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The 2022 ARROW Annual Report is also available in web and PDF formats. Interested in a resource or an activity reported here? Visit the ARROW website to access interactive links for further reading.

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## **arrow** *annual report*2022

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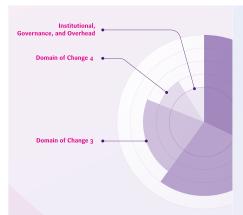
Domain 4 **Forging New Alliances** 

#### Governance and Financial

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#### Acronyms



#### Operational Co

Operation	
PROGRAMME COSTS	ACTUAL COST (IN USD)
Domain of Change 1: Evidence-based Actions for Progressive SRHR	527,913.10
Domain of Change 2: Civic Space and Advocacy	587,191.15
Domain of Change 3: Community Mobilisation	389,518.57
Domain of Change 4:	188,130.76

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## Reflections from the **Executive Director**



#### As we look forward to 2023, 2022 was a year of connections, celebrations, and collaborations!

2022 was an eventful year for ARROW and her partners. After strict lockdown measures were implemented by governments across the region in 2020 and 2021, in 2022 we were once again able to travel and connect with each other in meaningful ways through capacity strengthening and joint advocacy activities with our partners. It was a joy to be able to work at national and community levels again alongside some of our most dedicated partners on the ground.

2022 was also the year that Roe v. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court of the United States. Abortion featured prominently in the agendas of organisations and activists from the Global South—especially the Asia-Pacific. The SAIGE (Safe Abortion Initiative - A Global South Engagement) alliance—co-founded in 2018 by ARROW and its partners— Beyond Beijing Committee (Nepal), Naripokkho (Bangladesh), CommonHealth (India), Women's Global Network on Reproductive Rights (the Philippines), the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC)—has been working actively in the last two years initiating Global South linking and learning across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Learning how activists are navigating, working and advocating in vastly different contexts, and simultaneously ensuring critical services reach the women and girls who need them, is truly a revolution in the making. Younger feminists are using medical abortion as a means of taking back power from the state and into their own hands in being able to determine when to have a child. After organising virtually in the last couple of years, key members of the alliance were able to meet face-to-face in Pattaya, alongside the International Conference on Family Planning at the end of the year to further strategise to take the movement forward. It was fantastic to be in the same room as these 50 committed advocates from 15 different countries, and also be reinvigorated by positive developments on abortion access across the Global South. Law reform in Argentina, Benin, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Sierra Leone,

South Korea, and a recent inclusive judgment by the Supreme Court of India augur well for Global South leadership on the abortion agenda.

At the beginning of the pandemic, and through the pandemic, ARROW worked with cohorts of young people from youth-led, women's rights and service provider organisations to utilise design thinking, social entrepreneurs' mindset, self-efficacy, basic programme management and networking skill sets to innovate and explore social entrepreneurship as a means of sustainability for themselves, their organisations and the agenda. We began with more than 153 young people starting off with capacity strengthening, and from there 40 initiatives were chosen for piloting and seed-granting with many of the participants organically collaborating. 55 young persons were chosen as ARROW Changemakers for initiatives to scale. In Sept 2022, these 55 Changemakers were joined by 14 WORTH (Women and Earth Initiative) grantees to share their innovations across multifarious SRHR topics: abortion, CSE, safe spaces, climate change, menstrual hygiene; and communities: disabled, Dalit, indigenous girls, trans-women. It was truly a flowering of ideas and innovations to bring the SRHR agenda closer in more meaningful ways to the communities we aim to serve.

ARROW in the last three years has been working closely on the issue of women and girls with disabilities on the ground. The work carried out included capacity strengthening of women and girls with disabilities in Bangladesh, and brought many tremendous and positive changes on the ground. A key advocate shared how in the community, a woman with a disability would be identified and referred to by her disability —they would call her wheelchair—but now they refer to her by her name. ARROW has been able to enable our partners on the ground to access advocacy opportunities, and we were all able to better advocate on the SRHR issues of women and girls with disabilities. This year's ARROW For Change captures their work, and provides a platform for their voices and perspectives.

Asia also experienced devastating floods in both Pakistan and Bangladesh in 2022, and the call at COP27 at Sharm-el-Shaikh was loud and clear on loss and damages and the set-up of the Loss and Damages fund was welcomed. Pakistan experienced US\$30 billion in damages from severe flooding, though the country is responsible for less than

one percent of global emissions. Ensuring climate-vulnerable communities and countries are able to be compensated somewhat for the climate crisis they experience is one key win between the Global North and the Global South. ARROW also provided crisis support and solidarity funds for SRHR to 17 partners and their community affiliates in Bangladesh and to 12 partners and their community affiliates in Pakistan affected by the devastating floods that hit these countries.

In 2023, we have our work cut out for us as we press forward in the region towards greater commitment to SRHR. ARROW and partners will be intensifying efforts to monitor ICPD+30 which takes place in 2024, as well as the regionalisation of the Generation Equality Forum—where bringing governments in the region to the table to accelerate progress for women and girls will be front and centre of the work of advocates in the region.

Our partners across Asia have also been closely involved in having conversations across academia and activists on reproductive justice in the region and what that means for us as a movement advocating for bodily autonomy and SRHR in a time of exacerbated inequalities and in a region where there has been little respect and adherence to women's sexual and reproductive rights overall. Working with feminist organisations who are using both intersectional approaches and the intersectionality framework means having to expand beyond our comfort zone and move to where the true challenges lie within the movement. Reproductive justice enables us to address intersectionality within SRHR in what work we do, and with whom; and to consider decolonisation of SRHR and global health as a critical aspect in how we do the work.

2023 is also a special year as it marks ARROW's 30th anniversary—and we will be spending time gathering our friends, allies, and partners to join us celebrating this momentous occasion.

Sivananthi Thanenthiran
Executive Director, ARROW



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

#### *Strategic Plan* **2022-2026**

In 2022, our work was guided by our strategic plan for 2022-2026.

#### Our Vision

An equal, just and equitable world, where every woman, non-binary person and young person, in all our diversities, enjoy our full sexual and reproductive rights.

#### **Our Mission**

To promote and defend women's, non-binary people's and young people's rights and needs, particularly in the areas of sexuality and health, and affirm their agency to claim these rights.

*Our* **Work** makes a contribution to achieving the following objectives, in the long term:

- Systems, policies and programmes are reoriented to:

   (a) Upholding gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights; and (b) Ensuring that health systems deliver comprehensive, gender-sensitive, rights-based and youth-friendly services for sexual and reproductive health that are accessible, just, equitable and of the highest quality.
- Women's, young people's and civil society organisations are strong and effective in: (a) Conceptualising and clarifying perspectives on sexual and reproductive rights and larger development issues that impact women and marginalised communities; (b) Influencing policy agenda that affirms women's and young people's sexuality and rights; (c) Holding governments and donors accountable to international and national commitments and obligations; and (d) Gaining sustained participation and representation in decision-making spaces.
- Women and young people's lives and health outcomes improve, particularly in the area of SRHR, especially for the poor and marginalised.

#### How We Work

We believe that together, we must take concerted, collective, and progressive steps to achieve our vision. In line with our new strategic plan, we approach our work through:

#### Who We Work With and What We Work On

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

ARROW's direct target groups are non-governmental organisations, governments and their institutions, regional and international agencies and human rights institutions. These direct beneficiary CSOs are chosen on the basis of their commitment to the common agendas of feminism, gender equality, youth rights, human rights, and sexual and reproductive rights.

The organisation aims to influence their approach within their respective areas of work, with the goal of achieving a more rights-based and gender-sensitive implementation of policies and programmes related to health, sexuality and rights. ARROW provides partners with the physical and political safe space to exchange knowledge and develop strategies.

WITH LIKE-MINDED STAKEHOLDERS AND SRHR CHAMPIONS, WE TACKLE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Our Four Domains of Change



#### Domain of Change

Governments adopt, implement and account for laws, policies and programmes, that uphold gender justice and sexual and reproductive rights and fulfil women's and young people's sexual and reproductive rights outcomes.

#### Domain of Change

Civic space is protected, expands and thrives where women and young people in all their diversities organise, dialogue, participate, advocate and communicate without hindrance, and in doing so, influence the SRHR political and social structures around them at national, regional and global levels.

#### Domain of Change

Mobilised communities reinforce positive norms and values around women's and young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and recognise SRHR as a basic human right.

#### Domain of Change

Feminist movements, SRHR alliances and other social movements uphold women's and young people's sexual and reproductive rights.

#### Overarching **Themes** and Critical Issues



**Universality of Sexual** and Reproductive **Rights** 

**Women's Empowerment** and Gender Equality





**Affirmative Sexuality** 

**Advancing Universal Access to Quality Sexual** and Reproductive Health **Services** 





**Emerging Issues Impacting Gender** and Sexual and **Reproductive Rights** 

#### 2022 ARROW Milestones



#### 10,500 mailouts

Knowledge products distributed

5,022

Publications downloaded from our website



32,338

Visitors to arrow.org.my

32,186

**New Visitors** 

77,674

Page Views

Sessions



32,645

Facebook and Twitter
Followers

#### Networks and Committees We are Part of

Action Coalition for Bodily Autonomy & SRHR (UN Women)
Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and
Rights (APCRSHR) International Steering Committee
Alliance of Inclusive Muslims (AIM)

ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF) Regional Steering Committee

Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)

AP-RCEM Thematic Working Group on SRHR, Gender and Sexuality Asia Network to End FGM/C

Asia-Pacific Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)

Asia Pacific Women's Alliance for Peace and Security (APWAPS)

Asia-Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)

Asia Regional Network on GBV Prevention and Response

Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC)

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

Civil Society Platform to Promote SRHR Beyond 2015

Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)

Equal Measures 2030

ESCR-Net - International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Feminist Accountability Framework on Generation Equality Forum Feminists For A People's Vaccine (FPV)

FIAN International

Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRtFN)

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)

**Global Nutrition Group** 

International Sexual and Reproductive Rights Coalition (ISRRC)

Observatory on Universality of Rights (OURS)

Population and Sustainable Development Alliance (PSDA)

Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)

Safe Abortion Advocacy Initiative - A Global South Engagement (SAIGE)

SRHR and Climate Justice Coalition

**UNFPA Global Civil Society Advisory Panel** 

UN Women's Major Group

Women Deliver Regionalisation

Women & Gender Constituency of the UNFCCC

Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)

Women Working Group for Financing for Development

Youth Leadership Working Group



900+
Youth Advocates Engaged



Countries Reached
Through Infocom



International, Regional, and National Meetings Attended by ARROW

40

#### In Collaboration With

69 National Partners 19 Regional Partners 22 Global Partners

**110** Partners in Total

#### **Country Partners**

BANGLADESH: : Association for Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh (BAPSA); Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST); BRAC; Centre for Communication and Development of Bangladesh; Family Planning Association of Bangladesh; International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD); Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS); Naripokkho; Oboyob; Participatory Research Action Network (PRAN); and Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). CAMBODIA: Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC). FIJI: Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM). INDIA: CommonHealth; Pravah; Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC); Sahaj; Sahiyo; and the YP Foundation (TYPF) INDONESIA: Komnas Perempuan; Remaja Independen Papua/Independent Youth Forum Papua (FRIP/IYFP); RUTGERS Indonesia; Women on Web; and Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan (YKP). LAO PDR: The Faculty of Postgraduate Studies at the University of Health Sciences (UHS) MALAYSIA: Federation of Reproductive Health Associations of Malaysia (FRHAM); Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG); Justice for Sisters (JFS); Kemban Kolektif; Reproductive Health Association of Kelantan (ReHAK); Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM); SEED Foundation; and Sisters in Islam (SIS). MALDIVES: Hope for Women; and Society for Health Education (SHE). MONGELIA: MONFEMNET National Network MOROCCO: Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF), Morocco Family Planning Association. MYANMAR: Colourful Girls Organization; and Green Lotus Myanmar. NEPAL: Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON); Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC); Blind Youth Association of Nepal (BYAN); Blue Diamond Society (BDS); Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA); Rotaract Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town; Visible Impact; Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC); YPEER Nepal; and YUWA PAKISTAN: Centre for Social Policy Development (CSPD); Forum for Dignity Initiative (FDI); Gravity Development Organization; Green Circle Organization; Shelter Participatory Organisation; Shirkat Gah; and The Enlight Lab. THE PHILIPPINES: Galang; Healthcare Without Harm; Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities; Likhaan Centre for Women's Health; Nisa UI Haqq Fi Bangsamoro; PATH Foundation Inc. (PFPI); and Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR). SINGAPORE: End Female Genital Cutting Singapore. SRI LANKA: Bakamoono; and Youth Advocacy Network - Sri Lanka (YANSL). VIETNAM: Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP).

