROW for Change on “Sexuality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and the Internet”** (Vol. 22 No. 1).

Presents critical perspectives and voices at the intersection of technology, privacy, and SRHR. *ARROW for Change* is ARROW’s peer-reviewed serial publication that explores current and emerging issues related to SRHR, as well as its inter-linkages with other development issues.



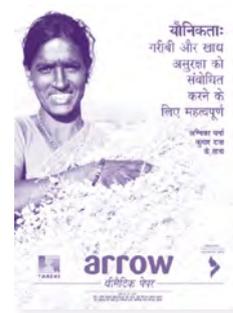
-  1,670 - Facebook reach
-  2,865 - Twitter impressions<sup>3</sup>
-  569 - Downloads
-  5,543 - Print subscribers
-  115 - Countries reached

**Sexualidad, Salud y Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos e Internet.** Spanish edition of the *ARROW for Change* on “Sexuality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and the Internet” produced in collaboration with APC.



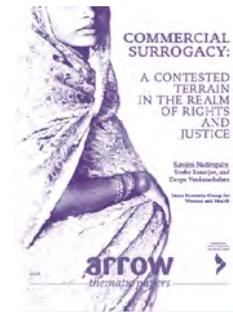
-  879 - Facebook reach
-  2,891 - Twitter impressions
-  400 - Print copies distributed
-  25,734 - Electronic copies distributed

**Sexuality: Critical to Addressing Poverty and Food Insecurity (Hindi).** Hindi translation of thematic paper stressing the importance of sexuality in eliminating poverty and ending hunger produced in collaboration with TARSHI. This publication is particularly useful for linking our advocacies with SDGs 1 and 2.



-  2,937 - Facebook reach
-  2,264 - Twitter impressions
-  74 - Downloads

**Commercial Surrogacy: A Contested Terrain in the Realm of Rights and Justice.** A thematic paper by ARROW and SAMA: Resource Group for Women and Health; examines the surrogacy industry in India amidst globalisation, technology, labour, and gender.



-  2,937 - Facebook reach
-  2,264 - Twitter impressions
-  74 - Downloads

**SRHR Info Resources.** ARROW’s e-newsletter service, offers target stakeholders with the latest SRHR-related news and resources, calls for action and papers, upcoming events, job openings, and updates from ARROW’s partnerships.



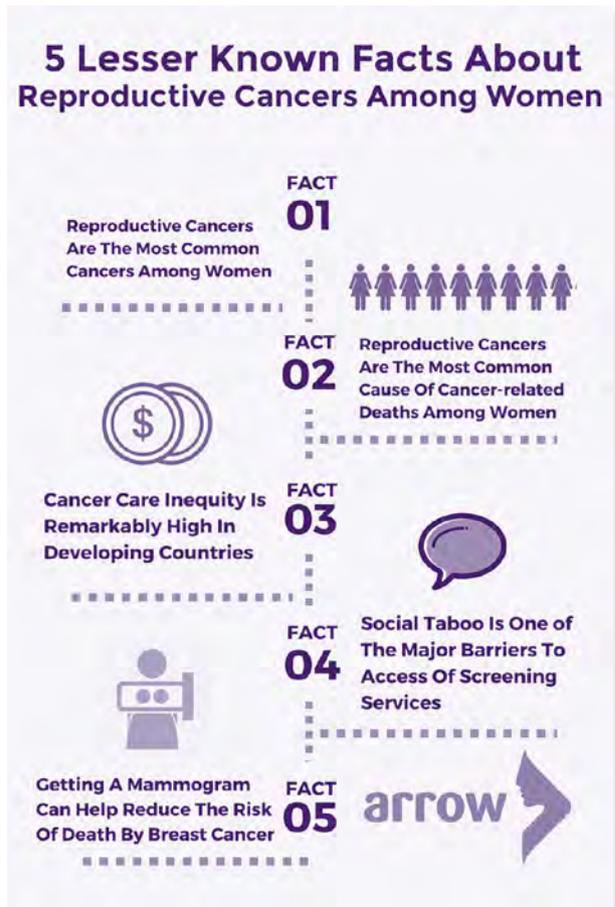
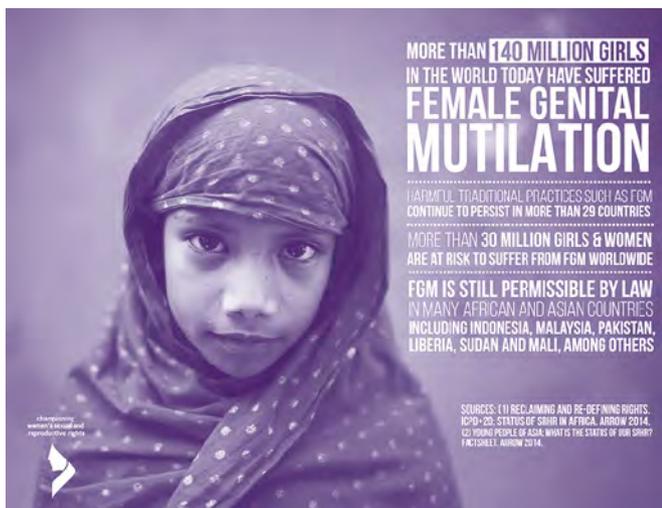
- 29 - Issues
- 3,324 - Subscribers in 2016

