

ASIAN-PACIFIC RESOURCE & RESEARCH CENTRE FOR WOMEN

Promoting and defending women's health and rights

annual report 2009





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

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Annual Report 2009

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ANNUAL REPORT

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he Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) is a regional non-profit women's NGO co-founded in 1993 by Rashidah Abdullah and Rita Raj. Its office is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Our mission

We are committed to advocating and protecting women's health needs and rights, particularly in the area of women's sexuality and reproductive health. We believe that good health and wellbeing, and access to comprehensive, affordable and gender-sensitive health services are fundamental human rights.

Our long-term objectives

ARROW's work will be done when:

- Health, reproductive health and population policies and programmes are re-oriented to make health services more accessible, affordable and comprehensive, and include a gender and human rights approach;
- The women's movement and civil society become stronger and more effective in holding governments accountable to international commitments, influencing policy agendas on women's health and rights, and gaining sustained representation in decision-making structures; and,
- Women's health outcomes and women's lives, particularly in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and violence against women (VAW), improve, and especially for poor and marginalised women and girls.

Our structure

- ARROW's programmes and activities are implemented by paid staff members from its office in Kuala Lumpur, with specific contributions from project-based consultants and occasional interns. There were 16 full-time staff positions in 2009.
- ARROW's operations are overseen by the Management Team, led by the Executive Director

- and supported by a Finance and Administration Manager and two Programme Managers.
- ARROW is governed by a Board of Directors, made up of five committed and experienced members and the Executive Director.
- The Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), composed of a committed set of activists knowledgeable about SRHR issues in the region, provides programme advice and direction setting.

Our strategy

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

- Production and dissemination of innovative materials for policy advocacy and effective SRHR policy and programme implementation;
- Policy advocacy with governments and other key stakeholders backed by research-based monitoring of the implementation of the international commitments made at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women; and,
- Capacity building of women's NGOs towards strengthening the women's movement.

Our critical issues

- Pregnancy- and childbirth-related mortality and morbidity (PCRMM);
- Equity issues in the face of neoliberal globalisation, privatisation and health sector reforms, including access to comprehensive, affordable and gendersensitive SRHR information and services; and,
- The impact of religious and political conservatisms and fundamentalisms on SRHR.

hroughout the last 17 years, one of ARROW's key strategies has been to link the realities of marginalised, grassroots women with national-level advocacy interventions carried out by our civil society partners, as well as through joint engagements between ARROW and its partners at regional and international arenas. We do so because we have experienced the positive influence that such a strategy is able to achieve, when improvements in international or national policy are informed by local-level realities, or when translating international commitments made by nation-states to rights-based changes in the lives of marginalised women.

Despite the disappointing progress towards the targets of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD POA) 15 years hence, this international document has been pivotal to the women's movements' struggles to achieve marginalised women's health and rights, and specifically, their access to improved sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

While the much-celebrated Obama administration has done well in repealing the Mexico City Policy of the Bush era, the Asia-Pacific region continues to experience a growing wave of opposition to women's health and rights. This opposition is well-funded, well-organised and solidly linked from the grassroots to national and international decisionmaking processes. On the other hand, civil society and the champions of the marginalised tend to have less 'advocacy mobility'—their influence is curtailed by various kinds of legal restrictions, financial constraints, the limiting project-cycle approach to funding and the perception that civil society advocacy and influence at all levels needs to be underpinned by a deep and unwavering solidarity and a spirit of cooperation. Such political idealism has sometimes prevented the forging of more practical collaborations between civil society actors in the face of the growing influence of conservative actors in the international arena. We need to find ways to work together to more effectively influence policies and programmes and create impact, even when we do not share in every instance a common political understanding.

Key achievements

In 2009, ARROW's national partners mainly focused on generating evidence on and awareness of critical SRHR issues, using their ICPD+15 country case studies to highlight the exact nature of the gaps between policies and programmes. National-level policy dialogues and dissemination seminars were held in nine of the 12 countries, to build support for and advocate for change for country-specific SRHR issues among decision-makers, policymakers and the media.

To complement the national analyses and advocacy, ARROW produced a regional overview of the ICPD+15 report looking at trends and emerging issues in the region. This 12-country ICPD+15 monitoring report has resulted in a marked increase in the number of invitations we received to contribute and participate at venues where the regional and international SRHR agenda was being negotiated and set. At these events, we were able to bring our partners, and share our evidence of ground realities and our regional analysis. We were also able to promote the need for greater global commitments to rights-based approaches within SRHR policies and programmes. An example of these interventions is ARROW's election as the vice-chair of the International Steering Committee for the Global NGO Forum on ICPD@15, where we played an important role in ensuring a genuine, participatory process for civil society at the conference. We also directly influenced the SRHR advocacy agenda of NGOs as the co-chair of the forum's outcome document, the Berlin Call to Action. Additionally, in September 2009, ARROW was invited to present our ICPD+15 findings in two out of five roundtables at the United Nations Asia-Pacific Highlevel Inter-governmental Forum on ICPD at 15 in Bangkok. ARROW was also responsible for moderating resolutions from each of these discussions, which formed the main outcome document of the meeting.

Another area of significant progress involved the Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP). Highlighting marginalised women's realities and experiences on the ground in advocacy initiatives has been a highly effective methodology for changing the quality of health provision at the local level and influencing the regulatory

reflections from the executive director

frameworks at national levels. This has also enabled WHRAP-South Asia's collaboration with other networks and health advocacy organisations outside of the partnership towards achieving common goals, including the Doorbar Network and the Public Health Movement in Bangladesh, the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood Rajasthan chapter in India and the Pakistan Reproductive Health Network (PRHN) in Pakistan. Regionally, ARROW and our WHRAP-South Asian partners opened up a new front for advancing SRHR advocacy with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). As a result of our lobbying efforts, a WHRAP partner has been invited by the SAARC Secretariat to participate in the development of the SAARC Gender Infobase project, which aims to establish a set of indicators on gender and women's empowerment that SAARC members will use in their annual reporting.

The WHRAP experience in South Asia has helped in the establishment of a WHRAP project in China in 2008 and in the initiation of another one in six countries in Southeast Asia in 2009. Currently, negotiations are underway to expand WHRAP-South Asia from the present four countries to include all eight, by adding Afghanistan, Bhutan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. There has also been good progress in terms of gaining greater funding support for the existing WHRAP partners. A more sustainable cooperation agreement with Danida has been achieved, as a result of the effective engagement of Sex og Samfund (the Danish Family Planning Association), our international partner in the WHRAP-South Asia initiative.

Another area of growth in 2009 was our information and communications work. We made the decision to shift the focus and outreach strategy of our flagship publication, *ARROWs For Change*, by increasing the number of annual translations from two issues to four per year, while reducing the frequency of AFC issues from three per year to two. In order to better represent the diversity of contexts and experiences in the Asia-Pacific region, we will also be increasing the number of pages of each issue from 12 to 16. We continued to use the AFC as a vehicle to explore emerging and difficult challenges, such as this year's issue of *ARROWs*

For Change on religious fundamentalism, which examined the impact of Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Hindu and Muslim fundamentalisms on SRHR. We also devoted two issues on the topics of conflict situations and disaster, each of which met a critical need for information in the region on the effects of crisis conditions such as these on SRHR. ARROW's commitment to make this information available to a wider audience through translation into local languages was affirmed by a 342% increase in downloads from the website of the AFC translated editions. There is also a planned expansion of AFC circulation from 6,750 in 2009 to 8,750 in early 2010. Meanwhile, the number of hits on ARROW's website grew by 750%, from 70,080 to a remarkable 601,770 hits within a year. This year, ARROW's online Proactive Information service was rebranded and revamped and is now disseminated through the ARROW website. The SRHR Info Resource, as this service is now known, increased its dissemination numbers by 114%. Meanwhile, the Information and Documentation Centre (IDC) restructured and consolidated its three databases into one, an extensive undertaking that enabled the resource database to be more easily searchable and accessible to administrators and users. IDC utilisation increased by 33% this year. Finally, an important milestone in ARROW history was the production of the ARROW Publications 1994-2009 DVD, which compiles for the first time all of our publications into one portable, interactive DVD.

Challenges

Internally, ARROW needed to augment the administrative team to meet the increasing demands of our growing programmatic work. Despite active efforts to fill vacancies in some key posts throughout a major part of 2009, we were only able to achieve a full staff complement in all 16 approved posts by December 2009.

Externally, ARROW and our partners faced a spectrum of social, cultural, environmental, financial and political obstacles this year. Disasters and conflict were major concerns. For example, in May, cyclone Alia struck Bangladesh and seriously affected areas in which our WHRAP community-based organisation (CBO) partners were working. Violence

continued to be a rising challenge for our partner in Pakistan. In China, there was harsh repression of dissent and the severe limitation of access to information. Meanwhile, in Nepal, political upheavals and climate change-related reduction in snow and rainfall have affected the country's hydro-electrical power generation capacity and caused daily black-outs throughout the nation. However, the most critical obstacle perhaps faced by most this year was the rising spectre of a global economic recession, the financial liquidation and intense impact on jobs and markets within most countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The full impact of the economic crisis remains to be seen.

These various factors combined to affect the work being done by our national partners, and made advocacy for health and rights even more challenging. The achievements by our partners despite the slew of challenges they faced show their determination, resilience and commitment, making our work possible.

Lessons learned and priorities for 2010

A key set of lessons this year revolved around the new ARROW staff learning the ropes on how to negotiate new arenas of advocacy that we were now participating in. The staff effectively utilised ARROW's documentation of its advocacy engagements throughout the last 17 years, and engaged in different conversations with BOD members and partners who have been in the movement longer to better prepare for different events and engagements and reap insights from their experience.

Another lesson learnt in 2009 was the importance of strengthening information management systems to more consistently monitor ARROW's progress and effectively



capture results achieved. This continues to be an area for improvement in 2010.

While fundraising was successful, the future sustainability of the organisation remains a challenge, as the project-cycle approach to resource mobilisation could potentially jeopardise organisational stability in the longer term. This continues to be a matter for the ARROW board's deliberations, and several potential trajectories are being considered.

The achievements of 2009 have opened up new areas of growth for ARROW. There is a critical need to ensure our systems, processes and structure remains ahead of this programme expansion, to ensure continued effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation.

Our external priorities for action in 2010 include:

 Influencing the UN agencies, especially the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), to ensure genuinely participatory processes in the lead-up to the global discussions around 2015 when commitments to the POA end, towards a much stronger and tangible civil society involvement in constructing a post-ICPD and post-MDG



agenda in 2015 and beyond.

- Ensuring that an international review of progress towards the ICPD POA targets occurs in 2015 at the global level. We intend to actively lobby for publicly accountable governmental reporting processes that are indicator-based and include an analysis of the gaps.
- Advocating to ascertain that increases in the Development Assistance for Health translates into increased funds for SRHR that are utilised in the most targeted and responsive manner at national and local levels.

ARROW has been able to make significant inroads towards our long-term goals as a result of the continued and increasing support of our donor partners, especially Oxfam Novib and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), whose confidence in the work of both ARROW and our partners has been steadily growing. Our long-term allies, Ford Foundation and Danida (via the Danish Family Planning Association), have been strong and reliable partners, encouraging the growth of both ARROW and our partners through both financial support and technical guidance.

The advice of our team of Programme Advisory Committee members has been invaluable to ARROW maintaining its relevance in the region. We are fortunate to be able to gain the support of these esteemed experts and movement leaders who have given so much of their time and energy towards ensuring ARROW's programme stays on track towards meeting our five-year strategic objectives.

The ARROW Board of Directors is one of the key reasons behind the organisation's integrity and the respect that we garner in the multiple platforms we engage in. Their commitment to the translation of feminist ethics and principles into concrete programme and policy frameworks within ARROW is rare and helps us stay congruent and honest.

The work of ARROW is inspired by our national partners and their partner community-based organisations. Their boundless enthusiasm and undying belief in a better world keep us on our toes and ever looking forward to the next mountain to climb.

Finally, we are fortunate to have the inspired, dedicated and immensely hardworking individuals who staff the ARROW office, without whom this work would not be possible.

Saira Shameem On behalf of ARROW

nformation and communications (infocom) has been at the heart of ARROW's work right from its inception. There are four main infocom mechanisms through which we do our work: the Information and Documentation Centre (IDC), the ARROW website, the publications section (including the ARROWs For Change bulletin) and the marketing and promotions section. Through these mechanisms, we collect, distil and repackage, or create and generate information that is rights-based, NGOoriented and region-focused. We disseminate these to our stakeholders, including other NGOs and movements. United Nations agencies, government agencies, donors and the academe. In the process, we advocate for our issues and perspectives and foster networking and alliances and partnership building. We also support capacity building and strengthening of key players within the women's, human rights, health and other progressive social movements, in the hope that this will improve their ability to advocate for changes in policies and programmes on critical women's health and rights issues, and ultimately, foster positive changes in marginalised women's lives.

Assessing needs and consulting experts and partners to improve our work

In 2009, we conducted two activities that were critical in ensuring the strategic and needs-based focus of ARROW's information and communications work. From 12 to17 March 2009, we carried out an Information and Communications Needs Assessment, obtaining inputs from our key constituencies, including ARROW Board members, Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) members and partners from 12 countries across the region. The needs assessment, done through focus group discussions, enabled ARROW to understand the information needs and information-seeking behaviour of our constituencies. It also gave us invaluable insight on their perceptions of our various infocom mechanisms, and of ARROW's value-added role as a regional organisation.

Additionally, ARROW convened its first Information and Communications Task Force (ITF) meeting on 17 May 2009.

At the meeting, the task force's role, which is to ensure the relevance, consistency and quality of ARROW's Information and Communications work, was clarified. Strategic recommendations on dealing with challenges, and advice on future directions for ARROW's infocom work were also given at the meeting.

The Information and Documentation Centre (IDC): Making critical SRHR information available

IDC was established at ARROW's inception in response to identified needs for information on women and health in the Asia-Pacific region. Over the last 17 years, the IDC has remained a core programme of ARROW, and continues to support the overall goals of the organisation and its activities. Its strength lies in its extensive collection of information resources pertaining to women's health and rights.

