

Delivering no matter what

In your inbox every quarter!

There's a first to everything, so here's ours! We are proud to present the very first newsletter of the International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Region. From work done by our Member Associations and collaborative partners (in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka) to hits on our social channels and more - this action-packed newsletter covers all our newsworthy highlights.

- What's special about this edition?
- Introduction to MA Presidents
 - Last year's proud achievements
 - Events, Celebrations - and so much more!

Drop a line at Sarocomms@ippf.org to show us your love or suggestions!

A Look at Leadership



Dr. Nasreen Oryakhil, Afghan Family Guidance Association
A Gynecologist and Obstetrician, Dr Nasreen was the Director of Labor in 2015 and the Minister General of the Afghanistan Medical Council. She was conferred the International Women of Courage award in 2014. She has been associated with AFGA since its inception in 1989.



Mr. Md. Masudur Rahman, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh
Known for his work in petroleum energy and the petroleum sector in the country, Mr Masudur started as a volunteer with FPAB 24 years ago. For the last 6 years, he is the President of the National Executive Committee.



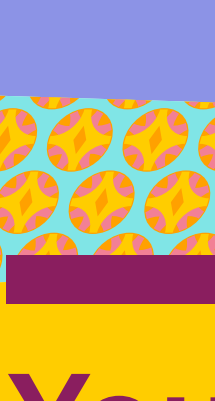
Her Majesty Gyalumy Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck, RENEW BHUTAN

Her Majesty established Respect, Educate, Nurture, Empower Women (RENEW) in 2004. The United Nations honored Her Majesty as the individual laureate for 2020 for her contribution towards advancing women's rights and reproductive health issues.



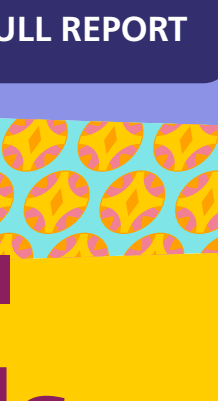
Dr. Rathnamala M. Desai, Family Planning Association of India

Principal and Head of the OB-GYN Department at SDM College of Medical Sciences Dr Rathnamala has been a member of the FPA India since 2001. She is country coordinator of India for the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research.



Mr. Himalaya Lal Kasajoo, Family Planning Association of Nepal

Mr Himalaya has been the President of FPAN and has been associated with the organization since 1998. He holds a Masters in Business Administration.



Mr. Hussain Haleem, SHE MALDIVES

Mr. Hussain Haleem is the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Maldives National University. He has been a member of SHE for more than 32 years and was the former Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Treasurer of SHE Maldives.



Mr. Don Chandima Gunawardena, Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka

A qualified Chartered Accountant, Mr Don Chandima has held several positions within IPPF-member of the IPPF Nomination & Governance Committee and honorary officer (Treasurer) of IPPF SARO. He has been the President of FPASL since 2016.

Our impact in 2021

30.9 million Total SRHR services provided by SARO MAs

9 million Services linked to ensuring access to methods of modern contraception

406,127 Services linked to safe abortion including post abortion care

1.9 million Services that address and respond to cases of sexual and gender based violence

1.64 million million provided Couple Year Protection (CYP)

573,833 Result 17: clients served in humanitarian settings

[SEE THE FULL REPORT](#)

Young Minds, Demand Equality

Young people's voices shape all our tomorrows - there's no question about that! That's why this year we decided to listen to them even more. What's fun, engaging and educational all at once? A youth-oriented conclave! We joined our Member Associations in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal to host a series of offline youth conclaves. These were full-day conferences that gave young people the opportunity to discuss key SRHR issues, meet like-minded people, and interact with key decision makers (we even invited government officials and media personnel!). Safe to say each ended with laughter, opportunity and hope for a better future for all.