**ARROW Annual Report.** Now available in an interactive online format at the ARROW website, documents the organisation’s advocacies and activities in the past year and how these contributed toward achieving SRHR in the region.



-  2,888 - Facebook reach
-  646 - Twitter impressions
-  261 - Downloads

**Infographics.** An infographic on female genital mutilation and another on reproductive cancers were developed as part of ARROW’s efforts in stimulating existing knowledge, sharing the content in a “simpler” form to cater to a more diverse audience.



**ARROW Women Blogs.** ARROW writes blog posts to share staff perspectives on current events that impact on or is relevant to SRHR, meetings or platforms we engage in, or to better explain our thematic areas of work to a wider audience. In 2016, some of these blog posts were:

- Why Rights Indicators are Essential to Achieving Universal Access to SRHR by Sivananthi Thanenthiran
- Demographic Dividend or Potential for Demographic Dividend? by Sai Jyothir Mai Racherla
- Wake Up and Smell the TPPA by Dhivya Kanagasingam
- Working Towards Convergences of Struggles: ARROW at the Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition by Maria Melinda Ando

- ECOSOC Ffd Forum: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back? by Biplabi Shrestha
- Rights-based Quality Healthcare for Women and Girls by Pooja Badarinath
- Intersections Between SRHR and Disability Rights by Arpita Das
- Paris Agreement: Actions Will Speak Louder Than Words by Nalini Singh
- Leaving No One Behind: Advancing the Role of Women and Girls in Science, Technology and Innovation by Sachini Perera
- Representation, Not for the Sake of Representation by Nisha Shantar
- Contradictory or Complementary? Religion and Universal Access to SRHR in the Global South by Azra Abdul Cader
- The SDGs, the 'Big Data' Promise and What Lies Ahead by Mangala Namasivayam

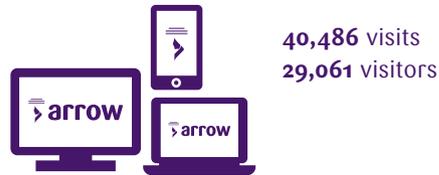
**Accessibility.** ARROW is committed to make our publications as widely accessible to all, including people with print and visual disabilities. As a first step, we consulted several disability rights activists and institutions, and developed accessible formats of the latest *ARROW for Change* bulletin issue. These accessible formats have been made available to ARROW subscribers through the SRHR Info Resources e-newsletter. Converting to accessible formats also makes our publications multi-device friendly to keep up with advances in technology and changes in reading habits and patterns.