In 2009, 221 print materials were acquired for the physical library, and 2,464 electronic publications were added to the virtual library. The latter represents a 419.83% increase, compared to the 474 electronic publications collected in 2008. Meanwhile, scanning of Malaysian print media continued in 2009, with 267 newspaper cuttings filed on a variety of SRHR topics, which is an increase of 45.11% from the 184 in 2008.

Three new bibliographies were prepared this year and an additional 17 other bibliographies were updated, surpassing the target of six per year and the 14 done in 2008. The bibliographies focused on topics such as manuals and toolkits, midwives and young people's SRHR, and were developed to facilitate writing the concept note of a forthcoming *ARROWs For Change* bulletin, the work of the ARROW ICPD+15 team and national partners, and for a meeting by the Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia. Furthermore, after a four-year hiatus, preparation of selected titles and accession lists resumed with four lists completed this year. To increase access, these information products were made available in the ARROW website and the SRHR Info Resource service. A total of 306 downloads of the bibliographies and 189 downloads of the accession lists were recorded during the year.

This year saw an increase in the requests for information and research support. The IDC received 75 requests from

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82 persons, compared with 69 requests from 37 individuals the previous year. The information provided was used during workshops and meetings, research writing, preparation of conference papers and reports. The IDC also supported all the ARROW programmes, but particularly the AFC and the ICPD+15 monitoring research. Meanwhile, we had 52 IDC visitors in 2009, a 33.33% increase in the usage of the resource centre compared to 39 visitors in 2008. 103 resources were borrowed from the IDC as compared to 46 last year, a 55.33% increase in the usage of the IDC resources. We also facilitated the dissemination of publications by other organisations, such as the distribution of 292 copies of five different issues of the journal Reproductive Health Matters to key stakeholders in the region. We also provided a contact list of key organisations working on abortion and related issues in Asia and the Pacific to the Guttmacher Institute for their dissemination of the publication Abortion Worldwide Report.

In 2009, ARROW set up exhibition booths in ten key national, regional and international events, where we distributed more than 4,600 ARROW publications. This was a 100% increase in exhibition booths organised, compared to five last year. In the spirit of collaboration, we shared our exhibition space with other organisations at these various events, including the Beijing Women's Law Studies and Legal Aid Centre, Ningxia Medical University, Shirkat Gah, Strategies from the South and the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights.

A strong focus of our work this year has been on revitalising IDC core functions and streamlining tasks to remain relevant and effective. The three IDC databases that were in use since 1993 were merged and restructured into one database to make it more user-friendly and to make electronic copies more easily available to users, and also upgraded from DOS to Windows. Backlogs were completed: more than 600 publications were catalogued, and the total number of data entries reached 9,435 by end of the year. Additionally, the stock-taking process was continued, an IDC process and operational guidelines document was prepared, and training and orientation on a regular basis was provided to the IDC staff in-charge of day-to-day operations.

Moreover, this year, we moved one step closer to our vision of the IDC as a dynamic knowledge management centre. A knowledge sharing strategy paper was conceptualised and written, and presented at the InfoCom Task Force and the Programme Advisory Committee meetings for feedback. It will be piloted in 2010 through one of ARROW's projects. We also moved towards reconceptualising the focal point mechanism, with a mapping of potential organisations at the end of the year. A strategy paper for the revitalisation of the focal point mechanism will be done in 2010.

Other key areas of work in 2010 include making the IDC bibliographic database available online, setting up a revised monitoring mechanism for our activities, and marketing the IDC and its services to increase utilisation.

What users say about ARROW's IDC services:

Thank you for the documents. Really helpful! ...they are brilliant for our discussion. (Wathshlah Naidu, Programme Officer, IWRAW Asia Pacific, Malaysia)

The information was absolutely relevant. It was exactly what I was looking for and more. Not only did you send the report I was looking for, but you sent versions from multiple years. I received the reports the same date the request was made. Thank you so much for your help. (Arika, Researcher, Malaysia)

Almost all of the materials gathered for me were relevant...I would say 98-99% right on the dot...definitely useful. (Rashidah Shuib, Director, Women's Development Research Centre KANITA, University Science Malaysia)

Very relevant and extremely valuable resources provided on women's affairs for our visiting Ambassador in charge of women's affairs at large—so it was a perfect match. (Riazurahman Abdul Rasheed, American Embassy in Malaysia)

ARROW website

ARROW's website (www.arrow.org.my) aims to be a dynamic and professional SRHR information portal. It also intends to promote ARROW and partners' work, and act as a platform for networking and alliance-building.

In 2009, the website went through extensive changes in accessibility, design and content. We shifted to a new host server this year, to address accessibility problems. We also changed the design template, to make the website more attractive and user-friendly, and migrated to a higher version of our content management system, Joomla!, to allow for dynamism, interactivity and fluidity within the website.

New content modules were added and updated throughout the year, ensuring that the website is truly now "live." These modules include "What We Do," which feature links to ARROW's projects, publications and the IDC and provides in-depth information on ARROW's work to all website visitors. "Where We Work" is another new module which provides links to pages on ARROW's 13 priority countries. The webpage for each country has a profile that gives an overview of the SRHR status in the country, as well as links to pages on ARROW's work in the country, ARROW's resources about the country and critical SRHR indicators. The website is more thoroughly cross-linked and enables faster and more efficient information searches and results. Other news features are the "SRHR News Feed," which provides web feed of the latest global SRHR-related news, and information for the media through the Media Centre. Electronic copies of a majority of ARROW's publications have also been made available in the Publications page of the website. These include all issues of ARROWs For Change arranged thematically, ARROWs For Change translations, annual reports beginning from 2004 onwards, all bibliographies and accession lists from the IDC, and the research and monitoring reports. New publications, such as Reclaiming & Redefining Rights— ICPD+15: Status of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia, were also made available and highlighted both in the home page as well as the publications page.

In addition to making print resources available, ARROW innovated with new technology when it featured a series

of 'podcasts' of the Global NGO Forum on SRH and Development from Berlin on its website. Named "NGO Forum on SRH and Development Highlights," these podcasts made two short interviews and quick updates on the forum and its participants, as well as five presentations from our satellite session titled "Of Gods, Sex and Politics: Gender, Religion and Sexuality," available to website users. The podcasts received favourable feedback, and from September 2009 to January 2010, had 125 downloads.

All this hard work seems to have paid off: website hits grew dramatically by 1,030%, from an average of 7,008 hits per month in 2008 to 79,211 hits per month in 2009.

Meanwhile, our Proactive Information service was rebranded this year, with a new look, new content format, and a new name: SRHR Info Resource. It is now linked to and sent

Users on ARROW's website:

Looks great. Wish I saw the old website so I can compare it. But this looks fantastic. Will definitely be exploring more later. Great job! (Joanna D'Cruz, AWARE, Singapore)

This is lovely, very attractive and fed [i.e., with constantly updated information]. It's really live. (Milinda Rajapaksha, Consultant, Sri Lanka)

On ARROW's SRHR Info Resource:

This is an excellent service. I am forwarding this to our own information service and hope that we may be able to expand this type of services together in the future. (Elisabeth Riber Christensen, Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA), Denmark)

Continue this fantastic work. Take care. (Pilar Ramos-Jimenez, Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare)

¹ A podcast is a pre-recorded audio programme that is posted to a website and is made available for download so people can listen to them on personal computers or mobile devices.

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from the website; readers can now subscribe directly from the website, making this service more accessible to a wider audience. The revamped SRHR Info Resource was first sent out in the beginning of July as a bi-weekly service. By end of the year, 15 editions had been sent to a targeted international network of 750 NGOs, activists, researchers, government agencies, donors and interested others.

Plans for the website in 2010 include further popularising the website, adding more content on key SRHR issues, streamlining the website content in terms of language and chronology of projects and information. The creation of a discussion hub for BOD and PAC members will also be explored, with the idea of creating short-term thematic discussion groups to enable lively sharing of information across the region. In 2010, we will also be producing more in-depth tackling of a theme through the SRHR Info Resource, aside from the regular compilation of critical information.

Setting the SRHR agenda: ARROWs For Change

ARROWs For Change (AFC) is our action-oriented, peerreviewed journal bulletin that aims to provide clear women's, gender and rights-based perspectives on key sexual and reproductive rights issues concerning women in the Asia and the Pacific region. In 2009, we published and distributed three AFC issues as planned:

- AFC Vol. 13 No. 3 ("Ground Realities: Women's SRHR in Conflict Situations") features articles on diverse experiences of women in conflict situations across Asia and the Pacific. It looks at the direct impact of conflict on women's rights to expression and choice in their reproductive and sexual lives, and examines socio-political attitudes and perspectives that have an indirect but often critical impact on women's capacity to enjoy these rights.
- AFC Vol. 14 Nos. 1 & 2 ("Keeping the Faith: Overcoming Religious Fundamentalisms") highlights articles on the impact of various types of religious fundamentalisms on women's sexuality and SRHR, and the strategies that are being taken by women's rights groups across the Asia-Pacific region and globally to overcome these.
 - AFC Vol. 14 No.3 ("Sexual and Reproductive Health

and Rights in Disasters: A Feminist and Human Rights Perspective") presents arguments for addressing the SRHR of women, adolescents and people of diverse gender and sexual identities in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery. It provides a glimpse of current initiatives around the region that use feminist and rights-based perspectives to address this issue.

We also did substantial work on two more issues for dissemination in early 2010: AFC Vol. 15 No. 1 ("In Search for Climate Justice") and AFC Vol. 15 No. 3 ("15 Years after Cairo: Taking Stock, Moving Forward in Asia and the Pacific"). Concept papers, which are valuable resources in themselves, were done in 2009 in conjunction with production of the above bulletin issues.

To make the bulletin more accessible to non-English speaking readers, and increase the reach and impact of the bulletin, we also translated *ARROWs For Change* into various Asia-Pacific languages, which were deemed strategic because they responded to recommendations from partners or readers, complimented other ARROW programmes, and/or were produced in time for major conferences on the theme in those countries. The 2009 translations were:

- The Mandarin edition of AFC Vol. 13 No. 1 ("Rural Women's SRHR: Knowing the Complexities for Strengthening Strategies"), in collaboration with the College of Management, Ningxia Medical University, China; and,
- The Vietnamese edition of AFC Vol. 13 No. 2 ("Why Affirm Sexuality?"), in collaboration with the Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP), Vietnam.

We also received an unprecedented 10 more requests for AFC to be translated in various languages. This, and the need to reach local-level and state-level policymakers—who now have more decision-making power with regards to women's health and rights due to the decentralisation of governance—as well as the civil society organisations who need to work with them, has prompted us to increase the number of translations from two to four issues per year beginning in 2010. Conversely, we have decided to reduce the frequency of the AFC issues produced from three to two per year, but at the same time to increase the number of pages per issue from 12

to 16. By doing so, we hope to provide more in-depth tackling and wider regional coverage of each theme.

The growing regard for AFC as a leading publication of calibre in the region is reflected in selected issues of AFC being picked up by other organisations and cited or featured in their publications or websites. Feedback from readers and partners revealed that the bulletin is used in a variety of ways, including as a teaching material for university students; as a resource in courses, meetings, training institutes and workshops; as a reference material for programmes and publications; and as part of collections in NGO and university libraries. They also further distribute AFC to health professionals, NGOs, nursing colleges and schools in their own contexts. Further, partners found the AFCs a useful tool to stay connected with local and national NGOs with other organisations in the region and worldwide, and keep them informed on cutting-edge issues and agenda.

We printed 6,000 copies for each of the three bulletin issues produced in 2009, and were able to reach about 4,600 print subscribers per issue. Of these, 66.1% are from Asia, 11.9% are from the Pacific and the rest (22%) are from other regions. 51.9% of our print subscribers are NGOs, 37% government agencies, 3.7% UN agencies, 1.9% media, 1% donors and 4.4% others. All AFCs were also sent electronically to the 750 contacts of the SRHR Info Resource, announced in various listservs, and were made available in the ARROW website. Downloads of AFC English bulletins this year increased by 17%, while downloads of the translations increased by 342%, for a total increase of 43% from 2008 figures.

We also received requests for bulk copies of selected issues, including 70 copies for a meeting by the Federation

of Reproductive Health Advocacy Malaysia, 450 copies for a seminar organised by the Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia, 500 copies for the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing+15, and 600 copies for the Asian Pacific Midwives' Conference. As a result of ARROW's distribution and marketing mechanisms as well as requests from readers, by the end of 2009, we had reprinted 2,000 copies each of AFC Vol. 13 No. 2 and Vol. 12 No. 3. Next year, we will also reprint the following out-of-stock issues: Vol. 11, Vol. 13 No. 3 and Vol. 14 No. 3. We also plan to increase print circulation

What some of our readers say about AFC:

Thanks so much for the excellent new issue of ARROWS For Change on "Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Conflict Situations," [AFC Vol. 13 No. 3]...As usual, [AFC] provides a marvellously useful and informative resource on a very complicated subject - in an admirably concise and accessible format. It's terrific for teaching and for busy activists, who don't have time to read long books or research obscure articles and documents. (Rosalind Petchesky, Hunter College, New York, USA)

I write to acknowledge with gratitude the ARROWs For Change you have been mailing us. I have been using them as resource materials for the different trainings we conduct here at Visthar and also at workshops facilitated by us for different groups in South and Southeast Asia. For example, my colleague carried 25 copies of the issue on "Keeping the Faith" [AFC Vol. 14 Nos. 1 & 2] for the participants of the Advanced Leadership Training Programme he is facilitating for the Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs in Hong Kong. We will also be using them for the semester-long School of Peace beginning in February 2010. (Mercy Kappen, Vishtar, India)

Thanks for your email, I found the bulletin ["SRHR in Disaster Contexts" (Vol. 14 No. 3 2008)] very interesting and useful, your timing to send it to me was perfect, as I gave a half-day workshop to CYSD staff on Gender and Disasters yesterday, and used some of the statistics and examples from the bulletin. (Carol Wrenn, Center for Youth and Social Development, Orissa, India)

² For example, AFC Vol. 11 was cited in the 2009 UNESCO publication, International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education: An Evidence-Informed Approach for Schools, Teachers and Health Educators. Bela Ganatra's editorial for AFC Vol. 12 No. 3 was cited in the 2009 publication of the Guttmacher Institute, Abortion Worldwide: A Decade of Uneven Progress. Meanwhile, AFC Vol. 13 No. 3 was highlighted as a key resource in the website of the Disabled People's International Asia-Pacific Region (DPIA-AP). AFC Vol. 14 No. 3 was featured in the Gender and Disaster Network website, the 'IAWG on RH in Crises' listserv/community at the Knowledge Gateway, the Shirkat Gah Resource Centre website, and the publication of the UK Gender and Development Network, Information Round-up: October 2009. All issues were featured in the AWID Resource Net listery and website.

information and communications for change

of AFC from 6,000 copies to 8,000 copies in 2010 to enable us to accommodate partner or network requests, and bring sufficient numbers of AFCs to distribute at events organised by ARROW and/or attended by ARROW staff members.