BANGLADESH 65 young people

BHUTAN 600 young people

INDIA 70 young people

NEPAL 80 young people

"Being here (at the youth conclave) felt like heaven... to be in a space where I can express myself and be open about my gender identity"

Aveen Gahatraj, 21-years-old, Nepal

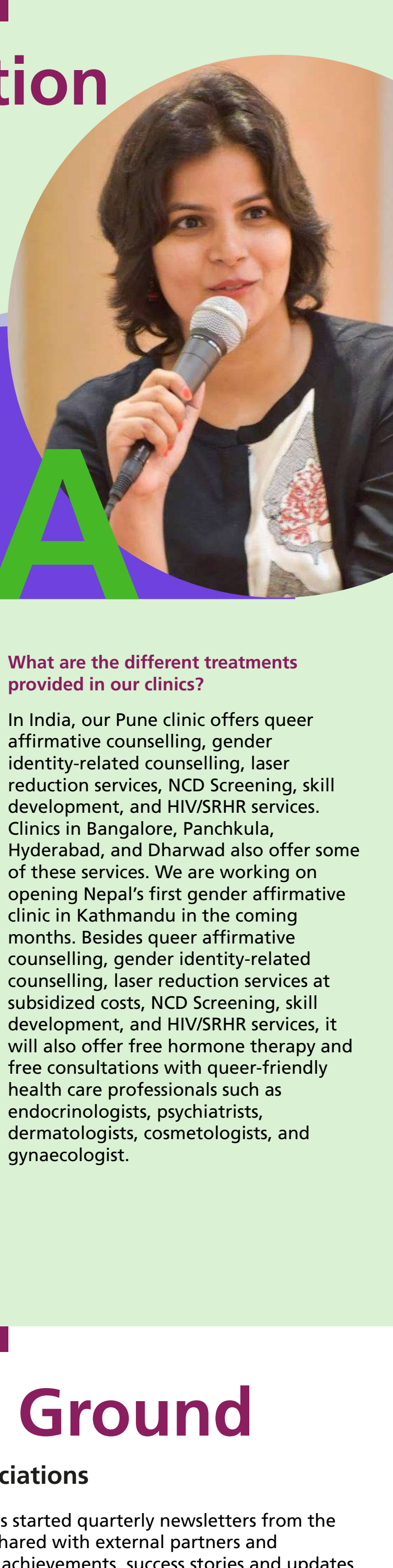
"Every young should be treated equally and with dignity, people with disabilities must not be discriminated against"

Tajkia Jahan, 21-year-old, Bangladesh

"The sensitization workshop with students propelled conversations on safe sex and other sexual and reproductive rights issues. At the conclave, students wrote messages on condoms, girls narrated their personal stories of menstruation, and policymakers came together to debate important issues"

Dr Pallavi Majumdar, Prof Mass Communication, Royal Thimphu College

- VIDEO BANGLADESH YOUTH CONCLAVE
- VIDEO BHUTAN CONCLAVE
- VIDEO INDIA CONCLAVE
- VIDEO NEPAL CONCLAVE



Humanitarian Responses

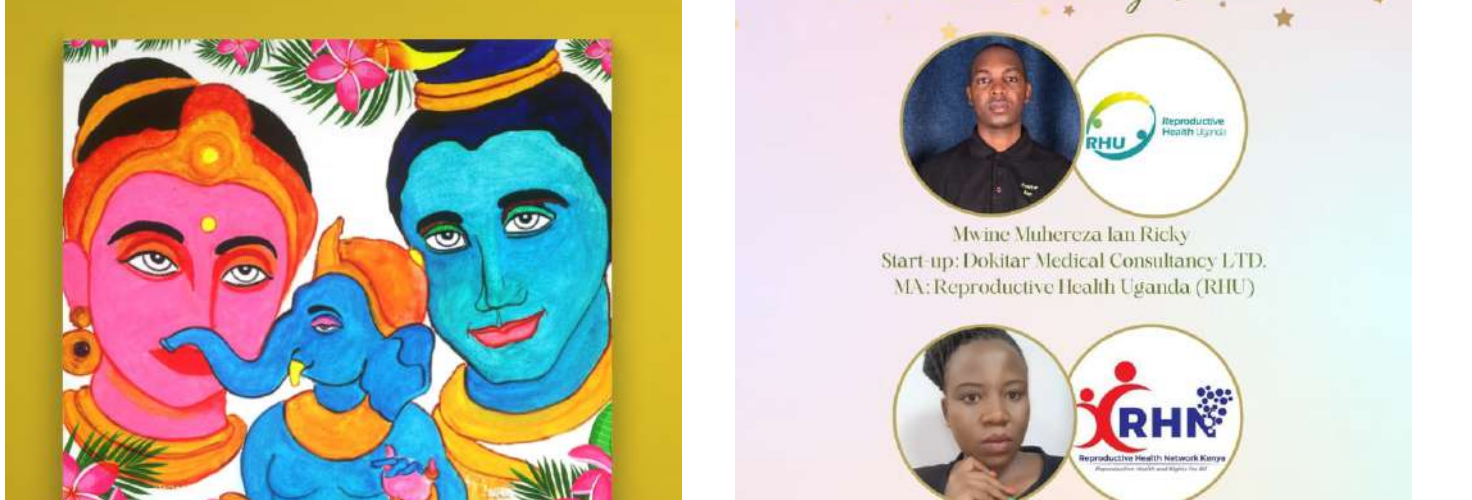
SPRINT Program, Phase IV: India & Maldives included