## INTENSIFIED ONLINE ENGAGEMENTS

New media, online communications, and related technologies continue to be great information and communication tools. ARROW's online presence has become and continues to be one of its greatest strengths over the years and has allowed for a high level of engagement between activists and the general public.

**ARROW Website.** ARROW's website serves as a dynamic SRHR information hub that makes cutting-edge information and analysis on critical women's issues available and accessible.



**Social Media Presence.** As of 2016, ARROW is present on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, SlideShare, Periscope, and Storify, the last being a prominent tool that was extensively used this year. ARROW's social media presence continues to see growth in 2016.



**ARROW Publications Collection in USB.** Containing 267 ARROW publications from 1994-2016, the USB is a popular knowledge product distributed via the exhibition booths and meetings.

**Real-time Coverage.** ARROW intensified its real-time coverage of important events through live tweeting, and/or livestreaming whenever and wherever possible to reach a wider audience base, particularly to include those who are unable to participate in regional and international events. We have also begun using online platforms to launch our publications via webinars and tweetathons, initiating and provoking conversations around topics covered by the publications. Social media content is then curated and put together as stories via Storify.

• **Coverage of Feminist Strategising Meeting (27-29 July) via Periscope**

- 719,486 Total audience reached
- 246 Contributors
- 1,295 Tweets with #Feminist2030
- 2,425,432 Twitter impressions

• **Coverage of the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP, 25-28 January)**

- 422 Storify viewers

• **Launch of ARROW for Change on “Sexuality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and the Internet.”**

- Live webinar at Google Hangouts on 23 August
- 100 viewers
- Youtube video: 322 views and 169 playbacks
- Webinar in Portuguese and Spanish (by ARROW partners Coding Rights and Tactical Tech): 256 views

- **Launch of the Hindi Translation of *Sexuality: Critical to Addressing Poverty and Food Insecurity*.** English and Hindi bilingual tweethathon on 26 October
  - 21,749 impressions
  - 255 engagements
  - 75 retweets
  - 72 Storify viewers



One of the opening tweets during the launch of the Hindi thematic brief.



The webinar launch of the ARROW for Change on Sexuality, SRHR and the Internet.”

**Top 5 Knowledge Products Distributed in 2016**

1. ARROW for Change on Sexuality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and the Internet
2. USB of ARROW Publications 1994-2016
3. ARROW for Change on Gender, SRHR & the Post 2015 Agenda
4. ARROW for Change on Linking Poverty, Food Sovereignty and Security, and SRHR
5. Taking a Broader View: Addressing Maternal Health in the Context of Food and Nutrition Security and Poverty (Thematic Paper)

## FEEDBACK FROM OUR READERS AND VIEWERS

Thank you for your support and positive response. I am confident the resource centre will contribute to the capacity of the stakeholders to learn best practices and replicate it for improvement of women's health in Afghan society.

*Mr. Naimatullah Akbari  
Afghanistan Social  
Development and Health  
Organisation  
(ASDHO), on ASK-us*

An amazing new resource on #sexuality #SRHR and the #internet from @ARROW\_Women and @Info\_Activism!

*Youth Coalition (@youth\_coalition)  
on the ARROW for Change "Sexuality,  
Sexual and Reproductive Health  
and Rights, and the Internet"*

The most significant outcome for this publication is the clarity on intersectionalities between the topics, which are usually treated separately. We believe this paper has provided us with content and the language on these interconnected issues in Hindi, which we can use in our capacity strengthening and information dissemination programmes.

*Prabha Nagaraja, TARSHI, translation  
partner for the Hindi translation of  
"Sexuality: Critical to Addressing  
Poverty and Food Insecurity"*

Just wanted to say thanks for doing this important work! This was an amazingly useful exchange for me, and I'm glad to have been able to listen in. I will def. go back and re-watch, reflect, and share out in my PLN. Please let me know when the next one will happen! Will def. join in again if possible.

*Ict Asso, Youtube comment  
on the AFC Internet launch  
webinar streamed live on  
23 August*

I shared the newsletter with the Network of Women Journalists with a Gender Perspective from Argentina, and I received expressions of gratitude and lots of interest coming from the colleagues from the point of view of the content and the quality of the articles featured. I congratulate ARROW for this effort and for bringing this valuable information into our language!