In 2010, the main priority for the AFC will be to continue ensuring the quality of the AFC, to work towards the timeliness of AFC, and to address the different translation requests. We will also endeavour towards a more sustained marketing strategy, even as we will continue to innovate and find new ways of reaching our audience.

Marketing and promoting our products and services

Marketing and promotion of ARROW's Information and Communications products continued to utilise the dissemination mechanisms that are in place, including exhibition booths at key SRHR events in the region and mailouts of publications both in print and in electronic copy using ARROW's contact database.

In 2009, we distributed more than 7,390 copies of all ARROW publications and resources through our participation in various meetings, and through the ten exhibition booths that we set up at key international, regional and national events. The events where ARROW set up exhibition booths were:

- MUSAWAH Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family Law, 13-17 February 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where 150 participants of this international meeting organised by Sisters in Islam visited the booth;
- RRAAM-IPAS-ARROW-SIS Global Discussion on Abortion in Islam, 18-19 February 2009, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, wherein we focused on a display of resource and training manuals to support their discussions developing a manual on abortion and Islam:
- ARROW Regional ICPD+15 Strategic Advocacy Planning Meeting, 12-14 March 2009, Genting Highlands, Malaysia, which was attended by ICPD+15 partners from 12 Asian countries:
- International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture, and Society (IASSCS) Conference, 15-18 April 2009, Hanoi, Vietnam, which was attended by over 432 sexuality experts, activists and researchers from around the globe;

- RRAAM High-Level GO-NGO ICPD+15 Policy Dialogue, 27 May 2009, Subang Jaya, Malaysia, which was attended by 40 representatives from government agencies, international and local NGOs and academicians;
- Fifth Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, 17-20 October 2009, Beijing, China, which is one of the key platforms for SRHR in the region;
- NGO Your World Fair, 20-21 October 2009, MONASH University, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, a career fair for university students and graduates interested in jobs in the NGO/ civil society field to students and graduates;
- NIEW International Exhibition, 23-25 October 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which aimed to showcase efforts of empowerment and advancement of women in 115 NAM member countries, and where close to a 100 individuals visited the ARROW booth;
- IX Asia Pacific Midwives Conference, 19-22 November 2009, Hyderabad, India, where we attracted close to 100 participants to our booth; and,
- RRAAM Seminar on Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights and Abortion, 20 December 2009, Klang, Malaysia, which was organised by RRAAM in a public hospital for medical practitioners.

Another achievement in marketing our publications was entering into non-exclusive distribution agreements with EBSCO Publishing and Gale to include AFC and other selected ARROW publications as part of their online research databases. Both agreements enable ARROW to reach a broader international audience, particularly academics, researchers and students. EBSCO databases are accessible to thousands of universities, biomedical institutions, schools and other libraries in more than 70 countries, and generate 120-150 million searches per month. Meanwhile, about 1,500 public, academic and school libraries from all over the world subscribe to Gale. There were a total of 4,106 views of AFC articles from Gale subscribers in 2009; EBSCO statistics for AFC will be available in 2010.

This year, we came up with an innovative mechanism for documenting, marketing and promoting our products—we created a new package of ARROW's information products, the



ARROW Publications 1994-2009 DVD. The DVD makes all ARROW publications since its inception available in electronic format in one beautifully packaged compilation. It also makes ARROW's publications accessible to those with limited or slow internet access, and facilitates easy transfer and distribution of all of ARROW materials at regional and international events. A thousand copies of the DVD were produced and distributed to ARROW Board and PAC members and partners, and at various international and regional events. The compilation has been well received, with participants at conferences and partners commending ARROW on the usefulness and easy portability of the new product.

ARROW's contact database is a vital tool in ARROW's information dissemination and outreach work. The database not only serves as a mailing list for ARROW's publications, but is a useful resource of contact information on individuals and organisations working on the women's health and rights agenda. In 2009, we revamped ARROW's contact database, upgrading its software to make it more accessible and user-friendly, as well as administrator-friendly. In addition, the mailing database fields were revised to ensure that it serves as an organisational contact database rather than just a mailing

list. Guidelines for managing and updating the database were prepared to help those assigned to updating the database, to do so consistently and systematically.

Updating of the content of the database is an ongoing process that will continue in 2010. At the end of 2009, ARROW's contact database had a total of 5,177 records of individuals and organisations. This is an increase of 579 contacts, compared with 4,598 in 2008.

Information and communications in 2010

2009 was a very intense but fruitful year for the section. Not only did we successfully produce and expand the reach of our products and services, we also assessed them and brought them in alignment with the needs and user trends identified through the assessment. With the different improvements made and exciting new plans in place, 2010 promises to be a full and interesting year, wherein we will continue to ensure that ARROW remains responsive to the information and communication needs of its partners and other information recipients in the region.

RROW charts national and regional progress on international commitments on women's health and rights, particularly those made at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994. We see this as a critical means of holding governments accountable for policies and programmes that fulfil their commitments to women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Through the State of the Region Report on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: ICPD+15 project (henceforth referred to as the ICPD+15 project), we remain the only regional organisation across the globe that is systematically monitoring the 15 years of ICPD implementation, with the aim of holding governments accountable to their commitments to women's SRHR. With funding support from the Ford Foundation, Oxfam Novib and Sida, the ICPD+15 project involves 12 Asian countries, and brings together 22 organisations including women's NGOs, health NGOs and academic institutions into a partnership for research, monitoring and advocacy (see Table 1).

The project's first half (April-December 2008) focused on evidence generation at two levels. At the national level, the ARROW partners developed case studies on relevant sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues in 12 countries. At the regional level, cross-country comparative data on 80 SRHR indicators were compiled and analysed by ARROW, with the support of the national partners, to assess how far the critical recommendations of the conference pertaining to women's SRHR, have been implemented on the ground.

In 2009, the ICPD+15 project entered its second phase of implementation, which is focused on reviewing and finalising the country case studies and carrying out national-level advocacy.

Strengthening capacities in evidence generation and monitoring

The ICPD+15 Research Writing Workshop held from 15-17 March 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia brought ARROW, country researchers and report writers and technical consultants together to achieve a common understanding and the necessary skills within the partnership on writing the country reports.

Resource persons provided valuable technical inputs and country partners shared their rich experiences through a participatory, peer-assist methodology that facilitated learning. The meeting resulted in the strengthening of many of the participants' perspectives in the areas of the ICPD POA framework, gender and human rights approaches and women-centred concepts, as well as the integration of these perspectives in the writing, analysis and drafting of recommendations of the country research reports. Further, the participants strengthened skills around the methodology of writing research reports in a format acceptable in an academic context. This component was vital, especially to participants from NGO backgrounds where research may not be as rigorous or as much a priority, to present their grassroots evidence and research data for publishing.

Aside from plenary input and discussions, there were also sub-regional group discussions on data collection and data verification of the 80 SRHR indicators agreed upon for the regional overview. The meeting also created opportunities to interrogate the politics of choosing an indicator that would assess the progress since ICPD in a more accurate manner. Data gathering skills, including how to access data, which databases to choose from and what indicators to select, were also imparted. Furthermore, the rich discussions enabled a shared understanding of national and sub-regional contexts and trends.

Strengthening capacities in ICPD+15 advocacy

ARROW organised a three-day ICPD+15 Strategic Advocacy Planning Meeting from 12-14 March in Genting Highlands, Malaysia to share, discuss and strengthen the key findings and recommendations of the 12 ICPD+15 monitoring country studies and develop strategic policy recommendations for target groups at different levels based on the monitoring and research findings. It was also an opportunity for partners to develop and write the first drafts

Table 1. ICPD+15 project research partners and topics

| COUNTRY | RESEARCH PARTNER | RESEARCH TOPIC |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Bangladesh | Naripokkho | Monitoring of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Eclampsia in Bangladesh |
| Cambodia | Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC) | Barriers to Contraceptive Use in Cambodia |
| China | Beijing Women's Law Studies and Legal Aid Centre, Shanghai Women's Health Care Institute, Heilongjiang Women's Federation, and Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA) | Monitoring 15 Years of ICPD Implementation: China Country Report (the study monitored the 15 years of ICPD implementation in China in the areas of maternal and child health, adolescent sexual health, safe abortion, RTIs/STIs/HIV/AIDS prevention, empowerment of women and gender equality) |
| India | Academy of Nursing Studies and Women's Empowerment (ANSWERS), Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA), and Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ) | Nutritional Anaemia: A Neglected Agenda |
| Indonesia | Women's Health Foundation (WHF) | Contraception in the Decentralisation Era |
| Lao PDR | National University of Laos | Cultural Beliefs and Traditional Rituals about Childbirth in Lao PDR |
| Malaysia | Federation of Reproductive Health Associations-Malaysia (FRHAM) and Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) | Increasing Access to the Reproductive Right to Contraceptive Information and Services, SRHR Education for Youth and Legal Abortion |
| Nepal | Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) | Prevalence of Uterine Prolapse amongst Gynaecology OPD Patients in Tribuvan University Teaching Hospital in Nepal and Its Socio-cultural Determinants |
| Pakistan | Shirkat Gah | Investigating Barriers to Achieving Safe Motherhood: A Study in Selected Sites in Rural Sindh and Punjab |
| The Philippines | Linangan ng Kababaihan, Inc. (Likhaan Centre for Women's Health) | Identifying Barriers to the Timely Access of Critical Safe Motherhood Services among Poor Women Living in the National Capital Region and in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) |
| | Reproductive Health Rights and Ethics Center for Studies and Training (Reprocen) | Case Study on Contraceptive Behaviour of Filipino Youth in Metro Manila Communities |
| Thailand | The Southeast Asian Consortium on Gender, Sexuality and Health | Sexuality Education in Thailand Sexual Harassment in Workplaces |
| Vietnam | Family Health, Research and Development Center (FHRD), Research Centre for Gender, Family and Development (CGFED), and Institute for Reproductive and Family Health (RHAF) | Abortion in Vietnam: A Review of Policies and Practices |
| Thematic | Neha Sood | Transgender Peoples' Access to Sexual Health and Rights: A Study of Law and Policy in 12 Asian Countries |
| | Ranjani K. Murthy | Review of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Context of Disasters |
| | T. K. Sundari Ravindran and P. Balasubramanian | Privatisation and Its Consequences for Sexual and Reproductive Health Services: A Case Study from Rural Tamil Nadu, India |
| | T. K. Sundari Ravindran | Privatisation Profiles in Four Asian Countries |

of the national advocacy plans and be provided training in the writing of national policy briefs. A range of facilitated group processes ensured a rich sharing of resources and experiences of all present at the meeting, while the presence of advocacy experts, who gave feedback on the partners' advocacy plans and policy briefs, guided the whole meeting process to success.

In preparation for the meeting, ARROW sent presentation templates to partners to enable a better process of standardising presentations on the national-level

advocacy plans. Partners were also encouraged to consult with other stakeholders at the national level prior to the meeting. This enabled better preparation and clarity of plans, making the meeting a far more productive one.

Generation and analysis of data for advocacy

National-level case studies. The ICPD+15 project generated a wealth of evidence for SRHR advocacy across 12 Asian countries. The ICPD+15 national case studies focused on a range of SRHR issues, seven of which focus on pregnancy and childbirth-related health, mortalities and morbidities; four on contraception; three on abortion; three on sexual rights; and one on sexual health and HIV/AIDS (note that some studies focus on more than 1 issue; see Table 1 for complete list). These topics represent issues identified by the partners as the most critical for research, monitoring and subsequent advocacy, to address gaps in data, policy and practice in their respective countries. Additionally, three emerging themes were chosen as cross-country papers: SRHR in disaster contexts, privatisation and SRH services, and transgender peoples' access to SRHR.

Of the 14 case studies, ten have already been revised to fully incorporate reviewers' inputs; four are in different stages of finalisation. Two of the three thematic papers

have been revised to incorporate reviewers' inputs while one paper is in the review process. This review process facilitated a learning and mentoring process for many of the country partners, enabling them to better address the research questions, and to present their research findings in a more analytical and rigorous manner. The final papers are available in the ARROW website (www.arrow.org.my).

The regional overview. ARROW completed the data collection on the 80 SRHR cross-country indicators in January 2009, and these were validated in March by all national-level partners. The writing and analysis process of the regional overview began in June, followed by the review and revision of the drafts between August and September 2009, with Marilen Danguilan and T.K. Sundari Ravindran serving as reviewers. The resulting ARROW publication, Reclaiming & Redefining Rights—ICPD+15: Status of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia, which is coauthored by Sivananthi Thanenthiran and Sai Jyothirmai Racherla, was finally printed in October with 1,200 copies.