#### **Global Partners**

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID); Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA); Global Fund For Women; Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP); International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN); International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net); Musawah; Orchid Project; Riksförbundet för Sexuell Upplysning (RFSU also known as the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education); Rutgers International; RNW Media; Sahiyo US; Stitching CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality; UNESCAP; UNESCO; UNFPA; UN Women; UNU-IIGH; WGNRR Africa; Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR); Women's Environment & Development Organisation (WEDO); and Zinthiya Trust.

#### **Regional Partners**

**AFRICA:** Mobilizing Activists for Medical Abortion (MAMA); Strong Harmonized and Empowered Advocacy (SHE Acts Alliance); Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH); WGNRR Africa; Women Spaces Africa (WSA); The Community Health Rights Network. **ASIA:** Asia Pacific Women's Alliance for Peace and Security (APWAPS); Asia-Pacific Transgender Network (APTN); ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF); Breakthrough India; Citizen News Service (CNS); CREA; FORUM-ASIA; IPPF South Asia Region; Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues (TARSHI); Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR); Youth LEAD; and Y-PEER. **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:** Catolicas por el Derecho de Decidir (CDD)-Mexico.

#### **ARROW**

#### Meetings and Events in 2022

Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

9 - 10 February

**UN Women CSO consultation** 

22 February (virtual)

**CEDAW CSO-KPWKM Meeting** 

24 February (virtual)

49th Session of the Human Rights

28 February - 1 April

**REFRAME Summit - Envisioning** a World Without GBV

4 March (virtual)

**CSW66** side event on Charting **Transferability** 

March, (Co-host UNU-IIGH, virtual) 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, CSW66

14 - 25 March, New York

**APFSD Youth Forum and Asia** and the Pacific Regional ECOSOC **Youth Forum** 

18 - 20 March (hybrid)

**APFSD People's Forum** 

22 - 24 March

**APFSD Intergovernmental Forum** 

28 - 31 March

**JANUARY** 

**DECEMBER** 

**FEBRUARY** 

**NOVEMBER** 

**MARCH** 

**OCTOBER** 

**RHRN2 National Planning Meeting** 

11 - 14 December Cox Bazaar, Bangladesh RHRN2 Global Advocacy **Group Meeting** 

November

Conference of Parties (COP27)

6 - 18 November, Egypt

**SAIGE Convention** 

11 - 12 November, Thailand

**International Conference on** 

**Family Planning** 

12 - 17 November, Thailand

**KUPI Congress** 

22 - 27 November, Indonesia

Feminist Accountability for GEF:

**November Convening** 

29 November (virtual)

51st Session of the Human Rights Council

7 October (from 1 September)

#### 55th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

25 - 29 April, New York

**She Decides** 

19 - 20 May, Brussels

**Global CSE Symposium** 

1 - 3 June

Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Comprehensive **Sexuality Education** 

3 June

2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Education Minister's Conference (APREMC-II)

5 - 7 June, Bangkok

**RHRN Global Meeting** 

13 - 16 June

50th Session of the Human Rights Council

13 June - 8 July

**Gender Equality Initiative** 

**Closing Event** 

22 June, Kuala Lumpur



#### **SEPTEMBER**

MAY

JUNE JULY

#### **AUGUST**

30 August



1 September - 7 October

**Asia Youth Festival** 

Council

19 - 20 September, Kuala Lumpur **SVRI Forum** 

19 - 23 September

**Regional Fora Meeting** 

22 - 23 September, Kuala Lumpur

#### **RFSU Partner Meeting**

5 - 7 July, Kuala Lumpur

High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

5 - 15 July, New York

**Data Driven Advocacy Workshop** for RHRN partners in Nepal

10 - 13 July, Nepal

**RHRN Bangladesh Coordination** 

Meeting

18 July, Bangladesh

**Bangladesh Meeting with National Advisory Committee (NAC)** 

19 July, Bangladesh SDG Youth Summit 2022

23 - 24 July, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

International AIDS Conference 2022

29 July - 2 August, Canada

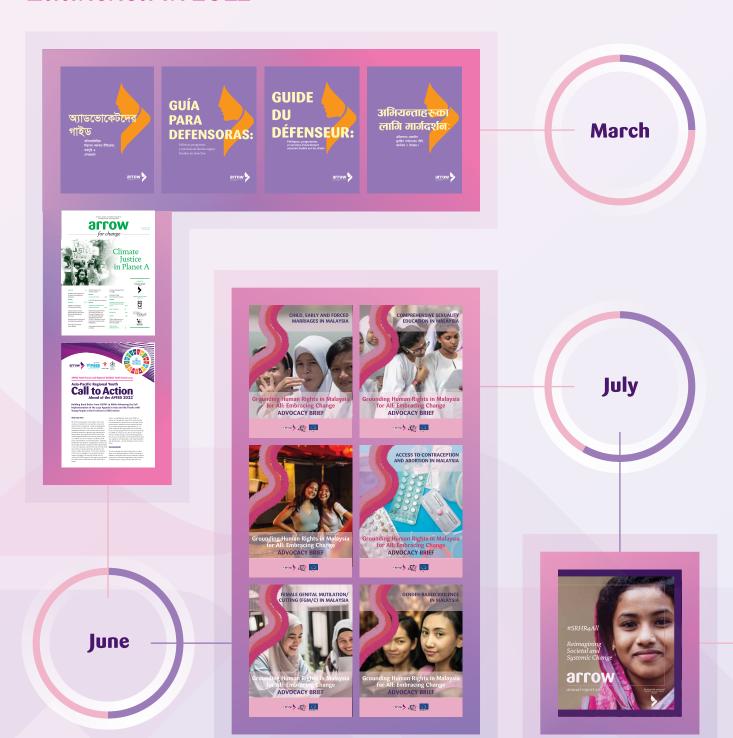
Paving the Way to End FGM/C

in Malaysia

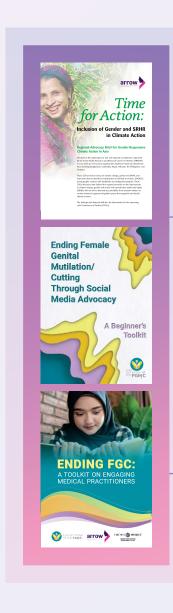
29 July, Kuala Lumpur



## **ARROW** Publications Launched in 2022



15







August



September



## Generating Evidence, Creating Change



Rohima, 35, and her husband were at their wits end when she became pregnant with their fourth child. The couple already have three children but Rohima suffers from hypertension, diabetes and obesity, which made carrying a fourth child risky. On top of her medical conditions, the couple was also suffering from financial distress, which made it difficult for them to seek proper medical treatment for her illnesses. The couple made a decision against having the child, but due to Rohima's existing health concerns, they were afraid to undergo a surgical procedure.

Out of desperation, Rohima's husband approached a local medicine seller for help. Luckily for the couple, the medicine seller had participated in a Menstrual Regulation with Medication (MRM) workshop organised by the Association for the Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh or BAPSA. Usually, the medicine seller would prescribe medications to his customers, but due to his prior positive experience with the clinic, he decided to refer the couple directly to BAPSA.

At the clinic, MRM was conducted safely without any complications arising and the clinic provided the couple with proper family planning guidelines. When the couple returned after 15 days for their scheduled follow-up, their beaming



Participants taking part in the Orientation on MRM workshop in Bangladesh run by The Association for the Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh (BAPSA).

smiles were a testament of the positive impact that BAPSA was able to have on the lives of its patients.

ARROW works with its partners to ensure access to safe abortions and empower women to make informed choices about their reproductive health. It is through this work that the knowledge of safe abortions can be imparted to women and their partners as well as the larger population.

ARROW's Domain 1 aims to ensure that governments adopt, implement and account for laws, policies and programmes, that uphold gender justice and sexual and reproductive rights and fulfil women's and young people's sexual and reproductive rights outcomes. This is done by monitoring international mechanisms such as SDG+10, ICPD+30, and Beijing+30 through the indicator frameworks to reflect issues and lived experiences of women and girls from the Global South as well as capacity building of and with partners on monitoring, research and use of international frameworks to hold governments accountable. By ensuring strengthened and collaborative organising of Global South groups, we aim to articulate demands that ensure that the developmental agendas of governments, inter-governmental organisations and donors are in tandem with needs, realities and experiences of the Global South with regards to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

#### SAIGE (SAFE ABORTION ADVOCACY INITIATIVE -A GLOBAL SOUTH ENGAGEMENT)

Following this, in 2022, in a big step forward for our SAIGE (Safe Abortion Advocacy Initiative - A Global South Engagement) network, the SAIGE Convention was successfully held in Pattaya, Thailand on 11 - 12 November, ahead of the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) 2022. More than 50 participants and 15 organisations from around Asia, Africa, and Latin America participated in the convention in which ARROW and all members explored the global context of safe abortion situations, laws that regulate access to safe abortion, and social and political situations in each country or region. Members also discussed barriers and challenges that exist in accessing safe abortion, including the role of SAIGE as a network to bring together Global South voices. Furthermore, during the Convention,

Participants of the SAIGE Convention ahead of the ICFP in Pattaya, Thailand.



By ensuring strengthened and collaborative organising of Global South groups, ARROW's Domain 1 aims to articulate demands that ensure that the developmental agendas of governments, inter-governmental organisations and donors are in tandem with needs, realities and experiences of the Global South with regards to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

ARROW co-hosted a session on reproductive justice with special emphasis on its relevance in the Global South and to demonstrate critical insight into the broader social, political, and economic factors that impact SRHR. The session introduced participants to the reproductive justice theory, intersectionality, and how to apply these concepts to the SRHR work being carried out.