*Dafne Sabanes Plou, Spanish GenderIT.org editor,  
on the Spanish translation Sexualidad, Salud y  
Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos e Internet*

Thank you for enabling this!  
You are a communications  
powerhouse!

*Post-2015 Coalition (@Post2015Women) on the  
live coverage of the Feminist Strategising Meeting*





*A group of women in Bhaktapur, Nepal. Photo credit: Watch\_The\_World/Shutterstock.com.*

## Improving Organisational Performance

---



During the ARROW Board Meeting in November 2016.

As a women's rights organisation, ARROW follows management practices that reflect feminist principles and contributes toward strengthening the women's health and rights movement in the Asia and Pacific region and globally. ARROW aims to achieve administrative and financial efficiency and apply good management policies and internal organisational processes to effectively manage resources entrusted to it toward delivering on the organisation's Strategic Plan 2012-2016.

### EFFECTIVE PROGRAMME MONITORING AND EVALUATION

---

ARROW conducts monitoring and evaluation of its programmes for better results by measuring programme outputs, outcomes, and impact. ARROW has also invested in a Management Information System to ensure that planning,

monitoring, and evaluations of learnings happen across the organisation and across time.

**External Evaluations of ARROW Programmes.** Two of ARROW's programmes underwent external programme evaluations: Information and Communications and Monitoring and Research for Evidence-based Advocacy, and the results were incorporated into the new Strategic Plan 2017-2021. The evaluations identified achievements and major issues on programme and implementation challenges, and provided recommendations.

**Planning Meetings and Internal Reviews.** ARROW's planning meetings are occasions for taking stock of our accomplishments, while also forging new directions for future work. Majority of outputs and activities had been delivered, while others were carried forward to the 2017 workplan. At the Board-Staff Retreat on 26-27 November in Jaipur, India, ARROW assessed the 2016 achievements and discussed the 2017 workplan. These internal reviews keep ARROW's work in line with its vision, mission, and goals.

**Reporting to Donors.** In 2016, ARROW had two annual meetings with donors and funders, one in Oslo with Norad and the other in Stockholm with Sida. These meetings are part of ARROW's accountability processes, and ARROW shared updates and discussion around the project progress, deviations, risk management, and results of the implementation plan.

### BETTER ADMINISTRATIVE AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SYSTEMS

---

ARROW places high priority on continuously investing in human resources management and systems to ensure the organisation runs efficiently, while assuring staff development and satisfaction.

**New Performance Evaluation System.** ARROW introduced a new performance and evaluation system for staff, where each staff will be evaluated by other staff across the organisation, and not just by their own managers. The tool was collectively

developed by the ARROW Board of Directors, and the Executive Director's evaluation in January 2016 served as pilot. The new system will be implemented across the board in 2017.

**Compensation and Benefits Review.** ARROW collaborated with the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) in conducting a joint salary and compensation review to ensure that the organisations remain competitive and continue to attract people with high technical and programmatic skills.

**Staff Job Description Standardisation.** A review and standardisation of the job descriptions were done to better define staff's roles and responsibilities and meet the priorities and requirements of the organisation, keeping the new strategic plan in mind.

**Updating of Policies and Procedures.** ARROW periodically updates the Management and Administrative Policies and Procedures (MAPP) to ensure the work processes of ARROW are current. The MAPP guides staff on the organisation management and operations.

**Staff Capacity Building.** ARROW supports staff development through seminars, trainings, workshop, and in-house discussions. Among the learning events attended by staff in 2016 are TARSHI's Basics and Beyond Online Course on Sexuality and SRHR, Hubspot's Marketing Data Analysis and Reporting Master Class webinar, UN-DESA's webinar for major groups and other stakeholders on Communicating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the training on "Explosive Storytelling Skills for the New Economy." We also had four morning coffee chats on various current issues, such as caste (in relation to the case of student-activist Rohith Verma, which was controversial at the time), financing for health and universal health coverage, the impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement in the region, and women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. At ARROW's Annual Retreat, we invited queer feminist and writer Shals Mahajan to facilitate a writing workshop, and therapist Pavithra Chari to conduct a session on expressive art.