Reclaiming & Redefining Rights (also called the ICPD+15 Regional Overview) has facilitated an Asian analysis of progress since ICPD in a comprehensive manner. It generated cutting-edge evidence based on the whole spectrum of 80 SRHR indicators, grouped according to

Feedback on *Reclaiming and Redefining Rights*:

For 15 years, women's organisations—who played such a central role in forging the language and principles embedded in the Cairo Programme of Action—have taken the lead in holding governments to account, to make sure those principles become translated into real policy. No group has been more effective in monitoring the implementation of ICPD, every step of the way, than ARROW. This newest ARROW report on ICPD+15 in Asia is grounded in deep knowledge not only of the entire field of reproductive and sexual health and rights but also of the full range of international instruments and norms that define those rights and the political and social contexts of the 12 Asian countries under review. Breathtakingly comprehensive and superbly researched, the report covers a wide range of issues in depth—maternal health and mortality, adolescent sexuality, sex education, gynaecological cancers, trafficking, sex work, sexual violence, transgender lives in highly diverse cultural settings, and more. Its conclusions are sobering in some areas where progress has been slight...But they also point to areas of hope and, above all, show that political will can make all the difference in creating new possibilities... ARROW's 2009 State of the Region Report should be essential reading for researchers, policy-makers and activists not only in the Asian region but all across the globe. (Rosalind P. Petchesky, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Hunter College & the Graduate Center, City University of New York; Author, Global Prescriptions: Gendering

rieaun ana riuman kignis; co-autnor, Sexuauty, rieaun ana riuman Rights)

ARROW's study on the sexual and reproductive and health and rights in Asia is of great timeliness and importance. Covering a wide range of issues from maternal death to sexual rights, the study shows complex intersectionality of various factors that impact women's sexual and reproductive health, as well as the intersectionality between women's health and rights. It is a wonderful resource for professionals, activists, scholars and donors. (Pinar Ilkkaracan, Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) - NEW WAYS; Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights, CSBR)

Both documents... are relevant to our work as Strategies from the South this year on the MDGs, as well as our past work around ICPD+15, Beijing+15 and we recommend you have a look at them. The first one is a briefing paper: "The Women and Health Section of the Beijing Platform for Action," which ARROW produced based on their ICPD findings and took to the CSW in New York earlier this month for the Beijing+15 review. This is...a good model for us to consider when we write our MDG advocacy paper over the coming months....The second paper is ARROW's final ICPD+15 Report: "Reclaiming and Redefining Rights." I think this report, and especially Chapter 4 on sexual health and sexual rights, will be particularly useful for our considerations of the MDGs this year. (Mabel Bianco, Strategies from the South)

the following six categories: reproductive health and reproductive rights, sexual health and sexual rights, women's empowerment, health financing and general indicators. The study went beyond the usual focus on reproductive health and rights, but covered sexual health and sexual rights equally, strongly making a point that sexual rights are core to achieving the ICPD POA. The report was written from a women's, gender and rights perspective, moving beyond traditional hetero-normative frameworks by including the SRHR concerns of all individuals, irrespective of gender identity and sexual orientation. Additionally, spotlights taken from the country case studies showcased the SRHR issues at stake at the national level.

The publication has generated very positive feedback, including from respected feminist scholars and activists.

Networking, alliance-building and advocacy

National-level advocacy activities. In 2009, national-level policy dialogues and dissemination seminars were held in nine of the 12 countries, to advocate for change with regards the selected critical country-specific SRHR issues, as well as to build media support for SRHR.

• *Cambodia:* Advocacy interventions by the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC) included two stakeholder orientation meetings in June and August to highlight the need to access contraception

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for women. These meetings were attended by about 510 participants, which included government officials, community health support group volunteers and the media. RHAC also presented the case study findings at the Parliament and Senate in December, during the workshop "National Follow-up Workshop on Maternal Health" organised by the UNFPA, in cooperation with the Parliamentarian Association for Population and Development. All engagements have contributed to the latter's increased engagement on the issues of maternal, newborn and child health.

- *India:* The Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA) organised a state-level consultation in Jaipur, Rajasthan in September on the issue of anaemia, where recommendations of their study were shared with key state-level government stakeholders, NGOs and UN agencies, and the media. All three India ICPD+15 partners (Academy of Nursing Studies and Women's Empowerment, Centre for Health and Social Justice and CHETNA), in collaboration with other NGOs in India, are also planning to hold a one-day national consultation on nutritional anaemia in women and girls in the first quarter of 2010.
- *Indonesia:* The Women's Health Foundation (WHF) presented their study findings and recommendations at UNFPA and Ministry of Health national-level ICPD+15 seminar in July. One of the main ICPD+15 monitoring events in Indonesia, this meeting was attended by about 170 donors, government institutions, NGOs and professional organisations. WHF also formed an advocacy team to pursue their advocacy with the Ministry of Health to pass a new Health Law which incorporates a chapter on abortion. While the health law was passed in October, the WHF continues their advocacy with the Ministry of Health, legal professionals and law enforcers to draft the regulation to implement it.
- Malaysia: A high-level GO-NGO ICPD 15 Policy Dialogue was organised by the Federation of Reproductive Health Associations-Malaysia (FRHAM) and Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) in May. This

- focused on the actions to be taken to better implement Malaysia's ICPD agreements to ensure the reproductive right to contraceptive information and services, SRHR education for young people and legal abortion services. It was attended by 46 participants, including high-level and prominent governmental officials, NGOs, INGOs and academics. In a subsequent WHO regional meeting, the Ministry of Health (MOH) officials present gave credit to the RRAAM-FRHAM evidence and advocacy for providing a strong rights-based perspective to the MOH representatives, and for clarifying the legal situation of abortion in Malaysia.
- Nepal: An ICPD+15 policy dialogue was organised by Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) in November, which was attended by 65 participants from the National Planning Commission and Family Health Division, local and national NGOs, international NGOs and media representatives. This event was widely covered in both national television and print media, generating much awareness on the prevalence of uterine prolapse in Nepal and the need to implement the new policy to address this maternal morbidity issue.
- Pakistan: Shirkat Gah hosted a meeting of the Pakistan Reproductive Health Network (PRHN) in December, where the ICPD findings on reproductive health services and reproductive health needs, safe motherhood, family planning, unwanted pregnancies and abortion were shared with seven focal chapters from all over Pakistan. A decision was reached to expand the research base for effective national-level advocacy and hence, the seven PRHN chapters plan to replicate the research in their areas. The findings of this local-level research would then be shared at the national level in 2010.
- The Philippines: A round table discussion was held in October, where Linangan ng Kababaihan, Inc. (Likhaan Centre for Women's Health) and Reproductive Health Rights and Ethics Centre for Studies and Training (Reprocen) presented the country case study findings on the contraceptive use of young people in select urban poor Manila communities and poor women's perception of barriers to their access to critical safe motherhood services in Manila and Basilan. This event was attended by some 50

participants from different government agencies, academic institutions and NGOs.

- Thailand: The Southeast Asian Consortium on Gender, Sexuality and Health has a comprehensive advocacy plan to encourage key stakeholders and lawmakers to recommend a clear definition of 'sexual harassment' and encourage key stakeholders to redefine the definition in the existing laws. A stakeholder meeting was held in November to present the ICPD+15 findings on sexual harassment and to establish a network among key stakeholders. In addition, a symposium was also held at the Second Annual Conference on Sexuality Studies in Thai Society in November to raise awareness among activists, practitioners and academics in the field of sexuality and sexuality education. A National Policy Dialogue was conducted in December 2009 to examine existing laws relating to sexual harassment.
- Vietnam: In October, the Research Centre for Gender, Family and Development (CGFED) and the Institute for Reproductive and Family Health (RHAF) held a national dialogue to draw the attention of policymaking bodies, mass media and non-governmental organisations on the need for the efficient and effective implementation of postabortion counselling for unmarried youth. 57 participants from governmental organisations, health centres, national and international NGOs, young people from Ba Dinh and Hoang Mai districts of Hanoi and the media attended the workshop.

Regional and international-level advocacy, networking and alliance building. The ICPD+15 regional overview has been the key regional advocacy tool used by ARROW and its partners to inform different stakeholders on the ICPD+15 progress in Asia, as well as share analysis on the SRHR issues at stake in the region. In 2009, 300 copies of the draft overview were shared in various fora, while 630 copies of the final publication were distributed in meetings and to partners.

Besides disseminating this publication, ARROW has made a number of presentations and provided technical input in strategic regional and international spaces using the findings of the regional review to influence the agenda of these different events.

Expert Group Meeting to Assess the Progress in the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty Adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (3-5 Feb 2009, Bangkok, Thailand): Invited as an observer to this meeting, ARROW attended to better understand the perspective of Asia-Pacific governments on the status of the implementation of Plan of Action on Population and Poverty. The insights gained at this meeting were critical to the development of the ARROW ICPD+15 report. At this event, ARROW also managed to engage with government representatives, resource persons and UNFPA staff regarding ARROW's monitoring project through one-to-one chats during breaks.

Commission on Population and Development (CPD), 42nd Session (30 March-3 April 2009, New York, USA): The 2009 session explored the contribution of the ICPD POA to internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. ARROW did extensive preparations prior to the meeting, including meeting with the Malaysian foreign ministry officials, and actively lobbying the facilitator of the negotiations for the inclusion of the language edits by the International Women's Health Coalition and other women's groups on the CPD draft resolution. The outcome document ended up being a progressive document that incorporated most of the edits that women's groups present proposed.

VII Conference of the International Association on the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS) (16-18 April 2009, Hanoi, Vietnam): ARROW held a workshop, "Old Wine, New Pot: Contested and Emerging Sexualities in 12 Asian Countries," where seven of the ICPD+15 country studies were presented by partners, followed by a presentation of the regional overview by ARROW. Additionally, ARROW presented at the parallel session on "Sexual Health and Rights," with Jane Cottingham (WHO), Seri Wendoh (IPPF) and Neha Sood (who presented the ICPD sexuality thematic paper) as co-presentors, and Sonia Correa (Abia/DAWN) chairing the meeting. This is the first time our research outputs have been accepted at a global

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sexuality studies conference of this calibre. It gave ARROW and partners the opportunity to explore the framing of their reproductive health and rights work within a sexuality paradigm. Likewise, the inputs of ARROW staff and partners to the conference gave sexuality researchers the opportunity to view reproductive health and reproductive rights topics from their lens. This was an important bridge-building exercise between sometimes mutually exclusive movements for women's reproductive rights and for sexuality rights.

Sth Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (18-20 October 2009, Beijing, China):
ARROW's intervention at this event included a presentation of the paper, "Monitoring Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Context of Disasters in Asia" on Ranjani K. Murthy's behalf. ARROW also held a satellite session on "Fulfilling the Cairo Promises: Using Human Rights Strategies to Advance Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights," where ARROW presented the ICPD+15 Regional Overview findings at the panel that included representatives from the Center for Reproductive Rights, IWRAW Asia-Pacific, Reprocen-Philippines and the Human Rights Law Network-India. This presentation was well-received by

the participants and helped secure ARROW's grounding and leadership in reproductive rights advocacy and make new inroads into sexual rights advocacy work in the region.

6th Scientific Meeting on "Health Research for Development Initiatives Programme," (17-18 November 2010, Hanoi, Vietnam): At this meeting hosted by the Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) and the Population Council Vietnam, ARROW made a presentation on the findings from the women's empowerment and health financing section of the regional overview. The purpose of this engagement was to provide regional inputs into the national-level programme and research using a gender and human rights lens, and to build alliances with academic institutions and other potential stakeholders in Vietnam.

Steering Group Meetings for the Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development; Invest in Health, Rights and the Future (also called Global NGO Forum) (Berlin, Germany): ARROW was elected as one of the three co-chairs of the Steering Group of the Global NGO Forum. This enabled us to be actively involved in formulating the goals and objectives of the forum, in ensuring Asia-Pacific representation on the panels and within all the break-out sessions, and in putting forward the issues of most concern to the Asia-Pacific region in the programme of the Forum. We were also centrally involved in expanding the Steering Group to bring in more Southern organisations, such as the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN) and the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR).



Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development (2-4 September 2009, Berlin, Germany): ARROW played a key role in the Global NGO Forum, strategically influencing decisions made about the meeting through the Steering Group Meetings held prior, during and immediately after the conference. ARROW also called for and facilitated the Asia-Pacific regional meeting, which brought together all the Asia-Pacific participants to discuss the critical input from region that the participants wanted to see included in the Berlin Call to Action. The draft report of the regional ICPD+15 monitoring study was made available to all participants at the Asia-Pacific meeting.

ARROW also organised two satellite sessions as part of the pre-forum activities—one on sexuality and religious fundamentalisms, and the other (organised with the Asia Pacific Alliance) on advocacy for funding on SRHR in the region. Both were well-publicised, well-attended and well-received. We also participated in the Youth Symposium prior to the forum, and gave a presentation on young people's SRHR in 12 Asia-Pacific countries using findings from the ICPD+15 study at a breakout session. We were also part of the Core Rapporteur Team, which trained chairpersons and rapporteurs on the format of the sessions and ensured that the recommendations from the sessions went to the drafting committees of the outcome documents.

ARROW also served as the co-facilitator of the drafting committee for the Berlin Call to Action (BCTA), enabling us to push our agenda and utilise the ICPD+15 recommendations. The BCTA pushes the ICPD agenda ahead by: a) shifting the SRHR agenda from a public health perspective to a human rights perspective; b) ensuring that SRHR issues are underscored and recognised within the new aid architecture, and that the range of SRHR services are provided for at all levels of the healthcare system; c) highlighting the SRHR needs of young people; d) calling for meaningful partnerships between NGOs, governments and funders; and, e) pushing for the importance of allocating funding for SRHR by both national governments and international agencies. Also a notable achievement was

ARROW's enabling of the participation of many of our partners to the forum.

Asia-Pacific High-level Forum on ICPD at 15:
Accelerating Progress towards the ICPD and the Millennium Development Goals (16-17 September 2009, Bangkok, Thailand): At this inter-governmental platform on how to accelerate progress towards the ICPD goals in the region, ARROW shared evidence from the ICPD+15 regional overview on women's empowerment and on pregnancy- and childbirth-related mortality and morbidity (PCRMM) at two roundtables. Recommendations from these presentations were captured in the proceedings of the forum report, and influenced the outcome document of the meeting.

Asia-Pacific Women Parliamentarians' and Ministers' Conference (14-15 November 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia): ARROW presented the ICPD+15 regional overview at this regional parliamentarian conference, highlighting recommendations on gender equality, maternal mortality, fertility, violence against women and labour force participation.

