

ACCELERATING ENGAGEMENT OF

# Champions

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT**  
Multi-Country Advocacy for SRHR in South Asia

An European Union Supported Project  
"Strengthening MDG 5A And 5B In South Asia: Creating Champions And Momentum For Progress In SRHR"  
Implemented by International Planned Parenthood Federation in Nine Asian Countries





**560+**

SRHR Champions

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**> 4 million**

Target Group Reached

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**150+**

CSOs Engaged

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and counting ...

# Acknowledgement

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# Acronyms

<b>AFGA</b>	Afghan Family Guidance Association
<b>AFPPD</b>	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
<b>AFP</b>	Advance Family Planning
<b>APCRSHR</b>	Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights
<b>ARCS</b>	Afghan Red Crescent Society
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CSE</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EVAW</b>	Elimination of Violence Against Women
<b>FHAI</b>	Family Health Association of Iran
<b>FP2020</b>	Family Planning 2020
<b>FPAB</b>	Family Planning Association of Bangladesh
<b>FPAI</b>	Family Planning Association of India
<b>FPAN</b>	Family Planning Association of Nepal
<b>FPASL</b>	Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>ICPD</b>	International Conference on Population and Development
<b>IPPF</b>	International Planned Parenthood Federation
<b>MA</b>	Member Association
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MSDW</b>	The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka
<b>NACG</b>	National Action and Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Women and Children
<b>NCSP</b>	National Civil Society Partnership Platforms
<b>Rahnuma-FPAP</b>	Rahnuma-Family Planning Association of Pakistan
<b>RENEW</b>	Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women, Bhutan
<b>SARO</b>	South Asia Regional Office
<b>SARYN</b>	South Asia Regional Youth Network
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SHE</b>	Society for Health Education, Maldives
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WRAI</b>	White Ribbon Alliance India

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# Executive Summary

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) believes that upholding human rights for sexual and reproductive health is key to ensuring that all people can be equal and free to make decisions in all spheres of their lives, without discrimination, without violence or coercion, and with the assurance of their dignity upheld. “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights are rights of everyone to make free, informed and responsible decisions and have full control over very basic aspects of one’s private life – one’s body, sexuality, health, relationships, and if, when and with whom to marry and have children. This includes rights to enjoy and express one’s sexuality, be free from interference in making personal decisions about sexuality and reproductive matters, and to access sexual and reproductive health information, education and services.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights embrace human rights that are already recognised in international, regional and national legal frameworks, standards and agreements.” (Source: High-Level Task Force for the International Conference on Population and Development, Policy Recommendations for the ICPD Beyond 2014: Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights for All).

The Sustainable Development Goals, ICPD Programme of Action, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), FP2020 and the favorable national legislations in some countries provide policy frameworks on ensuring sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in South Asia. Yet, there are socio-cultural challenges both at policy, service delivery and community levels, which prevents fulfilment of sexual and reproductive health and rights. This results in lack of access to sexual and reproductive health information, services and rights by a significant proportion of underserved population in the region.

To accelerate progress on protection and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights in South Asia, IPPF analysed the need for development of informed advocates on SRHR or “Champions of SRHR” in nine South Asian countries. The project on “Strengthening MDG 5A and 5B in South Asia: creating champions and momentum for progress in SRHR” was implemented at the regional and country level with generous support of European Commission. The term of the project – March 2014 to February 2017 has been completed and the project has naturally created a brand equity as “EC Champions Project” and achieved this in true sense.

The specific objective of the project is to increase political support for sexual and reproductive health and rights and advancement of MDG 5A and 5B in nine countries in South Asia and strengthen the capacity of a regional civil society network to influence political change. The three key expected results areas in nine South Asia countries are:

- Increased commitment of parliamentarians and policy makers to SRHR.
- Enhanced capacity of networks of civil society organisations to influence political change in favour of SRHR nationally and regionally.
- Increased awareness of all people, particularly the most marginalised and vulnerable on SRHR.

The project was implemented in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. IPPF and its Member Associations’ subject matter expertise and rich experience of addressing the issues related to sexual, reproductive health provided required technical and programmatic resources for implementation, monitoring and reporting

of the project. Partnership with Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) facilitated mobilisation and engagement of parliamentarians at the country and regional levels.

The end of the project assessment found considerable achievements towards the project's specific objective and expected results and in some cases the project targets have exceeded. The political mapping of SRHR situation in the nine countries, facilitated access to latest information pertaining to national laws, policies and programmes that are critical to protecting and promoting SRHR. The advocacy and communications materials developed through the project will support future efforts of the project's stakeholders in these nine countries.

The "Creating Champions of SRHR" model itself was successful as it generated a sustainable resource base of over 560 sensitised, informed and dedicated leaders and volunteers- parliamentarians, youth, women and media personnel for taking forward SRHR advocacy. The project created opportunities and spaces for women-led and youth-led SRHR advocacy, formed new CSOs networks and strengthened existing ones. Sustainable channel of communications and access between the civil society and parliamentarians were established. Engagement with media was an important ingredient of expanding advocacy efforts. A campaign titled "Celebrating Voices Over Silence" was successfully carried out using films festivals, sports tournaments, music and theatre for mass mobilisation. Over 335 SRHR related questions were raised in parliament of project countries and policy level interaction increased at regional and national level. Capacity building of CSOs, women and youth resulted in reaching to large number of target group. President, Prime Ministers,

Ministers, eminent youth icons, reputed film and media personalities, academicians, civil society activists, in school and out of school adolescent youth, community women participated in several activities of the project. The project has broken the silence at various levels and has strengthened an inclusive SRHR movement in the nine South Asian countries. Natural calamities and internal country situation- earthquake in Nepal in 2015, security situation in Afghanistan, country elections in Iran and Sri Lanka impacted the progress of the project. Yet, IPPF and Member Associations ceaselessly worked with all project stakeholders to achieve the progress towards the objective of the project.

This report summarises highlights of the results achieved during the past three years, findings of the assessment of the project, lessons learnt, challenges faced and outline of what impact it leaves for future in terms of sustainability of these achievements.

In responding to address the unmet need of family planning services in the region, IPPF SARO provided 22.8 million services in 2016. Nearly, 38 percent of these services were provided to young people. The project played an important role in demand generation through reaching to young people. Moreover, the values and learnings from the Champions Project were adopted globally in IPPF's new strategic framework 2016-2022. This will allow IPPF to maintain the momentum, deepen further advocacy efforts through the champions and expanding engagement of support groups.

# Project Assessment

## BACKGROUND

The project “Strengthening MDG 5A and 5B in South Asia: creating champions and momentum for progress in SRHR” was implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 with a grant received from European Commission under the category of “Strengthening the Capacities of Non-State Actors Actions in partner countries (Multi-country)”. The project was designed by IPPF SARO and it was implemented in nine south Asian Countries in partnerships with Member Associations of IPPF. Since the project tenure is completed, an independent assessment was carried out to study the contribution of the project towards its goals and objectives.

## PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT

As defined in the project log frame, the overall objective was to contribute to MDGs 5 (both A and B) as well as to MDGs 1, 3 and 4 and contribute to the fulfillment of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. The specific objective of the project was, to increase political support for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the advancement of MDG 5A and MDG 5B in nine countries in South Asia and strengthen the capacity, of a regional civil society network to influence political change.

The project assessment was carried out by two external consultants engaged by IPPF. The scope of the exercise was to assess – to what extent the advocacy strategies and initiatives, achieved the project’s specific objectives. In accordance with the agreed process, the assessment aimed to answer five key questions across the assessment criteria of: a) strategies and interventions; b) project results; c) project implementation and governance; d) performance against objectives; and e) sustainability of results achieved by the project.

## METHODOLOGY

During the assessment, all project relevant documentation was reviewed including- original grant document, log frame, donor reports, political mapping reports of nine countries, country wise activity reports and other related records. In addition, series of telephonic and video interviews were conducted to collect information from the project stakeholders and target groups in nine countries. The data and information collected were analysed to derive observations and inferences during the assessment.

## SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

### 1. ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT STRATEGIES AND INTERVENTIONS

**1.1** During the design of the project, IPPF derived the need for development of informed advocates on SRHR – called the “Champions of SRHR” in the project. There are considerable examples in the project countries where, these champions- parliamentarians, youth and women were involved in the project to promote SRHR within their domain of influence. The CSOs and media were the other target groups involved in the project in all nine countries.

**1.2** The project strategy also focused on facilitating collaboration between these groups of champions for joint advocacy initiatives. Country wise specific examples were found where the civil society interacted with champions parliamentarians in promoting favorable policies. Gender equality bill-2016 in Maldives, expansion of basket of contraceptive choices-2016 in India, revision of child marriage act-2015 in Punjab, Pakistan, etc. and other country specific examples of collaborative policy advocacy related to addressing gender based violence, comprehensive sexuality education, access to safe abortion in the region were observed in all nine countries.

**1.3** The political mapping of the SRHR situation in the nine countries by IPPF, facilitated access to latest information pertaining to national laws, policies and programmes that are critical to protecting and promoting SRHR. This approach helped in identifying country wise priorities and added pace to the initiation of targeted advocacy activities. The selected priorities were the main basis of driving advocacy initiatives carried out by the project, which were adequately reflected in the key messages used in the project, for generating policy debate with government, youth and women networks, media and civil society.

**1.4** Alignment with IPPF and MA's core advocacy priorities and strategies helped in building on the ongoing advocacy strategies and resources. For example, MAs in Pakistan and India continued their core advocacy focus on Child Marriage and Family Planning through this project. This facilitated the project partners to successfully contribute towards promoting positive legislations on SRHR by the country governments.

**1.5** In terms of complementing existing efforts for implementation, monitoring and financing of the Post-2015 developmental agenda, the project created spaces to initiate dialogues with various stakeholders and align their advocacy strategy with SDGs and other international frameworks. The MAs in all nine countries included policy dialogues on SDGs and SRHR in their capacity development workshops and consultative meetings with stakeholders – particularly parliamentarians. The SDG 3 and 5 specifically caters to the larger agenda of universal access to SRH and gender equality and addresses the unfinished agenda of MDG 5. The synergy between the project priorities and focus on SDGs, created an interface between CSOs and government to advocate for greater accountability of commitments to not only MDG 5A and MDG

5B, but other interrelated issues identified as priority in SDGs.

**1.6** The development and use of the project's advocacy and communications materials and tools were noted appropriate to facilitate advocacy in an informed manner. These tools could support future efforts of the project partners in nine countries to continue reaching out and engage with political leaders and civil society. Therefore, periodic updating can add value to maintain the frequency of dissemination of relevant information in future.

**1.7** Engagement of religious leaders and groups was not part of the project's strategy, which could have added value in achieving inclusivity strategy adopted by the project. Nevertheless, examples of involvement of religious leaders are reported in Afghanistan and Pakistan for building consensus on the need for better access to SRH services and rights.

**1.8** The types of advocacy initiatives carried out by the project could be broadly put under three categories: a) one to one evidence based advocacy; b) leverage existing networks for advocacy; and c) collective advocacy. To study the comparative advantage was not within the scope of the assessment. However, complementarity between these approaches were observed. For example, access to Her Majesty Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck in Bhutan through her involvement in RENEW, helped reaching out to the almost all the parliamentarians in Bhutan. Similarly, partnering with AFPPD open doors to engage with parliamentarians at country level through their membership base.

**1.9** The project methodology focused on both leveraging existing platforms as well as creating new platforms. For example, in India, FPAI in collaboration with existing networks- Advocacy for Reproductive Choice (ARC) and

White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI), engaged 16 CSOs in SRHR advocacy. However, in Iran and Sri Lanka the national level CSO forums were launched by the MAs for advocating SRHR. This demonstrates adoption of need based and contextualised models and leveraging rather than duplication of efforts.

**1.10** The project created opportunities and spaces for women-led and youth-led SRHR advocacy. Women and youth champions developed by the project, not only met their own information needs, but also exercised their newly acquired knowledge, skills and competencies to be involved in community level events. Further, their involvement facilitated the project activities to gain greater attention from peer groups, community leaders as well as government officials. The project has created a push for women and youth leadership in SRHR advocacy.

**1.11** Involvement of several civil society forums in the project was noticed. While these forums provided opportunities for joint interventions for improving accountability on SRHR, the public events emphasised more raising awareness. It is therefore viewed that the overall design of the project was relevant to strengthen the advocacy capacity of CSOs at policy and community level in these nine countries.

**1.12** There were consistency instances of capacity development interventions carried out under the project through workshops, consultations etc. Feedback from few trainees suggests appreciation and usefulness of the content, design and facilitation of the trainings. In addition, trainees commented that the advocacy skills and knowledge they acquired serve their advocacy needs.

## **2. ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

**2.1** Since assessing the “Process” and “Progress” towards the objectives is an important aspect in advocacy projects, the

assessment looked at the advocacy journey rather than just the impact and destination.

**2.2** The project Log Frame translates the programmatic approach into a structured plan of project activities and intended outcomes. The logical framework aims to capture the project logic systematically, and attempts to link activities and expected result areas. Revisions in the log frame were done to reduce the expected number of results from four to three to remove duplication of information. This revision was done in November 2015 with recommendation from Results Oriented Monitoring visit of European Commission.

**2.3** Factors of natural calamity in Nepal in 2015, continued internal security situation in Afghanistan, election in Iran and Sri Lanka during 2015-2016 were considered as major reasons for varied progress between these countries vis-à-vis the indicators mentioned in the Log Frame. However, the assessment observed that the project in most cases achieved or exceeded the targeted outputs for instance 114 champion parliamentarians against the original target of 60 parliamentarians in nine countries. Similarly, against a target of 90 CSOs’ engagement in nine countries, the project achieved 156 CSOs.

**2.4** Deliberate selection of SRHR Champions parliamentarians through cross-party representation from across national and provincial levels in all nine countries are considered as a good practice, since this diversity will ensure that SRHR remains within the political agenda irrespective of any change in power in governance.

**2.5** The process of engaging parliamentarians as SRHR champions followed multiple approaches – one on one relationship building, leveraging existing relationship of the partners (MAs) and other stakeholders of the project (CSOs), partnership with existing relevant parliamentarian’s forums (AFPPD). Series of consistent efforts made by MA to engage

with parliamentarians and involve them in advocacy activities- against their engagement with multiple compelling priorities, perhaps resulted in exceeding results in terms of the numbers that the project has achieved.

**2.6** Meticulous planning of the contents was noticed in trainings and consultations that were organised to sensitise the parliamentarians, CSOs, youth, women, media and other target groups. Country specific identified advocacy priorities were programmatically reflected within the international SRHR advocacy frameworks of MDGs, post 2015, SGDs, universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, ICPD plan of action, FP2020 etc.

**2.7** Feedback from project's implementing partners suggests that considerable amount of efforts was made on a regular basis for stewarding relationship with the parliamentarians during the process of identification and training to ensure their continued engagement in project activities. However, continuation of this investment of efforts in maintaining relationship is required for sustained involvement of parliamentarians, even beyond the project tenure.

**2.8** Review of existing documentations and findings of the interviews conducted during the assessment, reflects understanding and commitments of parliamentarians on country specific sexual and reproductive health issues- which can be attributed to their engagement in the project. However, in the absence of baseline data, it was not feasible to derive accurate inference of increased understanding and commitment by 50% of the target group/ parliamentarians as mentioned in the log frame indicator.

**2.9** Besides India and Sri Lanka, there were limited evidences of frequency of questions raised by champion parliamentarians during the respective parliament sessions. However, substantiations were made based on valid

evidences, that the champions presented their views regarding relevant policies at other advocacy platforms and policy forums: Committee of the second Vice President of Afghanistan, Social Welfare Committee, Women Children and Youth Committee in Bhutan, Provincial legislative Assemblies of Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan.

**2.10** In terms of civil society engagement- one of the project activities was creation of National Civil Society Partnership Platforms (NCSPP). The NCSPP and collaboration with existing national CSO networks, resulted in 12 SRHR networks in nine countries. The project played an important role in bringing together 156 CSOs in nine countries. Interviews with representatives of CSOs forum/NCSPPs indicates that they have acquired stronger advocacy skills for demanding political change and government accountability in favour of SRHR. While this has created opportunities for involvement of CSOs in implementation and accountability of SDGs, the action plans for collaboration between the CSOs and other actors made during the project period, forms a basis for continuation of guided advocacy in future. Consolidation of the CSO action plans to derive follow up actions remains crucial for project partners to ensure sustainability of these actions.

**2.11** There is a clear need to sustain the momentum generated by the project to ensure that this medium of consultation between civil society and policy makers maintain its momentum and continue to grow for SRHR and possibly for other equally compelling rights based advocacy issues.