At the ARROW Board-Staff Retreat, Jaipur, India.

## STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE AND PROGRAMMATIC GUIDANCE

---

ARROW is governed by its Board of Directors, committed activists and feminists, and experienced women leaders with expertise in leading organisations. In 2016, putting in practice its commitment to youth leadership, ARROW added a youth board member. Meanwhile, the nine-member Programme Advisory Committee, a committed set of activists knowledgeable about SRHR issues in the region, provides programmatic advice and sets direction for action. In 2016, both bodies were critically involved in the development of the new organisational five-year strategic plan.

## INCREASED FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

---

ARROW is fully committed to enhancing its financial system and further strengthening its internal controls to institutionalise principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity. In 2016, ARROW had another financially viable, sustainable year.

**Leveraging on Euro and USD Funds.** Whilst Malaysia continues its battle over the beaten-down Malaysian ringgit, the Euro and US dollar strengthened against most global currencies. As ARROW's main funds is received in these currencies, one of the financial management measures taken by ARROW was to maintain the amounts of the grants in its original currency and converting them only when making payments or at opportune times if it involves reimbursement to the Malaysian Ringgit account to avoid currency exchange losses. As a result, we experienced some exchange gains compared to the original grants proposed. This favourable condition enabled us to contribute positively back to the respective projects. On the other hand, the weaker ringgit has adversely impacted the costs of living within the country. As a result, we experienced a rise in costs particularly in organising meetings domestically. However, the financial management policy of ARROW operates in a manner

where spending is only approved within its budgets/limits, otherwise reasonable justifications were required.

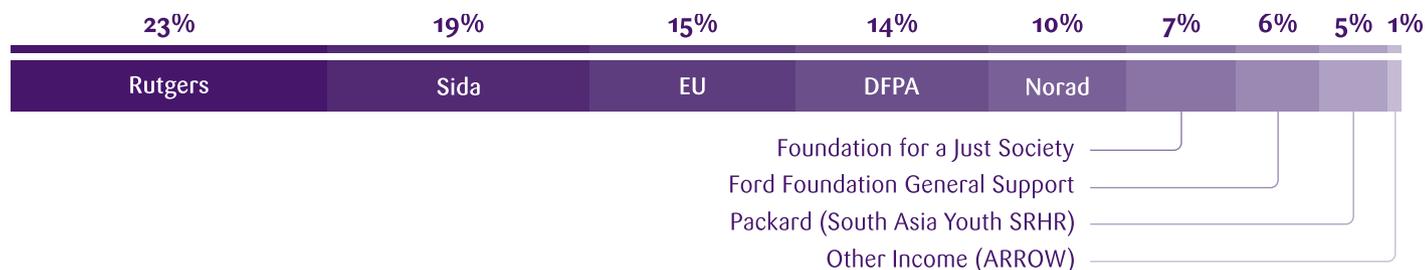
**Optimised Funding Allocation for Programmes.** In 2016, ARROW received grants from various donors amounting to USD2,159,510. The total operational fund is made up of USD1,739,153 received during the year and USD420,357, which was brought forward from 2015. This year's operational fund was about 20% lower than 2015 (USD2,700,379), mainly due to the appreciation of the USD against MYR in 2016.<sup>4</sup> ARROW receives core funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Ford Foundation, and Foundation for a Just Society (FJS), and project funding from other donors (see bar graph).

Two grants were sources of new funds. Rutgers awarded a grant of EUR505,859 for use over the period 1 January to 31 December 2016 to support the agenda on protecting, respecting, and fulfilling young people's SRHR. The Foundation for a Just Society also awarded a grant of USD150,000 for 1 January to 31 December 2016 on promoting and defending women's right and needs in the areas of health and sexuality, and to reaffirm women's agency to claim their right.