Monitoring ICPD in 2010

2009 was an extremely successful year for ARROW's ICPD+15 project. The publication of the regional overview *Reclaiming & Redefining Rights—ICPD+15: The Status of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Asia*, in particular, enhanced ARROW's position to make substantive inputs at various national, regional and international dialogues, as the only organisation to monitor the progress of the ICPD's POA on the entire spectrum of SRHR indicators across 12 countries. The project has successfully introduced an alternative set of SRHR indicators, which are technically solid, measurable and cross-comparable.

In 2010, the ICPD+15 team will continue to build on the momentum gathered from the project. We aim to repackage the findings and recommendations of the *Reclaiming and Redefining Rights* report and channel it into the Beijing+15 processes and the MDG+10 processes at different levels, as well as further build momentum towards 2015 when the commitments on the ICPD POA conclude.

he Women's Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership (WHRAP) project is part of the vision shared by ARROW and our partners to move forward the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) agenda in the Asia-Pacific region. It supports joint strategic planning, monitoring, and evidence-based advocacy on government commitments to ensuring SRHR by women NGOs at local, national and regional levels, as a means to achieve real and relevant changes in SRHR-related policies and programmes and ultimately, in marginalised women's lives. ARROW currently coordinates two projects—WHRAP-South Asia and WHRAP-China—and a third, WHRAP-Southeast Asia will be implemented in 2010.

Creating positive changes: WHRAP-South Asia

Currently on its second phase, WHRAP-South Asia (2006-2010) is a partnership project supported by Danida between ARROW, six national partner NGOs, community-based organisations (CBOs) and local implementing partners, and the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA).

Implemented in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, WHRAP-South Asia aims to institutionalise accountability at all levels of duty bearers, especially towards marginalised women's SRHR. This is hoped to lead to better policies, programmes and services, and therefore to better maternal health and reproductive health outcomes in South Asia.

Local- and national-level activities. In 2009, WHRAP-South Asia's NGO and CBO partners continued to bring about positive changes in the communities and countries they work in. These include the following:

• Bangladesh: Advocacy efforts at the local level by BWHC and local partners have resulted in the formation of monitoring teams, made up of members from community women, GOs, NGOs and the media, to monitor the local health service delivery system twice-yearly. By highlighting grassroots realities on maternal mortality and morbidity, BWHC has managed to influence policymakers into setting higher standards for the health service delivery system at the Upazilla³ level and below. These activities have resulted

3 An *upazilla* is the next to the lowest administrative unit in Bangladesh. It comprises several unions. A union, in turn, comprises 20-30 villages.

Table 2. Current WHRAP partners

| Country | National Partners | CBOs and Local Implementing Partners |
|---------------|---|--|
| Bangladesh | Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC) | Palash Service Centre, Tangail Service Centre and Shaghata Service Centre |
| | Naripokkho | Adorsho Kajer Shondhaney (AKAS), Adorsho Mohila Sangstha, Annesha Samaj Sheba Shongho, Barisal Mohila Kollayan Shongstha, Children and Youth Development Organisation (SYDO), Community Based Development Project (CBDP), Integrated Social Welfare Association (ISWA), Jago Nari, Nazrul Shriti Shongshod (NSS), Patuakhali Development Organisation (PDO), Porag Nari Kollayan, Shonghstha, Shangkalpa Trust, Shaplaful Social Development Organization (SSDO) and Shuktara Mohila Shongstha |
| India | Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA) | CHETNA-Sabarkantha, Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal, Hadoti Hast Shilpa Sansthan, Jatan Sansthan, PEDO Mada, Dungarpur, SARTHI and Seva Mandir |
| | SAHAYOG | Achal Gramin Vikas Samajik Sansthan, Asha Ashram, Assisi Health Centre, Astitva Samajik Sansthan, Baba RamKaran Das Gramin, Vikas Samiti, Ebteda Sansthan, Gramin Punar Nirman Sansthan, Gramya Sansthan, P.G.S.S, Savitri Bai Phoole Dalit Mahila, Sangharsh Morcha, Shikhar Prashikshan Sansthan and Tarun Vikas Sansthan |
| Nepal | Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC) | Asmita Nepal, HimRights, Nari Sip Srijana Kendra and Youth Welfare Society |
| Pakistan | Shirkat Gah | Al-Shahbaz Social Welfare Association, Pirbhat Women's Development Society, SAATH Development Society, Swani Sanj and Umeed Trust |
| International | Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) | |

in regularised service provision in Family Welfare Centres, and in improved quality of services in Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the districts that BHWC implement WHRAP in. BWHC's partnership with the local and national media remained strong. In 2009, they jointly organised a national media dialogue with the Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendro, an association representing professional female journalists from the mainstream media. This was instrumental in highlighting the lobby to increase the national budgetary allocation for maternal health.

Meanwhile, Naripokkho's initiatives have resulted in the formation of at least eight Hospital Management Committees and 52 Union Parishad Standing Committees on Health. At least 50% of the female members of the *union parishads*⁴ have become chairpersons of these health-related standing committees. As a result of Naripokkho's advocacy initiatives and continued monitoring of the government health services, the quality of the public health services have improved, and more women, particularly pregnant women, are seeking services. Moreover, the project has empowered community women and instilled in them a sense of their entitlements. Community women report irregularities in the public health service to Naripokkho's partner CBOs who in turn take the necessary initiatives to address the problem. Through partnership-building initiatives, Nari Shashto Odhikar Andolan Jote (Women's Health Rights Movements) have been formed in Borguna and Patuakhali districts. These alliances were formed to work together at the local-level on SRHR advocacy and lobbying.

• *India:* In 2009, CHETNA continued advocacy efforts through partnerships with key networks such as the Rajasthan White Ribbon Alliance, the Regional Resource Centre for Reproductive and Child Health in Gujarat, the Traditional Birth Attendants' Association in Gujarat and the People's Health Movement in Gujarat. To raise awareness on maternal health and rights, CHETNA, with its CBO partners and networks, reached out to about 40,000 community members



^əhoto by Biplabi Shrestha

in five districts in Rajasthan, and to another 800,000 in 20 districts in Gujarat. District-level public hearings were conducted in Gujarat, giving space to 56 women and their family members to voice out their experiences and concerns regarding public health services to concerned health and village authorities. Moreover, CHETNA's continued advocacy with government bodies has resulted in the Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare (DMHFW) in Rajasthan agreeing to strengthen the role of the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) in ensuring maternal health. As a result, CHETNA has been requested by the DMHFW to develop a curriculum for master trainers and a reference book for village health and sanitation committee members in Rajasthan.

SAHAYOG, the other Indian WHRAP partner based in the state of Uttar Pradesh, organised various initiatives with the Mahila Swasthya Adhikar Manch (MSAM), a grassroots organisation of women leaders which SAHAYOG has been supporting through WHRAP, and Health Watch Forum, a network for advocacy and monitoring on reproductive health and rights where SAHAYOG serves as a secretariat. These activities included ten district-level dialogues to bring service providers and beneficiaries on a common platform to discuss problems and try to come up with solutions. Their joint efforts

4 Union Council, the lowest administrative unit in the rural areas of Bangladesh.

building and strengthening advocacy partnerships

have resulted in the empowerment of grassroots women, in some grievances raised by grassroots women being addressed, in providers and local-level stakeholders becoming more cooperative, transparent and accountable, and in improved services in local community health centres. A state-level dialogue on the right to health, jointly organised with MSAM and Health Watch Forum, resulted in the Uttar Pradesh State Human Rights Commission forming a committee to monitor the maternal health situation in Uttar Pradesh. The Health Watch Forum has been invited to join this committee as a member. There was also favourable media coverage of the state-level dialogue, with 12 articles printed in the same number of newspapers, thereby highlighting the issue of the right to maternal health and creating pressure on the government to improve services.

- Nepal: In 2009, BBC increased its WHRAP implementation areas from four to 28 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in Makwanpur District. It also mobilised a surveillance group, which is composed of NGOs of young people who interact with community people on various women's health and rights issues. As a result, BBC has observed an increase in the number of women seeking safe abortion services, as well as in raised awareness in the communities of the right to safe abortion and of the available services. BBC also jointly organised a workshop on informed decision-making around pregnancies for female community health volunteers (FCHVs) in the 28 VDCs. This helped them understand their role not just in service provision, but also in advocacy for SRHR. Meanwhile, networking with and sensitisation of the media has led to articles on SRHR issues being regularly published and in media partners committing to start a campaign on women's access to SRHR services. A national policy dialogue was also held in December 2009 to help the Constitutional Assembly members understand women's SRHR.
- *Pakistan:* In 2009, Shirkat Gah continued with initiatives and strategies begun in 2008, such as community awareness programmes on SRHR and gender-based violence through street theatres followed by interactive discussions. Ongoing work to facilitate women getting their national identity cards (NICs) and birth registration continued. Shirkat

Gab has identified that the lack of NICs have acted as a barrier to poor women's access to health services and basic government health welfare schemes, and hence, the NIC and birth registration efforts are aimed at enabling women access their reproductive health entitlements and exercise their rights. Additionally, two orientation meetings were carried out with the local media, to orient them on WHRAP and highlight the issue of the right to maternal health. This has resulted in a committee being formed in the Shiekupura district to take the agenda of safe motherhood forward. Meanwhile, the media group took the lead in inviting a local policymaker to be a guest speaker at the provincial ICPD+15 dialogue organised by Shirkat Gah in Nankana Sahib. Shirkat Gah also organised a training of trainers for members of the Pakistan Reproductive Health Network on incorporating leadership development activities in the scope of their work on reproductive health.

Regional-level engagements. A highlight of the year was the successful intervention by ARROW and the WHRAP-South Asia Regional Task Force on SRHR (WHRAP-SA RTF) with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat. SAARC had been previously identified as a key platform for WHRAP advocacy at the regional level. The WHRAP-SA RTF members met with key directors of the secretariat in February 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal, and discussed the possibility of establishing a regional intergovernmental monitoring mechanism on maternal health and a SAARC NGO Forum for MDG5 (Maternal Health). The directors affirmed this was an opportune time as the regional body has recently been mandated to forge cooperation with NGOs, and encouraged WHRAP to explore possibilities of cooperation with SAARC even as WHRAP opens discussions with the respective government representatives. A concrete result of this meeting is Shirkat Gah's nomination to the country coordinating committee of the SAARC Gender Info-base, a SAARC regional project aimed at setting up a comparative list of indicators on gender and women's empowerment for mandatory country-level reporting on an annual basis.

Partners also participated at other international and

regional advocacy events, such as the EuroNGOs/Countdown 2015 Messaging Workshop on 27-29 May 2009 in Brussels, Belgium. In this meeting, Indu Capoor gave a much-appreciated presentation on the inter-linkages of population, poverty and SRHR. ARROW, WHRAP-SA partners and RTF members also made an intervention at the UNESCAP High-Level Forum on ICPD+15, as well as at the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum convened by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), from 15-17 September 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. Official observer status and accreditation

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in South Asia. The book launch brought media attention to WHRAP and its issues.

A revamped WHRAP-South Asia website has been set up to provide updated information on the project and partners. Partners can directly upload documents that they would like to share within the partnership.

Regional-level coordination, monitoring and evaluation. Regular monitoring and evaluation activities such as bi-monthly skype and phone meetings with partners were held throughout the year to ensure accountability and transparency of the project's operation among all partners. Additionally, monitoring visits to BBC and BWHC were made in May and July respectively. The visit to BWHC ensured that both programme and management mechanisms were in place, while the visit to BBC ensured that the change in approach and programmes due to the political conflict were in line with the objectives and targets of the project. An internal process was also undertaken to revise the project logframes such that indicators are set for the project's final evaluation in 2010. A re-allocation of the budget was also done to direct fund towards activities that are proving to have greater impact and results.

were finally granted to all the partners at the high-level forum after intensive lobbying. The meeting enabled partners to engage in various processes, including providing key inputs to their government delegations during the deliberations and negotiations on the outcome document. It was also a capacity building experience, as it provided exposure on how best to navigate official inter-governmental meetings, and helped ARROW and its partners identify the kind of preparation required in future interventions.

Information and communications. The publication Advocating Accountability: Status Report on Maternal Health and Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in South Asia, which presents reports by the WHRAP-South Asian partners and which was produced by ARROW, was re-launched in Nepal in February 2009 (It was first launched on 14 November 2008 at the AWID Forum in South Africa). The book portrays facts and findings in relation to SRHR in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, as well as reveals various socio-economic barriers that women are facing in accessing services that help enhance their SRHR. The regional book launch was presided by the SAARC Secretary General, Sheel Kant Sharma, who spoke positively of WHRAP efforts

Strengthening capacities for advocacy: WHRAP in China

WHRAP-China is a two-year (2008-2010) partnership project between ARROW and three Chinese women's organisations: the Beijing Women's Law Studies and Legal Aid Centre, the Heilongjiang Women's Federation and the Shanghai Women's Health Care Institute. Funded by Oxfam Novib and the Ford Foundation, this project intends to build strategic alliances and strengthen the capacity of Chinese organisations for enhanced women's SRHR advocacy, with the ultimate goal of responding to women's SRHR needs in China. It also has an evidence-based advocacy component, where the country case studies produced by the WHRAP-China partners for the ICPD+15 project will be used for advocacy.

National-level activities. The highlights for 2009 were the partners' advocacy and research dissemination initiatives at different venues in China. The Beijing Women's Law Studies and Legal Aid Centre held a dissemination and advocacy workshop in August to share the key findings of the study on migrant women's reproductive health and rights, and its corresponding recommendations. Some 30 participants from the government sector, the academe, women's organisations, community representatives from migrant populations, social workers and the media attended the workshop. Representatives from the Ministry of Human Resources and Labour Social Security and the National Population and Family Planning Commission expressed interest in the research and requested for copies of the case studies. Various news agencies, including the China News, the China Youth Daily and the China Women's Daily reported the event, thereby highlighting migrant women's reproductive health and rights issues to the public eye.