**2.12** During the project period, 92 youth champions representing various sections of society- sports, media, arts, in-school and out of school etc. were identified and involved in SRHR advocacy. The project implementing partners- IPPF SARO and its MAs informed that engagement of youth champions through small grants helped peer outreach and

resulted in participation of large number of young people-youth and adolescent during past three years.

**2.13** The activities and results of engaging women are creditable to the project and found relevant in the context of creating an inclusive advocacy movement on SRHR in these nine countries. The focus of these activities to nurture women rights defenders was deliberate. The project activities were intended to identify and expose gender-based violence, domestic violence, early and forced marriage, demand for family planning and reproductive health and abuses of women rights leaves examples for gender-sensitive responses in these countries. Signs of changes were observed in terms of women's increased participation in SRHR policy debate at various levels that said the Log Frame result on establishment of a South Asian Women Leaders' Network and training was not achieved. However, evidence of national level engagement with women leaders were observed in Bhutan, Iran, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

**2.14** The "Celebrating Voices Over Silence" campaign was implemented in seven countries. It was designed to publicise and raise awareness on country specific SRHR issues through organising films festivals – in Bhutan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, sports tournament in Afghanistan, and a music and theatre based event in Nepal. The campaign was meant to raise public awareness of key messages pertaining to SRHR. In a short period of three months the campaign reached over 5,300 people directly and more than half a million indirectly, which is commendable.

**2.15** In terms of media engagement, reports on media training were noted. The Member Associations also opted for television and radio airtime as one of the preferred channels of communication on issues related to child marriage in Afghanistan and CSE in Sri Lanka. However, not many examples of usage of

social media were observed – except some in Afghanistan, Maldives and India. Enhanced usage of social media in communication should be considered in future design of similar interventions.

**2.16** In terms of partnerships, all advocacy partners interviewed said that the project had made a significant difference in terms of establishing numerous sustainable partnerships between policy makers and civil society. Majority of these partnerships and collective advocacy group members demonstrated good understanding of what SRHR advocacy is and their role. The civil society advocacy partners interviewed had pressing advocacy needs, often involving support from policy makers. Therefore, the project created models of collective advocacy, that is beneficial in the long-term sustainability. Majority of advocacy activities carried out under the project had a common thread- involvement of relevant government ministries and in many instances even involvement of high level ministers including president and prime minister in Bhutan, Iran, Sri Lanka. The project has been instrumental in bridging the gap between policy makers and civil society and certainly created increased access for SRHR advocacy in all nine countries.

**2.17** Examples of linkages between the role played by parliamentarians and positive outcomes in SRHR related policy shifts were noticed. A total 27 positive changes in policy or advocacy wins were noted during the project period. Since policy advocacy is often a long-term effort involving many actors, and occurs in a dynamic and fast-changing environment, the assessment exercise recognised the processes and efforts that have been made under the project towards - tabling of bills and the supportive role of parliamentarians and civil society. The ongoing efforts towards expected policy shifts in the pipeline – e.g. Marriage Bill in Bhutan, Revision of age for the marriage of girl in Afghanistan etc. are attributable to the project.

### 3. ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

**3.1 Project Management:** In the project structure, a team of two people were based in IPPF – for regular project management, one person was based in AFPPD- for regional parliamentary engagements and facilitations at the regional level. At the country level- advocacy focal persons were based within nine the Member Associations – for carrying out project actions. Senior leadership at the regional level in IPPF and Country Level in MA were also involved in governance and oversight of the project. The positioning and experience of each of project team provided a valuable contribution in the implementation of the project. IPPF and its member associations are some of the prominent organisations working on SRHR issues and have at their disposal immense expertise and rich experience on the subject, which maintained the technical and programmatic resource base for actions throughout the project period.

**3.2 Project Planning:** The process of project planning included: Launch of the project meeting in Delhi and an inception meeting with AFPPD's National Committee and MAs, Parliamentarians meeting in 2014, Political Mapping on SRHR situation in all nine countries. Further, IPPF team visited project countries, to support planning, training and implementation of the project. The process of planning ensured, collaborative actions and evaded duplication of efforts at the regional level. At the country level, the planning process could feed into revising and aligning country action plans, particularly, based on the identified evidences of political mapping. Disbursement of budget to implementing partners was managed from the regional level by IPPF SARO, which was linked to the year wise targets.

**3.3 Prioritisation:** Approaches that guided prioritisation of the project initiatives entailed: a) identification of the potential parliamentary champions, b) optimum

utilisation of resources by reducing duplication of efforts- through partnerships with external partners and existing networks; c) extensive coordination with CSOs; d) ensuring government coordination, representation and involvement in project actions. Moreover, gender equality and human rights principles guided the prioritisation for all advocacy result areas of the project. Country wise advocacy priorities were informed through the findings of political mapping. Each country identified 3-5 priority issues for advocacy and further prioritised top 1-2 issues based on opportunities, expertise and capacity which can ensure impact. The SDG 3 and 5 caters to the unfinished agenda of MDG 5 – the original premise of the project. Thus, realigning the project to SDGs was also done as a priority activity.

**3.4 Project Monitoring And Coordination:** The regional team at IPPF SARO monitored the progress of the project and ensured coordination between the MAs and other key stakeholders. Field visits to monitor evidences of progress, identifying gaps and provide technical support was done by IPPF SARO. Progress against annual action plans, were tracked through IPPF's online reporting mechanism for Global Indicator Reports. IPPF collects information through 30 global indicators and validates them annually. This information is used by IPPF to identify gaps and areas of improvement and analyse long-term performance trends. Monitoring of the projects' expected results areas through the Global Indicator Reports was a good validation process as it provided strategic learning. The MAs were clustered under – “on track” and “behind schedule”, through this monitoring process. A mid-term review was done in May 2016 to assess progress, address challenges and determine relevant course correction measures.

**3.5 Evaluation Of Advocacy Wins:** An impact evaluation should be done to assess sustainability of these 27 advocacy wins and its benefits for poor marginalised stigmatised

and underserved population to SRHR after few years of its implementation.

#### 4. ANALYSIS OF PROJECT'S PERFORMANCE AGAINST LOG FRAME INDICATORS

4.1 The excerpts of the Log Frame indicators and the end of project performance are summarised below. The assessment of Log Frame was done in consultation with project implementing partners in SARO and MAs and validation through review of documents and evidences. The observations of the status of results against qualitative and quantitative indicators of specific objectives and expected results are encapsulated under four categories used in an Achievement Rating Scale:

- Exceeded Achievement – more than 100% of target.
- Achieved- fully achieved 100% target.
- Partially Achieved – less than 100% and more than 50%.
- Under Achieved/not achieved – less than 50%.

#### 5. OBSERVATIONS ON SUSTAINABILITY OF RESULTS

5.1 IPPF's new Strategic Framework (2016-2022), sets the priorities that will allow the Federation to deliver impact as a sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) movement over the next five years. The project results contributed to realisation of this strategy, particularly in influencing governments to respect, protect and fulfil sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality. The number of parliamentarians, youth, women and media leaders, CSOs mobilised through the project outlines a future path of sexual and reproductive health and rights movement, through champions around these nine countries.

5.2 While some benefits of the project appear to have prospect of being self-sustained after the project is completed, others need

more funding to be sustained. The most visibly self-sustainable benefit of the project are: the advocacy resource base- political mapping, advocacy materials prepared; capacity that was built – the training of representatives of CSOs, youth and women; the parliamentarians champions and youth and women leaders- who were mobilised as SRHR champions; the forums of CSOs that were created with support from the project; and communications mechanisms that were created through the project between civil society and policy makers. The results which may require funding support include: implementation of the action plans made by CSOs. However, IPPF and MAs had no doubt that they will continue to provide support the identified champions and assist CSO forums through access to updated information, capacity building opportunities and creating platform for their representation at relevant advocacy forums.

The achievement of the highest attainable standard of SRH is closely linked with the extent to which gender equality and people's human rights (rights to non-discrimination, privacy and confidentiality, life, liberty, security, to education, information and health) are respected, protected and fulfilled. The project actions were inter-linked with gender equality and human rights. The overarching advocacy areas prioritised during the project period include- right to make free and responsible decisions and choices, free of violence, coercion and discrimination, and sexual and reproductive health. Continued actions for adoption and implementation of SDGs especially Goal 3 (Health), Goal 5 (Gender) and Goal 10 (Inequality) will allow IPPF to influence multi-dimensional aspects of public health and human rights, based on some key practical learning from the project.

## ACHIEVEMENT RATING SCALE

	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators of Achievement	Observation on Status of Result achieved: (March 2014-February 2017)
<b>Specific Objective(s)</b>	To increase political support for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the advancement of MDG 5A and MDG 5B in nine countries in South Asia and strengthen the capacity of a regional civil society network to influence political change.	# favourable decision made by government in nine countries related to SRHR, particularly for poor, marginalised and Socially underserved (PMSU) groups.	<b>Exceeded Achievement Comment</b> – 27 favorable policy changes noted.  Demonstration of contribution was noticed, not attribution. The link between advocacy efforts and their results have been considered as contribution over attribution.
		At least One CSO advocacy networks developed/ strengthened in each country to influence changes in policies governing population and development.	<b>Exceeded Achievement Comment</b> – 12 CSO networks formed/engaged against a target of nine.
<b>Expected Results</b>	1. Increased commitment of parliamentarians and policy makers in nine South Asian countries to SRHR (core group of 'champions' developed).	Parliamentarians attending training in nine countries. <b>Target:</b> 60 parliamentarians in nine countries.	<b>Exceeded Achievement Comment</b> – 114 parliamentarians became SRHR champions in nine countries against a target of 60 parliamentarians. Clear linkages found between the project actions and results.
		# of Parliamentarians that feel that they feel have a stronger understanding of and commitment to SRHR. <b>Target:</b> 50%	<b>Achieved Comment</b> - based on the evidences of signed declarations by parliamentarians in India, Pakistan and Nepal and the nine of parliamentarians interviewed depicts more than 56% achievement in South Asia. However, this percentage varies from country to country.

## ACHIEVEMENT RATING SCALE

	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators of Achievement	Observation on Status of Result achieved: (March 2014-February 2017)
		<p>Frequency of questions raised by champions during the respective parliament sessions and at other committees and policy forums.  <b>Target:</b> Session wise/quarterly  <b>Change:</b> Monthly was replaced with session wise/quarterly.</p> <p>*Country wise Indicator needed</p>	<p><b>Partially Achieved</b>  <b>Comment</b> – A staggering 335 SRHR related questions were raised in both houses of Indian parliament during the project period. Parliament questions were raised in Sri Lanka as well. However, in the rest of the countries, evidences of parliamentarians presenting their informed views regarding relevant policies at other advocacy platforms and policy forums were found – Committee of the second vice president of Afghanistan, Social Welfare Committee, Women Children and Youth Committee in Bhutan, Provincial legislative Assemblies of Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan.</p>
	<p>2. Enhanced capacity of networks of civil society organisations in South Asia to influence political change in favour of SRHR nationally and regionally.</p>	<p>National Civil Society Partnership Platforms (NCSPP) established in each of the nine countries. Between 5 and 20 civil society leaders in each country join.  <b>Target:</b> No less than 90.</p>	<p><b>Exceeded Achievement</b>  <b>Comment</b> – 156 CSOs were involved against a target of 90. This includes the number of CSOs engaged through existing CSO networks in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan India, and Nepal.</p>
		<p>In-country reviews/ mappings carried out and annually updated to have a full understanding of national SRHR situations and identify and map national SRHR policy and budget processes.  <b>Target:</b> Mapping (annually updated for country).</p>	<p><b>Partially Achieved</b>  <b>Comment</b> – The political mapping on SRHR situation in all nine countries was done and fully achieved by IPPF in 2014. However, the annual updates of the findings were limited to only the identified priority areas.</p>

## ACHIEVEMENT RATING SCALE

	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators of Achievement	Observation on Status of Result achieved: (March 2014-February 2017)
		% of the members of the nine national NCSPPs that feel that have stronger advocacy skills for demanding political change and government accountability in favour of SRHR. <b>Target: 70%</b>	<b>Achieved Comment</b> – The interviews conducted with representatives of NCSPPs suggests increased advocacy capacity and skills on SRHR.
		NCSPP advocacy strategies and action plans developed / supported and implemented in nine countries. <b>Target: Developed/ supported and implemented.</b>	<b>Achieved Comment</b> – Action plan of all 9 NCSPPs/CSO forums are available.
	3. Improved legislation and funding in favour of SRHR in at least five South Asian countries as well as regional legislative improvement.		<b>Comment</b> – This was removed from LFA due to duplication under other results areas – as recommended by Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) EC.
	4. Increased awareness of all people, particularly the most marginalised and vulnerable in the nine South Asian countries Increase uptake of Services replaced by increased awareness of people.	# youth, women and media engaged in the project period.  <b>Target: Youth Champions 10-25 per country. Women Leaders 5-15 per country. Media 5-10 per country.</b>	<b>Youth Champions: Achieved Target: 90-225; Actual: 92</b>  <b>Women Leaders: Achieved Target: 45-90; Actual: 79</b>  <b>Media: Exceeded Achievement Target: 45-90; Actual: 120</b>
		# Women Leader's network formed.  <b>Target: At least five national and one regional formed.</b>	<b>National Women Leader's network: Achieved Target: 5; Actual: 5</b>  <b>Regional Women Leader's Network: Not Achieved Target: 1; Actual: 5</b>

# Project Activities & Results

The EC Champions' Project: "Strengthening MDG 5A and MDG 5B in South Asia: Creating Champions and momentum for progress in SRHR" has achieved significant results over the past three years. The project commenced with building a strong foundation for implementation of the project: setting up the implementing team – recruitment and induction of project staff, an orientation or inception workshop for implementing partners, development of step by step implementation guidelines and a mapping exercise – to landscape SRHR policy framework in all nine countries and to understand key issues barriers and opportunities to mobilise policy environment in favour of SRHR. This section captures country wise achievements of the project. Key accomplishments are summarised below:

**Sustainable partnerships:** IPPF SARO along with its MAs in nine countries identified and engaged with key partners including Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), parliamentarians, government ministries, CSOs, youth and women networks, media etc.

**Advocacy capacity of CSOs:** Project partners were trained, using IPPF's existing and other international reputed models, materials and tools including Advance Family Planning (AFP) Smart Family Planning tool and SDG-SRHR CSO guideline of IPPF. Regular technical assistance and oversight was provided by IPPF throughout the project.

**Increased voice and profile of SRHR:** IPPF SARO became part of the larger civil society networks such as Asia Pacific Regional CSO engagement Mechanism (RCEM),

International Conference of Family Planning, BRICS and UNESCAP processes that resulted into strong SRHR voices in inter-governmental processes. At country level expansion of civil society networks resulted in accelerated efforts for tracking governments commitments, up to date information on policy progresses and united agenda. Media in nine countries were also engaged to propagate key messages and create support through coverage of action.

**Enhanced national and regional advocacy:** Advocacy initiatives were implemented on noticeable gap areas in the region such as absence of effective legislations on domestic violence in Iran, need to increase age of child marriage in Afghanistan, law for protection of Female Sex Worker in Nepal. Based on well researched evidences and collecting relevant country specific information through situational and gap analysis on specific SRHR issues, advocacy messages and policy briefs were developed based on key findings of the situational analysis.

**Champions:** Over 561 parliamentarians, youth, women and media personnel became SRHR champions to positively and legitimately influence evidence informed policy within the country. IPPF SARO and its MAs provided consistent support to the champions to promote identified issues in the country it included support in SRHR focused election manifesto, parliamentary questions and recommendations for bills to be tabled for the protection of the rights of youth and women.

Project activities were carried out using these approaches towards three expected results.

## WORKING TOWARDS THE EXPECTED RESULTS



**RESULT 1:** Increased commitment of parliamentarians and policy makers towards SRHR. Core group of Champions' developed.



**RESULT 2:** Enhanced capacity of Civil Society Organisations to influence policy change on SRHR Nationally and regionally.



**RESULT 3:** Increased awareness of all people, particularly the most marginalised and vulnerable in the nine South Asian countries.





Afghanistan

## HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT	
Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women	Percentage
Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	51%
Child Marriage <sup>2</sup>	33%
Unmet need for family planning for 15-49 age group (total) <sup>3</sup>	7.3%
Gender Inequality Index Rank <sup>4</sup>	154
ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	
Increasing the legal age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18	
Inclusion of implementation direction in Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) and strengthening the punitive measures	
Revision in the existing Domestic Violence Act and implementation mechanisms	
MEMBER ASSOCIATION	
Afghan Family Guidance Association (AFGA)	

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

#### Five parliamentarians became part of the SRHR movement as Champions

Despite the challenges of ongoing security situation in the country, select parliamentarians were informed, engaged and stewarded to become SRHR champions for Afghanistan. The parliamentary champions were equipped with information, key messages and compelling evidences to influence SRHR at policy and community levels.