In 2016, ARROW's total operational cost amounted to USD2,147,854, compared to USD2,689,337 in 2015. This amount was allocated to the four work programme objectives of ARROW's Strategic Plan and institutional overhead cost.

**Financial Audits.** ARROW underwent four audits in the beginning of the first half of the year. Three were project audits (DFPA, EU, and Norad) and the last was the statutory required organisational audit. Audit reports by ARROW's external auditors were positive, with no significant deficiencies found.

### FUNDING SOURCES



### OPERATIONAL COSTS



### ARROW'S OPERATIONAL COSTS ALLOCATED TO DIFFERENT PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES 2016

PARTICULARS	ACTUAL COST (USD)	% TOTAL COST	ALLOCATION	
			ARROW	PARTNERS
<b>PROGRAMMATIC COSTS</b>				
Objective 1: Information & Communications	554,008.02	26%	488,241.56	65,766.46
Objective 2: Evidence-based Research	839,690.89	39%	578,971.09	260,719.80
Objective 3: Strengthening Partnerships	336,491.51	16%	145,628.47	190,863.04
Objective 4: Organisational Development	193,823.96	9%	193,823.96	—
Institutional, Governance, and Overhead	223,839.56	10%	223,839.56	—
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL COST</b>	<b>2,147,853.90</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,630,504.64</b>	<b>517,349.29</b>
<b>@RM4.00 : USD1.00</b>			<b>76%</b>	<b>24%**</b>

\*\* About 24% of the total annual operational costs went to partners.

Source: ARROW Audit 2016





*ARROW staff, partners, and allies at the Strategic Planning Meeting, 11-13 January 2016, Penang, Malaysia.  
Photo source: ARROW Photobank.*

# Moving Forward: ARROW's Strategic Plan 2017-2021

The next five years will be a critical period in the development world, as it will mark the initial years of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and setting new standards for gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The period also allows for adjustments and modifications within targets and indicators if strategic advocacy is carried out. It is critical for ARROW, its allies, and partners to decide what issues will be pushed within the sustainable development framework, and to strategise how the agenda will be pushed outside it as well.

The new Strategic Plan 2017-2021 provides ARROW and her partners a clear path for the next five years toward achieving our vision of an equal, just, and equitable world, where every woman enjoys her full sexual and reproductive health and right. A product of an intensive, year-round planning process, the plan outlines five programmes and three critical areas of work that would guide ARROW in the next five years.

## ARROW'S NEW CRITICAL AREAS OF WORK

- Universality of sexual and reproductive rights
- Advancing universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services
- Emerging issues impacting gender and sexual and reproductive rights

## ARROW'S NEW PROGRAMMES

- **Monitoring and Evidence-Generation for Change:** ARROW will continue to focus on developing evidence-based monitoring systems that chart progress on the universal access to SRHR and work on integrating this approach through existing human rights frameworks.
- **Mobilising Communities for SRR Accountability.** ARROW will focus on strengthening the capacities of women and young people in their communities to empower them to advocate and seek accountability from governments and other stakeholders at the local and national levels.
- **Building New Constituencies for SRHR.** ARROW will build new constituencies and alliances by strengthening the understanding of linkages among issues that pose challenges to SRHR, such as climate change, conflict and crisis situations, disability, migration, food insecurity, religious barriers, and others.
- **Information and Communications for Change.** ARROW will implement a strategic information and communications strategy to strengthen advocacy with its multi-level stakeholders, building new and critical perspectives, and grounding ARROW as a leading Global South feminist organisation.
- **Advocacy.** ARROW will promote a non-fragmented and evidence-based approach to SRHR to directly and indirectly influence decision makers, stakeholders, and relevant audiences to support and implement actions that contribute to the fulfilment of women's and young people's health and rights.