DFAT's flagship SPRINT program entered its fourth phase from April 2021 to December 2024. This phase saw inclusion of two more South Asia Region countries, making it four countries – Sri Lanka, Nepal and newly added India and Maldives (from South Asia) out of a total of 14 Asia-Pacific countries.

The SPRINT programme capacitates the MAs to equip better for an enhanced response during a crisis. The goal of the program is to improve access to lifesaving and reproductive health services and rights for people affected by crises in all their diversity. While the overall development outcome is to reduce SRH mortality and morbidity in populations affected by crises.

Earthquake in Afghanistan

On 22nd July 2021 an earthquake struck the Southern Region of Afghanistan including Paktika and Khost provinces. Around 1,000 people were killed and 1500 people injured. Afghan Family Guidance Association with support of IPPF started a response in Paktika province. It is a STREAM-3 response for three months. Services include MISP via medical camp and mobile vehicles in each district through medical teams. MA will provide contraceptives (both short-acting and long-acting), post abortion care services, STI/HIV related services including syndromic management, obstetric services and SGBV related services including clinical management of rape (at health camps), counselling and referrals. Referrals would also be made for complicated obstetric cases.



In conversation

SONAL GIANI, Senior Technical Advisor – Diversity and Inclusion, SARO

Q&A



What gender affirmative care services do SAR Member Associations offer?

Our Member Associations (MAs), the Family Planning Association of India has gender affirming clinics and the Family Planning Association of Nepal will soon open a new trans-friendly clinic. The Family Planning Association of Bangladesh has two trans-friendly clinics providing hormone therapy, laser therapy, and peer counselling services.

What are examples of appropriate language in gender affirmative care?

It is essential to respect the self-identity of the queer individual. For example, when taking details of the person visiting the clinic, check how they would like to be addressed. It is equally important to explain why you are asking for specific information about how they identify themselves. Understand that people must be called by their expressed names and pronouns.

What are the different treatments provided in our clinics?

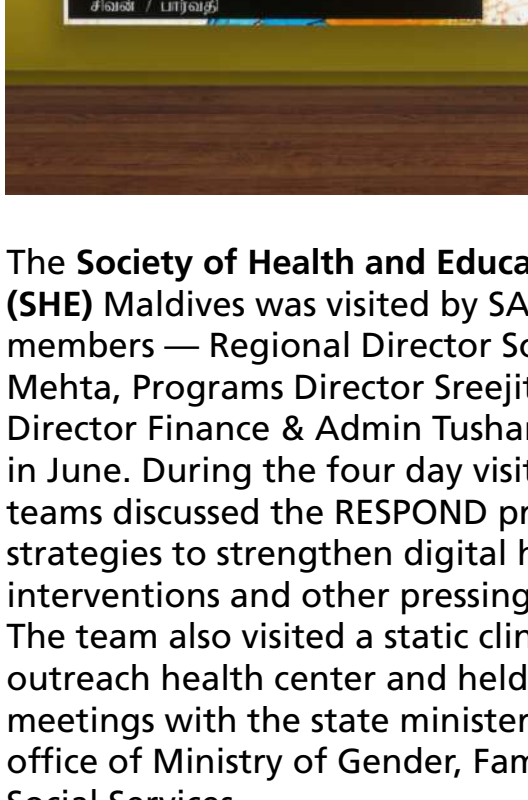
In India, our Pune clinic offers queer affirmative counselling, gender identity-related counselling, laser reduction services, NCD Screening, skill development, and HIV/SRHR services. Clinics in Bangalore, Panchkula, Hyderabad, and Dharwad also offer some of these services. We are working on opening Nepal's first gender affirmative clinic in Kathmandu in the coming months. Besides queer affirmative counselling, gender identity-related counselling, laser reduction services at subsidized costs, NCD Screening, skill development, and HIV/SRHR services, it will also offer free hormone therapy and free consultations with queer-friendly health care professionals such as endocrinologists, psychiatrists, dermatologists, cosmetologists, and gynaecologist.