#### National action plan to eliminate child marriage developed

AFGA in collaboration with UNFPA, organised a national consultation with a cross-party group of parliamentarians in September 2016, to develop a national action plan to eliminate child marriage. Over 120 delegates including, Hon'ble first lady – Mrs. Rula Ghani,

Deputy Minister of Youth, Women Affairs, Chief of Women Committee in Parliament and parliamentarians from four main political parties participated in the consultation. Mrs. Rula Ghani – the first lady of Afghanistan declared her complete support for effective implementation of the national action plan to eliminate child marriage. The action plan was endorsed by Ministry of Women Affairs and Ministry of Youth.

#### Afghanistan's position on SRHR priorities for Post-2015 and SDGs finalised

A national consultative meeting was convened in May 2015, to review recommendations of ICPD 2014 report in the context of post 2015 development agenda. Ministry of Economy, UNFPA and AFGA jointly hosted the consultation with parliamentarians and other key stakeholders. An "official announcement or communique" about

<sup>1</sup> Central Statistics Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and ICF. 2017.

Afghanistan Demographic and Health Survey 2015. Kabul, Afghanistan: Central Statistics Organisation.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF global databases 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Contraceptive Use 2017 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2017).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2016.

the Afghanistan government's position on reproductive health, youth empowerment, gender equality was finalised with joint inputs from parliamentarians and civil society and development partners.

## ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs

### Seven CSOs in three provinces trained on SRHR advocacy

Leveraging the diverse stakeholder's network, AFGA engaged with seven civil society organisations based in the provinces of Bamyan, Herat and Kabul and worked towards their greater involvement on promoting agenda of preventing early marriage.

### Action plan on elimination of child marriage in Herat province developed

The training programme on addressing child marriage was held at Herat province – one the geographies where the incidence of child marriage is highly reported in Afghanistan. AFGA partnered with Afghan Women Network in Herat to organise the training, which was attended by religious leaders, youth school teacher, representatives of Department of Justice, Education and health service providers. Issues related to impact of child marriage were discussed in the context of health, Islamic cultural and traditional aspects in Afghanistan.

## ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN LEADERS

### Four youth leaders, four women leaders and two media personalities – as SRHR Champions

AFGA identified leaders from youth and women groups and media fraternity to cultivate them as SRHR champions. These champions worked closely with parliamentarian champions and within their own sphere of influence to advocate for prevention and elimination of child marriage – in this inclusive SRHR movement. The youth leaders, Nesar Ahmad Bahawi and Samera Asghari, are renowned

national sports figures and have represented the country in Olympics. The support from SRHR champions, allowed AFGA to garner large scale platforms for dissemination of information on issues of elimination of child marriages, violence against women and youth friendly SRH services.

### Over 70 youth engaged on campaign against child marriage – in a poster competition

To promote the role of youth and encourage their engagement in prevention and elimination of child marriage, AFGA organised an Art Competition among Youth. The participation of youth resulted in 10 powerful depiction of messages on ending child marriage which was also adopted by AFGA as SRHR communication tools.

### Adolescent girls demanded prevention of early marriage – in a cycle rally

With active support from the Governor of Bamyan province, AFGA organised a cycle rally among young girls of the province which was aimed at creating awareness on eliminating child marriage in Bamyan. The rally concluded with a meeting to discuss the concerns of child marriage with students, teachers, religious teachers – Maulana's and Imams and key policy makers – particularly focusing on strengthening the existing EAW law for prevention of Child Marriage.

## ENGAGEMENT OF MEDIA

### Over 4,000 people directly and 500,000+ people indirectly reached – through "Futsal Tournament for Prevention of Early and Child Marriage"

A Futsal Tournament for Prevention of Early and Child Marriage was organised by AFGA, to use sports as an effective medium to advocate against this compelling concern within the country. The 12 days tournament held 20 contests and brought over 4,000 people as direct spectators. The matches were telecasted in three sports TV channels covering an indirect audience



of over half a million viewers. Advocacy and publicity products – eight audio-visual and print publicity materials featuring SRHR Champions were used, to promote key messages during the tournament. Key messages on child and early marriage in Afghanistan was used in all branding materials of the tournament. Collaboration with UNFPA and Football Federation added value to promote advocacy messages among spectators and through social media.

**Over 100,000 people in 34 provinces reached – through media campaign**

AFGA in collaboration with Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) and three TV channels launched a media campaign on the prevention of early marriage. An exclusive table tennis tournament to promote SRHR was organised for the first time in

Afghanistan. Four teams of girls and eight teams of boys participated in the three days tournament. Four video messages on the prevention of child marriages in Afghanistan featuring select SRHR champion were developed and broadcasted on regular intervals in TV channels during the prime time, covering over 100,000 viewers of the contest.

**ADVOCACY PROGRESS**  
AFGHANISTAN TOOK AN UNPRECEDENTED POLICY STEP IN THE BATTLE AGAINST “CHILD BRIDE” CUSTOM BY LAUNCHING THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO ELIMINATE EARLY AND CHILD MARRIAGE, 2017.



Bangladesh

## HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT	
Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women	Percentage
Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	67%
Child Marriage <sup>2</sup>	52%
Unmet need for family planning for 15-49 age group (total) <sup>3</sup>	12%
Gender Inequality Index Rank <sup>4</sup>	119
ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	
Address unmet family planning needs of young people, disadvantaged communities and peoples of adverse geographical areas	
Revisions in the existing Child Marriage Restraint Act	
Increase in national resource allocation for STI, RTI and HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support	
MEMBER ASSOCIATION	
Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB)	

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

#### Seven parliamentarians as SRHR champion engaged

Based on the mapping exercise on political advocacy conducted in 2014 by IPPF, seven parliamentarians were involved by FPAB as SRHR champions in Bangladesh. These champions were identified, consistently engaged, trained and equipped with SRHR advocacy materials to promote supportive policy environment for most marginalised and vulnerable population.

#### Position paper on child marriage made for parliamentary advocacy

A position paper by FPAB was prepared on situation, causes and recommendations to address early marriage in Bangladesh – an advocacy tool with parliamentarians and CSOs.

#### National consultation with parliamentarians to integrating SRHR into SDGs – 15 parliamentarians trained

Acknowledging the crucial role of parliamentarians in advancing effective responses to SRHR needs of Bangladesh, a national level consultation with Member of Parliament was organised in June 2015 at Dhaka. Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament – Advocate Md. Fasle Rabbi Miah participated in the meeting. Besides members of parliament, 37 representatives from CSOs and youth networks attended the consultation. Members of parliament were trained and informed on integrating SRHR into SDGs and particularly to revise existing law related to child marriage and increasing budget allocation for SRH services in Bangladesh.

<sup>1</sup> Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2013. Violence Against Women Survey 2011. Dhaka, Bangladesh.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF global databases 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Contraceptive Use 2017 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2017).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2016.



## ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN LEADERS

### Declaration on CSE and youth friendly SRHR services prepared by youth leaders from 22 districts

A consultation on CSE and youth friendly SRHR services was organised by FPAB in May 2015 at Kuakata, Patuakhali. Youth representatives from 22 districts, CSOs and government representatives attended the consultation. Over 35 media representatives from local and national media covered the event. A declaration by youth demanding CSE and youth friendly SRHR services was prepared to position the concerns of youth within the SDGs.

### National Youth Parliament 2015 held among 37 youth leaders across the country

To mobilise role of youth and to strengthen their voices in SRHR movement – a youth parliament and convention – 2015 was organised by FPAB. A total of 37 youth

representatives across the country participated in the convention. Popular film maker and youth icon – Gias Uddin Selim attended the convention as Special Guest. Journalists from 35 national and local media houses covered the convention.

### More than 5,000 youth joined nationwide youth an SRHR campaign and reached over 150,000 youth

The nationwide campaign targeting youth friendly SRH services and access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education successfully involved over 5,000 youth across the country. Through a peer to peer outreach model – each participant was encouraged to reach out to 20 other youth with SRHR messages. Select 43 youth leaders were trained as SRHR advocates and were given the mandate to train other youth within their peer group- at schools and colleges. Over 150,000 youth were reached through this campaign with SRHR messages.

## ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs

### Common position of CSOs on SRHR advocacy mobilised – in a national consultation with CSOs

In a national consultation with CSOs in Bangladesh – organised in April 2015 by FPAB, 35 CSO members and 10 youth leaders came together to develop common understanding and a joint position on SRHR in the context of progress towards MDGs and SDGs in the country. Director General of Family Planning attended the consultation at Dhaka.

In addition, FPAB in partnership with Network for Ensuring Adolescents Reproductive Rights and Services (NEARS) and United for Body (UBR) alliance actively engaged CSOs to reach out to youth and adolescents with SRHR messages and behavioral change communications materials.

### Indicators of progress on SRHR in SDGs by CSOs

A consultation with CSOs in Bangladesh was organised by FPAB in November 2015 at Chittagong – on setting SRHR indicators against SDG Goals. Representatives from 35

CSOs attended the meeting and discussed the indicators to measure the SDGs in the context of SRHR.

## ENGAGEMENT OF MEDIA

### 25 media professionals engaged with parliamentarians & youth champions

To promote an inclusive SRHR movement, an interactive meeting was organised between media professional and SRHR champions involved in the EC Champions project. A total of 25 reporters, journalists and mass media professionals were sensitised on SRHR and ensured regular interaction with parliamentarians, CSOs and youth leaders to strengthen mutual collaboration in improving policy environment for SRHR in Bangladesh.

**ADVOCACY WIN**  
MEDICAL MENSTRUAL REGULATION (MRM) HAS BEEN INCLUDED AS A SERVICE FOR MENSTRUAL REGULATION BOTH AT GOVERNMENT AND NGO LEVEL.



# Bhutan

## HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT	
Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women	Percentage
Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	27%
Child Marriage <sup>2</sup>	26%
Unmet need for family planning for 15-49 age group (total) <sup>3</sup>	11.7%
Gender Inequality Index Rank <sup>4</sup>	110
ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	
Amendment of marriage act to make it more women friendly	
Legal recognition to third gender	
Introduction of CSE in school curricular	
MEMBER ASSOCIATION	
Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women (RENEW), Bhutan	

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

#### Four parliamentarians involved as SRHR champions in Bhutan

RENEW worked closely with select parliamentarians and nurtured them as SRHR champions of Bhutan. The parliamentarian champions were closely involved in driving the SRHR agenda within the policy and community levels. A study tour and learning visit to Thailand was organised with representation of the two champion parliamentarians from both houses of Bhutan parliament. A training session on role of elected representatives in addressing issues of domestic violence, gender based violence and CSE was held by Global Advance Management Service in coordination with Rajamangala University, Bangkok. The training programme equipped the parliamentarians with relevant knowledge and skills to effectively advocate for these SRHR issues.

#### Her Majesty Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck chaired SRHR workshop – attended by all parliamentarians in Bhutan

A sensitisation workshop for Parliamentarians on Population and Development priorities of Bhutan and responding to Gender based violence was organised by RENEW in collaboration to National Assembly and National Council in June 2015. Her Majesty Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck presided over the entire session. The session was chaired by the Speaker of National Assembly. The workshop was attended by about all the Members of Parliament. Parliamentarians were sensitised on the country's challenges, especially on gender equity and women empowerment.

#### 12 parliamentarians committed to advocate against gender based violence within their constituencies

<sup>1</sup> National Commission for Women and Children, 2012. Situation of Violence against Women in Bhutan.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF global databases 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Contraceptive Use 2017 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2017).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2016.

A special meeting was held in June 2015 at Thimphu, involving 12 parliamentarians representing women and children, social and human rights and social committees from the national council. Participating parliamentarians committed to advocate on SRHR and gender based violence within their constituency visits. The meeting resulted in recommendation to prioritising CSE in coordination between the two houses of parliament.

## ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN LEADERS

### Five women leaders and 100 women volunteers trained as champions on SRHR advocacy

RENEW prepared a resource pool of 5 women leaders and 100 women volunteers trained as SRHR champions – particularly to support advocacy within women's networks and at the community level.

### 60 youth demanded access to CSE and youth friendly SRHR services to policy makers

In collaboration with the youth specific government departments in Bhutan – Youth and Sports, School Education and Thimphu Thromde Education Office, RENEW organised an event in July 2016, to provide a platform for stronger voices of youth. Among others Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Minister of Education, Minister of Works & Human settlement and parliamentarians attended the meeting. Participating youth discussed issues of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, gender discrimination, and lack of knowledge & skills to fulfill their SRHR. 60 youth came up with recommendations to ensure easy access to knowledge and services on SRHR and CSE in schools.

### Over 60 youth from 19 districts trained on SRHR – through a theatre based workshop

A Youth Leadership Camp – five days residential theatre based workshop was held in December 2016 to train 62 youth, 20 teachers and 20 community volunteers on SRHR advocacy. The theatre based training module, prepared



participants to use theatre for conducting awareness programmes in their schools and communities on aspects of SRHR issues.

### Over 100 youth leaders for SRHR advocacy created – representing in school, out of school and at-risk youth – they developed their advocacy action plan

Youth champions from three categories: in school, out of school and at-risk youth were identified. Forty school youth were trained in a two-day workshop, in February 2015 in Luntenu, Thimphu. It was a first ever workshop in on SRHR and GBV in Bhutan – involving class 7-12 youth. Similarly, 20 out of school youth – mostly working in automobile workshops in Thimphu were trained in a SRHR workshop held in partnership with community health department – Jigme Dorji National Referral Hospital. At-risk youth typically girls working in local night entertainment restaurants and transgenders were identified and trained on SRH related knowledge – STI, HIV, safe sex, planned pregnancies etc. All three groups of participating youth champions developed their actions plans. Total eight champions were identified from all three youth groups.

## ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs

### 44 members from nine CSOs formed a network to work on SRHR

RENEW organised a two-day meeting with 44 participants from nine different CSOs in



February 2017, at Paro. Effective mechanisms for working jointly as a CSO network on SRHR were the key highlight of the meeting.

### Three CSO networks engaged for SRHR advocacy

RENEW partnered with “Multi Sectoral Task Force” and “Community Based Support System”. The two networks are working closely at districts levels on SRH programmes with National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children (NACG) to work on SRHR advocacy. After the meeting, the CSO networks collaborated with law enforcement agency, Royal Bhutan Police to support SRHR advocacy at community level.

## ENGAGEMENT OF MEDIA

### Awareness of SRHR scaled up through popular animation series – Yeshey Dawa

RENEW created a lead protagonist young woman aged 25-30 years known by the name Yeshey Dawa – a popular animated character in Bhutan. She represents an embodiment of liberation, compassion and action and widely accepted to symbolise metaphor of former forms of Goddess Tara. Yeshey Dawa was launched in June 2015 as a tribute to the 60<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of His Majesty, the Fourth King. Yeshey Dawa first appeared in Kuensel, the national newspaper in comic strips. Her stories are widely read with information focusing on statutory rights available to the women in Bhutan.

This initiative, initially supported by UNFPA and with additional funds from DFAT, IPPF and the EC Champion project, RENEW has been able to scale up the Yeshey Dawa outreach through broadcasting audio visual clips on national television every week. The series is a blend of statutory provisions, real life cases, illustrations, surveys and feedbacks conducted on issues of protection of rights against physical and sexual abuse, rights of students and people at workplace etc. Yeshey Dawa particularly focused on raising awareness on national laws and policies including CEDAW, Domestic Violence Prevention Act 2013, Child Care and Protection Act 2012 and other relevant acts.

### Over 400 people participated in a short film festival showcasing eight select films related to SRHR

A short film festival organised by RENEW, specifically targeted youth. This was the first of its kind advocacy campaign on SRHR in Bhutan. The film festival in Thimphu screened eight select films and a judges’ panel selected three best films in categories of: Gender Equality, Women Empowerment and SRHR. Post screening interactive sessions were held between film makers and audience.

### Seven media representatives committed to advance SRHR movement in Bhutan

Seven journalists, four newspapers, one TV and two radios were sensitised through the project. RENEW worked with Journalist Association of Bhutan and Bhutan Media Foundation to select and prepare influencing media personnel to support SRHR movement in the country.