## The ARROW Community

---

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Bishakha Datta, Executive Director, Point of View, India
- Naeemah Khan, Feminist and Gender and Humanitarian Analyst, UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office, Fiji
- Pramada Menon, Consultant, India
- Rachel Arinii Judhistari, Programme Director, Ruang Guru, Indonesia
- Rashidah Shuib, Academic-activist and Professor, School of Health Sciences (PPSK), Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia
- Rozana Mohd Isa, Executive Director, Sisters in Islam, Malaysia
- Tu Anh Hoang, Director-Founder, Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCHIP), Vietnam

### PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Babu Ram Pant, Consultant, Nepal
- Marwa Sharafeldin, Board Member, Musawah Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family, Egypt
- Maya Indira Ganesh, Director of Applied Research, Tactical Technology Collective, Germany
- Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Director of Women and Children Crisis Centre (WCCC), Tonga
- Otgonbaatar Tsedendemberel, Board Member, Monfemnet, Mongolia
- Renu Khanna, Founder/Trustee, SAHAJ, India

- Sundari Ravindran, Professor, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, India
- Titi Soentoro, Policy Advisor of Aksi! for Gender, Social, and Ecological Justice, Indonesia
- Zhang Kaining, Secretary General, Institute for Health Sciences (HIS), Kunming Medical College, China (until May)

### FULL-TIME STAFF

- Arpita Das, Senior Programme Officer, Monitoring, Research, and Advocacy (until June)
- Azmilia Mohd Kamil, Administration and Finance Officer (joined March)
- Azra Abdul Cader, Senior Programme Officer, Inter Faith Advocacy for SRHR (remote-based, Sri Lanka)
- Biplabi Shrestha, Senior Programme Officer Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP)-South Asia
- Dhivya Kanagasingam, Programme Officer, Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership
- Erika Mandreza Sales, Programme Officer, Climate Change (until February)
- Goh Guan Yen, Senior Administration and Finance Officer (until February)
- Lee Mei Poh, Administration and Finance Manager
- Leong Hoi Lee, Finance Officer (April-July)
- Lim Hwei Mian, Senior Programme Officer, Climate Change & Religious Fundamentalism (joined March)
- Mangala Namasivayam, Senior Programme Officer
- Maria Melinda Flores Ando, Senior Programme Officer, Publications, Communications, and Advocacy (remote-based, Bangkok)
- Nalini Singh, Programme Manager, Capacity Building, and Advocacy (until December)
- Nishalini Santharasagaran, Programme Officer, Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (joined July)
- Nor Azurah Zakaria, Administration Officer
- Norlela Shahrani, Senior Executive, Administration & Human Resource Officer (joined November)
- Paremela Naidu, Administration Officer
- Pooja Badarinath, Senior Programme Officer (joined March)
- Rosnani Hitam, Executive Officer
- Sachini Perera, Programme Officer, Website and Social Media
- Sai Jyothirmai Racherla, Programme Manager, Monitoring, Research and Advocacy

- Samreen Shahbaz, Programme Officer, Knowledge Management and Research Support
- Siva Rajeswary Manakaran, Finance Officer (until April)
- Sivananthi KV Thanenthiran, Executive Director
- Tabinda Sarosh, Programme Manager, Information and Communications (until May)
- Teong Seow Kin, Senior Programme Officer, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (joined June)
- Uma Thiruvengadam, Assistant Programme Officer, ASK-us and Marketing

#### **TEMPORARY STAFF AND INTERN**

- Azlini Abdul Ghani, temporary staff (15 December 2016-16 January 2017)
- Bridget Woods, Intern (25 August 2015-18 March 2016)
- Sharil Abdullah, part-time finance staff (28 September 2016-31 January 2017)
- Thipa Letchumy Rajasa Kanan, short-term staff resource documentation (5 September 2016-28 February 2017)

#### **CONTRACTUAL**

- Mallika Karuppaiah, Housekeeping

#### **DONORS**

- Danish International Development Agency (Danida) through the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA)
- David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Deutsche Gessellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- European Union (EU)
- Ford Foundation
- Foundation for a Just Society (FJS)
- Family Planning 2020 (FP2020)
- MacArthur Foundation
- Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (Norad)
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- Rutgers

[The list of our partners and networks are on pages 8-9.]