Meanwhile, in August, the Heilongjiang Women's Federation (HWF) convened the Longjiang Women's Forum to address the issue of gender discrimination and labour rights during the economic crisis. This meeting was attended by more than 60 participants from relevant government ministries, the Heilongjiang Provincial government, the International Labour Organisation, women's NGOs, the academe and the media. ARROW facilitated a session on the situation of women's SRHR in the economic crisis and

its relation to labour rights at this meeting. The meeting was well-covered by the media, including the *Heilongjiang Daily* and the *Women's Network*. Aside from this forum, HWF also collaborated with the local broadcast company and produced a daily radio talk show, *Rural Women's Forum*, which featured speakers on rural women and migrant women's issues, including reproductive health. An estimated 40 million listeners tuned in to the radio programme since it was begun in January 2009 till the end of the year. Capacity building workshops on gender equity and SRHR for the neighbourhood committees and migrant women workers have strengthened HWF's mass base that could support its efforts in promoting women's SRHR.

Finally, the Shanghai Women's Health Care Institute fine-tuned its research on the provision of low-cost maternal health services to migrant women. The research initiative has generated important evidence for improving access to better quality health services for women and for policy advocacy. The findings revealed human resource, infrastructural and financing gaps that compromise the quality of services that low-cost maternity hospitals provide to migrant women. Further, the assessment exposed the need to develop surveillance mechanisms at the household level that could identify pregnant women among migrant communities and encourage them to register with the maternal healthcare centres. The Institute piloted pregnancy surveillance groups in two communities in the 19 districts of Shanghai. Preliminary results from the pilot communities show that the four-level maternal health care (MHC) surveillance network increased the accessibility and effectiveness of MHC services. The results also indicate an increase in the early pregnancy registration rate of migrant women and improvements in their utilisation of health care services.

Regional-level activities. WHRAP-China partners participated in the Regional ICPD+15 Strategic Advocacy Planning Meeting, organised by ARROW in Genting Highlands, Malaysia in March 2009. Prior to the meeting, the partners were briefed actively by ARROW and translation support was provided. The workshop served as a capacity building opportunity for the partners on advocacy planning,

and laid the foundation for the WHRAP-China national advocacy plan. It also increased interaction and information sharing between Chinese partners and other ARROW partners.

Following the above meeting, the National Advocacy Planning Meeting was held back-to-back with the WHRAP-China Mid-term Review Meeting from 17-20 March in Kunming, China. Based on the experiences and evidence gathered through their ICPD+15 research case studies, the partners agreed to a national advocacy plan that focused on migrant women's SRHR. The project logframe was also revised and partners' commitment to the vision of the project reaffirmed. An important result of the meeting is the establishment of a WHRAP-China programme advisory committee, which is composed of a set of committed experts and is expected to provide strategic guidance to the project.

An external evaluation exercise of the WHRAP-China project was carried out in November in order to review the strategies undertaken, to assess the outcomes, and to make recommendations for planning the second phase of the project. The evaluation team, composed of Marilen Danguilan and Tong Jiyu, recommends that ARROW expands beyond its project coordination role to support partners with more technical and strategic inputs. The findings of this report will feed into the project's final evaluation meeting in January 2010.

Plans for 2010

2010 will see an expansion in WHRAP's partnership and networking at all levels: local, national and regional.

WHRAP-South Asia's second phase ends next year and negotiations are underway with its international partner, the Danish Family Planning Association, for a third phase (2011-2013). There are plans to upscale the coverage of WHRAP-South Asia from four to all eight South Asian countries. WHRAP-South Asia Phase II's final external evaluation will be conducted in early 2010, and the results are expected to provide Danida and the project partners with an



evidence-based assessment of achievements in Phase II and recommendations for Phase III.

Meanwhile, the WHRAP engagement in China has proven to be rewarding, despite some hard but important lessons learned. The Chinese partners have shared their commitment and valuable insights on SRHR issues, and ARROW was able to facilitate linking China with the regional SRHR arena and vice versa. There is a good possibility of a second phase of WHRAP-China. With continued joint efforts, support from donors and shared understanding amongst partners, WHRAP-China promises to yield significant changes in policy making and programme implementation with regard to migrant women's SRHR issues.

Finally, WHRAP-Southeast Asia will be established, with Oxfam Novib's grant for a programme in seven countries (Burma, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines and Vietnam) on the issue of youth, HIV/AIDS and education. Conceptualisation and planning for this project was done in December 2009, and actual project implementation, including the hiring of a programme officer and bringing partners on board, will happen in 2010. With this expansion, ARROW is closer to establishing WHRAP as a regional partnership modality for improving capacities of civil society to advocate for SRHR across Asia-Pacific.

strategic policy advocacy

trategic policy advocacy is an integral component of ARROW's work, particularly the WHRAP and the ICPD+15 monitoring, research and advocacy projects. Aside from these projects, however, ARROW also had various engagements and initiatives in 2009 on our three critical issues: 1) religious conservatism and fundamentalisms and its impact on women's SRHR; 2) equity issues related to SRHR access, including health sector reforms; and, 3) pregnancy-and childbirth-related mortality and morbidity (PCRMM). In 2009, we also took advantage of advocacy spaces that opened up to raise these issues and continued to engage with key networks working in these areas.

Engagements and initiatives on our critical issues

Pregnancy- and childbirth-related mortality and morbidity. Despite advances in medical sciences and decades of feminist advocacy, every year, hundreds of thousands of women still die unnecessarily or suffer chronic and/or life-threatening conditions due to unsafe abortion, pregnancy and childbirth. PCRMM thus remains one of ARROW's critical issues.

As PCRMM is a focus issue of WHRAP-South Asia. national partners had various advocacy activities to highlight related concerns. For example, in Bangladesh, through its media advocacy, BWHC has brought national attention to the need to increase national budget allocations for maternal health and to improve the health system. In Nepal, BBC has built the capacity of a number of Constitutional Assembly members to advocate for SRHR issues, including abortion, in the new constitution. In India, CHETNA conducted public hearings and meetings targeting health officials and political leaders on the issue of maternal health. Also in India, as a result of SAHAYOG's activities, maternal health has increasingly become a focus of the functionaries in the Uttar Pradesh state government. Though many challenges still exist in South Asia, the right to maternal health is receiving more attention from government and the media than before.

Meanwhile, WHRAP-China's Shanghai Women's Health Care Institute, which acts as Shanghai's maternal health care technical guidance centre, carried out capacity building for staff members in order to improve the quality of care that women receive. Their initiatives have made maternal health care information and service more accessible to migrant women, a segment of society that the Institute has been providing low-cost delivery service to since 2004.

PCRMM is likewise one of the key focus areas of the ICPD+15 project and was comprehensively covered in the ICPD+15 regional overview and in the national-level case studies. In *Reclaiming & Redefining Rights*, PCRMM analysis covered regional situation and recommendations around maternal deaths, maternal health, maternal morbidities and adolescent pregnancies. The recommendations pointed to the need for functioning health systems to handle high-risk pregnancies, adequate resource allocation at domestic and international levels and above all, political will of the state to address PCRMM. Analysis and recommendations in the ICPD+15 regional overview is expected to feed into national, regional and international advocacy on PCRMM.

At the national level, ICPD+15 partners also chose PCRMM as an issue for research and evidence-based advocacy. In Bangladesh, evidence generation has recently been concluded on eclampsia, as a significant contributor to maternal deaths. In India, advocacy is in full swing at the state and national levels on nutritional anaemia, which is a causal factor for maternal deaths due to post-partum haemorrhage. In Indonesia, advocacy plans are being drafted to address the high rates of maternal deaths due to unsafe abortions. Meanwhile, in Lao PDR, advocacy is being carried out with policymakers to address socio-economic and cultural dimensions of home delivery and traditional childbirth practices in the face of high maternal deaths. In Nepal, advocacy to combat uterine prolapse is underway through consultations. In Pakistan, advocacy is in progress to reduce barriers to safe motherhood and to post-abortion care and promote women's health. Finally, in the Philippines, advocacy is being carried out to improve services which are critical to reducing maternal mortality, including family planning, skilled attendance at birth and emergency obstetric care, with a focus on poor and marginalised women. As a whole, these advocacy efforts aim to improve policy and programme interventions on PCRMM at the national level in the seven countries.



Meanwhile, the IDC continued to update its bibliographies on PCRMM-related issues. Over 46 publications in the area of abortion; five in contraception; and 60 in maternal health, maternal mortality and perinatal health were acquired and downloaded in 2009. A bibliography on midwives and their role in ensuring safe motherhood was also prepared. Finally, on the publications front, two of our AFC issues produced this year examined the impact of conflicts and disasters on women's SRHR, including PCRMM. These two bulletin volumes could be a starting point for looking at this issue in all its complexity, not just in 'normal' times but also in times of crises when women are most vulnerable to PCRMM.

Religious conservatism and fundamentalisms and its impact on women's SRHR. Over the years and across regions, the Asia-Pacific included, there has been an accelerated growth in religious conservatism and fundamentalism, which has had an impact on women's rights, empowerment, sexuality and SRHR. ARROW has continually sought to respond to the need for a nuanced understanding of this issue.

A key intervention in 2009 towards enhancing understanding on this critical issue was our organising a satellite session at the Global Partners in Action: NGO Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Development, which was held in Berlin, Germany in September. Titled "Of Gods, Sex and Politics: Gender, Religion and Sexuality," the session examined how major religions in Asia shape and are filtered through political ideologies around gender and sexuality, and sought to demonstrate the impact of religion—and of religious fundamentalisms—on laws, policies, programmes and services, particularly on sexuality and SRHR. The session also identified some strategies for innovative advocacy, policy and intervention-based work in the region to ensure the achievement of SRHR. Attended by about 60 activists, UN representatives, international and national NGO participants, donors, academicians, the session was well-received. It resulted in an increased international profile for ARROW as a regional organisation with cutting-edge perspectives on the issue, and also helped result in the issue of religious fundamentalisms being included in the forum's outcome document.

ARROW also produced an *ARROWs For Change* bulletin on religious fundamentalisms in 2009. AFC Vol. 14 No. 1 & 2 (Keeping the Faith: Overcoming Religious Fundamentalisms) explores the impact of various types of religious fundamentalisms (Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic and Roman Catholic) on women's sexuality and SRHR. Articles also discuss strategies that are being taken by women's rights groups globally, and across Asia-Pacific to overcome religious fundamentalisms. The bulletin production process enabled us to engage with various NGOs dealing with religious fundamentalisms on various aspects of the theme, including the politics of the various terminologies surrounding this issue. It also allowed us to network with individuals and organisations active on religious fundamentalisms and helped identify key resources to enrich our resource centre.

We also updated the IDC bibliography on religious fundamentalisms and SRHR, and prepared a new bibliography on SRHR and Islam, this year. ARROW's IDC booth was present at the MUSAWAH Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family Law, held in Kuala Lumpur,

strategic policy advocacy

Malaysia in February 2009. Through the booth, we distributed key ARROW publications on religious fundamentalisms and SRHR, and displayed IDC information resources on the theme to introduce the IDC collection to the participants. Around 150 participants visited the booth, while over 25 key publications on the topic were collected from the conference. IDC also extended its support to a half-day strategising meeting on developing an advocacy manual on Islam and reproductive health organised by RRAAM, Ipas, ARROW and SIS. IDC provided a sample of manuals, toolkits and guides which were presented as review materials to facilitate the discussion on developing the proposed manual.

Equity issues related to SRHR access, including privatisation and health sector reforms. Across Asia and the Pacific, a series of health sector reform initiatives undertaken by governments has gravely impinged on the rights of marginalised, poor women. ARROW has continued this year to examine the impact of privatisation of health care on women's SRHR needs and to see avenues for advocacy on this critical issue.

Health financing is one of the ICPD+15 regional overview's major sections, as part of examining the context of realising women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Our analysis points to a general trend of increasing privatisation and its negative impact on access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services in the 12 countries. It also points to the lack of sub-accounts that monitor spending on SRH services and recommends a spending of at least 10-15% of general government expenditure on health in the region. We also commissioned thematic papers on privatisation in six Asian countries, and an in-depth case study on privatisation and its consequences for SRH services in rural Tamil Nadu, India, to generate evidence on privatisation and its impact on SRH services in the Asian region. All these studies provide critical evidence for advocacy on privatisation in Asia, to realise SRH services for all, especially the poor and marginalised. These will be important resources for HSR advocacy in the region.

Additionally, in 2009, the health sector reforms bibliography was updated by IDC with around 27 information

resources from the region and globally.

Regional and international networking

ARROW believes in the power of joint action for social change, and as such, was involved in the following key networks and steering committees in 2009:

- Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) is a network dedicated to advocating and monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the outcome document from the UN General Assembly on Women held in 2000 (Beijing+5). ARROW was elected as a member of the Steering Committee in June 2008. Our membership is hoped to open opportunities for ARROW to synergise its advocacy plans in relation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) and BPFA monitoring with that of APWW. APWW organised the Asia Pacific NGO Forum BPFA+15 in Manila, Philippines on 22-24 October 2009 to assess the achievements, challenges and emerging trends in implementing BPFA in 15 years. The forum saw the participation of up to 650 participants from 48 countries in Asia-Pacific. WHRAP-South Asian partners BBC and Shirkat Gah participated in the forum and organised a workshop on behalf of ARROW focusing on "Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Disaster Context." A follow-up workshop on SRHR in disaster contexts is being organised for the 2010 UNCSW side-NGO events.
- Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC). Formed out of the 2008 Asian Rural Women's Conference, which was held in Tamil Nadu, India, AWRC is committed to building a stronger network of rural women's movements. ARROW is a member of the Steering Committee of AWRC, which is a collective of national alliances and regional formations working on women's issues in Asia that is now responsible for the continued coordination of the coalition.
- The International Steering Committee of the Fifth Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR). We have been a founding member of this leading conference on SRHR in the Asia-Pacific, and part of the International Steering Committee since 2002. This year's conference had dual themes of achieving

universal SRHR and South-North-South Cooperation concerning the involvement of donors.