**ADVOCACY PROGRESS FOR WOMEN SUPPORTIVE AMENDMENT OF THE EXISTING MARRIAGE ACT – THE MARRIAGE BILL OF BHUTAN WAS TABLED FOR THE THIRD READING IN MAY 2017.**



India

## HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT	
Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women	Percentage
Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	37%
Child Marriage <sup>2</sup>	47%
Unmet need for family planning for 15-49 age group (total) <sup>3</sup>	12.9%
Gender Inequality Index Rank <sup>4</sup>	125
ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	
Government of India to meet its FP2020 commitments and increase in Budget Allocation for family planning	
Expansion of the current basket of choice to include the new contraceptives like injectable contraceptive etc. (already achieved during project period)	
Inclusion of CSE in curriculum	
MEMBER ASSOCIATION	
Family Planning Association of India (FPAI)	

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

#### Twenty parliamentarians became SRHR champions in India

Based on the commitments to work on SRHR issues, 20 parliamentarians were engaged as SRHR champions in India. The champion parliamentarians worked with the EC Champions project partners to generate momentum and commitment to achieve SRHR. They helped fostering engagement of other parliamentarians on SRHR issues in India.

#### Three consultations held with parliamentarian to advocate Greater ownership and accountability

In partnership with Indian Association of Parliamentarians for Population and Development, FPAI organised three consultative meetings with parliamentarians and other

key stakeholders in New Delhi, Bhubaneswar and Chandigarh in June 2015. Participants deliberated on working with members of parliaments to influence Post-2015 development agenda with special focus on SRHR at the country level. The opening session of the national level meeting was presided by Deputy Chairman of the Upper House of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) – Mr. P. J. Kurien.

#### Total 335 questions were raised in the parliament on issues relating SRHR

Members of parliament raised 335 questions in both houses of the parliament – a positive sign of SRHR advocacy within political debate. The champion parliamentarians also raised parliamentary questions on contraceptives, sex selective abortion, improving healthcare facilities in rural and tribal areas, status of child marriages in Uttar Pradesh etc. during the project period.

<sup>1</sup> International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and Macro International, 2007.

National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), 2005–06: India: Volume I. Mumbai: IIPS.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF global databases 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017).

World Contraceptive Use 2017 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2017).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2016.

### Five parliamentarians signed declaration of commitment on women empowerment and SRHR

The evidence based advocacy briefs and regular engagement encouraged parliamentarians to further their engagement through debate in both houses of parliamentary as well as making public declarations of commitment on SRHR issues. Five parliamentarians signed a declaration of commitment to work towards women empowerment and SRHR.

### Commitment of continued engagement by parliamentarians after the project closure

As part of the formal closure of the project initiative, FPAI organised a Parliamentarians meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Mumbai. The advocacy kits were shared with the champions to support their continued engagement and advocacy efforts. The kit included thematic factsheets, SRHR country context, best practices in SRHR programming, family planning tracking sheet and progressive statements like sexual rights declaration of IPPF. Through this meeting champion parliamentarians reconfirmed commitment and continued support on issues of SRHR and women empowerment. During the meeting, participating Members of Parliament shared their views and appreciated the work of the organisation. They also signed a pledge stating: “We, the Members of Parliament present today at the meeting on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights organised by the FPA India in Mumbai, believe that Women Empowerment is integral to India’s economic, social and environmental development. We are also committed to:

- Uphold Women’s Health and Rights in India.
- Support policies and programmes that lead to women’s empowerment and gender equality.
- Work towards success of SRHR and Family Planning Programmes in our areas.
- Work and raise awareness on SRHR and related issues with other stakeholders.”



## ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN LEADERS

### Ten youth champions engaged in SRHR advocacy and conducted awareness programmes in 36 schools

Ten members from National Youth Forums were chosen as youth champions from different Indian states based on: youth from states where sexuality education is not permissible, understanding of CSE curriculum, capacity to advocate on CSE and rights of young people. The youth leaders visited schools in Mumbai to create awareness and initiate discussion about CSE through street plays and interactive sessions. Advocacy by youth champions sensitised 50 teachers, 103 parents and 36 school authorities.

### Over 1,100 young people reached through awareness programme on SRHR by youth champions

Youth champions in different parts of the country conducted youth group awareness programmes targeting young students and out of school youth. They organised street play, signature campaigns, and village level meetings on importance of CSE for young adolescents. Mainstreaming CSE in school curriculum was one of the major themes of the awareness programmes. Over 1,130 youth reached through these sessions.



### Film on women SRHR champions

A film featuring eminent women leaders from diverse field – architect, lawyers, TV and media personalities was produced for promotion of SRHR messages among target groups. Key messages from the influential women leaders were an effective advocacy tool.

## ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs

### 16 CSOs were joined SRHR advocacy movement

In collaboration with existing networks – Advocacy for Reproductive Choice (ARC) and White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI), FPAI engaged 16 CSOs in SRHR advocacy. In association with WRAI and other NGOs, FPAI co-organised the national meeting on “Citizen’s Participation and Engagement for Improving Women’s and Children Health – Nothing About Us Without Us” in April 2015. The focus was to appeal for citizen and government to actively engage to address women’s and children’s health in India. In association with ARC, FPAI worked with CSOs to strengthen alliances to advocate for FP2020 goals.

## ENGAGEMENT OF MEDIA

### Online Short Film Festival 2017

“Dristhikon (in Hindi, meaning point of view) – an Online Short Film Festival 2017” was launched by FPAI as a digital platform for youth

engagement on SRHR advocacy. The aim of the online short film festival is eliminating myths and misconceptions related to sex, sexuality, gender including SRHR and provide an online advocacy stage for discussion using infotainment – audio-visual medium as a tool. The online film festival 2017 portal: [drishtikon.fpaindia.org](http://drishtikon.fpaindia.org), targeted youth across India to make and showcase films and documentaries – on the themes of: Sexuality, Gender, Universal access to SRH and abortion. More than a 70,000+ visited the online portal and many short films were shared.

### 21 media reporters sensitised on youth and SRHR issues

Press meet between youth champions and media was organised to sensitise reporters on the importance of youth friendly SRHR services. Total 21 media reporters were sensitised through media event, held at Ahmadabad and Dharwad. The youth forum committee chairman from Dharwad chapter addressed the media on role of youths in health education for the adolescents. The event was covered in local newspapers with stories on significance of CSE in schools.

## ADVOCACY WINS

- INTRODUCTION OF THE INJECTABLE CONTRACEPTIVE DMPA (DEPOT-MEDROXYPROGESTERONE ACETATE) IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM UNDER THE NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM IN JULY/AUGUST 2015.
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE TO INTRODUCED THREE NEW METHODS – PROGESTIN-ONLY PILLS, CENTCHROMAN AND INJECTABLE CONTRACEPTIVES, TO THE BASKET OF CONTRACEPTIVE CHOICE IN 2016.
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE ISSUED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR STERILISATION (AFTER THE BILASPUR BOTCHED STERILISATION TRAGEDY).



Iran

## HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT	
Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women	Percentage
Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	-
Child Marriage <sup>2</sup>	17%
Unmet need for family planning for 15-49 age group (total) <sup>3</sup>	5.7%
Gender Inequality Index Rank <sup>4</sup>	118
ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	
Legal provision for prevention and redressal of domestic violence	
Increase in budget allocation for SRHR services for sex workers (already achieved during project period)	
Youth Friendly services within government health service facility	
MEMBER ASSOCIATION	
Family Health Association of Iran (FHA)	

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

#### Six parliamentarians engaged as SRHR champions in Iran

The FHA Iran appointed and prepared six parliamentarians as SRHR champions for the country. These champions helped to push SRHR issues within the policy and community sphere through their influence, dedication and hard work.

#### Parliamentarians committed to work toward elimination of domestic violence

An advocacy meeting to gain support of parliamentarians to eliminate domestic violence through policy measures was held by FHA Iran in November 2016. This evidence informed advocacy initiative resulted in assurance and commitment from parliamentarians to develop a strategy to fight against ending domestic violence in Iran.

#### Parliamentarians collaborated with 37 CSOs on SRHR advocacy

In a consultation with parliamentarians in presence of ministerial representation from – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Health, Health and Medical Education, Interior, a group 37 CSO members discussed their role in strengthening SRHR within SDGs and health policies in Iran. The meeting was organised by FHA Iran in February 2016, which resulted in support for collaborative actions between parliamentarians and CSOs. Within the prevailing complexities around engagement of NGOs and parliamentarians in the country, organising and securing collaboration between the two groups was an accomplishment.

<sup>1</sup> Official National Statistics Not Available.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF global databases 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Contraceptive Use 2017 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2017).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2016.

## ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN LEADERS

### Two key team members of Iran's track and field team engaged as Youth Champions on SRHR

Maryam Mohebbi and Elnaz Company – members of national team of track and field in Iran were appointed as youth champions for SRHR Advocacy by FHA Iran. They were oriented about SRHR and the EC Champions project objectives and their expected advocacy roles in public space. The two women youth champions worked closely with FHA Iran in promoting CSE for university students.

### Youth awareness programme on HIV prevention reached 56 juvenile boys at Fardis prison

In collaboration Fardis prison and Brailletonik Association FHA Iran held a training on HIV prevention for 56 juvenile boys in the rehabilitation centre of Fardis Prison in July 2015. The awareness programme empowered the youth group with knowledge and information to prevent them from engaging in high risk behavior related to HIV and STIs.

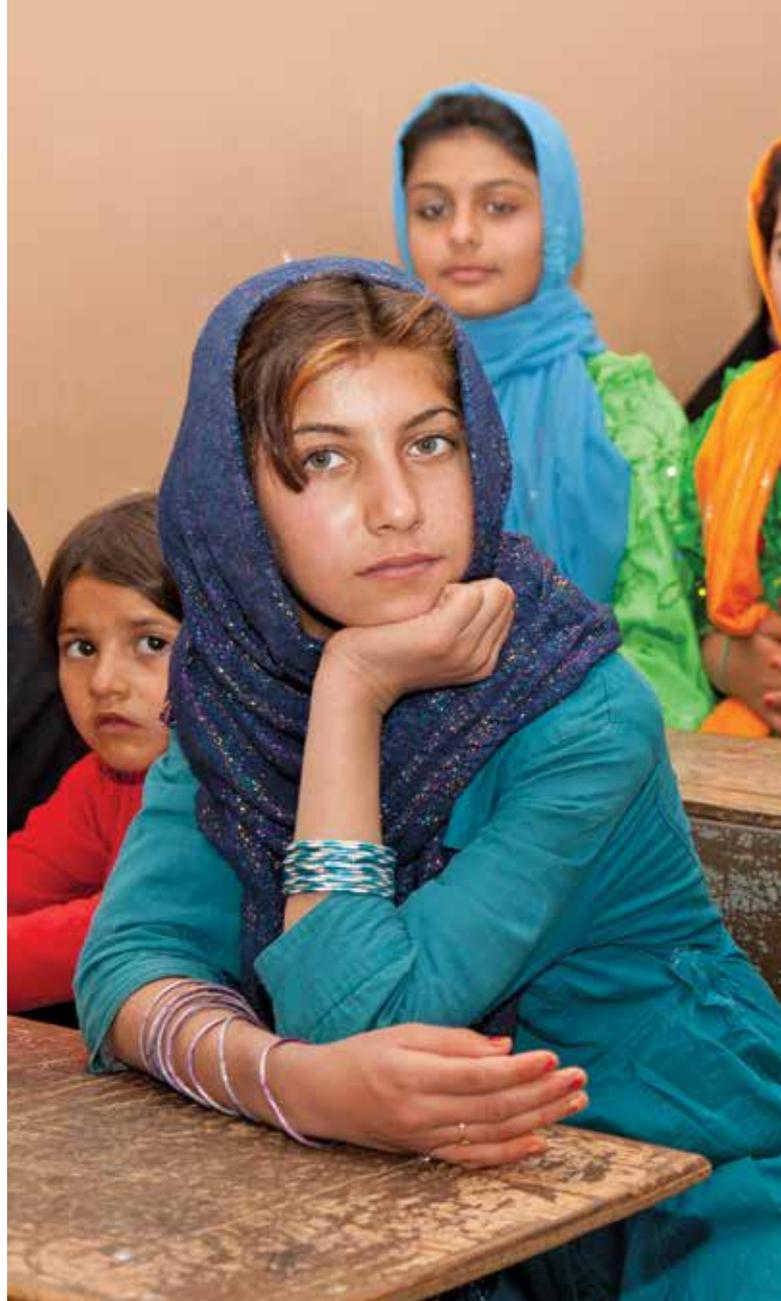
## ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs

### Collaboration between government and CSOs promoted for advocacy on prevention of domestic violence against women

In August 2016, an advocacy meeting on prevention of domestic violence was held in Parsian Iran. The meeting was attended by representatives from Women's Affairs and Family, Ministry of Health and Medical Education. Monitoring social determinants of health to prevent domestic violence and collaborative action between government and NGOs were fostered during the meeting.

### National Civil Society Partnership platform created with involvement of 34 CSOs

The National Civil Society Partnership Platform involving 34 CSOs in Iran was created in November 2015. The CSO platform met to analyse policies on SRHR in other countries, challenges of SRHR in Iran and developed



strategies and action plan to address those policy level challenges. Consultations on the action plan were held with government ministries – Foreign Affairs, Health and Medical Education and Ministry of Interiors.

## ENGAGEMENT OF MEDIA

### “The Purple Ribbon Film Festival” held to highlight the significance to address domestic violence

The festival was held under the “Celebrating Voices Over Silence” campaign of the project. Purple ribbon being accepted as the symbol for ending domestic violence. 21 films were showcased to disseminate positive stories of empowerment in fighting against domestic violence. Both government and civil society representatives were consulted in planning and executing the film festival to ensure



inclusiveness and expand the extent of the intended impact of the campaign. During the closing and award ceremony on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, consultations were held among 50 participants including, representatives from government, parliamentarians, CSOs, film fraternity, lawyers and academicians. One of the prominent recommendations of this consultation was developing mass media strategies for dealing with the culture of silence around domestic violence.

### **30 journalists sensitised on reporting on interlinkages between gender based violence and SDGs**

Media training on reporting on SRHR was organised by FHA Iran in December 2016. The meeting aimed to sensitise journalist to positively increase visibility on programmes on linkages between SRHR and SDGs, gender equality and gender based violence in Iran.

## **ADVOCACY WINS AND PROGRESS**

- BUDGET FOR SRH INTERVENTIONS FOR SEX WORKERS IN THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN OF HIV/AIDS-2015.
- IN 2016, "FAMILY AND SEXUAL HEALTH" WAS ADDED TO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AS A NEW FIELD OF STUDY BY COUNCIL OF HUMANITIES DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION.
- RELIGIOUS FATWA HAS BEEN ISSUED ON BANNING OF MARRIAGE OF GIRLS BELOW THE AGE OF 13 EVEN WITH PARENTAL AND COURT PERMISSION. THE PROCESS OF MAKING IT A LAW IS UNDERWAY.



Maldives

## HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT	
Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women	Percentage
Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	20%
Child Marriage <sup>2</sup>	4%
Unmet need for family planning for 15-49 age group (total) <sup>3</sup>	28.6%
Gender Inequality Index Rank <sup>4</sup>	64
ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	
SoPs for the service providers to provide abortion services – post the amendment in abortion law (already achieved during project period)	
Comprehensive youth friendly services in the government facilities	
Introduction of the Gender Equality Bill in Maldives (already achieved during project period)	
MEMBER ASSOCIATION	
Society for Health Education (SHE), Maldives	

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

#### Two parliamentarians became SRHR champions in Maldives

Eva Abdulla and Ali Hussein – two eminent parliamentarians from the small island country of Maldives became SRHR champions as part of the project. They also served as active advocates for pushing gender equality bill in the parliament and worked closely with SHE across the country's five regions and participated in many SRHR events, amplifying the voices of disadvantaged girls and women around the country. The champions were also vocal about SRHR issues in their social media channels and became spokesperson on issues related to youth.

#### Two major policy changes achieved through concerted advocacy efforts

The parliamentarian champion involved

though the project played an instrumental role in pushing the Gender Equality Bill which was passed in 2016. The bill prevents any form of gender based discrimination to performing a certain job(s).

Following the success of attaining a fatwa that allows abortion under five circumstances, SHE along with other key players accelerated efforts towards legalising of abortion in country. Subsequently, the Sexual Offence Act 2014, Maldives was enacted which covers protection from rape including marital rape and sexual abuse etc.

#### Mayor and members of Addu City Council sensitised to support SRHR advocacy efforts

A workshop was organised in June 2015 at Addu city to create awareness and garner support of the city Mayor and other members of Addu City Council on the issue of SRHR

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Gender and Family, 2006. The Maldives Study on Women's Health and Life Experiences: Initial Results on Prevalence, Health Outcomes and Women's Responses to Violence.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF global databases 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Contraceptive Use 2017 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2017).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2016.

advocacy. The meeting created space for youth and CSO members to voice their concerns to the elected representatives.