[READ THE FULL INTERVIEW](#)

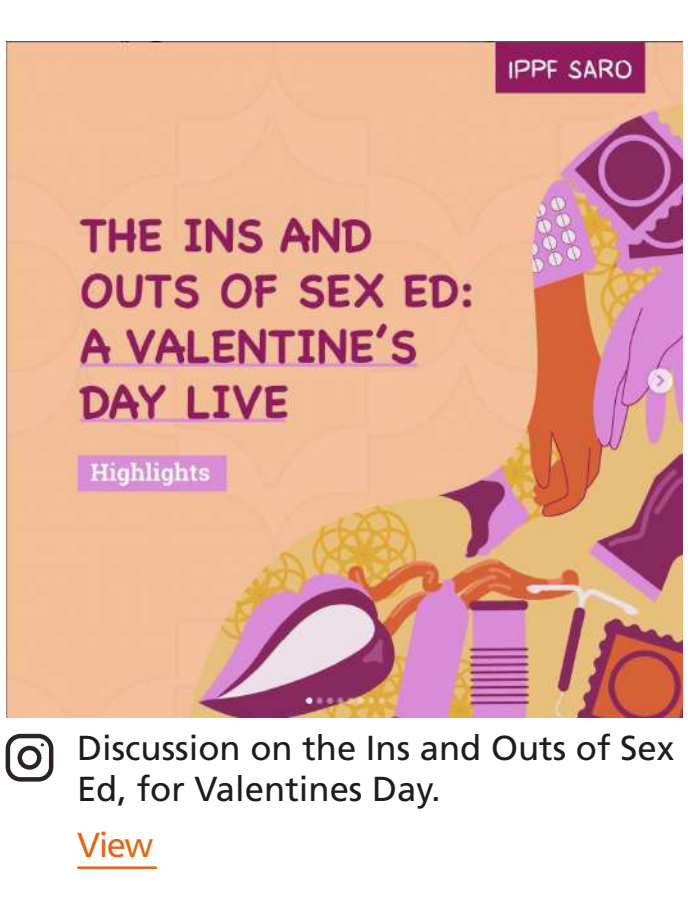
A Round on Ground

Updates from our member associations

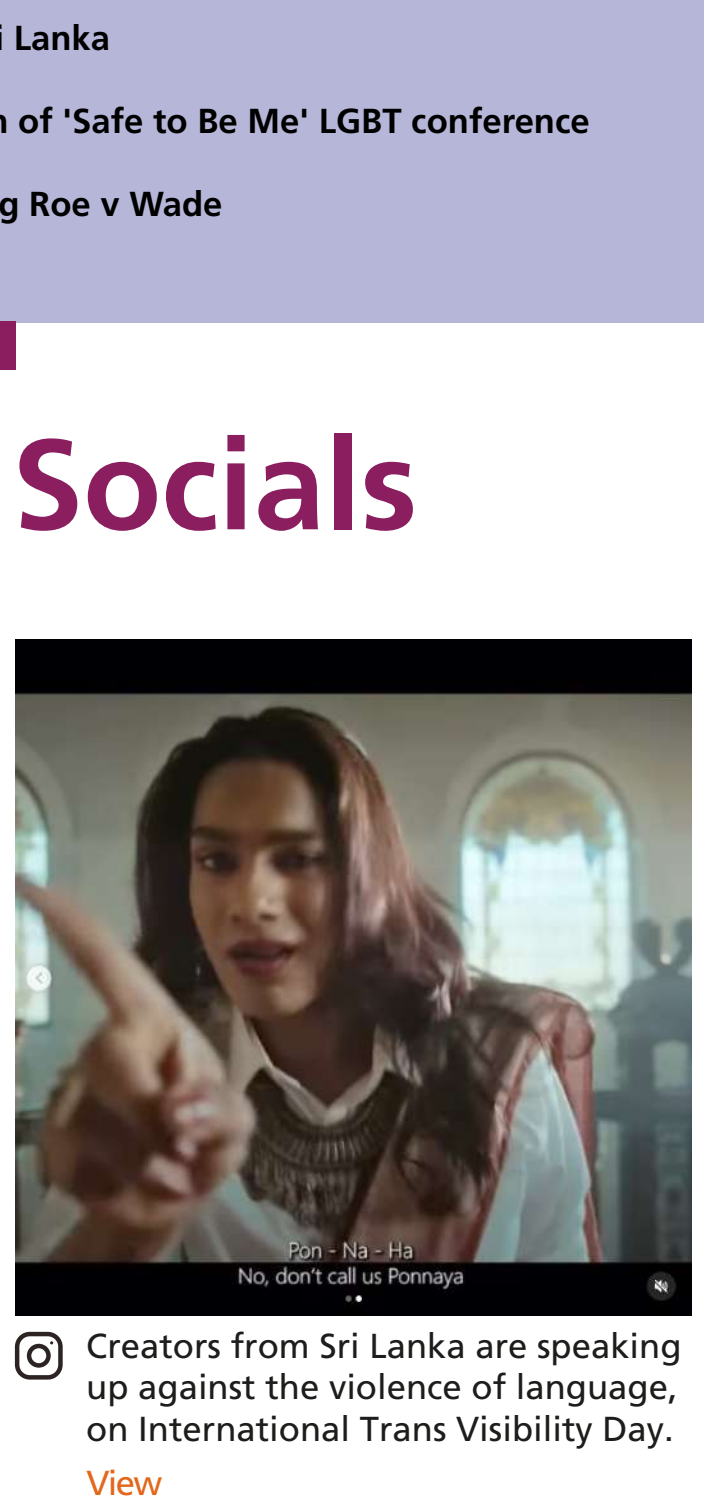
The **Afghan Family Guidance Association** has started quarterly newsletters from the last quarter of 2021. These newsletters are shared with external partners and stakeholders. The newsletter focuses on the achievements, success stories and updates of various AFGA projects. To receive the newsletter, please drop an email at communication@afga.org.af



The **Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka** concluded a yearlong advocacy media fellowship to address the stigma and misinformation that leads to discrimination of LGBTQIA+ communities in the country. The fellowship was mentored to 20 fellows, who also received mentorship apart from financial support. The fellows produced different media products – films, illustrations, e-magazines or music videos which can now be viewed through a virtual exhibition. Catch their work here



The **Family Planning Association of India** hosted the first IPPF-Youth Social Venture Fund (YSVF) Innovation Challenge Awards. Launched last year, this global pilot business initiative supports young innovators addressing global SRHR issues through technology. Three winners were awarded the fund, out of the eight shortlisted innovators from different regions – Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and the United States. The winners will receive mentorship by technology and incubation experts over the next five months to upskill their solutions. More details here



The **Society of Health and Education (SHE)** Maldives was visited by SAR team members – Regional Director Sonal Mehta, Programs Director Sreejit EM and Director Finance & Admin Tushar Palorkar in June. During the four day visit, the teams discussed the RESPOND project, strategies to strengthen digital health interventions and other pressing issues. The team also visited a static clinic, outreach health center and held meetings with the state ministers at the office of Ministry of Gender, Family & Social Services.



News Happenings and SARO Response

- Economic crisis and following violence in Sri Lanka
- Statement on UK Government's cancellation of 'Safe to Be Me' LGBT conference
- Statement on US Supreme Court overturning Roe v Wade

Hot on IPPF Socials

Discussion on the Ins and Outs of Sex Ed, for Valentines Day.

Creators from Sri Lanka are speaking up against the violence of language, on International Trans Visibility Day.

On the economic crisis in Sri Lanka

On supporting the LGBTQ+ community