Through SAIGE we have successfully been able to create a Global South space for abortion activists and advocates who work on safe abortion issues to come together every two years alongside the ICFP. The convention deliberations with members also crafted SAIGE's way forward, shared vision for the future and set up a specific collaborative agenda in the Global South region for the next two years. As of now, SAIGE currently holds 153 members (95 organisations and 58 individuals) from 36 countries.

#### CROSS REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE LINKING AND LEARNING SESSIONS

Throughout the year, ARROW also initiated our Cross Regional Knowledge Exchange Linking and Learning between Global South Regions. The learning exchange was designed and guided by the following three pillars: Innovation, Discourse Change, and Partnerships. The main sessions organised under this initiative were: (1) A webinar in April that introduced SAIGE and ARROW to MAMA (Mobilizing Activists Around Medical Abortion) members and a strategic consultation around the collaboration opportunities and priority areas; (2) An interactive webinar in August on self-managed abortions (SMA) during COVID-19 that brought together various activists working in the frontlines of abortion care in Asia

and Africa; (3) A SAIGE, MAMA and ODAS ICPF Preparation Webinar in October to give an overview of advocacy opportunities for the attending members; and (4) the MAMA, ODAS and SAIGE ICFP Conference in November, a one-day pre-conference on self-managed abortion with a specific focus on exploring cross-regional areas of learning and collaboration.

Furthermore, a symposium on Global Reproductive Politics, Reproductive Justice and Limits of Law was organised by the Law and Marginalization Clinic, Centre for Justice, Law and Society at Jindal Global Law School in collaboration with Sruti Disability Rights Centre, TransCare India, Rising Flame, ARROW, the Centre for Reproductive Rights Asia team, and CommonHealth in view of the need for an inclusive deliberation to reimagine reproductive justice in India and globally. It featured two panels on (1) Decriminalising Abortion: Towards a Rights-Based Approach and (2) Reproductive Justice: A Discourse in Centering Access.

#### **GENERATING EVIDENCE**

In terms of publications, our *Advocates Guide on Rights-Based Safe Abortion Policies*, *Programmes and Services* was translated into five Global South languages: Bangla, Nepali, Khmer, Spanish, and French and published in 2022. With this wide range of languages, we hope to be able to reach more communities and organisations and spread the information and messages further. The Advocates Guide is addressed to SRHR advocates and seeks to facilitate advocacy to ensure that what is achieved on paper translates into action on the ground through monitoring progress on safe abortion access and quality, and the extent to which safe abortion services are informed by the prevailing international human rights standards.

ARROW and the Center for Justice, Law and Society also developed and published the *Historical Criminalisation of Abortion in South and South-East Asia: A Comparative Study.* This study seeks to identify the abortion laws in ten countries in South and South-East Asia and examine their history, as well as current developments, in light of the respective countries' socio-political climate. The ten countries are the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.



Speakers at ARROW's HLPF side event IResist We Persist, organised in partnership with WGNRR, SAIGE, and PINSAN.

Finally, our partner RUWSEC published a study entitled Impact right to bodily autonomy. It consisted of speakers from India, of COVID-19 on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Rural Women and Girls in Chengalpattu District of Tamil Nadu. The study was conducted to document the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns on marginalised rural women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a particular focus on the violation of SRR and the difficulties and challenges that these women and girls faced when trying to access SRH services.

With regards to advocacy, our HLPF side event IResist, WePersist was organised in partnership with WGNRR, SAIGE and PINSAN. The panel brought together Global South voices to deliberate, discuss and condemn any backlash on the human rights of women, girls and pregnant person's reproductive autonomy. The panel discussed how COVID-19 coupled with unjust laws, criminalisation and, ongoing regressions to accessing abortion information and services became barriers to achieving SDGs 3 and 5 and violate sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and the

Malaysia, the Philippines, Tanzania, and Uruguay.

The EM2030 2022 SDG Gender Index was launched in March 2022. ARROW played a very crucial role in the preparation and release of the index. The Index provides a snapshot of where the world stands on the vision of gender equality embedded in the 2030 Agenda. It sounds the alarm on gender equality, revealing that global progress has been slow and marginal over the past five years. The Gender Index was profiled at the APFSD Youth Forum 2022 and the official ARROW side event for the APFSD in Bangkok, as well as at an event on the side-lines of the CSW in New York in September. EM2030 convened a virtual event to unpack EM2030's SDG Gender Equality Index 2022 findings in some focus countries (Colombia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Senegal) and the major challenges and opportunities we see for women's rights in these contexts, in which ARROW's Executive Director provided the opening remarks for the event attended by over 100 advocates globally.



A Community Health Education Session (CHES) on sexual and reproductive health and rights being run for high school students in Nepal.

### Creating a Society Where Safe Abortion is a Right

#### A Case Study from Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC)

This year, Nepal celebrated 20 years of legalising safe abortion services. The country even has a provision for free abortion services at accredited government health centres. Despite the progressive laws, there is still a large proportion of the population who are unaware of the legal conditions of abortion and service sites to approach when they need this service. Prevailing myths and stigma also create another barrier to accessing safe abortion services.

Meena (not her real name), an 18-year-old girl from the Dailekh district was in a relationship with a boy from a nearby village. After a few months of being in a relationship, her boyfriend convinced her to have a sex. Meena asked her boyfriend to use contraceptives, but the boyfriend refused, saying he was uncomfortable purchasing condoms from the health centre in his area because he was not married. As days passed by, Meena missed her period and began to worry. She confided her fears to her boyfriend, who blamed her for not using emergency contraceptive pills. For fear of being judged by her community, Meena was too scared to even visit the local pharmacy to seek options. She could not even get a pregnancy test to confirm if she was indeed pregnant.

After some time agonising over her next move, Meena found herself at a health post in the Surkhet District, where she managed to get herself a pregnancy test. When she was confirmed pregnant, she could only think of ending her life and looked to suicide as a way out. Luckily for her, the health worker at the post suggested a safe abortion if she felt she was unable to continue with her pregnancy. As soon as Meena expressed her willingness for an abortion, the health worker immediately informed a network partner from Surkhet who was implementing the project "Claiming Right to Safe Abortion-Strategic partnership in Asia". The network partner coordinated with a trained safe abortion service provider from the accredited health centre and provided Meena with a safe abortion. The network partner also arranged some financial support for Meena in order to get her home. Meena was thankful to the health worker as well as the network partner for giving her a 'new life'.

Feedback from Beyond Beijing Committee's (BBC) network implementing partner found that many women were still unaware of safe abortions, while those who did and opted for it were looked upon negatively by the community. "During our abortion story-sharing sessions, we hear stories where women or girls choose to take their lives because of unwanted pregnancies and fear of being judged by society. However, the situation is improving. Through our activities, we have been able to spread information widely regarding safe abortion services and people are opening up and having conversations regarding safe abortions."

BBC has been advocating from the policy level to the local level for increasing access to safe abortion services in Nepal. At the grassroots level, effort is being channelled towards increasing awareness regarding available services, busting myths, reducing stigmas and sensitising people to safe abortions.

A local representative from the Baradarshi Rural Muncipality, Surkhet praised BBC's effort in generating awareness on safe abortion and pledged their commitment to support its activities during its Annual Review Meeting. "The dedication of the Women's Association for Marginalised Women (WAM) and Beyond Beijing Committee in raising awareness regarding safe abortion services is praiseworthy. We have always supported your effort and will continue in future as well. This has helped a lot in creating change in our community."

## Gender Equality Initiative in Malaysia Vision Board



Opening Minds,
Shaping Views and
Advocating for Change,
One Year at a Time

H.E. Aishath Mohamed Didi, Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services of the Maldives, is leading the charge to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in the Maldives, through a strong partnership with civil society and non-governmental organisations. This intra-agency partnership is anchored in the ministry's current guiding framework for gender equality, the Gender Equality Action Plan (2022-2026). Through this Plan, actions to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and FGM/C will involve stakeholders such as academic institutions, the health sector and the ministry.

Based on the Maldives Demographic and Health Survey 2016-17, it was found that there was a lower prevalence of circumcision among respondents aged 15-49 years. The prevalence was 38% among 45-49-year-olds and 1% among 15-19- year-olds. Nearly all of the deliveries in the country occur in a health facility and are attended by a medical officer or a nurse. However, no practice related to FGM/C has been flagged by health care professionals in the country.

"Given these findings, the threat of FGM/C in our country could be considered relatively low. However, there is a need to reassess the situation to ascertain an accurate status at present. There needs to be additional research done to understand the general public's view towards FGM/C and to identify whether any particular drivers exist. The government has maintained a stance of working towards eliminating FGM/C," she said.

In September, during a partner's visit to the Maldives, the ARROW team had a fruitful meeting with the Minister and her team which sparked opportunities for collaboration. The Ministry shared its national action plan to address violence against women, including FGM/C, and showed strong support for the Asia Network to End FGM/C, expressing commitment to collaborate on awareness-raising initiatives and evidence generation.

H.E Aishath believes that while the current government's policy is to work towards eliminating FGM/C, stronger regulations which explicitly prohibit the practice need to be introduced, with a multi-agency approach to implementation of the policy.



- H.E. Aishath Mohamed Didi, Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services of the Maldives.

"We need more advocacy work that raises awareness of FGM/C and its harms amongst the general population, and perhaps a more efficient mechanism to identify cases of FGM/C within the health and social services. Primarily, we need to conduct research to gather more recent statistics and identify any trends so that we can develop data-driven strategies and interventions. Data will also be one of the key factors in designing advocacy and awareness programmes and policies. This is a priority, and we have plans to conduct some assessments in the coming years. We have the GEAP, which was developed after an extensive consultation process with many stakeholders including civil society organisations. Through a regional network such as the Asia Network to End FGM/C, we would be able to exchange our knowledge and share experiences, identify best practices, engage with other stakeholders working towards the same goal, and produce a stronger strategy to address FGM/C. The Ministry is certainly keen to collaborate, to tap into the knowledge available from the network, so that we can more efficiently work to end FGM/C."

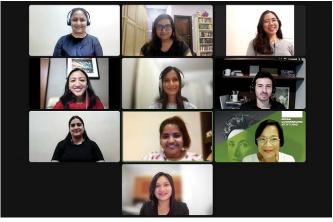
In 2023, the Asia Network will be working closely with the Ministry and CSOs in the Maldives to collect data on FGM/C and conduct community engagement initiatives.



The ARROW Asia Network to End FGM/C team with partners and religious scholars in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ARROW's Domain 2 aims to ensure that civic space is protected, expanded and thriving where women and young people in all their diversities organise, dialogue, participate, advocate and communicate without hindrance, and in doing so, influence the SRHR political and social structures and discourses around them at national, regional and global levels. By combining our strengths of communications and advocacy work, we build perspectives and develop knowledge products from a rights-based, gender-just, intersectional, Global South perspective on emerging issues to capacitate partner organisations to renew and refine advocacy strategies, as well as create strategic, inclusive and meaningful lobby and advocacy actions around SRHR involving women, young people and LGBTIQ persons from the Asia-Pacific in global spaces such as the CSW, CPD, HLPF, CEDAW, UPR, UNGA, HRC and with UN agencies and decision-makers.