## **ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN LEADERS**

### **33 youth trained on youth-led SRHR advocacy**

In partnership between Dhi Youth Movement – a youth NGO, two workshops were organised by SHE in December 2015. The 33 youth participants were trained on life skills education, sexual and reproductive health and CSE related issues. Feedback from participants contributed in creating youth centric advocacy messages. Another meeting was held in December 2014, with the youth leaders identified by youth leadership programme of UNFPA. Participants were oriented on SRHR in the context of MDGs and Post-2015 framework and role of youth. They were encouraged to be involved as youth SRHR champions.

### **Women leaders trained on SRHR**

Women leaders who are part of the government councils in various island communities across the country participated in a meeting organised by SHE in November 2014. The meeting resulted in participation of women leaders in several issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## **ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs**

### **Ten-member National Civil Society Partnership platform formed**

To strengthen civil society partnerships on SRHR, CSOs from across the island nation participated in the meeting to discuss formation of national civil society partnership platform in Maldives. SHE organised series of meetings with CSOs, women leaders, youth champions and media. A three-day advocacy workshop was also held in June 2015 to train potential partners for SRHR advocacy tools on human rights, youth and SRHR, media for social change and SDGs etc. These efforts resulted in finally formation of National Civil Society



Partnership Platform of Maldives with 10 CSOs as members. Advocacy action plans were made by CSOs to sustain their engagement in SRHR movement in the country.

## **ENGAGEMENT OF MEDIA**

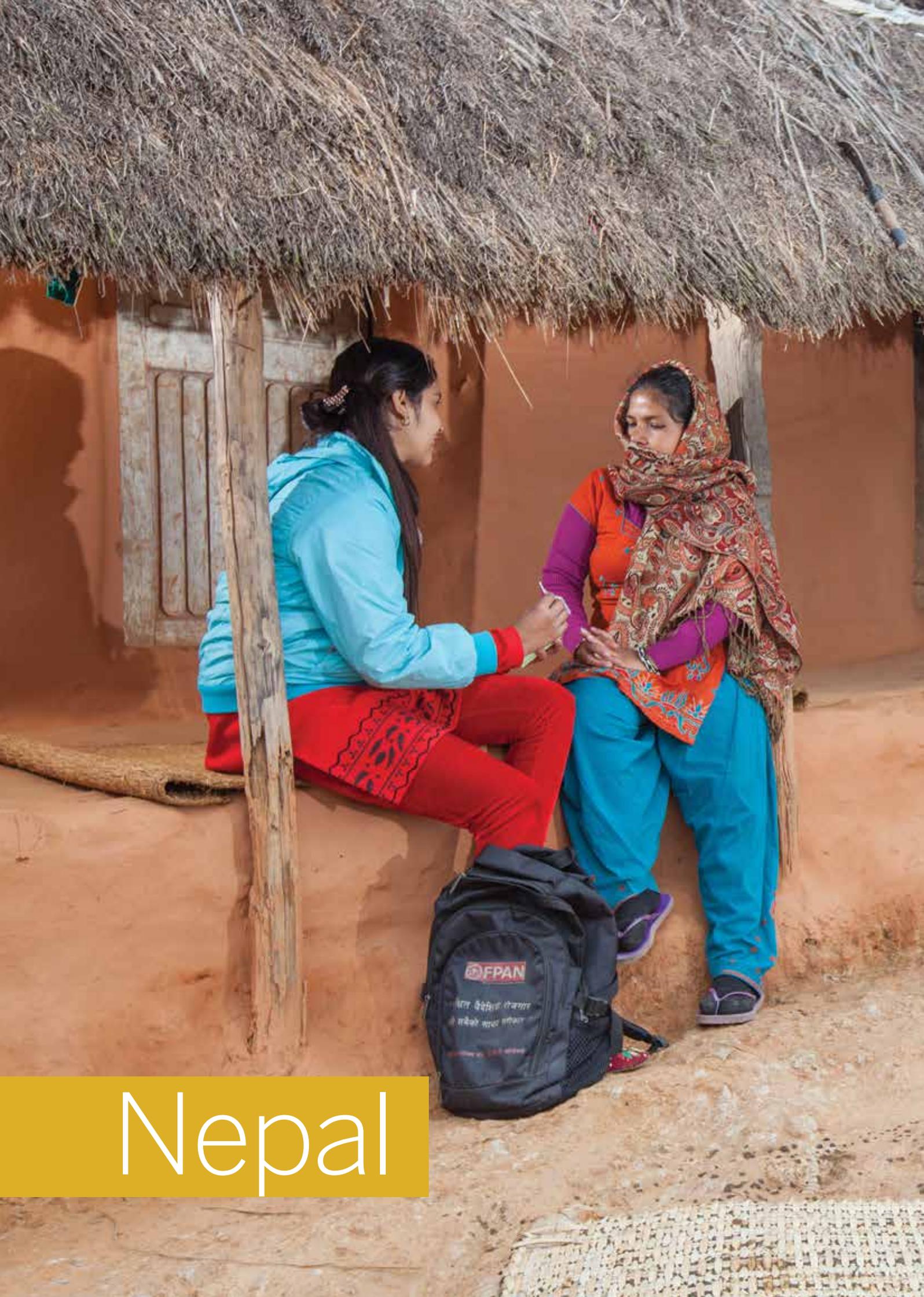
**Seven media personnel were trained for increased reporting on SRHR**



Consultation with Journalists were held by SHE in October 2014 to sensitise them on interrelated issues of SRHR with MDGs and Post-2015 framework. This provided opportunity to strengthen relationship with the media organisations and find avenues for expanding reach of advocacy messages.

#### **ADVOCACY WIN**

- LIBERALISATION OF ABORTION LAW IN CASES OF RAPE AND INCEST RELATED PREGNANCIES, 2014.
- GENDER EQUALITY BILL PASSED IN MALDIVES, 2016.



Nepal

## HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT	
Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women	Percentage
Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	28%
Child Marriage <sup>2</sup>	37%
Unmet need for family planning for 15-49 age group (total) <sup>3</sup>	24%
Gender Inequality Index Rank <sup>4</sup>	115
ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	
Increase in National budgets for SRH programme (already achieved during project period)	
Meeting Family Planning: FP2020 commitment and its implementation	
Second trimester abortion services by private health sector (already achieved during project period)	
MEMBER ASSOCIATION	
Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN)	

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

#### Twenty six parliamentarians became SRHR champions

Based on the commitments to work on SRHR issues in Nepal, 26 parliamentarians were engaged as SRHR champions. Since their appointment, the champion parliamentarians helped put SRHR issues on national development agenda by making high-level advocacy within the government, signing memorandum of support for SRHR and successfully advocating increased national budget on family planning.

#### Parliamentarians celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Family Planning Day and International Women's Day

On the eve of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Family Planning Day 2015, FPAN organised a workshop in Kathmandu, with members

of parliament from health committee, representatives from ministry of health and family health division. The issues impacting the situation of women in Nepal especially access to family planning services and information, unmet need for SRH services of adolescent and young people were discussed and recommendations were made for effective implementation of existing policies. The champion parliamentarians attended the workshop and advocated for voices of women's sexual rights within the newly made constitution of the country.

A group of 20 parliamentarians commemorated the International Women's Day 2017. An exclusive meeting of parliamentarians was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 by FPAN to demand their support on advancing SRHR advocacy in a united and bipartisan manner.

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Gender and Family, 2006. The Maldives Study on Women's Health and Life Experiences: Initial Results on Prevalence, Health Outcomes and Women's Responses to Violence.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF global databases 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Contraceptive Use 2017 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2017).

<sup>4</sup> Data not available.

### Six select champion parliamentarians spearheaded an action plan on universal access to SRHR

A national level advocacy workshop on “Achieving Universal Access to SRHRs: Leaving No One Behind” was organised by FPAN in January 2017. Six key champion parliamentarians actively participated in the discussion held during the workshop. Priority action areas for achievement of universal access to SRHR in Nepal were deliberated during the two-day workshop.

The champion parliamentarians led the development of an action plan involving policy makers, media, religious leaders, young people and community representatives. The action plan will continue to guide the advocacy work towards universal access to SRHR in Nepal.

### ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN LEADERS

#### Two youth champions held orientation of adolescent students in six schools

The two youth champions of the project organised Life Skills and Comprehensive Sexuality Education based orientation programmes in six schools in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur. The orientation programme successfully created awareness among adolescent school students on issues around gender, SRH and HIV, violence, diversity and relationships.

### ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs

#### Partnership with 12-member NGO coalition committee established to promote women's rights

Successful partnership between the national NGO coalition committee and FPAN was launched for advocating SRHR of women in Nepal. A workshop CSOs, parliamentarians, media was held in September 2015, in which advocacy action agendas were decided.



#### More than 100 people participated to advocate for protection of SRHR of female sex workers

To advocate for protection of SRHR of female sex workers and to enhance government's attention – this conference was jointly organised in February 2017, by FPAN and Jagriti Mahila Mahasangh – a network of female sex workers with support from government, UNAIDS, UNFPA and other international NGOs. The event was participated by over 100 participants including female sex workers from different districts of Nepal along with representatives from Ministry of Health, National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Nepal Public Health Laboratory and National Human Rights Council.



## ENGAGEMENT OF MEDIA

### Over 150 people participated in SRHR exhibition in January 2017

In partnership with Ministry of Health, National Health Education Information and Communication Centre, FPAN organised a SRHR exhibition in January 2017 at Pokhara. The exhibition was attended by over 150 delegates. Exhibits displayed key messages related to SRHR and FP2020. Minister of Health and senior Nepali actors – Haribansha Archarya and Madan Krishna Shrestha visited the exhibition, which was covered in the local media.

### Music and theatre festival on CSE and child marriage reached over 400 adolescent school girls

A Music and Theatre Festival on “CSE and

Child Marriage” was organised by FPAN – particularly aimed to create awareness among over 400 girl students of Budalinkantha school in Kathmandu. Kutumba – an instrumental folk Nepalese band and experienced theatre groups with prior background of performing on social issues were engaged in the campaign to educate adolescent girls on the consequences of early marriage. The theatre group engaged with students through drama and circus performances to generate interaction on the questions on early marriage. Representatives of youth networks, youth champions participated in panel discussions with students and share their own stories of empowerment by realising SRHR.

## ADVOCACY WIN

- GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL INCREASED NATIONAL ALLOCATION FOR THE FAMILY PLANNING BUDGET BY 12 PER CENT IN 2016.
- GENDER AND SEXUAL MINORITY RECOGNISED IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION IN 2015.
- 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER WAS DECLARED AS NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING DAY IN NEPAL, SINCE 2014.
- GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL DECLARED 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY SINCE 2015.
- FIRST POPULATION POLICY OF NEPAL CAME IN 2015.
- TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – WITCHCRAFT ACT WAS ENDORSED BY GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL IN 2015.



Pakistan

## HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT	
Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women	Percentage
Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	-
Child Marriage <sup>2</sup>	21%
Unmet need for family planning for 15-49 age group (total) <sup>3</sup>	20.1%
Gender Inequality Index Rank <sup>4</sup>	130
ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	
Meeting Family Planning: FP2020 commitment by government	
All provinces have revised Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1919 and raised age of marriage for girls to 18	
STI, RTI HIV and AIDS is part of public sector essential health service package	
MEMBER ASSOCIATION	
Rahnuma-Family Planning Association of Pakistan (Rahnuma-FPAP)	

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

#### Nineteen parliamentarians became on SRHR champions

Based on the mapping exercise on political advocacy by IPPF, 19 parliamentarians were involved as SRHR champions in by Rahnuma-Family Planning Association of Pakistan (Rahnuma-FPAP). These champions were sensitised and supported with evidence informed advocacy resources to strengthen their association with SRHR movement in Pakistan.

#### Over 100 parliamentarians participated in five national and provincial level policy dialogues

After the mapping of parliamentarians in four provinces, Rahnuma-FPAP in a systematic manner organised SRHR policy dialogues related to MDGs and SDGs. The national and provincial level policy dialogues were held in

2016 at Islamabad, Karachi and Gilgit. More than 100 parliamentarians participated in these dialogues and analysed action needed for achievement of MDGs and SDGs. The dialogues resulted in increased ownership of parliamentarians to accelerate progress towards SDGs within the context of SRHR- especially at provincial government levels.

#### Eleven policy changes in favour of SRHR

The inclusive advocacy efforts of parliamentarians and civil society, under the project resulted in many national and provincial level policy changes in favour of fulfilment of sexual and reproductive health and rights of country's population. The first ever population policy – 2016 in Sindh, youth policy – 2016 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, revision of curriculum to address health and reproductive issues of adolescents – 2016 in Punjab, reversal of ban on all advertisements of contraceptives in 2016, increase in

<sup>1</sup> Official National Statistics Not Available.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF global databases 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Contraceptive Use 2017 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2017).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2016.

budget for procurement of contraceptives, 2014 in Punjab etc. are examples of the government's increased commitments towards SRHR and contribution that was made through the project.

## ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs

### National Civil Society Partnership Platform formed with 120 members from CSOs

Concerted efforts of Rahnuma-FPAP steered formation of the National Civil Society Partnership Platform in Pakistan. After the creation of CSO Platform, FPAP organised periodic meetings at Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Gilgit and Muzafarbad with attendance of over 120 members. The purpose of the meeting was to generate support for progress towards SDGs with focus on SRHR – particularly Goal 3 and Goal 5 and commitment for FP2020 at the provincial level demonstrated by the government through enhanced budgetary allocations.

## ENGAGEMENT OF MEDIA

### Film festival on SRHR advocacy brought 34 parliamentarians and over 250 participants

A film festival under the theme “Synergising Post-2015, Development agenda/SDGS and FP2020 commitments into our national and provincial development plans” was organised by Rahnuma-FPAP. The purpose of the Film Festival was to galvanise government commitments and advancing legislative and policy changes – aligning with SDGs and SRHR. The national level film festival held at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi, showcased eight select short documentaries produced by Rahnuma-FPAP and other CSO partners. Parliamentarians, policy makers, media, CSOs and academic associations were sensitised through films. The films enthused participating policy makers in addressing SRHR within their assembly. Parliamentarians from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab and Balochistan assembly promised to move a resolution in their assemblies – asking provincial governments to incorporate life skills-based education in higher education curriculum.





### ADVOCACY WIN

- FIRST EVER POPULATION POLICY, SINDH 2016.
- REVISION OF CURRICULUM TO ADDRESS ADOLESCENT ISSUES, PUNJAB 2016.
- REVERSAL OF BAN ON ALL ADVERTISEMENTS OF CONTRACEPTIVES, 2016.
- FIRST YOUTH POLICY, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA 2016.
- VISION 2025 OF GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN INCLUDES FOCUS ON FAMILY PLANNING, 2015.
- FP2020 COMMITMENT INCLUDED IN CHIEF MINISTER 2015 DEVELOPMENT ROAD MAP, PUNJAB 2015.
- PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PASSED CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2015.
- COMMITMENT FOR INCREASED FUNDING IN PUNJAB, SINDH AND KPK, 2014 TO MEET FP2020 COMMITMENT.
- SINDH GOVERNMENT HAS INCLUDED FP2020 COMMITMENTS IN ITS DRAFT POPULATION POLICY DOCUMENT, 2014.
- KPK GOVERNMENT HAS INCLUDED FP2020 COMMITMENTS IN DRAFT POPULATION POLICY 2014.
- INCREASE IN BUDGET FOR PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACEPTIVES, PUNJAB 2014.



Sri Lanka

## HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY CONTEXT	
Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women	Percentage
Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence <sup>1</sup>	-
Child Marriage <sup>2</sup>	12%
Unmet need for family planning for 15-49 age group (total) <sup>3</sup>	7.3%
Gender Inequality Index Rank <sup>4</sup>	87
ADVOCACY PRIORITIES	
Government of Sri Lanka commits to FP2020 with a pledge	
Endorsement and budget allocation for the National Action Plan to reduce Gender-Based Violence (GBV) by government	
Comprehensive Sexuality Education into the teacher training curriculum	
MEMBER ASSOCIATION	
Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL)	

## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### ENGAGEMENT OF POLICY MAKERS

#### Eighteen parliamentarians engaged as champions on SRHR

Based on the mapping exercise on political advocacy by IPPF, 18 key parliamentarians were involved by FPASL since 2014 as SRHR champions in Sri Lanka. These champions were trained with support from Minister of Parliamentary Affairs – Ms. Sumedha G. Jayasena.

To strengthen the commitment of trained parliamentarian champions, FPA Sri Lanka organised special sessions with Women’s Parliamentarian’s Caucus (now called Parliamentary Sub-committee for Gender) to discuss discrimination and violence against women in the country. The consultation resulted in recommendation to form a “Parliamentary Oversight Committee for Population and Development” to monitor progress on MDG 5B.