 Repoliticising Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Group is a group of 24 long-time activists and researchers in the field of SRHR, who have come together to discuss shared concerns about a perceived fragmentation in and weakening and depoliticisation of the field, in spite of the considerable gains that have been made in some countries, where political will and an active civil society have worked together on common goals. The group met initially in London in June 2008, and met again in Hanoi in 19-20 April 2009. The aims are to develop a forward-looking vision, drawing on but moving beyond both the ICPD Programme of Action and the limited interpretation and implementation to date of the health MDGs, to a transformative approach, taking into account 21st century realities. A set of analytical papers are being prepared, for tabling and discussion at an international working meeting, to take place on 3-6 August 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meeting will engage a broad array of academics, activists, policymakers, donors and civil society representatives, with the aim of developing a strategy to build alliances and reactivate work on SRHR at national, regional and global levels. ARROW, as part of the organising committee, will be hosting the meeting on behalf of the group.

Our engagement with Malaysian groups

• The Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM). RRAAM, a strong ARROW partner since its inception in 2007, is a multi-sectoral alliance set up to promote Malaysian women's access to reproductive rights and services and, in particular, abortion and contraception. As a regional NGO, ARROW's role in RRAAM is mainly to provide general information support, including providing access to the IDC, and setting up information and resource booths during RRAAM events. This year, these events include the RRAAM-Ipas-ARROW-SIS Global Discussion on Abortion in Islam, the High-Level GO-NGO ICPD+15 Policy Dialogue, and the Seminar on Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights and Abortion. Furthermore, as part of our principle of supporting new organisations and thus strengthening the women's

rights and SRHR movements, ARROW also provides critical organisational support to RRAAM.

• Conversations on Women's Rights. In 2008, ARROW secured funding from the United States Embassy of Malaysia to implement a project to strengthen the Malaysian women's human rights movement through creating a Women's Space and organising a series of conversations on women's rights in Malaysia.

The first conversation for 2009 focused on reproductive rights and was facilitated by Rashidah Abdullah, cofounder of ARROW and co-coordinator of RRAAM. The July session, which was attended by 15 representatives of national NGOs and networks, was able to introduce some new SRHR concepts to which some of the practitioners had not previously considered, increasing their understanding of the topics they were working on. Important connections were established between organisations which, with more dialogues, should lead to more meaningful policy and advocacy in the future.

For the "Sexuality Rights" conversation held in November 2009, 11 people participated, mostly individuals working in a personal capacity within sexuality rights but who are also associated to other human rights groups. The facilitators were Angela Kuga Thas, founder of Knowledge and Rights with Young People through Safer Spaces (KRYSS) and Mien Lor, filmmaker and activist. Many of the participants who joined the dialogue are new to the realm of sexuality rights and activism in general. The sexuality rights movement in Malaysia is growing rapidly and a lot of ad hoc campaigns and groups are being set up. It is important for these individual entities to consolidate forces, understand the issues in order to support, participate and work towards a bigger and more consistent movement.

By holding these one-day dialogues, ARROW broadly enabled strengthening of networking capabilities, opening up necessary dialogue between groups or people previously not in direct contact but who have mutual interest in the topics discussed. It also contributed to establishing ARROW and the Women's Space as an important facilitator and capacity builder between the NGOs in Malaysia.

strategic policy advocacy

Other engagements

· IX Asia-Pacific Midwives Conference (19-22 November 2009. Hyderabad, India): Organised by the Society

for Midwives, India (SOMI) and Academy for Nursing

Studies and Women's Empowerment (ANSWERS), the conference focused on the theme, "Setting Standards for Safe Childbirth: Empowering Women, Enabling Midwives." It brought together over 500 midwifery service providers from all over

29 countries in Asia-Pacific who are working in the area of maternal health and contributing towards women's SRHR.

ARROW's IDC

November 2009.

ARROW and its partners organised a short symposium on the first day of the conference on "Regional Experiences on Women's Awareness, Choices and Decision for Safe Childbirth." Speakers shared experiences from Bangladesh (Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition, BWHC), India (Rural Women's Social Education Centre, RUWSEC), Indonesia (Yayasan Kesehatan Perempuan, YKP) and the Philippines (Likhaan). ARROW also served as a judge of the poster presentations at the conference, and had an exhibition booth.

· Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Programming for Young People (9-13 November 2009, Bangkok, Thailand). The UNFPA-organised workshop, which was based around UNFPA's Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth. was attended by programme staff members from UNFPA's country offices, youth representatives from various youth groups and networks that UNFPA is supporting and government officials. ARROW served as a resource person at the meeting, and presented the overall situation of youth SRHR in Asia-Pacific based on the ICPD+15 regional overview. Further, we facilitated a lunchtime networking session for participants who were interested in learning more about ARROW's work. An interactive discussion on the third day saw participants learning more about WHRAP-South Asia. The meeting has informed UNFPA further on the work



that ARROW is currently undertaking, and expanded network and outreach with participants and resource persons from the workshop. Furthermore, ARROW is now a part of a mapping exercise commenced by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance for UNFPA APRO on youth networks and organisations working on SRH and HIV in 21 countries across the region, both at the national level and regionally.

Advocacy in 2010

In order to invest more systematically and consistently on the three critical issues and produce sustainable outcomes, ARROW will be discussing the next steps forward at its Strategic Planning meeting. ARROW, in recognising that a lot of groundwork has been done on the three issues by ARROW and other groups, will be tapping into the available resources and building discussions around these. Advocacy strategy papers and plans around the three critical issues will be developed and implemented in the next programme cycle.

More efforts will be made to engage in a more meaningful way in the strategic networks that we are a part of in the region and globally. As members of the Steering Committees for APWW and ARWC, 2010 would provide spaces for relevant advocacy. Next year also sees a line-up of national, regional and international events, particularly surrounding the MDGs, which will see the participation of ARROW and its partners to advocate on issues of critical attention.

RROW's organisational development section aims to improve organisational effectiveness and sustainability, as well as to document good organisational practices to enhance leadership within the women's health and rights movement. It is an important cornerstone of ARROW's work.

Planning, monitoring and evaluating our work

At the beginning of the year, in January, ARROW staff members spent a day in the office compiling the organisational calendar. Conversely, at the ARROW Staff-BOD Retreat and Evaluation Meeting at the end of the year, we spent three days in December to evaluate the work of the organisation in 2009. The two ARROW board members who attended the event commended the staff for the quality of the presentations, the depth and the strategic approach towards evaluating and reflecting on the organisations' work.

Meanwhile, staff meetings were regularly done on a monthly basis, and continued to add value, trouble-shoot, and solicit staff feedback in improving processes and the efficiency of the work of the organisation.

The annual report—both the longer, internal one and the popular version—were developed on time. However, the timeliness of quarterly report writing needed improvement and will be addressed in 2010. We will also be working on an improved internal system to capture results on the ground, particularly in our WHRAP programmes in China, South Asia, and now, in Southeast Asia.

Documenting our good practices

ARROW has embarked on an important project aimed at documenting the good governance practices that have enabled both ARROW and our partner organisations to grow from strength to strength. Led by the Board of Directors (BOD), the *ARROW Resource Kit for Women's Organisations* is aimed at strengthening leadership and management of organisations in the region. We will be using case studies, sharing tools and illustrating the positive impact of tried and tested organisational practices of both ARROW and its partners. By doing so, we hope to capture the ethos and values

that underpin the ways that effective women's organisations operate.

This year, there has been significant progress in the development of the kit. The first and second meetings of the Resource Kit working group were held back-to-back with the May and December 2009 ARROW board meetings respectively. The meetings clarified objectives, and developed a draft contents page, as well as sought greater clarity on ways of working within the group. The working group members were sourced from BOD and the Friends of ARROW network.

Organisational tools

The ARROW SRHR Organisational Capacity Assessment Tool has been finalised, taking in the inputs from all ARROW partners, BOD and PAC members. This tool will help ARROW and partners to assess and improve SRHR-related leadership, adaptive, management as well as operational capacities. It is the first of its kind, and was adapted from the M. Casey Organisational Capacity Assessment Tool to fit SRHR organisations.

The Rita Raj Women's Space

The Rita Raj Women's Space in ARROW was envisioned as a contribution in kind to the Malaysian women's movement, in terms of providing conducive meeting and workshop space for organisations for free (during office hours) or at affordable rates (after hours).

It has seen active usage in 2009, and has been a nice way in which ARROW could share the lovely office space it now occupies. This has been made possible by the good will of the philanthropic owner of the building, who has agreed to rent the building to ARROW at a very affordable cost, and initial funding from the US Embassy in Malaysia. In 2009, aside from ARROW activities, the space has been used 14 times for workshops and meetings by organisations like the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific), the Knowledge and Rights with Young People through Safer Spaces (KRYSS), the Neuro-Linguistic Programming Community Cafe and the Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM).

Governing ARROW

In 2009, we continued to benefit from the commitment. experience and expertise of our Board of Directors, and thus improved governance and accountability structures within ARROW. The ARROW board focused on developing a number of key policy areas in relation to both internal processes as well as to external engagements. The Board also engaged in nuanced ethical discussions to further enhance ARROW's Code of Ethics. The board also looked at sustainability issues including a strategy for increasing long-term funding for the organisation. Further, the board members continued to support ARROW's growth and learning, and held discussions in preparation for the 2010-2011 phase of strategic planning and external evaluations, an exercise which ARROW does every five years. The board also continued to provide oversight on matters related to financial accountability, implemented a BOD self-appraisal process and was actively involved in the project to document our experience in organisational development.

There were no changes to the composition of the ARROW Board of Directors in 2009.

Guiding our programmes and projects

In 2009, our Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) continued to provide critical programme advice and direction. PAC members have been active in providing input to the development of *ARROWs For Change* concept notes and serving as contributors or expert external readers, providing feedback on project proposals and serving as consultants and resource persons to different ARROW projects.

This year's PAC Meeting, held from 18-19 May 2009 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was a very engaging and exciting one. The presentations by staff were developed in a style and quality that enabled PAC members to more efficiently provide strategic guidance and inputs to the staff members on the implementation of our programme and project work.

As with the BOD, there were no changes to the composition of the ARROW PAC in 2009. The two remaining positions on the PAC are reserved until we identify a suitable candidate from China and an additional youth member.

Growing and changing

ARROW thanks all the staff who left this year for their contributions to the growth of the organisation, and welcomes those who have joined us this year.

We say goodbye and best wishes to the following: Liyana Hassan (Assistant Programme Officer for Marketing and Publications), Najiha Abu Bakar Sided (Finance Officer), Phan Thi Uyen (ICPD Programme Officer), Rodelyn (RD) Marte (Programme Manager for Advocacy and Capacity Building) and Wan Fadzlina Wan Chik (Finance Officer).

On the other hand, we welcome the following: Biplabi Shrestha (Programme Officer for WHRAP-South Asia), Kulani Geeta (short-term Programme Officer for Marketing and Promotions), Mei Li (Programme Officer for WHRAP-China), Nalini Singh (Programme Manager for Advocacy and Capacity Building) and Nor Haliza Shuib (Finance Officer).

Building our team

The ARROW teambuilding event was held in Guilin, China this year from 3-6 August 2009. Aside from a set of team building exercises that fostered closeness amongst staff members, a visit was also organised to a local community-based branch of a WHRAP-China partner, where we exchanged information regarding ARROW's work as well as the work of the All China Women's Federation.

The staff so enjoyed and benefitted from the experience of visiting a local organisation that they made an important decision to locate future teambuilding events in a location where staff are able to engage in exchanges with local partner organisations. This is envisioned to further ground our work in a deeper understanding of realities of the region.

Building our capacities

In 2009, ARROW reaffirmed its commitment to staff capacity building and development, and continued to implement a 70:20:10 ratio in the allocation of staff development funds, to organisational priorities, career development and ad hoc trainings respectively. Staff members continued to show a high level of enthusiasm and passion in their work, although a management concern has been the

need to ensure that the pace of work remains healthy and achievable.

Staff development opportunities availed in 2009 by various staff members were as follows:

- Introduction to Neuro-Linguistic Programme Training with Anne Kua, 20 January 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for all ARROW staff;
 - Human Resource Training with Advision Management

Sdn. Bhd., 22 January 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the Administrative Team:

- *Time Management Training* with Malathy Thiagarajah, 23 June 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for all ARROW staff; and
- Neuro-Linguistic Programme Training with Anne Kua, 12-14 August 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for all ARROW staff.



Income for 2009

n 2009, ARROW received grants amounting to RM4,978,337 (US\$1,464,217). This is a 17% increase from the RM4,270,070 (US\$1,220,020) received in 2008, and represents 99% of the total income of RM5,024,068 (US\$1,477,667) in 2009. The funding highlights during the vear are:

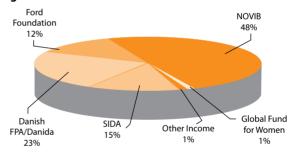
- Oxfam Novib's programme funding, which began in November 2006, continued to support activities in women's health and rights advocacy and overall institutional costs. In July 2009, Oxfam Novib approved a supplement grant of EUR200,000 (US\$270,000) for ARROW's programme and institutional costs until December 2010. Its support constitutes 48% of the total income.
- Sida's programme funding, which began in January 2008 and will end in December 2012, continued supporting ARROW's programme and institutional costs. In 2009, Sida support constitutes 15% of the total income.
- Danida, through DFPA, continued funding the WHRAP Phase II project (2006-2010), and supported the activities for WHRAP with six NGOs in four South Asian countries. Danida's contribution to ARROW constitutes 23% of the total income.
- The Ford Foundation, which contributed 12% of the total income in 2009, supported a grant of RM1,156,000 (US\$340,000) for the project the State of the Region Report on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: ICPD+15. The grant period is from April 2008 to March 2010.
- A total of RM32,143 (US\$9,000) of the Global Fund for Women presidential discretionary grant was awarded to ARROW for its participation to two international conferences: the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS) conference, held on April 2009 in Hanoi, Vietnam; and the ICPD+15 Global NGO Forum held on September 2009 in Berlin, Germany.
- RM52,500 (US\$15,000) was raised from the US Embassy Small Grants Program in September 2008 for the project, Building the Capacities of and Strengthening the Malaysian Women's Human Rights Movement: Creating a

Women's Space and Organising a "Conversations on Women's Rights in Malaysia" Series. The grant period was from September 2008 to September 2009.