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Writers from the AFC on Climate Justice in Planet A share their findings in a publication launch webinar organised by ARROW on the sidelines of CSW.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

A core component of all our work, ARROW's Information and Communications (InfoCom) strategies work to champion positive social change by advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the Asia Pacific region and the world by ensuring new perspectives and knowledge are built around gender, feminism, SRR and its intersections, utilising information and communications to highlight key SRHR amplifying youth and feminist voices from the ground, and sharing knowledge and information on advocacy actions, spaces and processes. We aim to strengthen ARROW's and her partner's abilities to influence key stakeholders (civil society, academia, media, activists and practitioners in education, health, policy making etc., as well as the UN and government officials) on SRHR policies and programmes with our reach to over 188 countries.

Our publications continue to be one of our most powerful evidence-based advocacy mediums through which we, with the support of our partners, advance the SRHR agenda with stakeholders. ARROW produces a range of cutting-edge publications that aim to contribute a Global South, rights-based, intersectional and feminist analyses and perspectives to global discourses on gender, health, sexuality and rights, as well as on their interlinkages with other development issues. These publications include ARROW's flagship, peer-reviewed and serial publication, the ARROW for Change, as well as other types of resources, such as manuals, thematic papers, and briefs, to enable key stakeholders to

further understand these themes and use the information generated in their advocacy work. In 2022, ARROW launched two editions of the ARROW For Change: Climate Justice in Planet A, which builds perspectives on the interlinkages and key issues including SRHR and bodily autonomy in differential vulnerability to climate change, and looks into the status and issues in integration of women, girls, and LGBTI people's needs in climate change action with a specific focus on health and climate change, which was launched in March in conjunction with CSW; and Disability Rights and SRHR: An *Intersectional Approach to Ending VAW*, which addresses the integral need for more discourse on sexuality and SRHR for women and girls with disabilities across the Asia-Pacific region, which was launched in December in conjunction with International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Within other areas of our communications work, we were able to further boost our advocacy through our social media platforms—Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram—to an even greater extent through our increased following reach of 35,000+ people. We created messaging through social media toolkits, live updates, photos, podcasts, infographics, reels, and videos from key international events, conferences, publication launches, and events with SRHR advocates, UN agencies, and partner organisations. We used various international days throughout the year to create social media campaigns around the intersectionality of SRHR with various human rights issues. Furthermore, we made a concerted effort this year to partner with more youth-led organisations in our social media work in order to amplify youth voices and provide a platform for organisations who may not necessarily have the reach or resources.

In March, we also launched the CSE4All campaign during the APFSD Youth Forum, with a further relaunching event at the HLPF in July. CSE4ALL is an advocacy campaign focusing on the demand for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), its implementation and access to young people in all our diversities, and positioning young people at the forefront of the campaign. The campaign will unleash the power of youth, increase advocacy and public support for young people's SRHR, and contribute towards changing attitudes, improving policies and strengthening the advocacy around implementation of CSE both in and out of educational settings. This campaign focuses on international advocacy spaces and was developed by ARROW, Y-PEER, and YouthLead. We also actively continued to engage with traditional and digital media organisations to garner public support for the critical issues that we work on. In 2022, our partnership with Citizen News Service ensured a much higher amount of coverage with ARROW and our events appearing in 71 news articles, and television and radio interviews over the course of the year, particularly with regards to the Asia Youth Festival and the launch of the AFC on Climate Justice.

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The CSE4All website can be accessed at: https://sites.google.com/arrow.org. my/cse4all.

#### THE ASIA NETWORK TO END FGM/C

The Asia Network to End Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), launched in 2019, is a collaboration between ARROW and UK-based global NGO Orchid Project that focuses on gathering data and evidence on FGM/C prevalence rates, engaging key stakeholders such as the faith-based and medical communities, awareness-raising and advocacy, and urging governments in the region to report on SDG 5.3.2 related to FGM/C. In 2022, the Asia Network developed its regional Theory Of Change (TOC). A working group was formed, comprising Asia Network members from Malaysia, Philippines, the Maldives, and Pakistan. Between May and August, we organised four meetings with the working group



The ARROW and Kemban Kolektif team at the launch event 'Paving the Way to End FGM/C in Malaysia', organised by ARROW, Orchid Project, and the British High Commission Kuala Lumpur.



annual report 2022

ARROW's GEI project team alongside representatives from the EU Delegation in Malaysia, the Canadian High Commissioner, and the Swedish Ambassador at the GEI closing event dinner.

facilitated by human rights law consultant Dr. Annemarie Middelburg. The meetings served as brainstorming sessions to discuss the main pathways of change and strategies for the Regional TOC. In September, the TOC narrative was finalised and we engaged an illustrator to visualise the TOC as a graphic with key highlights from the narrative.

In June, we approached the British High Commission Kuala Lumpur to co-host an event alongside ARROW and Orchid Project, to launch the latest report on FGM/C in Malaysia as well as a national advocacy roadmap to end the practice. The launch event 'Paving the Way to End FGM/C in Malaysia' was held in July in Kuala Lumpur. The event marked the launch of the publication, 'Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in Malaysia: An Overview' as well as a two-year national advocacy roadmap to end FGM/C in Malaysia. Rashidah Shuib, one of the authors of the report, delivered a presentation on the key findings of the literature review she conducted. A visual of the advocacy roadmap was unveiled at the launch event, along with a comprehensive overview of each strategic outcome. The launch event was attended by Embassies and like-minded Missions, Malaysian CSOs, researchers, activists, other key stakeholders, as well as journalists and media practitioners.

Working towards the linking and learning between our Asia and Africa partners, in July, ARROW and Orchid Project brought together activists from the Asia and Africa regions and global actors for a side event in support of the Asia Network to End FGM/C at the HLPF 2022. The event shed light on the progress of the global movement to end FGM/C and what more needs to be done to accelerate the elimination of the practice in all its forms. The other panelists comprised an advocate from Komnas Perempuan, Indonesia and a young activist from End FGC Singapore, who both spoke about the challenges advocating for the abandonment of FGM/C within restrictive contexts, including dealing with backlash from the community and engaging with religious groups, as well as a representative from Amref Health Africa, whose insights helped to demonstrate the importance of and strategies for mobilising networks and movements to end FGM/C.

The Asia Network will continue to amplify the voices of our members in the upcoming year.

#### THE GENDER EQUALITY INITIATIVE IN MALAYSIA

The Gender Equality Initiative (GEI) in Malaysia project, in which ARROW partnered with the Federation of Reproductive Health Associations of Malaysia (FRHAM), Justice for Sisters (JfS), and the Reproductive Health Association of Kelantan (ReHAK), was launched in 2020 and aims to contribute to the implementation of relevant CEDAW and UPR concluding observations and recommendations that aim to abolish discriminatory laws and policies against women and girls and fulfill the human rights of the LGBTIQ community against discrimination and violence in Malaysia.

In 2022, the GEI project came to a close in June. To round off the project, ARROW held a closing event and dinner to celebrate the milestones achieved through the 2.5 years of the GEI project and more importantly to recognise the efforts and contributions of our partners and stakeholders, including the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, alongside our other stakeholders, project partners, activists and GEI participants. 80 people attended the event, including representatives from the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the EU Delegation, the embassies of Sweden, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, and the Canadian High Commission. Overall, over the 2.5 years of project implementation, through the development of publications, manuals, advocacy briefs, and running of CSO and media workshops and policy dialogues, the GEI was successfully able to work towards filling in gaps in the capacity building of CSOs and the media as well as with advocacy work with high level decision-makers.

As ARROW has received a new project grant from the EU, phase 2 of the GEI will kickstart in January 2023, taking forward the momentum and work that was built in phase 1.

#### **ADVOCACY**

2022 saw a wide range of key achievements as a direct result of ARROW's commitments towards advancing gender equality and SRHR in the region through sustained advocacy work at the national, regional and international levels. ARROW's advocacy initiatives continued to create spaces for and amplify ARROW and our partners' effective and meaningful engagement in the identified advocacy arenas and processes.

At the national level, as part of the human rights mechanisms, ARROW provided technical assistance to partners from India, Indonesia, Morocco, and the Philippines to submit their alternative UPR stakeholder reports for the 41st UPR Session. Four policy dialogues were also held at the Federal and state levels in Malaysia through the Gender Equality Initiative project on the topics of gender equality and conversion practices on LGBTIQ+ persons.

2022 also witnessed many successful advocacy engagements at the regional level such as ARROW and her partners' interventions at the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2022. Three APFSD Youth Forum advocates who attended the APFSD Youth Forum represented the Youth Constituency at the APFSD, and Pema Wangmo





**Top:** APFSD Youth Forum representative, Pema Wangmo Lama Magum delivering the oral intervention on behalf of the youth constituencies. **Bottom:** ARROW's Deputy Executive Director, Sai Jyothirmai Racherla, delivers an oral intervention at the APFSD Intergovernmental Fora.

Lama Mugum, from the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal, delivered an oral intervention on behalf of the youth constituencies at the APFSD Intergovernmental Fora. Furthermore, at the Intergovernmental Fora, ARROW organised a side event entitled "Young People at the Forefront Ensuring COVID-19 Recovery For Sustainable Development in Asia." The side event featured expert speakers including H.E. Mr. Sukmo Yuwono (Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of The Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok), Sivananthi Thanenthiran (ED of ARROW), Albert Motivans (Head of Data and Research of Equal Measures) and youth advocates from the APFSD Youth Forum. Furthermore, on behalf of the women's constituency of Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM), ARROW's Deputy Executive Director, Sai Jyothirmai Racherla, intervened in the review of regional progress on sustainable development goals in the APFSD Intergovernmental Fora. In June, Sai, in her intervention, highlighted the pertinent deep gap around the lack of data to measure progress toward gender equality targets and called on Member States to remove all the systemic and structural barriers that impede women's rights.

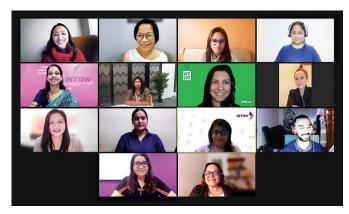
ARROW, along with UNFPA APRO, UNESCO Bangkok, RHRN, and YUWA Nepal organised the Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Comprehensive Sexuality Education, "Towards Transformative Education Systems for Sustainable Development, Health and Well-being: Comprehensive Sexuality Education -A Crucial Pivot in Asia and the Pacific Region". The dialogue was part of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Education Ministers' Conference (APREMC-II) and aimed to present a multistakeholder interactive platform of Member States, youth-led, youth-serving organisations, and young people working on CSE to discuss universal access to CSE implementation within countries in the region with a focus on laws, policies and partnerships. The dialogue secured the participation of almost 180 policymakers and participants from UN agencies, and youth-led and youth-serving organisations from the Asia Pacific region. The dialogue also witnessed the engagement of high-level speakers from the Government of Lao PDR and Mongolia as well as CSO speakers including youth-led organisations from India, Nepal, Indonesia, and the Netherlands.

At the international level, 2022 witnessed ARROW and our partners' active engagement at several advocacy meetings such as CSW66, CPD55, HRC49, HRC50, HRC51, GEF, HLPF, and COP27.

Our statement concluded with a set of concrete recommendations to the Member States with a focus on upholding SRHR and acknowledging its co-benefits in contributing to climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience as well as to recognise women in all our diversities as agents of change.