#### Parliamentarians raised question on key SRHR issues in the parliament of Sri Lanka

The engagement of parliamentarians on SRHR advocacy contributed towards raising relevant questions in the parliament. Increase in women political participation to 25 percent at local government level; policy framework and national plan of action to address sexual and gender based violence; new laws to prevent harassment and abuse against women and children; were discussed at the floor of the national parliament.

#### High level advocacy for increased participation of women in parliament

In partnership with Parliamentary Women’s Caucus, FPASL organised a symposium on International Women’s Day in 2015. The main theme of discussion was on increased participation of women in parliament. Sri Lankan Prime Minister – Ranil Wickramasinghe, Speaker of parliament –

<sup>1</sup> Official National Statistics Not Available.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF global databases 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Contraceptive Use 2017 (POP/DB/CP/Rev2017).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2016.

Chamal Rajapakse, and Leader of Opposition – Nimal Siripala de Silva spoke in favour of constitutional amendment in favour of women’s participation. The symposium was attended by the election commissioner, key government officials, academicians and SRHR advocates. This was an opportunity to trigger positive debate on women’s participation in country’s decision making – ultimately to influencing supportive SRHR policies.

#### **SRHR messages by President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka during International Women’s Day 2015**

Working with Minister of Women’s Affairs, FPASL successfully advocated SRHR issues at the highest level in the country. One of the examples of this high level engagement was a message by President and Prime Minister of the country during International Women’s Day 2015. These messages were widely published by national newspapers covering an estimated two million population.

#### **Parliamentarian champions reached over 2,000 adolescent girls on SRHR**

To expand the involvement of parliamentarians, FPASL organised an advocacy session with over 2,000 adolescent school girls of Anuradhapura Ratnamali Balika Vidyalaya in March 2015 – with support from minister of Women’s Affairs. Participating adolescent girls were encouraged to taking SRHR awareness to their parents and peer groups. Outlining the supportive role of parliamentarians for SRHR was one of the outcomes of this meeting.

#### **Parliamentarians’ action plan to promoting women’s rights**

In coherence with the themes of the universal theme – “Be Bold for Change” – International Women’s Day 2015, a group of parliamentarians including speaker of parliament and leader of opposition came together in a bipartisan manner to outline an action plan on promoting women empowerment and SRHR by members of

parliament within their constituent and at policy level.

## **ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN LEADERS**

### **Women and youth friendly services in election manifestoes**

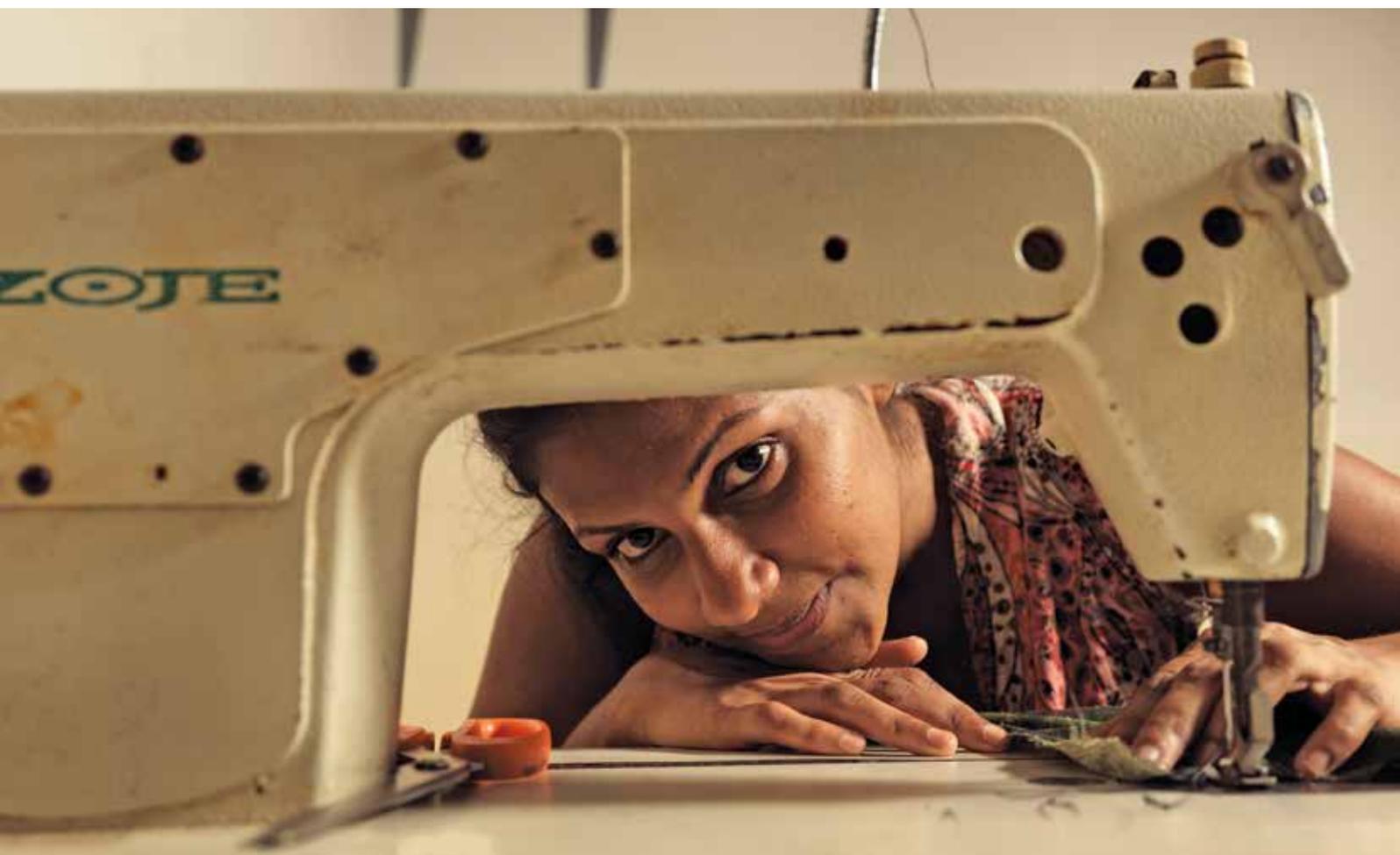
In a national level advocacy event held at Anuradhapura district in 2015, FPASL with involvement of parliamentarian champions, conducted a workshop to sensitise political leaders and push for inclusion of women and youth friendly services in election manifestoes of political parties. The session was conducted at the backdrop of the forthcoming election in Sri Lanka. Over 300 women participated in the event and echoed the significance of including SRHR as a good governance issue in the country.

### **“Know it Own it” exclusive campaign to promote CSE in schools**

This exclusive campaign was carried out at Pannipitiya Dharmapala College in May 2016. Live musical performance by “Bhathiya and Santhush” two eminent youth musicians of the country was used as a medium to promote importance of CSE – targeted at school children, out of school youth, parents and teachers.

### **Strategies for women and youth engagement in the national SDG roadmap**

The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife (MSDW) in partnership with FPASL hosted a national consultative workshop on “Strategies & Actions for Women and Youth Engagement in the National SDG Roadmap”. The consultation gave a platform for dialogue between policy makers and civil society to determine women and youth centric monitoring, reporting and allocation of budget. The consultation was attended by high level representation from key government ministries, parliamentarians, United Nations agencies and youth organisations.



#### **Over 350 women leaders trained on SRHR**

A SRHR training for women leaders was organised by FPASL in December 2016. On Issues of SRH, minimising violence against women and identifying causes of female migration were deliberated during this participatory training. Women leaders from vulnerable communities of Hambantota and Monaragala districts were trained on addressing these issues within their communities. They were oriented on the importance of women's representation in the forthcoming election. The training programme was organised in partnership with Women's Development Federation and facilitated with the help of government health authorities and police department of respective areas – creating linkages for follow up at community level.

The FPASL in collaboration with Sarvodaya, a leading CSO network, organised a largescale

advocacy workshop on SRHR for women leaders working in various areas in Uva Province. This province was identified as a priority area based on the developmental progress in comparison to other parts of the country. Over 200 women leaders were trained to discuss SRHR related issues at the daily meetings of their respective village level societies.

#### **Role of youth in SRHR advocacy – promoted at key platforms**

Number of key advocacy opportunities were leveraged to promote role of youth in fulfilment of SRHR. Cricket tournament and quiz competition during World AIDS Day and sixteen days of activism against gender based violence in 2016 gave exclusive opportunities to create awareness on HIV prevention, stigma & discrimination and the role of youth. IPPF's "Know It Own It" campaign calling for better quality



CSE to advance young people’s human rights was also launched during this period. Students from six educational institutes, parliamentarians participated in these events. Special presence of Yehali Sangakkara – wife of former Sri Lankan Cricket Captain, cricket legends – Roshan Mahanama and Tilakaratne Dilshan added great value to impact youth. The celebrities’ endorsement of the call for Comprehensive Sexuality Education and to end all forms of gender based violence in Sri Lanka was widely covered through their media interviews.

## ENGAGEMENT OF CSOs

### FPA Sri Lanka involved 10 CSOs in SRHR programme

The 22 CSOs were involved in SRHR project, through a rigorous selection process by FPASL. The CSOs were trained on SRHR advocacy programme implementation in collaboration with parliamentarians, youth and women leaders in an inclusive manner. Special attention was given to representation of CSOs from Jaffna and Batticaloa – Northern and Eastern Provinces, which are considered more challenging in the context of underserved areas in Sri Lanka.

### Over 200 district level CSO leaders trained on prevention of gender based violence

During the commemoration of 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, FPASL in partnership with Sarvodaya Women's Movement organised a district level workshop in December 2016. Role of key stakeholders – government, youth, women, schools, health service providers, in preventing any forms of violence against women and children was highlighted during the programme. Over 200 district level CSO leaders participated in the workshop.

## ENGAGEMENT OF MEDIA

### Radio campaign to promote CSE and prevent gender based violence reached over 2.4 million audiences

A live radio programme called "Saarasuba" (in Sinhala) – to create awareness on prevention of gender based violence and inclusion of CSE was broadcasted through Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in March 2016. The Independent Television Network Radio FM also aired the campaign with three public service advertisements (PSA) per day – a total of 60 PSAs. The national radio campaign was targeted towards policy makers and the public. Broadcasting during prime time reached an estimated 2.4 million listeners. The programme anchored by two famous media personalities of the country – Sujeewa Priyashantha and Salpiti Korala. The parliamentarian champions of the project participated in the radio campaign.

### Discussion on comprehensive sexuality education reached 400,000+ TV audiences

The CSE media campaign was also conducted in March 2016 through commercial TV channels of Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. The 55 min long programme, on significance of CSE was telecasted during prime TV time – reaching over 400,000 television audiences.

### Print media campaign on SRHR and CSE reached over 850,000 audiences

The CSE media campaign was carried out

through print media. The advertisements and articles on inclusion of CSE in schools was printed in five major daily newspapers of the country – drawing attention of policy makers and public and reaching to over 850,000 readers.

### Engendering Yahapalnaya (Good Governance) Film Festival – attended by over 650 people

Yahapalanaya (meaning good governance in Sinhala) was the campaign slogan used by the incumbent president and the government in the run up the presidential and parliamentary election. In conjunction with this theme of good governance, FPASL organised a film festival and branded the campaign as- "Engendering Yahapalanaya Film Festival". The purpose – was to position SRHR and gender equality as a good governance agenda. The film festival showcased nine films – each reflecting key aspects to SHRH and gender equality. The event was promoted through mainstream media – Sinhala, Tamil and English newspaper advertisements; and social media. A poster campaign in Colombo and suburbs was carried out as a build-up to the event. Over 650 participants – parliamentarians, media, youth, film makers, academicians, SHRH activists attended the film festival.

## ADVOCACY WINS

- THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO ADDRESS SGBV WAS APPROVED BY THE CABINET ON 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016 TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE MEDIUM TERM BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK 2017-2019 NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY OF HEALTH OF YOUNG PERSONS WAS APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA IN 2015.
- NATIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGY OF HEALTH OF YOUNG PERSONS, 2015 – THIS EMPHASISES ON THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HEALTH, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND DECISION MAKING.

# Implementing Countries

The project was implanted in nine South Asian countries- in the context of the compelling evidence requiring advocacy action on SRHR.

## IRAN

Family Health Association of Iran (FHAI)

## PAKISTAN

Rahnuma-Family Planning Association of Pakistan (Rahnuma-FPAP)

## Spotlight on Numbers

### Our Champions

**114** Parliamentarians **92** Youth Leaders

**79** Women Leaders **120** Media Personnel

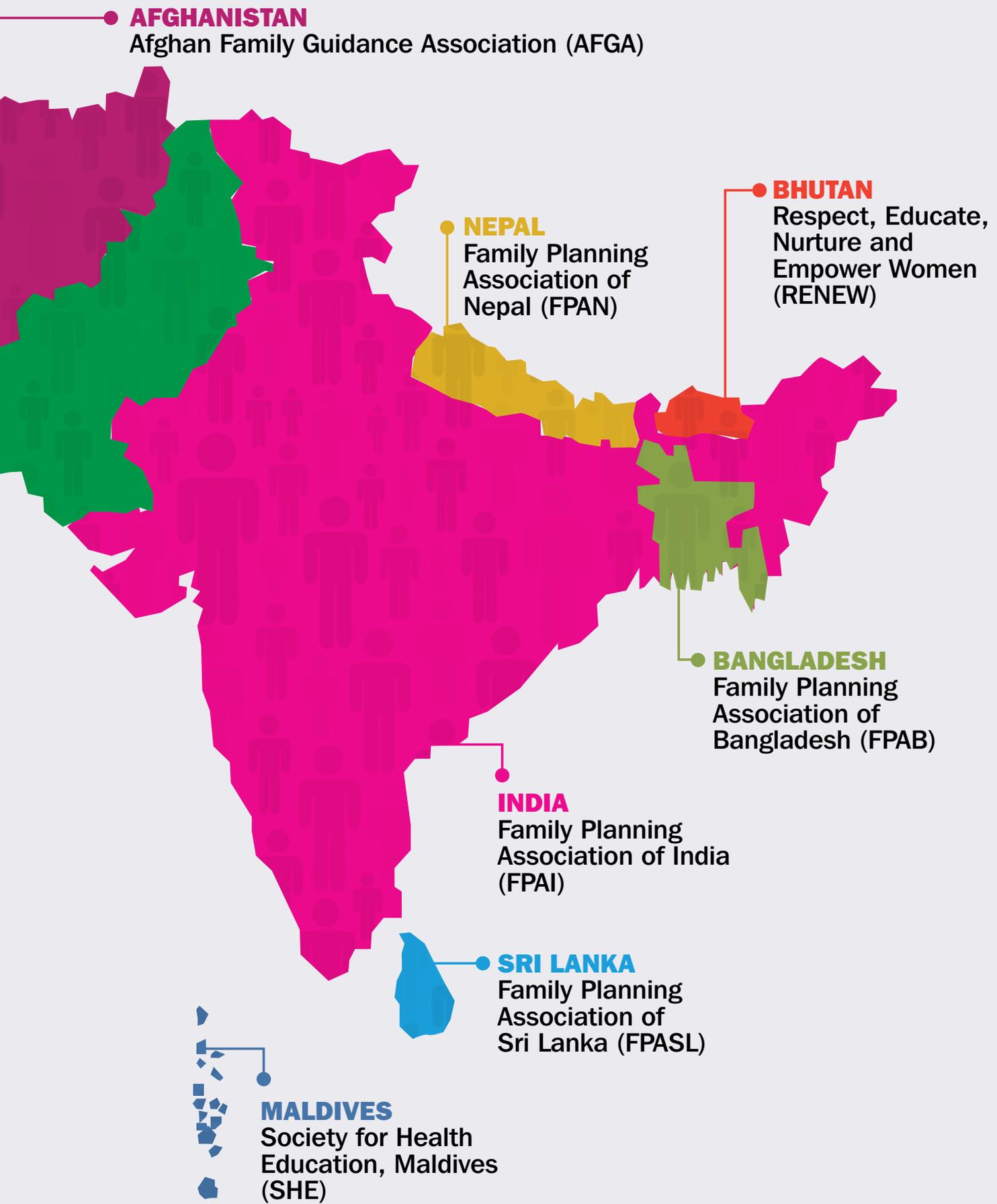
### Our Engagement with CSOs

**12** CSO Networks **156** CSO Members

### Our Reach

**91,000+** Direct Target Group

**>4 million** Indirect Reach



● **AFGHANISTAN**  
Afghan Family Guidance Association (AFGA)

● **NEPAL**  
Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN)

● **BHUTAN**  
Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women (RENEW)

● **BANGLADESH**  
Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB)

● **INDIA**  
Family Planning Association of India (FPAI)

● **SRI LANKA**  
Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL)

● **MALDIVES**  
Society for Health Education, Maldives (SHE)

# Regional Highlights

## **National implementation plans developed in the regional level inception meeting**

IPPF South Asia Regional Office organised a two-day inception meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by 27 participants from nine Member Associations, AFPPD and AFPPD's National Committees. Participants were oriented about project's expected results, actions, and EC guidelines for the project. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was country level Joint National Level Implementation plans – developed by AFPPD National Committees and IPPF's nine Member Associations. Effective implementation of these advocacy plans resulted in surpassing results in terms of 96 members of parliaments engaged as SRHR champions through the project.