An additional RM45,731 (US\$13,450 or 1% of the total income in 2009) came from ARROW's own income from interest on fixed deposits and information services. ARROW also received a total of RM102,005 (US\$30,000) on behalf of the Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM), as part of its commitment to provide organisational support to new organisations. RRAAM activities were funded by Ipas, USA.

In addition, funds were available for expenditure in 2009 from balances carried forward from funds received in 2008. The total income available for 2009 was RM7.776.180 (US\$2,287,112).

Figure 1. Sources of ARROW's Income



Source: ARROW's Audit Report 2009

Expenditure for 2009

In 2009, ARROW's total expenditure amounted to RM3,899,896 (US\$1,147,028), compared to RM3,347,086 (US\$956,310) in 2008.

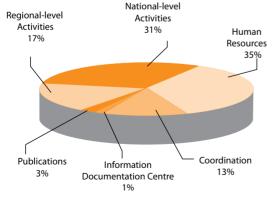
The direct programme costs of the organisation composed of project expenditures at the regional level, including for research and meeting costs (17%); publications (3%); and the IDC (1%)—contributed to 21% of the total expenditure. An additional 31% of the programme costs went towards expenditure for activities carried out at the national level by ARROW's national partners. As such, national- and regional-level programme costs comprised 52% of 2009 expenditures. The cost of staff time which contributes to this work is not included in the above expenses, but categorised under human resources.

The remaining 48% of expenditures is made up of management and administration costs, which is divided into two sections: Human Resource (35%) and Coordination (13%). Coordination includes expenses related to meetings of the Board of Directors meetings and the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), as well as costs related to organisational development and sharing of best practices with partners in the region.

It should be noted that the operational costs of the Publications and IDC activities included the expenses directly related to services and outputs, such as mailing costs, communications and ICT upgrade costs, but does not reflect the cost of maintaining staff.

ARROW continued to maintain a good rate of expenditure in 2009, with 82% of the 2009 operational budget expended by December of that year, indicating a close correlation between planning and activities carried out.

Figure 2. ARROW's expenditure in 2009



Source: Audit Report 2009

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

Our country partners in 2009

- Bangladesh: Adorsho Kajer Shondhaney (AKAS); Adorsho Mohila Sangstha; Annesha Samaj Sheba Shongho; Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC); Barisal Mohila Kollayan Shongstha; Children and Youth Development Organisation (SYDO); Community Based Development Project (CBDP); Integrated Social Welfare Association (ISWA); Jago Nari; Naripokkho; Nazrul Shriti Shongshod (NSS); Patuakhali Development Organisation (PDO); Porag Nari Kollayan Shonghstha; Shangkalpa Trust; Shaplaful Social Development Organization (SSDO); Shuktara Mohila Shongstha
- Cambodia: Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC)
- China: Beijing Women's Law Studies and Legal Aid Centre;
 College of Management, Ningxia Medical University; Heilongjiang
 Women's Federation; Hong Kong Federation of Women Centres;
 Shanghai Women's Health Care Institute; Yunnan Health and
 Development Resource Association (YHRDA)
- **Denmark:** Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA)
- India: Academy for Nursing Studies and Women's Empowerment Research Studies (ANSWERS); Achal Gramin Vikas Samajik Sansthan; Asha Ashram; Assisi Health Centre; Astitva Samajik Sansthan; Baba RamKaran Das Gramin Vikas Samiti; Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ); Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA); CHETNA-Sabarkantha; Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ); Ebteda Sansthan; Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal; Gramin Punar Nirman Sanstha; Gramya Sansthan; Hadoti Hast Shilpa Sansthan; Initiatives: Women in Development (IWID); Jatan Sansthan; Mahila Swasthya Adhikar Manch (MSAM); Purvanchal Gramin Seva Samiti (PGSS); PEDO Mada, Dungarpur; Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC); SAHAYOG; SARTHI; Savitri Bai Phoole Dalit Mahila Sangharsh Morcha; Seva Mandir; Shikhar Prashikshan Sansthan; Tarun Vikas Sansthan

who supports us

- Indonesia: Women's Health Foundation (WHF)
- Lao PDR: National University of Laos
- Malaysia: Federation of Reproductive Health Associations of Malaysia (FRHAM); Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)
- Nepal: Asmita Nepal; Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC); HimRights; Nari Sip Srijana Kendra; Resource Centre for Primary Health Care (RECPHEC); Youth Welfare Society
- Pakistan: Al-Shahbaz Social Welfare Association, Pirbhat Women's Development Society, SAATH Development Society, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, Swani Sanj, Umeed Trust
- The Philippines: Likhaan (Centre for Women's Health); Reproductive Health Rights and Ethics Centre for Studies and Training (ReproCen), University of the Philippines
- Thailand: The Southeast Asian Consortium on Gender, Sexuality and Health
- Vietnam: Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP); Family Health Research and Development Centre (FHRD); Institute for Reproductive and Family Health (RHAF); Research Centre for Gender, Family and Development (CGFED)

WHRAP-South Asia Regional Task Force for SRHR members

- Bangladesh: Ahmed Al-Sabbir, Halida Hanum Akhter, Jafor Ahmed Hakim. Nazrul Islam
- India: A.R. Nanda, Abhijit Das, Girija Vyas, Narika Namshun, Sandeep Dikshit
- Nepal: Ava Darshan Shrestha, Bina Pradhan, Chitra Lekha Yadav, Nirakar Man Shrestha
- Pakistan: Donya Aziz, Kausar Khan, Pervez Tahir, Yasmeen Qazi

Networks and steering committees we are members of

Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW); Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR) International Steering Committee; Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC); Asian Solidarity for Peoples' Advocacy (SAPA); Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP); Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR); Global NGO Forum on ICPD+15 Steering Committee; Reproductive Health Matters Editorial Board; Repoliticising Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Group; Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance

Malaysia (RRAAM); Strategies from the South initiative; and Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)

Some other groups we engaged with in 2009

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD); Asia Pacific Alliance (APA); Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW); Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID); Australia Reproductive Health Alliance (ARHA); Catholics for Choice; CEDAW Working Group, Indonesia; Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh; Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR); European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development (EuroNGOs); Family Planning International, New Zealand; Hampshire College: Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH): Human Rights Law Network-India; International Association on the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS); International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC); International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific); Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP) Japan; Knowledge and Rights with Young People through Safer Spaces (KRYSS); Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN); MONASH University; Musawah, A Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family; NAM Institute for the Empowerment, Family and Community Development; Population Council Vietnam; Secretariat: ICPD+15: A Civil Society Review In India; Sexuality Policy Watch; South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat; Tonette Lopez Project; UNESCAP; UNFPA & UNFPA APRO; WHO WPRO

ARROW's donors in 2008

- The Danish International Development Agency (Danida) [through the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA)]
- · The Ford Foundation, New York
- · The Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- The Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (Oxfam Novib)
- The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- · The United States Embassy in Malaysia

Board of Directors

Junice Demeterio-Melgar, Executive Director, Likhaan, the Philippines

M. Prakasamma, Director, Academy for Nursing Studies and Women's Empowerment (ANSWERS), India

Ninuk Widyantoro, Advisory Board Chair, Women's Health Foundation (YKP), Indonesia

Rashidah Abdullah, Co-Founder and past Executive Director, ARROW; Co-chair, Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malavsia (RRAAM)

Susanna George, Independent Consultant, Malaysia; Board Member and former Executive Director, Isis International, the Philippines

Programme Advisory Committee

Khawar Mumtaz, Chief Executive Officer, Shirkat Gah—Women's Resource Centre. Pakistan

Neha Sood, Consultant and Youth Coalition Member, India Ouk Vong Vathiny, Executive Director, Reproductive Health Association (RHAC), Cambodia

Pimpawun Boomongkon, Executive Director, Southeast Asian Consortium on Gender, Sexuality and Health; Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University, Thailand

Ranjani Krisnamurthy, Independent Consultant, India Rowena Alvarez (Winnie), Consultant and SRHR activist, the Philippines

Tu Anh Hoang, Consultation of Investment in Health Promotion (CIHP). Vietnam

Staff

Full-time staff

Ambika Varma, Programme Officer, IDC Biplabi Shrestha, Programme Officer, WHRAP-South Asia (beginning 20 April 2009)

Liyana Hassan, Assistant Programme Officer, Marketing and Promotions (16 February until 23 July 2009)

Mallika a/p Karupaiah, Office Cleaner (beginning 1 January 2009)

Maria Melinda Ando (Malyn), Programme Officer, ARROWs For Change and Publications

Mei Li, Programme Officer, WHRAP-China

Najiha Abu Bakar Sided, Finance Officer (beginning 1 August 2009 until 14 November 2009)

Nalini Singh, Programme Manager for Advocacy and Capacity Building (beginning 15 September 2009)

Nor Azurah Zakaria, Assistant Administration Officer

Nor Haliza Shuib, Finance Officer (beginning 12 November 2009)

Norlela Shahrani, Administration and Finance Manager

Phan Thi Uyen, Programme Officer, ICPD 15 (until 15 May 2009)

Rodelyn Marte (RD), Programme Manager, Advocacy and

Capacity Building (until 31 January 2009)

Rosnani Hitam, Executive Assistant

Saira Shameem, Executive Director

Sai Jyothirmai Racherla, Programme Officer, ICPD

Sivananthi Thanenthiran, Programme Manager, Information,

Communications and Research

Suloshini Jahanath, Programme Officer, Website

Suzana Abu Samah, Assistant Administration Officer

Uma Thiruvengadam, Assistant Programme Officer, IDC

Wan Fadzlina Wan Chik, Finance Officer (until 5 June 2009)

Short-term contract staff

Gunalan Govindasamy, Temporary Contractual Staff, IDC (February to April 2009)

Kim Sim Fuan, Temporary Contractual Staff, Marketing and Promotions (July to August 2009)

Kulani Geeta Kulasingam, Short-term Project Officer, Marketing and Promotions (December 2009 to November 2010)

Kamayani Bali Mahabal, WHRAP-South Asia Advocacy Coordinator (February 2008 to February 2009)

Information and Communications Task Force

Di Surgey, Indu Capoor, Jac sm Kee, Khawar Mumtaz, Rowena Alvarez and Susanna George

WHRAP-China Programme Advisory Committee members

Liu Bohong, Peng Tao, Wang Jiaqi, Zhang Kaining

Consultants, contributors, individual researchers, reviewers and speakers for various initiatives (both paid and voluntary)

ARROWs For Change: Andy Yentriyani, Atashendartini Habsiah, Basilica Dyah Putranti, Bimla Chadrashekhar, Carolina S. Ruiz, Chavanika Shah, Donghua Tian, Eileen Pittaway, Fang Chen, Gandimathi Alagar, Ghadeer Malek, Hoang Tu Anh, Huan He, Jashodhara Dasgupta, Janette Lauza-Ugsang, Ji Li, Joan Ann Kauffman, Joevta Bose, Karen Campbell-Nelson, Kausar Khan, Khawar Mumtaz, Khuat Thu Hong, Kiran Bhatia, Kristinne Sanz, Kumudini Samuel, Li Lingui, Liz Ercevik Amado, Marilen Danguilan, Mary Beth Hastings, Maureen Fordham, Moe Moe Aung, Naeemah Khan, Neha Sood, Norani Othman, Ouyporn Khuankaew, Parichart Suwanbubbha, Prema Gopalan, Qin Zhang, Ranjani K. Murthy, Rashidah Abdullah, Roshmi Goswami, Rowena Alvarez, Salbiah Ahmad, Sandra Krause, Sepali Kottegoda, Shahana Siddigi, Shahnaz Igbal, Shareen Gokal, Sreekala MG, Sunila Abeysekera, Tran Nguyen Toan, Wame Baravila, Xiulan Zhang, Zelda Soriano, Zhiyong Qu Annual Report: Susanna George ARROW Code of Ethics: Rashidah Abdullah ARROW-organised Capacity Building Opportunities for Staff:

ARROW-organised Capacity Building Opportunities for Staff:
Advision Management San. Bhd., Anne Kua, Malathy Thiagarajah
ARROW Resource Kit for Women's Organisations: Di Surgey,
Indu Capoor, Junice Demeterio-Melgar, Khawar Mumtaz, M.
Prakasamma, Ninuk Widyantoro, Rashidah Abdullah, Susanna
George

ARROW SRHR Organisational Capacity Assessment Tool: Ranjani K. Murthy

ICPD+15: Chaman Pincha, Indu Capoor, Li Jianhua, Liz Gooch, Luo Chun, M. Prakasamma, Ma. Lourdes Tiquia, Marilen Danguilan, Maya Indira Ganesh, Neha Sood, P. Balasubramanian, Phillip Martin, Pimpawun Boonmongkon, Ranjani K. Murthy, Rashidah Abdullah, Romeo Arca, Shalini Teresa Fernandez, T. K. Sundari Ravindran, Tong Jieyu, Xie Zhenming, Zhao Pengfei

Organisational Development: Amber Bastian Satellite Sessions: Atashendartini Habsjah, Dina Mahnaz Siddiqi, Gill Greer, Gladys Melo-Pinzon, Jane Singleton, Jayashree Velankar, Joanne Spratt, Junice Melgar, Sumie Ishii, Sychareun Vanphanom, Patrick Joseph Ty

WHRAP-China: Marilen Danguilan, Tong Jiyu, Wang Jiaqi, Yang Guocai, Zhang Kaining, Zhao Jie

WHRAP-South Asia: Liz Gooch

Women's Space Project: Angela Kuga Thas, Elaine Foster, Mien Lor, Ninuk Widyantoro, Rashidah Abdullah

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K. Pragalath (Malaysiakini), Publications digitisation
Ken Chong, IT technical support and hardware supplier
Kris International, Travel services

M&N Sendirian Berhad, Printing services

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Sean Ang (Seacem), Website design and support
See Yong Peng, IT technical support
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T.M. Ali Basir, Promotional materials and publications layout
Yao Yongyu, IT support