At CSW66, ARROW delivered an oral statement at the General Discussion on behalf of 43 civil society organisations from the Global South, including ARROW's partners. Aligned with the theme of CSW66, the statement focused on the nexus between climate change, gender equality, and SRHR of women, young people, and non-binary persons. The statement stressed on the four parameters of justice; equity, access, participation, and rights which are deeply skewed against women and girls during climate change. The statement concluded with a set of concrete recommendations to the Member States with a focus on upholding SRHR and

acknowledging its co-benefits in contributing to climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience as well as to recognise women in all our diversities as agents of change. ARROW also actively provided language inputs through the Women's Rights Caucus's (WRC) language working group and reached out to several Member States through the WRC advocacy working group, the Women's Major Group (WMG) as well as on our own. Some of the Member States we reached out to included Colombia, Germany (Virtual Vienna Café), Ireland, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, and Spain. Some of the language that we pushed for included multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, SRHR, women and girls in all their diversity, sexual and gender-based violence, full, meaningful and equal participation of women and gender responsive climate response.



ARROW, DFPA, and WEDO's parallel event on the interlinkages of climate change, gender, and SRHR at the CSW66.

Furthermore, ARROW along with Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) organised a parallel event focused on the interlinkages of climate change and disasters with gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The expert speakers highlighted the regional realities and shared experiences of building perspectives, raising awareness, advocacy and capacity strengthening on the intersections of the issues on this nexus. Meanwhile, at CPD55, ARROW's written statement on the priority theme of CPD55—Population and sustainable development—was published on the CPD's official website. The statement focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed many of the gains made around gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights with negative impact on

most vulnerable women, girls and young people. ARROW was also selected to deliver a joint statement by ARROW and 28 partners at the CPD official session that reiterated that sustained and inclusive economic growth hinges on the respect for the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.

ARROW's written statement on the priority theme of CPD55—Population and sustainable development—was published on the CPD's official website. The statement focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed many of the gains made around gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights with negative impact on most vulnerable women, girls and young people.

At the 49th HRC session, two of ARROW's oral interventions were broadcasted on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and violence against children. At the 50th HRC session, three of ARROW's oral interventions were broadcasted on the intersections of SRHR and the protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. At the 51st HRC session, a further three of ARROW's interventions were broadcasted on the right to development, the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and overcoming gender-based barriers to freedom of opinion and expression.

At the HLPF, ARROW along with the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York, and Right Here Right Now 2 (RHRN2) organised a side event focused on the meaningful and inclusive engagement of young people in accelerating progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia Pacific Region. The side event witnessed inspiring opening remarks by the esteemed dignitaries including H.E Syed Mohamad Hasrin Aidid, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the UN in New York, Ms Sara Libera, the 2030 Agenda and Voluntary National Review Specialist at ESCAP and Sivananthi Thanenthiran, ARROW's Executive Director







**Top:** H.E Syed Mohamad Hasrin Aidid, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the UN in New York, provides the opening remarks at our side event at the HLPF. **Middle:** H.E. Mr. Sukmo Yuwono, Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of The Republic of Indonesia in Bangkok, speaking at ARROW's side event 'Young People at the Forefront Ensuring COVID-19 Recovery For Sustainable Development in Asia' at the APFSD Intergovernmental Fora. **Bottom:** ARROW's Deputy Executive Director, Sai, and Programme Manager, Shamala, alongside the representative from the Permanent Mission of Fiji in New York, at HLPF.

The side event also featured an exclusive youth panel who presented their view to accelerate SDG implementation in their respective contexts in the region.

ARROW's identity as an advocacy organisation working on SRHR issues has been possible through the cumulative work done currently and in the past. We will continue to collaborate with intergovernmental stakeholders including the UN, Member States, and key CSO networks working on SRHR and gender equality at the global, regional, and national levels to ensure active and effective engagement in different advocacy spaces and processes.

Furthermore, ARROW was invited to attend the Asia Pacific Education Ministers Conference (APREMC-II), held in Bangkok in June. The outcome of the APREMC-II included comprehensive sexuality education, a success in advocacy for CSE regionally. The conference outcomes culminated in a series of stated priority actions and recommendations comprising the Bangkok Statement 2022 ('Statement'), a 'roadmap' for a region seeking to rebuild and transform its ailing education systems, and it is important to engage in these processes in the future to strengthen education systems, but also include comprehensive sexuality education, climate and human rights education in the curricula.

Finally, in November, ARROW was part of the Bali Care Economy Dialogue in Indonesia, which brought together approximately 80 participants from governments, the private sector, and civil society. Immediately preceding the G20 Leaders' Summit, this event was intended to leverage global momentum around transforming the care economy while elevating Asia-Pacific perspectives on care. This high-level dialogue focused on actionable policies and strategies to build a resilient care work ecosystem in the Asia Pacific.

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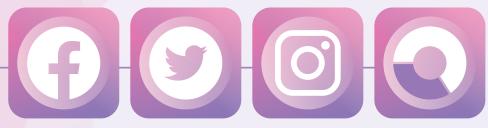
#### **ARROW's** Regional Events

#### in 2022

- SAIGE Convention
- KUPI Congress
- Asia Youth Festival on Innovation
- REFRAME Conference
- 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Education Minister's Conference (APREMC-II)
- Regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
- APFSD Youth Forum and Asia and the Pacific Regional ECOSOC Youth Forum

#### **ARROW's** *International Events in 2022*

- International Conference on
- Family Planning 2022
- Conference Of Parties (COP27)
- RHRN2 Global Advocacy Group (GAG)
- Face to Face Meeting
   High Level Political Forum 2022
- Global CSE Symposium
- OHCHR's Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on the Human Rights of Older Persons
- 49th Session of the Human Rights Council
- 50th Session of the Human Rights Council
- 51st Session of the Human Rights Council
- 55th Session of the Commission on Population and Development
- 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women



**Social Media** 

Snapshot

22,469

Total followers

10,176

Total followers

**2,310**Total followers

**25-34** years
Age profile of our followers

#### **Reaching** Out

**Digital Library, ASK-US** 

Total collection: **1,190** Total visitors: **7,488** 

**ARROW Newsletter** 

Total issues: 21
Total subscribers: 2,263





## **Most Popular** *Publications of 2022*

Asia-Pacific Youth Call To Action ahead of APFSD 2021

- 292 downloads

ARROW for Change: Climate Justice in Planet A

- 289 downloads

Understanding Catholic Fundamentalism in the Philippines: How Conservative Religious Teachings on Women, Family and Contraception are Wielded to Impede the Reproductive Health Law and Other Reproductive Health Policies

- 184 downloads



#### **Profile of ARROW**

Website Visitors

Asia Americas Europe **18,864 6,257 4,919** 58.21% 19.31% 15.18%

Africa Oceania **1,553 785**4.79% 2.42%



# Strengthening Community Participation, Empowering People

The Asia Pacific accounts for more than half of the world's population living in the region. There are almost one billion young people aged 10-24 years living in 32 low- and middle income countries in the Asia Pacific, accounting for 60% of the world's young people. However, young people's voices are not being heard or uplifted when it comes to decision-making processes. Young people from marginalised communities such as youth with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ youth, youth from lower economic backgrounds, amongst others, have been even further left behind, especially when it comes to their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

ARROW's Domain 3 focuses on mobilising communities to reinforce positive norms and values around women and young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and recognise SRHR as a basic human right. We aim to do this through four specific interventions: (1) Capacity Strengthening done through creative interventions such as building champions in intervention communities; (2) Linking and Learning of youth SRHR advocates on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services to provide them with information and skills to plan and develop gender-responsive programmes and mainstream intersectional approaches in SRHR advocacy strategies; (3) Enabling increased outreach and participation of women and young people at local and national levels by creating public support through campaigns and community mobilisation, outreach and awareness raising sessions on SRR issues, policies, and accountability mechanisms; and (4) Accountability for CSE and SRH Services by strengthening capacities of partner organisations in advocacy and utilisation of community accountability tools and amplifying youth voices to demand accountability for SRR.

Lirisha Tuladhar from Nepal, an ARROW Changemaker, shared, "Being a Changemaker has been a life-changing experience for me, and has enabled me to shape my dreams into reality. The Changemakers programme is the foundation that has given me and other enthusiastic young people the opportunity to nurture our capabilities and systematically lead our initiative. ARROW has been the platform that has helped me enhance my ability to create and innovate an initiative that would bring about a social impact with better effectiveness. SRHR is very broad and vague, and you need a definite vision of where you would like to dive in and



A podcast recording taking place for the Stories of Efforts series as part of the Unfolding SRHR project.

explore. My project "Unfolding SRHR- Bridging the Gap" is an online portal and social media used as a one-stop platform to provide access to SRHR and gender-related documents, conduct discourse for progressive SRHR-related environments, strengthen the capacity of young people to understand SRHR-related issues and link youth to scientific information related to gender and SRHR."

"The seed fund that ARROW provided enabled me to kick-start my idea, sowing the seed of hope and giving me a possible way to support young people and make a social impact. I created a website with the seed funding and explored some of the digitally innovative ways to structure the project idea. It was indeed a challenging journey to set up an initiative and take it ahead. With a team of young people and like-minded visions, I strived to take my idea into a realistic approach starting with creating content that would be effective in the digital spaces."

"In the starting phase, my project involved piloting and experimenting with the content and engaging young people to support the initiative. Support from the ARROW immersion project helped me further polish and systematise my initiative and take it to a wider audience. Today, my project is known to many young people around the country and with the help of creative ways to engage the audience in digital media, we have been working to disseminate information on SRHR. There is still a long way for Unfolding SRHR to unfold its

visibility and stand together to bring a larger social impact, however, I am positive that I will be able to nurture and foster more innovative ideas in the project to stand together and bring a change for young people."

#### **CHANGEMAKERS PROGRAMME**

Through our efforts to ensure that young people are leading change from the forefront within their communities, ARROW's Right Here Right Now 2 (RHRN2) Changemakers Programme has been one of the key highlight initiatives over the past few years, through which ARROW has made consistent efforts around the capacity strengthening of young people to become effective advocates for SRHR social change. ARROW launched our RHRN2 Changemakers Programme in 2020. The initiative is a leadership programme that blends social innovation and design thinking, intersectionality, and sexuality to empower diverse young people to become effective advocates for social change. The programme combines social innovation and intersectionality workshops, which will give young people an opportunity to learn how sexuality intersects with issues that are directly linked to education, health, employment, law, and citizenship and find an innovative way to work with policymakers, civil society, young people, and activists for progressive and lasting social change. The programme offered mentorships, incubation, and seed funding for social change ideas using a design thinking methodology. Through this programme, young people identified SRHR problems in their local contexts and designed sustainable innovative solutions. The overall impact of this social change engagement has been at the individual level as well as at the broader community level.

The capacity strengthening elements within the Changemakers programme included design thinking, social entrepreneurs' mindset, self-efficacy, basic programme management, networking skill sets, as well as training on sexuality and SRHR. A total of 63 participants attended the full training in 2020, and ARROW provided a pilot seed grant for 16 participants. The innovative pilot ideas focused on SRHR, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), and LGBTIQ rights of young people. In 2021, the Changemakers programme continued its second phase which brought together 90 participants. 24 innovative ideas were provided with seed grants engaging 40 participants from India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and India.