## **Step by step implementation guide was a practical tool of reference for steering the project**

A step by step implementation guide for project implementation was developed by IPPF SARO and was made available to implementing partners – MAs and Member Associations and AFPPD in June 2014. This guide entailed assistance on project strategies, targets, partners, timelines, roles and responsibilities etc. The guide was used for developing and implementing the work plans.

## **Political mapping on SRHR in nine countries informed the prioritisation of advocacy agendas**

IPPF and its MAs undertook political mapping of SRHR issues in the region. The purpose was to assess the status of policies relating to SRHR in each of the nine countries of South Asia and prioritise issues of importance for advocacy. Review of SRHR status was done using 17 indicators of International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD). The mapping helped in identifying partnership opportunities with civil society organisations

and become long term part of SRHR movement in these countries. The outcome document established evidences to define advocacy priorities and strategies addressed through the project.

The political mapping also strategically informed the progress of the project which was reviewed during the review meeting in June 2015 at Bangkok and Mid Term Review Meeting held by IPPF in May 2016.

## **Two regional parliamentarians meetings on Child Marriage**

The South Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Child Marriage was organised by AFPPD in March 2016, with financial and technical support from DFAT, UNFPA APRO and EC Champions project (through IPPF). Similarly, "Accelerating our collective efforts to end child Marriage" was organised by AFPPD in partnership with Nepalese Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and development (NFPPD), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia and IPPF SARO. During these meetings, the issues of child marriage and the various challenges in working for the elimination of the practice were highlighted. The meetings were well represented by 63 key parliamentarians, UN, Embassy officials and CSO representatives from the region.

## **11<sup>th</sup> Women Ministers and Parliamentarians conference, 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Bangkok**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference on "Ensuring Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment from a Life-Cycle Approach" was organised by the AFPPD with support from the Government of Japan (JFT), the UNFPA APRO and the IPPF SARO and was hosted by the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand. The meeting was attended by the speakers, Ministers and Parliamentarians from 25 countries of

the region. As an outcome of the meeting, 54 Parliamentarians from 25 Asia Pacific countries agreed through a statement of commitments that primarily focused on ensuring gender equality, improving participation of women in decision making process, ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women, greater involvement of faith-based organisations (FBOs) in addressing GBV, participation of men in ending violence against women, ensuring participation of CSOs in policy making process, encouraging technical education and entrepreneurship among women and protection of women.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of AFPPD**

The 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in October 2015 marked the successful conclusion of AFPPD's 34<sup>th</sup> year of work on population and development. The 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly took place at a crucial time, when UN member states had just adopted their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015, and this also goes hand-in-hand with AFPPD's continuing commitment to advancing the implementation of International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) (1994) and the subsequent Framework of Action beyond 2014 in the Post-2015 framework. In this context, the General Assembly provided an opportunity for parliamentarians and other stakeholders to look back on their achievements thus far as well as at the challenges they still face, re-strategising future approaches under the new framework of sustainable development. Two Indian Parliamentarians were provided technical support for participation and financial support through the EC supported project.

#### **Parliamentarians carried out South-South visits**

IPPF SARO facilitated participation of 11 champion parliamentarians in the biennial

gathering of 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR). The theme of 8<sup>th</sup> APCRSR was ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific. Rich discussion on role of Parliaments to promote and assure success of SDGs was beneficial to parliamentarians in the context of the project.

#### **“Regional priorities for implementation of 2030 agenda for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Bangkok**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) convened the third session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on sustainable development (APFSD 2016). It was the first regional forum on SDGs following the adoption of 2030 Agenda in September 2015. IPPF SARO's involvement as the regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) member at the APFSD Forum ensured inclusion of rights based recommendation on SRH within health and Education component of the draft Programme of Action of APFSD.

# Experiences & Lessons

There is an increased recognition of the fact that fulfillment of SRHR demands an inclusive and sustained advocacy approach to promote policy changes, mobilisation of community level support, and evidence informed initiatives for shift in attitudes and behaviors. The capacity to convene and mobilise stakeholders and networks across sectors, government and civil society, is critical to galvanising the supportive changes needed to realise SRHR for all and increase accountability for SRHR policy development and enforcement.

The EC Champions project aimed to galvanise a national response to SRHR in nine South Asian countries by creating SRHR advocates within the policy and community level, strengthening engagement between civil society and policy makers, mobilising government's involvement and improving policies and laws on SRHR more broadly within the MDGs, SDGs and other international frameworks of ICPD and FP2020.

The project experience provides many insights and lessons that could be useful for broader advocacy and mobilisation efforts related to SRHR promotion. This section highlights the experiences and lessons learned from the advocacy and social mobilisation work done through this project to rally support for passage of SRHR favorable laws and creating an inclusive SRHR movement in the region.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- IPPF and its MAs along with other implementing partners – AFPPD, National level CSOs effectively used the EC Champions project as a mechanism to mobilise key stakeholders from civil society and government from the early phase of the advocacy actions, demonstrating value of the role of convener for an issue that required a

diversity of actors to come together, prioritise actions, plan way forward and act.

- The creating champions' model was successful and is a clear contribution of the project to the SRHR movement at policy and community levels in nine countries. The efforts that have gone into creating these cadre of champions and the practical experiences gained through this process is a valuable learning and considered as an important pillar in driving SRHR policy advocacy. Leveraging existing relationships of MAs and AFPPD with parliamentarians, building new relationship through these existing channels, working with existing networks have been a success factor of this large-scale SRHR exclusive mobilisation of parliamentarians in these nine countries.

- The effectiveness in raising awareness and influencing change in SRHR policy was the result of a deliberate effort to combine broad mobilisation of grassroots constituencies with targeted advocacy and lobbying of decision makers at various levels. The success of this strategy underscores the importance of coupling policy reform efforts with interventions aimed at shifting social norms and attitudes among the general population.

- The approach of engaging with parliamentarians through neutral platform – ensuring bipartisan or cross-party representation was a crucial parameter of success in creating and sustaining engagement of parliamentarians as SRHR champions. Working through honourable speakers of parliament or assembly e.g. in India and Bhutan, is not only a demonstration of ensuring neutrality but also helped access to mobilise political representation from across party-lines. Inclusion of SRHR as an election agenda within the political manifesto in Sri Lanka, declaration of commitment by political leader on SRHR in India are other examples of neutrality.

- Another learning in terms of sustainability of engagement of champions parliamentarian is that they are leaders themselves, which is an authoritative opportunity for SRHR advocacy. Providing compelling evidences and contextualised sensitisation of issues and concerns, that required priority attention facilitated deeper engagement of champion parliamentarians. The role of sensitising parliamentarians requires preparedness with updated and specific data and briefs from reliable sources of information. Linking their role to address the issue in terms of specific actionable pointers aided SRHR advocacy efforts in the project countries.

- Working with parliamentarians created spaces for CSO engagement at policy forums, e.g. in Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka parliamentarians themselves invited CSOs to conduct special session on SRHR in parliament. This further substantiates that political mobilisation on SRHR is sustainable through meticulous planning of advocacy efforts targeted for specific actions.

- Continued engagement of parliamentarians is crucial in SRHR advocacy. The participation of select champion parliamentarians in Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) resulted in pushing the gender equality bill in Maldives, raising parliament question on child marriage prevalence in remote places of Uttar Pradesh, India and follow up on government commitment on FP2020 agenda in Nepal. This demonstrates that continued engagement results in sustained support from parliamentarians for SRHR movement.

- Further, the engagement of parliamentarians is not limited to policy forums only. Therefore, their involvement can continue even at the community level- within their constituencies or through their social media platforms. The

project saw the impact of usage of social media by champion parliamentarians. In Maldives and Pakistan, champion parliamentarians used their face book and twitter profile to initiate debate on key SRHR messages and reached a large group of followers. Parliamentarians were engaged in other project activities as well- CSO consultation, youth and women trainings, workshops, consultations, film festivals, sports events as well as through TV and Radio based campaigns- all targeted towards ensuring continued engagement.

- The political mapping of SRHR situation in the nine countries by IPPF, facilitated access to latest information pertaining to national laws, policies and programmes that are critical to protecting and promoting SRHR. This approach helped in identifying country wise priorities for SRHR advocacy.

- In terms of civil society engagement- one of the project activities was creation of National Civil Society Partnership Platforms (NCSPP). The NCSPP and collaboration with existing national CSO networks, resulted in 11 SRHR networks in nine countries. The project played an important role in bringing together CSOs in nine countries and created spaces for interaction with policy makers. While this has created opportunities for involvement of CSOs in implementation and accountability of SDGs, action plans for collaboration between CSOs and other actors made during the project period, forms a basis for continuation of guided advocacy in future.

- The selection of CSOs in countries was done through planning and due diligence in order to safeguard the reputation of all project stakeholders. Moreover, leveraging existing networks of CSOs for SRHR advocacy avoided duplication of efforts and further strengthened the existing network's advocacy capacity and created opportunities.

- The project created opportunities and spaces for women-led and youth-led SRHR advocacy. The project not only focused on serving young people, but on strengthening their involvement as partners and agents of change. The women and youth champions developed by the project, not only met their own information needs, but also exercised their newly acquired knowledge, skills and competencies to involve themselves into community level events – e.g. in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and India large numbers of adolescent and youth were reached by the youth champions through youth centric campaigns- cycle rallies, street theatres, sports etc. Inclusion of celebrity youth representatives added further value to creating targeted awareness among youth. The project has contributed a push for women and youth leadership roles in SRHR advocacy.

- Mobilising youth through their respective institutions and networks was successful and effective. Involvement of IPPF SARO's regional youth networks – SARYN not only mobilised youth within the nine countries, but was valuable in creating spaces for youth participation in regional advocacy agenda.

- Media engagement based on selected scripts: the project partners worked with national radio stations and TV channels to broadcast SRHR key messages. Engagement with media through existing relationship of MAs and working through media champions were the ingredients of success. This was a two-way learning process for media representatives who were more informed about prevailing situation as well as the CSOs learnt from media how to highlight compelling evidences to attract attention of policy makers and support from public.

- The experience of the project also highlights the role of resources and strong partnerships needed to promote action. EC's generous support for the project was vital to the project's broad scope, capacity to organise partners and leverage the support of main actors.

The project's advocacy and mobilisation strategy was effective because it was strongly networked and implemented by key players complementing through valuable roles at various levels – ranging from groups acting as change agents at the grassroots level, to those influencing policy at national level and joining advocacy platforms at regional level.

- The “Celebrating Voices Over Silence” campaign used films, sports, music and theatre as medium to generate awareness among target group. Each event had an element of interaction between attendees and the resource persons – SRHR champions, film makers etc. This provided framework for engaging discussion with the participants. It also provided a lens to view country specific SRHR issues, that are generally concealed within the social norms.

## CHALLENGES

- The replacement of Millennium Development Goal with the Sustainable Development Goal in September 2015, required realignment of project. This impacted the project progress as it required time for consultations and reorientation between implementing partners and external stakeholders particularly at country level. Though SDGs was signed in September 2015 the Member States developed the agreed country level indicators during the period January 2016 to July 2016. The transition from MDGs to SDGs was not foreseen in the project proposal.

- The pace of implementation of activities in some countries were hindered due to external factors of natural calamities, internal security situations and political changes resulted in variation of progress in countries. The deteriorated security situation in Afghanistan and fatal earthquake of Nepal in 2015 slowed down the overall progress of the project. Nevertheless, with consistent support from IPPF, the project progress was steered back towards the expected results.

- Despite advance preparations, the second round of South-South learning visit could not be undertaken due to parliamentarian's commitment to urgent meetings related to passing of bills, assembly sessions and provincial elections in the country. Clashing of schedule was one of the limiting factors to mobilise key stakeholder for planned activities at country and regional levels.

- Unlike European Union, Africa Union or ASEAN, which has established/emerging human rights and development promotion

platforms in other regions, South Asia has limited regional mechanisms and scope for politically influencing the SRHR agenda. Therefore, it becomes even more imperative for CSOs to get united beyond borders to jointly influence a regional agenda.

- While country level targets were achieved and exceeded the expected numbers of champions, the Regional Council of Champions and South Asia Women Leaders Network could not be formalised due to uneven representation from countries.

## Sustainability of Results

- “Creating Champions of SRHR” model itself was successful as it created a sustainable resource base of over 561 sensitised, informed and dedicated leaders and volunteers – parliamentarians, youth, women and media personnel for taking forward the SRHR advocacy.

- The approach to engage with parliamentarians through a bipartisan manner contributed to sustainability of leadership mobilisation efforts on SRHR, even in case of change of political governance in the countries.

- It is envisaged that after the end of the project the engagement with champion parliamentarians will continue and grow through the relationship that has been built with MAs and through the mutually beneficial access that has been created through the project between parliamentarians, CSOs and media within the countries.

- In terms of the advocacy action in the process related to – Marriage Bill in Bhutan, Child Marriage Act in Afghanistan, will continue despite the closer of the project – with support from the champions, capacity of civil society

networks and engagement of media as well with technical and programmatic support from IPPF and MAs.

- IPPF's new Strategic Framework (2016-2022), sets the priorities that will allow the Federation to deliver impact as a sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) movement over the next five years. The project results contributed to realisation of this strategy, particularly in influencing governments to respect, protect and fulfil sexual and reproductive rights and gender equality.

- The number of parliamentarians, youth, women and media leaders, CSOs mobilised and trained through the project is also an increased number of individuals and groups who can be counted on for sustained advocacy and that outlines a future path of the sexual and reproductive health and rights movement.

- Increased mobilisation at policy and community level is bound to generate demand for SRH services because of increased awareness and advocacy. Working closely with service providers becomes even

more crucial to meet the generated demand, which is also the expected long-term impact of the project.

- There are 27 advocacy wins achieved during the project period. However, it is clear, that much remains to be done to ensure

enforcement of policies, including raising awareness on policies among responsible actors and the general public, strengthening institutional capacity of service providers and addressing socio-cultural obstacles to fulfil SRHR for poor marginalised stigmatised and underserved population.



## Annexures

MAs	MP	CSO	Women Leader	Youth	Media	Direct Reach	Indirect Reach
AFGA	5	7	4	4	2	4,105	500,000
FPAB	7	37	0	10	25	5,037	150,000
RENEW	4	9	6	5	4	600	-
FPAI	25	16	9	16	22	80,906	-
FHAIR	6	34	5	5	30	56	-
SHE	4	9	11	14	7	33	-
FPAN	26	18	6	3	3	650	250,000
FPAP	19	16	17	20	15	250	-
FPASL	18	10	21	15	12	2,650	3,250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>94,287</b>	<b>4,150,000</b>

# Testimonials

## AFGHANISTAN

We have contributed to pushing for the legal age of marriage from 16 to 18 years for girls in the National Strategy for Prevention of Early and Child Marriage. The strategy was approved by the president early this year (2017). It was difficult for us to convince the target group that Early Child Marriage is a problem. We had to present a lot of facts and information's that was backed by strong reasoning. It took us a long time to bring the national strategy on early and child marriage bit we don't want it to take the same time for its implementation. We have learned that engagement with religious leaders is the most effective way to convince people and create support on this issue. This perspective has been greatly visible in our advocacy plan.

**Dr. Walid Noori**, AFGA

## BHUTAN

In my capacity as the Chairperson of Social and Cultural Affairs Committee (SCAC), a government body working on the issues of – sexual harassment, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, SRHR and other socio-cultural issues, I contribute to commission reports and research studies. We work closely with RENEW for inputs on these reports and for a far-reaching awareness campaigns on afore mentioned issues. We cannot deny that the issues of teenage pregnancy, sexual harassment etc. are not prevalent in Bhutan but it is not as high as in other neighbouring countries. I believe the reason is our strong legal system and the socio-cultural values in Bhutan.

**Dasho Nima**, Member of Parliament

The advocacy areas under this project focused on gender equality and the marriage Act. We worked with parliamentarians who were newly elected this year. We also worked with several civil society organisation representatives, women leaders and activists, media persons and members from the women, children and youth committees in Bhutan. We will have elections this year (2017) and our challenge is that there will be a new set of

parliamentarians. This implies that we will have to start our work all over again. Therefore, for retention of relationships and shared knowledge, we have decided to also focus on the secretariat staff working in Ministries and other government departments.