#### **VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS**

- Al-Zam Sdn. Bhd., Company Secretary
- Anand Ponnudurai, Bodipalar Ponnudurai Nathan, Legal advice services
- ASCIITech Sales and Service, IT technical support
- Brothers Base Centre, Toner supplier
- ComNet Telecom (M) Sdn. Bhd., Telephone services
- Continuum Content Solutions, Accessibility vendor
- Coway (M) Sdn. Bhd., Drinking water
- CYF Contracts & Marketing, Printing services
- Diners World Travel (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., Travel services
- DHL, Mailing services
- ERA Agencies, Insurance services
- Fazli Fadzil, Office maintenance contractor
- Good Point Enterprise, Air conditioner contractor
- Grand Lotus Travel Agencies, Travel services
- Heritage Marketing Services, Photocopy services
- Heway, Mailing services
- Jason Tan Z Kiat, IT technical support
- Job Street, Recruitment agency
- K.A Fazal Enterprises Sdn. Bhd., Stationery supplier
- LINs Advertising & Marketing Sdn. Bhd., Recruitment agency
- Maybank KL Sentral, Banking services
- Micom Sdn. Bhd., Printing services
- M.M. Ally's Sdn. Bhd., Money Changer
- Nand Digital Corporation Sdn. Bhd., DVD design and animation
- Nation Board Sdn. Bhd., Web hosting services
- Nicolette Mallari, Promotional materials development and publications design
- Oddly, Web development and design
- Poslaju, Mailing services
- Patricia Kong, Insurance services
- RapidKill, Pest control services
- S. Syed Ibrahim, Newspaper delivery services
- SJ Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants/External Auditors
- Sterling Pure Sdn. Bhd., Drinking water
- Sync Consulting Sdn. Bhd., Accounting software company
- Tun Muhammad Ali Jinnah Basir, Promotional materials development and publications design
- Wong Kum Fatt, Ng Ah Meng Sdn. Bhd., Landlord

## Notes

---

- 1 The host organisations of country platforms are: Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Bangladesh; Channan Development Association (CDA), Pakistan; Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia (PKBI); and YUWA, Nepal.
- 2 ARROW's position paper on CSE was used to develop the monitoring framework. See: Arushi Singh, *The Essence of an Innovative Programme for Young People in South East Asia: A Position Paper on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (Including Youth Friendly Services), Meaningful Youth Participation and Rights-Based Approaches in Programming* (Kuala Lumpur: ARROW, 2012), [http://arrow.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Programme-for-Young-People\\_Position-Paper\\_2012.pdf](http://arrow.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Programme-for-Young-People_Position-Paper_2012.pdf).
- 3 Impressions refer to the number of times a post, tweet, or any digital content is served up to the audience, while engagement refers to comments, likes, shares, clicks, retweets, or any other measurable interaction with digital content. The former is aligned more with brand visibility and awareness, whereas the latter is aligned more with relationship building and dialogue. See: Marci Allen, "Impressions vs. Engagement: Which Is More Important?," February 25, 2015, <https://thecore.dma-solutions.com/impressions-vs.-engagement-which-is-more-important>.
- 4 The exchange rates used in this report are as follows: Year 2015 – USD1 = MYR3.26; and Year 2016 – USD1 = MYR4.00.



*A Filipina and child in Boracay, the Philippines. Photo credit: Natalia Milko/Shutterstock.com.*



## championing women's sexual and reproductive rights

---

### Asia-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

1 & 2 Jalan Scott  
Brickfields 50470  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Telephone** 00 603 2273 9913 to 15  
**Fax** 00 603 2273 9916  
**E-mail** [arrow@arrow.org.my](mailto:arrow@arrow.org.my)  
**Web** [www.arrow.org.my](http://www.arrow.org.my)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/ARROW.Women>  
**Twitter** @ARROW\_Women  
**Youtube** ARROWomen  
**Pinterest** arrowomen