Participants at the Asia Youth Festival on Innovation and SRHR take part in the workshop sessions (above) and the closing event dinner (below).

#### ASIA YOUTH FESTIVAL ON INNOVATION FOR SRHR 2022

Building on ARROW's work on innovation, social entrepreneurship and sustainable SRHR change through the RHRN2 programme, but also ARROW's other innovation initiatives such as the WORTH Initiative focused on Climate Change and SRHR in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, and the Philippines, ARROW welcomed all the Changemakers for linking and learning and a celebration of their achievements at the Asia Youth Festival on Innovation for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2022, held over three days in September. This festival celebrated the accomplishments and facilitated a learning and sharing experience amongst all the youth advocates. This festival also emphasised on fostering a networking event at the regional level for youth

movement building, social entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable change. The modality of the festival embodied the combination of spaces through presentations and discussions on innovation, trainings/workshops, group discussions, exhibitions, expression of interest using the medium of art, poetry, dance, monologues and music and screening of movies through dedicated sessions by resource persons across the fields of innovation and SRHR. The festival saw the engagement of a total of 100 youth participants from across Asia.

The Asia Youth Festival was also the space where ARROW launched two studies including the RHRN2 commissioned scoping study that was done on the SRHR situation of young people in the Asia-Pacific. The scoping study was further shared during various panels and interventions at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) 2022.

#### **APFSD YOUTH FORUM AND ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM**

One of ARROW's biggest annual forums, the APFSD Youth Forum and Asia and the Pacific Regional ECOSOC Youth Forum, was held virtually this year from 19-21 March 2022, co-convened with YouthLead, YPEER Asia-Pacific and other regional youth networks. The Forum witnessed the participation of more than 630 diverse youth advocates from 34 countries across the region. The three-day Forum's main outcome was the "Regional Youth Call to Action," which echoed the voices, concerns, and demands of young people around the SDGs under review with focus on the SRHR of young people. In addition to the Regional Youth Call to Action, young people also developed eight country-specific and five sub-regionspecific call to actions that focused on targeted youth recommendations in their respective countries and sub-regions of the region. These calls to actions will be used for advocacy with respective governments at regional, sub-regional and national level. Furthemore, the main output of the APFSD is the Chair's summary, a negotiated document by all the Member States. This year, the document recognised our inputs via roundtable discussions and the APFSD Youth Forum Regional Call to Action, particularly with regards to SDG 4 (education), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).





Top: The ARROW organising team of the APFSD Youth Forum 2022. **Bottom:** APFSD Youth Forum participants taking part in the discussions during the three-day virtual forum.

Furthermore, in July, ARROW co-organised the SDG Youth Summit in Bangladesh with nine other organisations in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Building on the successes of the national level APFSD Youth Forum in Nepal, the Nepal APFSD Youth Forum (NAYA), ARROW aims to seed a similar national level APFSD youth alliance in Bangladesh. In line with this, ARROW contributed to the SDG Youth Summit in Bangladesh, bringing the APFSD youth participants from Bangladesh to the SDG Youth Summit. ARROW contributed to a panel discussion about SRHR issues faced by young people in the region with focus on Bangladesh. The SDG Youth Summit 2022 provided a platform for the APFSD Youth participants from Bangladesh to discuss and reflect on what policies and activities can be taken to improve youth sustainable development including on climate action in Bangladesh, as well as addressed the needs of both



ARROW's Programme Officers, Momota and Fara, alongside members of APFSD Youth Alliance in Bangladesh at the SDG Youth Summit in Bangladesh.

the youth and the nation at large. Recommendations were formulated under the theme of "Leaving No Youth Behind: DECADE OF ACTION", and the recommendations also built on the APFSD Youth Call to Action, Bangladesh. The Nepal APFSD Youth Alliance (NAYA), created in 2021, has also been successfully engaging and connecting the regional APFSD Youth Forum to the national level SDG work in Nepal with focus on gender equality and SRHR.

#### **SRHR AND DISABILITY RIGHTS**

To strengthen ARROW's work on disability rights, gender and SRHR, a second training of trainers was carried out in Bangladesh under the UNTF Disability Rights Project. This was to understand the learnings from the 16 master trainers who previously received the training on their experiences of capacity strengthening and awareness raising. It was carried out using the training manual on disability rights, gender and SRHR which was previously published in 2021. The training covered comprehensive information on the forms of violence, discrimination and abuse faced by women and girls with disabilities (WGWD), and its interlinkages with disability rights, gender and SRHR.

#### Our Impact in 2022



Countries reached in terms of project implementation

Youth-led, youth serving and disability rights organisations reached directly through capacity strengthening and linking and learning events





Youth Advocates who participated in the SDG review process mobilised through the APFSD Youth Forum

Youth SRHR advocates trained on social innovation and intersectionality through the Changemakers Programme





Youth SRHR ideas supported in action

Women and girls with disabilities reached through community-level interventions





Regional advocacy dialogues completed on young people's SRHR

## Young People with Disabilities Just Want a Chance to Live Regular Lives and Fulfil Their Dreams

Interview with Khaleda by ARROW's Changemaker, Afroza Sultana Pria

Khaleda is a young girl with disabilities in Bangladesh. She is visually impaired and because she was the only person in her school with a disability, she felt ashamed and too embarrassed to go to school. Despite having a keen interest and wanting to further her studies, Khaleda has not received support of any kind to continue learning. She wants to continue with her studies in college so that she can eventually get a job and provide support to her parents.

She needs to be admitted to college, but because of her disabilities she does not feel comfortable doing so. Khaleda feels that she does not receive any support from her community. She believes that with proper treatment she would be able to read better, and financial support would enable her to further her studies.

Khaleda is aware about sexual and reproductive health and rights but she only learnt about this from the session organised by ARROW's Changemaker, Afroza, because at school, the teachers never touch upon SRHR.

"I know how to stay clean during menstruation and why this is necessary, I also learnt that eating nutritious foods are important, and the use of sanitary napkins are important too. I don't know if the other students knew about this because they didn't talk about it. At home my mother used to give me clothes for menstrual hygiene management but I never felt good about using the clothes. Since the session on menstrual hygiene management I have come to know about sanitary pads and since then I have started to use them too. I feel a lot better using sanitary pads instead of clothes. I think everyone should learn and know about SRHR. Many people, especially in the village, do not know much about it. If the mothers know about this they will be able to inform us about menstrual hygiene management."

Khaleda believes that as a young person with disabilities she is able to exercise SRHR provided she receives support. She also believes that the elders should be given this information so that they are more informed and false beliefs or old wives tales can be dispelled. For example, she said she was not allowed to eat fish and meat during her period and she was also not allowed to leave her home.

"If you inform mothers and other disabled children then it would also be very helpful. Since you visited us, now I can eat eggs and meat during my period and my mother allows me to meet other people too. But there are also other girls in the community who can't eat properly during their periods and can't go out. If we can reach their guardians then we will be able to inform them and prevent this," she added.

Khaleda believes that as a young person with disabilities, she is able to exercise SRHR provided she receives support. She also believes that the elders should be given this information so that they are more informed and false beliefs or old wives tales can be dispelled.



# Forging New Alliances

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"COVID-19 brought with it instability and uncertainty to lives all over the world. I was no exception, and the year proved to be an extremely challenging one. Naturally, I was depressed at being confined at home like everyone else. However, it was also a time of growth and learning for me as I was selected for the WORTH Innovation Lab 2020 and I discovered a renewed interest in working on issues of climate change and sexual health rights," said Umme Salma, from Bangladesh.

As a 2021 grant recipient of the WORTH Initiative, Umme is grateful for the support and opportunities provided by ARROW, which allow her and other grant recipients the opportunity to work on projects of their own interest to further advocacy on issues of importance in the respective communities. Her project, "Cultural Action to Promote and Incorporate SRHR in Climate Adaptation in Rural Bangladesh", was implemented through the Participatory Research and Action Network (PRAAN), and allowed her to work directly with girls and women in coastal Upazila Subarnochar, which is a disaster-prone and poverty-stricken area.

"It was a challenge, as the community was not aware of the impact of climate change on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and discussions on SRHR were considered taboo. But, with time, I was able to form community groups through cultural actions in the local language. That was quite a new idea to the communities and they eagerly welcomed it."

The study conducted under the project aimed to provide an overall scenario of the knowledge of the women and girls of Subarnochar on climate change and SRHR issues which can be used as evidence for other initiatives. After the successful completion of the project, Umme is now looking for advocacy opportunities for the interlinkages of climate change and SRHR.

"PRAAN is going to establish a Women Friendly Space Centre where my experiences and knowledge on SRHR will contribute an added value. We are also working on redesigning the activities and actions of our volunteer wing to accelerate sustainability of advocacy for the interlinkages between climate change and SRHR. I am proud to have sparked interest in climate change and SRHR among young people to know more and take a personal and collaborative action on climate change and SRHR issues."





**Top:** 16 year old Farhana, a participant in the workshops on the interlinkages of climate change and SRHR. **Bottom:** A capacity building workshop from the project 'Cultural Action to Promote and Incorporate SRHR in Climate Adaptation in Rural Bangladesh'.

Umme cited the example of 16-year old Farhana, who is learning and volunteering with PRAAN on these issues. "Another five young persons from the community group members are now working with PRAAN as volunteers and are also participating in different capacity building events." Umme was also a part of the consultation on regional priorities for COP27 with many other young enthusiastic young people across the country as well as had the opportunity to participate in ARROW's Asia Youth Festival on Innovation for Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights 2022. "The festival was a highlight of my journey as a WORTH Innovation Fellow. The experience was inspiring, as I witnessed the power of youth in driving positive change

in their communities. The diverse sustainability models presented at the festival left a lasting impression on me and have reinforced the importance of our collective efforts in promoting SRHR and addressing the impacts of climate change. I am proud to have been a part of all these events and look forward to continuing my journey, engagement and commitment to carry out the legacy as a WORTH Innovation Fellow."

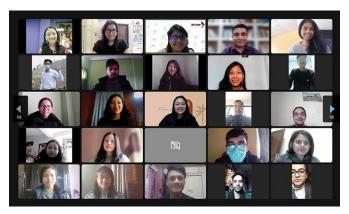
ARROW's Domain 4 work focuses on building feminist movements, SRHR alliances and other social movements to uphold women, young and gender non-binary people's sexual and reproductive rights through building and strengthening perspectives among CSOs, activists and advocates around the issues of gender, feminism and SRR, and its intersections with other issues that impact universal access to SRR such as but not limited to climate change, disability, peace and security, and food security. This is carried out through the main strategies of building perspectives, knowledge production and knowledge sharing, capacity strengthening, and advocacy. 2022 was another active year in terms of outputs and approaches.

#### UNPACKING INTERSECTIONALITY

ARROW successfully concluded InterSEXionality workshops with 25 participants of diverse backgrounds from RHRN Nepal organisations as well as 26 participants from RHRN Bangladesh organisations. The workshops aimed to address the knowledge gap between SRHR and intersecting issues such as law, education, employment and citizenship through an intersectional framework as a means for analysis and framing responses. Participants explored the topics of intersectionality, basic concepts on sexuality, safe abortion, as well as sexuality with the intersections of employment, citizenship and education.