**Yangchi Pema**, RENEW

## INDIA

I was initially hesitant to attend the FPAI workshops; however, since then nothing has stopped me till now. The school where I studied did not provide any information on subjects around my sexuality, gender and other aspects of comprehensive sexuality education. We planned to take CSE to government schools in the area. We sought permission for CSE sessions to be conducted in 3-5 government schools. Surprisingly, the district government official readily agreed, gave us permission for all government schools in Dharwad district and sanctioned money. I had initially thought that students would be embarrassed to openly discuss about sex and sexuality. When I started taking sessions, I was pleasantly surprised to see students, both boys and girls, openly asking questions and sharing concerns about sexual and reproductive health. We have also been successful in raising small funds to be able to continue this programme in Dharwad.

**Shubendu Akalwadi**, Youth Champion

We have seen great change in the last 10 years. There has been tremendous change- advertisements are so much more sensitive and focusing on women's issues, there are many women – centric films being made and there has also been improvement in coverage of issues from a gender perspective. We collaborated with FPAI for a national level media awards event where 35 awards were given. Basically, the idea was to give awards to people who have been writing about women's health, women's empowerment among other issues with a certain level of sensitivity. We had a huge gathering of more than 700 people who attended the event as well as a high-profile jury process.

**Dr. A. L. Sharda**,

Director, Population First, CSO Representative Champion

We collaborate for several activities with the FPAI branch in Jamshedpur due to our joint focus on family planning. For the champions project, there was workshop on advocacy and advocacy planning attended by women leaders. One of the challenges that we have faced is around working collectively. Most women leaders are engaged in their own work in their respective organisations, sometimes taking time out to work together becomes difficult.

**Pushpa Tiwari,**

CSR Head-Tata Steel, Woman Leader Champion

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## IRAN

Along with several important roles in Ministry of Health, I have also established the Adolescent Committee in the Ministry of Health which was handed over to the Ministry of Education. Another reproductive health issue that I had taken up was on reproductive cancer. We had two important meetings with FHA Iran specially to address the domestic violence in the country. I feel that it is very important to work with male parliamentarians, present them with scientific data and convince them about the need for SRHR. In my experience, with such strategies in place and consistent efforts, parliamentarians do begin to support work on SRHR.

**Dr. Hourieh Shamshiri,**

Public Health Practitioner, Woman Leader Champion

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While growing up, young people face a lot of problems due to lack of information or incorrect information on SRHR issues. Before joining the programme, I lacked knowledge on SRHR related issues. After the training, I have been able to open-up to friends and feel more comfortable discussing about violence, CSE, and equality of women. Even my parents have started to understand and accept my seeking information and talking to others on these important subjects pertaining to our lives.

**Maryam Toosi,** Olympic Athlete

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Last year the parliament was very active in discussing issues on SRH, violence against women, family planning and women empowerment in general. In last one year several laws, rules and regulations were formulated on reproductive health, economic empowerment of women, family planning,

increasing the total fertility rate from 1.8 to 2.1, health insurance etc. FHAI has been active in engaging with parliamentarians regarding these issues.

**Dr. Parvaneh Salahshouri,** Member of Parliament

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I am an active member of the International Muslim Women's Union and I am on their Board of Trustees. In 2015, FHAI held a meeting to establish a National Civil Society Partnership with the participation of different NGOs on SRHR. We attended seminars, lectures and trainings on the SRHR situation in Iran. A working group was also established to address the challenges discussed. It helped collect data on SRHR, share information and created an information bank for NGOs. It also helped build friendships between various organisations and created a network of CSOs. With cooperation of the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Affairs on Provisional Government, FHAI has done a lot of work in 2016 to eliminate domestic violence. A committee of parliamentarians was also formed and follow up meetings were conducted to address challenges related to SRHR and domestic violence.

**Ms. Amiri,** Civil Society Representative

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We want to get the Bill on Domestic Violence passed in the Parliament. The parliamentarians we have worked with as well as others have taken this up in the parliament. We have worked with other NGOs in this project because domestic violence is a big problem in Iran. We had also invited artists to participate in our project and they helped with advocacy by taking our message to the masses.

**Marzieh Zolfaghari & Zahra Fathi,** FHA Iran

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## NEPAL

There has been a renewed emphasis on SRHR due to adoption of SDGs. FPAN has been actively working in this field. We have been working with female sex workers who face a lot of stigma and marginalisation due to their profession. The main objective of working with female sex workers was to ensure that their SRHR are secured. We partnered to organise a first of its kind national conference for female sex workers where the participants included members from civil society, youth groups, parliamentarians, and most importantly female

sex workers themselves. About advocacy activities related to family planning, SRHR and female sex workers; we were successful in pushing the government to increase the annual allocated budget to family planning activities by 12 per cent. We also advocated for integration of regulations and laws on reproductive health. We had discussions with various stakeholders working in the field of reproductive health and contributed to the Reproductive Health Bill which was tabled in the parliament recently.

**Subash Chandra Shrestha**, FPAN

This project helped us work together with various stakeholders towards ensuring universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). In terms of achievement, I believe that the project contributed to discussions around and raised awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal. What was unique about our discussions was that it focused only on issues pertaining to the youth, was designed entirely for the youth, led by the youth and implemented by the youth. Even among young people we tried to include a great diversity especially of marginalised young people. I hope that in so doing, we will be able to reduce the stigma attached to talking about sex and sexuality in our families and society.

**Smriti Thapa**, President of the Youth Champion Advocacy Network in Nepal

I have been a volunteer with the Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN) since 2010. I was involved actively in three activities during the Champions project but was part of other events that were organised by FPAN. The first activity was about educating school students about CSE, the second one was a music festival and the third one was a two-day panel discussion with young people, parliamentarians, civil society representatives and various other stakeholders. We believed that school students would be reluctant to talk about sex and that they would take time to open-up during discussions. However, during the discussion we realised that the situation was exactly the opposite – the students asked us so many questions and did not appear to be hesitant. The questions asked centred around menstruation and

contraception. I feel that things are changing now and we must consider engaging with young people differently.

**Shambhavi Poudel**,

FPAN Volunteer, Youth Member of the Regional Executive Committee and Chairperson of the South Asia Regional Youth Network (SARYN) of IPPF, Youth Leader Champion

In Nepal, the problem is not the Family Planning programme, but rather it is the use of contraception especially among young people, despite knowledge of the same. The unmet need for family planning among youth is very high at 34 per cent. The question for FPAN is how to provide access to quality family planning services for young people. To be able to implement this work better, FPAN should conduct more frequent discussions and seminars with government officials. We have collaborated with FPAN in organising advocacy seminars. FPAN should continue and make even more efforts to collaborate with government and CSOs.

**Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak**,

Professor & Head at the Central Department of Population Studies, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, CSO Representative Champion

We have also been actively engaged in increasing the budget for family planning in the country. I think that a lot has been done for advocacy for family planning. However, there is still a gap between what has been done and what should be done. Especially in rural areas, where open discussions on sexuality are still taboo and a lot more needs to be done to break the barriers. We conducted a CSE workshop with a mixed group (educationists, young people, policymakers etc.) and undertook advocacy on FP2020. We facilitated radio talk shows to speak about FP targets and how we could work together to achieve the same. These programmes helped parliamentarians to get a grasp of the data and understand what changes are required, how much budgets need to be increased.

**Dr. Archana Amartya**,

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Associate Professor for Community Medicine and Public Health at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal, CSO Representative Champion

The Constitution of Nepal says that women have the right to safe motherhood and reproductive health (Article 38). In this regard, FPAN has been actively involved in pushing the government to ensure SRHR information and services in accordance with the Article 38 of the Constitution. Some of the issues taken up for advocacy with support from FPAN have been family planning services, LGBT rights and discrimination and HIV. We are also working along with FPAN to push for the Safe Motherhood Bill and were successful in increasing maternity leave from two to six months. The problem however, is not limited to policies. The policies that are already in place are quite good. It is the implementation of these policies that is a challenge, especially in ensuring availability of and access to quality services in hilly far-flung areas in Nepal.

**Dr. Tirtha Rana,**

Founding Member of Nepal  
Public Health Foundation, Woman Leader Champion

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As part of the Constituent Assembly which is drafting the New Constitution, we have discussed challenges faced by the women of Nepal and opportunities in bringing in more elements on women's rights in the new Constitution. We have also discussed these issues with FPAN during the drafting of new constitution. Discussions with FPAN have built our understanding on the issues faced by the women of Nepal in rural areas especially regarding their family planning. In some places, clinical services of FPAN have been more successful than government hospitals in this regard, particularly in addressing concerns related to SRHR. Most importantly, they have done exceedingly well in bringing grass root level concerns to a policy level by working with both people and parliamentarians.

**Ms. Dina Upadhyay,** Member of Parliament

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## PAKISTAN

I really like the short stories that R-FPAP have made on the issues of SRHR. They are a very effective tool. I think no other organisation has done so much work on SRH as R-FPAP. Being an Islamic country, these issues are not publicly discussed. Thus, there are very few organisations taking up the issues of SRHR in their work. Sometime even with our

colleagues the advocacy around SRHR is not taken positively. I would want to support such work and even if the discussions are not taken up openly, if the message is conveyed, the purpose would be fulfilled. Male counterparts need to be included in orientation sessions regarding these issues so that family planning decisions are for both man and woman and the burden is not for woman alone. The most important issues that should be dealt with are child abuse, menstrual hygiene as well as puberty related issues of adolescents.

**Ayesha Javed,** Member of the Provincial Assembly,  
Punjab, Parliamentarian

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I have worked on the resolution for increasing the age of marriage from 16 to 18 years for girls and restricting early and child marriage. I was initially not ready to take up this issue but it was Family Planning that convinced me to do so. I used to think that early and child marriages are acceptable especially in cases where parents are not able to afford care of their daughters. There was a time when nobody could have expected that SRHR discussions would ever take place in the Parliament but the situation has changed considerably. Regarding FPA's work, a film festival on SRHR that was organised a while ago, was extremely successful and very well appreciated. I have asked R-FPAP that I want to show these movies in the Standing Committee that I am a part of and would use them to conduct debates on the issues presented.

**Raheela Khadim Hussain**

Member of the Provincial Assembly, Punjab and Chairperson  
of Standing Committee on Gender Mainstreaming,  
Parliamentarian

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Our work as a volunteer is to undertake discussions with people to clarify misconceptions around sexuality being a "dirty topic". We have also made several documentaries on SRHR issues which were shown to parliamentarians, religious leaders, young people etc. to demonstrate and establish the need for SRHR information and services. Despite challenges, we continue to work on these issues, conduct trainings and are trying to change mindsets of government officials. We are also working hard in the Sindh region to advocate for inclusion of comprehensive sexuality education in

the curriculum. Hopefully this shall become a reality soon enough.

**Mohsin Baig**, Student, B.A-Gender Studies,  
Punjab University, Youth Champion

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We have been able to work with the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms as well as the Provincial Departments of Planning, Development and Reforms. The work has contributed towards bridging the gap between National and Provincial governments and the civil society. A national level strategic document for implementing the SDGs was developed to ensure that the shift from MDGs to SDGs takes place smoothly and everyone is on the same page regarding the strategies to be undertaken. Further, FPAP has conducted orientation workshops for parliamentarians in both the National as well as Provincial Assemblies on SRHR that included crash courses on the SDGs which has helped build their perspectives around these issues. It has also resulted in greater participation of parliamentarians around SRHR events as well as more support for SRHR-related policies. With collaborations with FPAP and similar organisations, Chanan a youth led organisation with its cadre of young people can further lead its advocacy agenda around SRHR to the grassroots.

**Mohd Shahzad**,  
Founder and Executive Director,  
Chanan Development Association, CSO Representative

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FPAP has very good relationship with parliamentarians who were voluntarily available and have also extended their support. It is easier to engage with the female parliamentarians because they readily understand the issue and have themselves gone through trauma in many cases. It is however, difficult to convince men. Thus, FPAP tries to engage both male and female parliamentarians. As a result, the group that FPAP have been working with is actively supporting changes especially when a law is passed or a resolution is proposed. It was our efforts as champions for SRHR that in Vision 2025, family planning was given a very special place of comprehensive strategy for inclusive growth and sustainable development. We also came up with the

Bill to increase the age of marriage from 16 to 18 years in the Sindh Assembly.

**Mahtab Rashidi**,  
Member of the Provincial Assembly, Sindh, Parliamentarian

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I have been working with FPAP on a regular basis. Together we have worked on registration of child marriages. About their work on SRHR, the word sex is taboo in our communities which is why most people are reluctant to speak about these issues. Lack of awareness is a big challenge particularly among young people. We have also undertaken efforts to introduce comprehensive sexuality education and construction of girl-friendly toilets in schools and colleges, particularly in rural areas. Further, menstrual hygiene has also been a key focus of their work. Due to the efforts of FPAP, the SDG discussion was taken seriously in Pakistan and a task force was also made for this purpose. I have myself learnt a lot from FPAP to work actively on SRHR issues and want to continue working with them in the future.

**Saadia Sohail**, Member of the Provincial Assembly,  
Punjab, Parliamentarian

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FPAP has done a tremendous job of creating awareness on SRH issues. The event organised by FPAP in Lahore on SRH issues is one such example. I was invited to be a part of the event as a member of the civil society and a speaker. The films and videos that were screened were apt and relevant to the issues of SRHR. FPAP has created a platform for parliamentarians and young people to deliberate on issues of sexual violence, harassment and SRHR. FPAP has managed to receive positive feedback from parliamentarians. It has urged them to talk about these issues in national and international forums. For instance, the Commission of Population Development paper by Pakistan government included sections on SRHR and SDGs.

**Mumtaz Esker**, Woman leader champion

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Rahnuma-FPAP worked closely with National Parliamentary Caucus on SRH formed during the project. It is one of the largest parliamentary network with more than 110 active parliamentarians from national and six provincial assemblies. FPAP engaged them to mobilise their

respective governments on MDGs/SDGs. We also formed MDG 5B Alliance (renamed SDG Alliance) that has more than 110 NGOs/CBOs members across Pakistan. All these partners remained truly engaged on project objectives and still working on the various goals of SDGs. We have learnt that continuous interaction with parliamentarians is key for positive outcome in policies.

**Nabila Malick**, Rahnuma Family Planning Association of Pakistan

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## SRI LANKA

The project provided a lot of opportunities to work with parliamentarians and key decision-makers. It helped us take forward the work that we had initiated on SRH-HIV integration in our previous grant from European Commission. The key impact was that the government came up with a Sexual and Gender Based Violence Strategic Plan, that was later approved by the Cabinet. Further, FPA-Srilanka has already been identified as a lead agency for teenage pregnancy and early marriage. The advocacy efforts that were carried out with the young people helped us push the agenda forward. At the same time, we advocated on these issues at a higher level including making a statement at the 46<sup>th</sup> Commission for Population Development (CPD). Some of the challenges that we faced were issues with implementing the project because we did not receive funds until ten months into the project. We are also now a part of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Gender and Women. We also managed to lobby on the FP2020 as well as gender budgeting with the government. The SRHR film festival created a lot of interest and momentum such that even other organisations are organising similar event for generating attention on specific issues.

**Madusha Dissanayake**, FPASL

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I have been associated with the Family Planning Association in my capacity as the Minister of Women and Child Affairs in several aspects of their work. FPASL has undertaken numerous initiatives for the development and empowerment of women in Sri Lanka. Their work on issues of gender empowerment, SRHR, violence, education,

employment and teenage pregnancies interests me a lot to support them in redress of these issues. FPASL works across the country, especially their focus on rural and remote regions is impressive. FPASL is working closely with the Government and other relevant stakeholders in ensuring implementation of SDGs. I and my Ministry will continue our collaborations with FPASL in future especially on areas of SRHR, sexuality education, training and capacity building. We also seek their support in improving maternal health care and reforming laws and policies to achieve gender equality in the country.

**Mrs. Chandrani Bandara**,  
Minister for Women's Affairs,  
Parliamentarian Champion

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I have had a very close association with FPASL. We collaborate with FPASL to undertake training and sensitisation programmes on reproductive health for their expertise on the issue. On International Women's day, we jointly organised telecast of a film on reproductive health and a walk "Awakening the Voice of Women". We met Minister of Education together on inclusion of reproductive health in the educational curriculum. We will continue our effort in ensuring this change. We will continue our association in future for technical expertise of FPA in addressing on addressing the SRHR issues such as early/teenage pregnancy in the rural areas in Sri Lanka and developing IEC materials on the issue.

**Mrs. Sumansekara**,  
Chairperson of National Women's Commission,  
Sri Lanka





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