In addition, we also completed the InterSEXionality Webinar Series for youth participants from Myanmar and Nepal with a 7-session series that aimed to strengthen capacities on availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of comprehensive abortion and contraceptive services among adolescent girls and women in the lead up to ICFP 2022. Upon conclusion of the series, ARROW selected five scholars from Nepal and five scholars from Myanmar out of the 32 youth participants, to attend and engage actively in-person

and virtually at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) 2022, that took place in November in Pattaya, Thailand, from 12 – 17 November.





Top: Youth participants from Nepal taking part in ARROW's Intersexionality Webinar Series. Bottom: Youth participants from RHRN Bangladesh taking part in ARROW's Intersexionality Webinar Series.

ARROW's Domain 4 work focuses on building feminist movements, SRHR alliances and other social movements to uphold women, young and gender non-binary people's sexual and reproductive rights through building and strengthening perspectives among CSOs, activists and advocates around the issues of gender, feminism and SRR, and its intersections with other issues that impact universal access to SRR.

**2022 was another active year** in terms of outputs and approaches.



At COP27, ARROW's Programme Director, Biplabi (second from left), was part of the panel on ensuring accountability for gender-transformative climate action, organised by ARROW, IPPF, DFPA, and the SRHR Climate Justice Coalition.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND SRHR**

Building on our work in the previous years, the major focus of this Domain remained on the intersections between climate change and SRHR. This year, ARROW's engagements at the COP27 in Egypt were multi-fold: as a regional organisation, as an observer to the parties at the COP27, as a member of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) and as a member of the SRHR and Climate Justice coalition. Building on the recent intergovernmental agreement at the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), ARROW coorganised a side event that unpacked sexual and reproductive health and rights as a critical element of inclusive, human rights-based, and gender-transformative climate action. We also launched a regional advocacy brief titled "Time for Action: Inclusion of Gender and SRHR in Climate Action" on climate change and SRHR at this event. The brief is the culmination of two sub-regional consultations organised and facilitated by ARROW with 35 civil society organisations in South and South East Asia including Bangladesh, Cambodia,

Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Vietnam, and highlighted our work on the nexus of climate change and SRHR and ARROW's initiatives on building perspectives, raising awareness, advocacy and capacity strengthening on the intersections of gender and climate change.

Continuing the momentum that started last year at COP26 to connect SDG and COP processes, ARROW also organised a convening of young people from the Asia Pacific to discuss regional youth priorities and to amplify Asia Pacific youth voices. Participants discussed the importance of establishing linkages of the SDGs on Climate Action with COP processes for cohesive concerted advocacy actions at national, regional and global levels.

Furthermore, ARROW successfully completed two subregional 'Climate Change and SRHR: Advocacy For Gender-Responsive Climate Action At COP27' virtual capacity strengthening workshops for CSOs from Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines. The workshops



ARROW's Deputy Executive Director, Sai, discussing regional youth priorities at COP27 at our convening of young people from the Asia Pacific region.

aimed to increase the understanding of the interlinkages between gender, SRHR and climate change, including exploring options of advocating for gender mainstreaming in policies and programmes of different stakeholders at all levels and the differential vulnerabilities of climate change related disasters, as well as examine the global policy landscape in climate change and gender. The two virtual workshops were conducted for representatives from 32 organisations across all five countries, using ARROW's existing resources including the Gender and Climate Change Resilience training manual. These workshops led to the development of the advocacy brief titled "Time for Action: Inclusion of Gender and SRHR in Climate Action" that was launched at COP27.

In 2022, ARROW also provided crisis support and solidarity funds for SRHR to 17 partners and their community affiliates in Bangladesh and to 12 partners and their community affiliates in Pakistan affected by the devastating floods that hit these countries. Most of the recipients utilised the funds to provide SRH and hygiene-related supplies such as sanitary napkins, soaps, undergarments, mosquito nets, and contraceptives. Some of the funds were also used to organise mobile health units on reproductive health to provide reproductive health related medical consultations, treatment, care, and medicines. SRHR informative sessions to share information related to menstrual health and how to maintain hygiene during a humanitarian crisis were also organised by some partners.



The Pan-Asian Summit, REFRAME, was co-organised by ARROW. Breakthrough India, Swayam, and MenEngage Alliance.

# REGIONALISATION AND LOCALISATION OF THE GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM (GEF)

As part of ARROW's commitment to the Regionalisation of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Global Acceleration Plan, we co-organised the Pan-Asian Summit – REFRAME – Envisioning a World Without Gender-based Violence (GBV) Conference with Breakthrough India, Swayam and MenEngage Alliance. ARROW co-organised a regional dialogue with Breakthrough India and Swayam on "Exploring Regional Opportunities Under GEF for Synergies, Co-creation and Collaboration" that aimed to establish interlinkages between SRHR and GBV, continue the conversation from the regional consultation that took place post GEF Paris and establish a regional network of CSOs to take forward the pathway—or advocacy at the regional level as well as sharing strategies and learning. The session was attended by over 100 participants.

Upon conclusion of the Pan-Asian Summit – REFRAME
Conference, planning started on the formation of a Regional
Network. This regional network of CSOs working on the
issues of GBV and SRHR aims to take forward the pathway for
advocacy at the regional level as well as sharing strategies
and learning. This is part of ARROW's commitment to the
Regionalisation of Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Global
Acceleration Plan. The network that will be formed with a
core group of at least 15 CSOs, aims to co-create a shared
learning space for CSOs for the exchange of best practices,
challenges, lessons learnt and ways forward on upholding
SRHR and eliminating GBV, provide solidarity and joint
advocacy for issues not just for SRHR and elimination of

GBV but also other issues affecting the human rights of women, girls and other marginalised populations, encourage collaboration among CSOs to organise advocacy at identified spaces and explore more advocacy opportunities at the regional and global spaces, as well as engage with the GEF processes to ensure GEF commitment and strengthen mechanisms for accountability.

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY PLANNING (ICFP) 2022

ARROW's engagements at the ICFP were multi-pronged. We were part of the pre-youth conference, organised side and parallel events on the side-lines of the main conference, co- hosted networking events, joined several panels as speakers, presented posters and disseminated information and publications through the exhibition booth. ARROW supported the participation of more than 50 participants at the conference, including ARROW's partners, network members as well as youth scholars selected from the intersectionality webinars. The SAIGE Convention organised on the side-lines of ICFP saw the presence of 50 advocates from across Asia, Africa, and Latin America coming together to discuss access to safe abortion in different contexts including existing barriers and challenges and explore strategic advocacy opportunities. ARROW also co-hosted a networking dinner with RHRN partners and witnessed the participation of over 80 young SRHR champions from Asia, the Pacific and Africa who connected through ice breaking games, dinner and dance. Another networking event, co-organised with Women Deliver and the SRHR Climate Justice coalition, saw the presence of more than 60 SRHR advocates globally who engaged in conversations on the nexus of climate change and SRHR and the need for community building on the issue. Similarly, ARROW's youth scholars from Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Myanmar spoke about the importance of access to contraception and safe abortion for young people in their country contexts. This was in addition to multiple other spaces where the ARROW team highlighted the issues of SRHR and their intersections at various other panels as well as through poster presentations. In addition, the ARROW team set up an exhibition booth at the conference where we shared information on key programmes and activities, distributed our publications, and gave out ARROW merchandise.







**Top:** At ICFP 2022, ARROW's Programme Officer, Indah, presents her poster on SAIGE's findings from the cross regional learning exchange on improving access to safe abortion. **Middle:** ARROW's Executive Director, Siva, provides opening remarks at a networking event co-organised by ARROW, Women Deliver and the SRHR Climate Justice Coalition at ICFP 2022. **Bottom:** ARROW's youth scholars after their panel on the importance of access to safe abortion and contraception at ICFP 2022.



International delegates visit ARROW's booth at ICFP 2022.





### Enriching Understanding and Equipping New Tools to Advance SRHR

#### Hein Minn Tun, Myanmar

"Participating in the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) was an incredible opportunity for me to learn from a diverse group of international participants who brought real-life experiences and evidence-based approaches for providing effective SRHR services in countries like Myanmar. During the event, I was introduced to innovative tools such as TARO and motion tracker, which can be utilised to more effectively advocate for government support. One of the most valuable takeaways for me was learning about the use of simple digital applications like WhatsApp and TikTok to provide youth SRHR education, as well as the limitations of these methods in different countries. This provided me with a better understanding of digital SRHR, particularly in the field of CSE in Myanmar. Additionally, I gained a better understanding of project failures, advocacy, dealing with different faiths, funding opportunities, and sustainable funding. Furthermore, it was an honour to share my experience of SRHR in Myanmar during the COVID-19 pandemic and military coup with the international community and work towards protecting the sexual and reproductive health rights of individuals in conflict affected countries like Myanmar."

Hein Minn Tun's journey with ARROW started with the ARROW Advocacy Institute (AAI) in 2021. In the lead up to the ICFP, he attended the Intersectionality webinar by ARROW, which provided him with a basic understanding of how to effectively approach and learn from the event. The webinar was a great opportunity for him to learn from fellow participants who shared their different and effective views in dealing with SRHR. The discussion from the webinar provided a better understanding in networking with fellow participants at ICFP.

"It was a proud moment to be selected as an ICFP scholar, and I am grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from and share my experience of SRHR in Myanmar with my international colleagues. Participating in ARROW's advocacy training, as well as the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), and Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) has provided me with a wealth of knowledge that has helped me navigate the challenges of SRHR service provision in Myanmar. The advocacy training helped me to provide effective methods for dealing with different stakeholders, which proved to be invaluable during the coup in June 2021 when I was directly supervising a team on the ground. Through APCRSHR, I gained insight into the latest challenges and drawbacks of SDGs due to the impact of COVID-19 and how organisations continue to provide SRHR services to local communities in innovative ways. The event provided me with a successful network that I have used to provide SRHR services in the field. Lastly, the APFSD event offered a youth perspective on the demands and needs of the youth population.

As a service provider, I learned and shared with my network about the similarities and challenges in the field of AYSRHR with the experience gained from the event. Overall, participating in these events has enriched my understanding and equipped me with new tools to advance SRHR in Myanmar."



# Governance and Financial Management

In 2022, the HR, operations, and finance team continued to focus on the non-programmatic aspects of ARROW and enhance our organisational development through the reviewing of practices on programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, accountable and transparent decision-making, and governance mechanisms. Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that many activities and events were now back to being physical as well as hybrid modality, which led to increased planning of logistics, travel, and budgets. However, the teamwork and sharing of workload was a major strength for the operations team to achieve all goals and requirements needed in 2022.

#### **PLANNING AND REVIEW MEETINGS**

We held three planning meetings in hybrid fashion in 2022. The first was held in ARROW's office in January to agree on key components of the Implementation Plan for the year and to finalise the annual work plan. The second mid-year planning meeting was held in June. The third meeting was held in November at The Orchard Wellness and Health Resort in Malacca as a planning and evaluation meeting as well as a retreat. The first two days were spent evaluating the outputs of the year and preparing for the 2023 year, which was then followed by a retreat and team building activities.

#### STRENGTHENING ADMINISTRATIVE AND HR MANAGEMENT AND SYSTEMS

ARROW started the process of updating the Management and Administrative Policies and Procedures and Partner Assessment Tools in the third quarter of the year and this process will continue in 2023.

#### STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

In collaboration with Domain 4, three workshops on Strengthening Digital Infrastructure were held in 2022. The sessions covered the Feminist Principles of the Internet, as well as delved into safety and security around secure browsing, identity management and passwords, secure communication, secure files, keeping our devices clean and safe, and digital infrastructure policy and incident response. The workshops were led by ARROW's PAC member, Farhanah, and an outcome of the workshops will be the development of a guideline on digital security specific to ARROW's needs.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD) AND PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)**

The 29th Annual General Meeting was held in May alongside the Board Meeting. Furthermore, in December, a second Board meeting was held in which the Board was updated on the programme implementation and highlights of the new initiatives for 2023. The Board approved the plans and overall operational budgets for 2023 as well as approved a five-day organisational break for staff in December of each year. Throughout the year, the Board supported ARROW's efforts to sharpen its governance policy and in doing so approved the revisions of ARROW policies on 1) Anti-Corruption, 2) Child Safeguarding and 3) Sexual Harassment, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation (PSHEA), to improve the policy's responsiveness and effectiveness. We also held the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting virtually in May where PAC members reviewed and provided feedback on the programme deliverables of 2021 and 2022.

#### **OPERATIONAL FUNDING SOURCES**

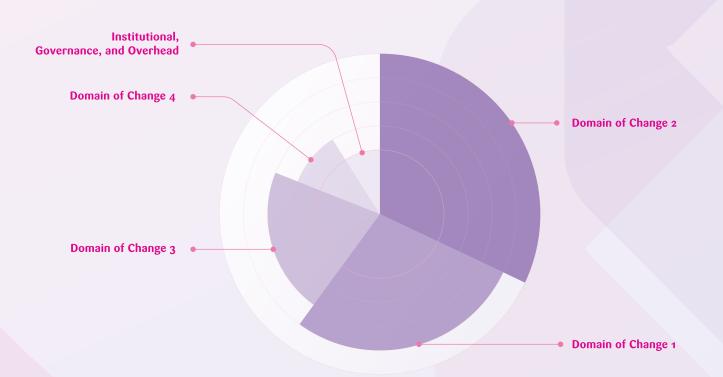
In 2022, ARROW received grants from various donors amounting to USD 2,021,758. The total operational fund is made up of USD 1,651,359 received during the year; USD 203,841 which was brought forward from 2021 and USD 166,557 receivable in 2022. 2022's operational fund was about 7% higher than 2021 (USD 127,454) due to physical programme implementation.

The exchange rates used for the purpose of this report were as follows:

Year 2021 - USD 1 = MYR 4.10, Year 2022 - USD 1 = MYR 4.35

ARROW receives core funding support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. ARROW's other donors for 2022 include EM2030, Rutgers WPF, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), UN Trust Fund, EU EIDHR, Wallace, Foundation for A Just Society (FJSI), Orchid Amplified Change, Wallace, Women's Environment and Development Organisations (WEDO), Promsex, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), International Centre for not for profit Law Organisations (ICNL) among others.

annual report 2022



0	perational	<b>Costs</b>
~ .	Portion	

	ACTUAL COST (IN USD)	% TO TOTAL COST	ALLOCATION	
PROGRAMME COSTS			ARROW	PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
Domain of Change 1: Evidence-based Actions for Progressive SRHR	527,913.10	28%	228,365.64	299,547.76
Domain of Change 2: Civic Space and Advocacy	587,191.15	32%	564,206.25	22,984.90
Domain of Change 3: Community Mobilisation	389,518.57	21%	68,498.84	321,019.73
Domain of Change 4: Movements and Alliances	188,130.76	10%	144,234.48	43,896.28
Institutional, Governance, and Overhead	158,116.84	9%	123,286.90	34,829.94
TOTAL OPERATIONAL COST	1,850,870.42	100%	1,128,592.11	722,278.61
@RM4.35 : USD1.00			61%	39%

# The **ARROW** Community

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### Virisila Buadromo

Co-Lead, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights Asia-Pacific

#### Suriani Kempe

Co-Founder of Kemban Kolektif, Malaysia

#### Maya Ganesh

Assistant Teaching Professor and Senior Research Fellow,

University of Cambridge, UK

#### Tham Hui Ying

Executive Director, Asylum Access: Making Human Rights

a Reality for Refugees, Malaysia

#### Rozana Mohd Isa

Executive Director, Sisters In Islam, Malaysia

#### PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### **Mary Gyknell**

Board of Trustees, GALANG Philippines

#### Menka Goundan

Senior Programme Manager, Fiji Women's Fund, Fiji

#### Liyana Khairuddin

Political Adviser, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

#### **Mary Jane Real**

Independent Consultant, Philippines

#### **Farhanah**

Fellow for Digital Defenders Partnership, Indonesia

#### Madhavi Joshi

Senior Programme Director, Youth Programmes,

Waste Management, Rural Programmes Centre

for Environment Education

#### Niluka Gunawardena

Researcher, Sri Lanka

Melissa Mohd Akhir (from December 2021)

Partner/Founder Kemban Kolektif, Malaysia

#### **FULL-TIME STAFF**

#### Aarushi Khanna

Programme Officer (till November 2022)

#### Anjali Shenoi

Project Manager (from July 2022)

#### **Azmilia Binti Mohd Kamil**

Senior Finance Officer

#### **Biplabi Shrestha**

Programme Director

#### Deepa A/P Chandra

Programme Officer

#### **Emily Yip Yoke Chan**

Operations Director

#### **Evelynne Gomez**

Programme Officer

#### Fara Amalina Firdaus Muhammad Rom

Programme Officer

#### Firzana Redzuan

Programme Officer (till December 2022)

#### **Garima Shrivastava**

Programme Manager

#### Indah Yusari

Programme Officer (from July 2022)

#### **Kamal Gautam**

Programme Officer (till May 2022)

#### Karell J.A.C. Calpito

Programme Officer (till April 2022)

#### Momota Hena

Programme Officer

#### Naz Nawmi Chowdhury

Programme Manager (till December 2022)

#### Nur Hazwani Binti Azman

Admin Officer

#### Nur Hazwani Husin

Programme Officer (from August 2022)

#### Noor Faeizah

Operations and HR Manager (from May 2022)

#### Nur Zuhaili Ahmad Pauzi

Operations and HR Manager (till April 2022)

#### Rosnani Binti Hitam

**Executive Officer** 

#### Sai Jyothirmai Racherla

Deputy Executive Director

#### Shamala A/P Chandrasekaran

Programme Manager

#### **Sharifah Keshia Binti Syed Mahmood**

Programme Officer

#### Shiwa Karmacharya

Programme Officer (from July 2022)

#### Sivananthi A/P KV Thanenthiran

**Executive Director** 

#### **Wong Chooi Fong**

Finance Manager

#### Yan Ping Lee

Finance Officer (from January 2022)

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#### **DONORS**

- **Amplify Change**
- EM2030
- **EU EIDHR**
- FJS Foundation International, Ltd (FJSFI)
- **Global Fund for Women**
- International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)
- IPPF Yanaa
- **Orchid Project**

- **Packard Foundation**
- Promsex Yanaa
- The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)
- **UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women**
- United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)
- **Wallace Global Fund**
- Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)
- Women's Fund Asia (WFA)
- **WPF Rutgers Netherlands**

#### **VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS**

ABC Ideals Partner Sdn. Bhd.

Corporate Gift Supplier

**Ablecool Aircond and Electric Service** 

Air Conditioner Contractor

Al-Zam Sdn. Bhd.

Company Secretary

**Ark Builder Enterprise** 

**Renovation Contractor** 

**Asashi Technology** 

Technology and Hardware Services

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Toner supplier

Canva Pty Ltd.

**Editing Application** 

**Ceria Noor Telecommunication** 

Telephone Installation Services

Coway (M) Sdn Bhd and Sterling Pure Sdn Bhd.

Drinking water and air purifier

**CYF Contracts and Marketing** 

Printing services

**Deloitte Malaysia** 

Tax consultant

DHL

Mailing services

Enovec Sdn. Bhd.

Video Conferencing System

Fazli Fadzil

Office maintenance contractor

**FedEx** 

Mailing Services

Full Image Sdn. Bhd.

Alarm security services

**Gaganpreet Kaur** 

Sign language interpretation

**Grand Lotus Travel Agencies** 

Travel services

**Grant Thornton Malaysia** 

Auditor and tax consultant

Great Eastern Sdn. Bhd.

Medical insurance

**Hootsuite** 

Social media management platform

**Howspace OY** 

Domain on information

ICompucare Global Service Sdn. Bhd.

IT technical support

IPServerone Solutions Sdn. Bhd.

Cloud and web hosting services

K.A Fazal Enterprises Sdn Bhd.

Stationery supplier

**Liquid Web** 

Domain on information

Maybank KL Sentral

Banking services

Micom Sdn. Bhd.

Printing services

M.M. Ally's Sdn. Bhd.

Money changer

Mural

Online whiteboard

Nicolette de Lange Mallari

Publications and information design

Persekutuan Orang Pekak Malaysia

Sign language interpretation

Pos Malaysia Berhad

Courier services

Prachi Arora

Sign language interpretation

**Protech Security Automation Service** 

**CCTV Installation and Service** 

RapidKill

Pest Control

Redsun IT Solutions (M) Sdn. Bhd.

Technology and computer hardware

provider

Ricoh Sdn Bhd.

Printing and photocopy services

Sepakat Suria Maju Resources

Cleaning service

**Shutterstock** 

Domain on information

**Sky Cool Trading Service** 

Air Conditioner Contractor

SM Unique Sdn. Bhd.

Mailing service

**Survey Monkey** 

Domain on information

Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor

Utilities

Synic Consulting Sdn Bhd.

Accounting Software Company

**Teck Soon Locksmith** 

Locksmith Services

Telekom Malaysia Berhad

Telecommunication services

Tenaga Nasional Berhad

Utilities

VXS Chakra Suria Sdn. Bhd.

Website Development

Wise Organisation (M) Sdn. Bhd.

Printing services

Wong Kum Fatt, Ng Ah Meng Sdn Bhd.

Landlord

Zoom, Inc.

Video Communication Provider



**TYPF** 

UN

UNTF

**UPR** 

**VNR** 

WDDF

**WEDO** 

WGC

**WPS** 

YKP

**WGWD** 

WORTH

**UNESCAP** 

The YP Foundation

for Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Trust Fund

Universal Periodic Review

Voluntary National Review

Women and Earth Initiative

Women, Peace and Security

Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan

Women and Gender Constituency

Women And Girls With Disabilities

United Nations Economic and Social Commission

Women with Disabilities Development Foundation

Women's Environment and Development Organization

**United Nations** 

**FWRM** 

**GBV** 

**GEF** 

**GFI** 

**GNWP** 

**HLPF** 

HRC

**ICPD** 

**IPPF** 

**JAG** 

**JFS** 

KM

KS

LAC

InfoCom

Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

International Planned Parenthood Federation

International Conference on Population and Development

Gender-Based Violence

Gender Equality Forum

Gender Equality Initiative

High Level Political Forum

Information and Communications

Latin America and the Caribbean

Joint Action Group for Gender Equality

**Human Rights Council** 

Justice For Sisters

**Knowledge Sharing** 

Knowledge Management

