

Our members



Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
afppd.org
 Tel: +662 219 2903/4

AFPPD engages with twenty-seven national parliamentary groups and parliamentarians across Asia and the Pacific to champion policies on population and development. Ending discrimination now and eliminating HIV/AIDS by 2030 is a priority for the region's parliamentarians. AFPPD is also working to remove barriers that deter young people from receiving comprehensive information on SRHR and from accessing SRH services.



Burnet Institute
burnet.edu.au
 Tel: +613 9282 2111

Burnet is a not-for-profit organisation linking medical research with public health action to achieve better health for poor and vulnerable communities. We strive to generate new knowledge and apply the best available evidence to develop innovative solutions that address complex global health issues. We work across Australia, Asia, the Pacific and Africa with a focus on infectious diseases (including HIV), sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, and young people's health.



CARE Australia
care.org.au
 Tel: +612 6279 0200

CARE Australia is an international non-government organisation that fights poverty by working with communities to empower women and girls, engage men and boys, and promote gender equality, social equity and improve health. CARE Australia also provides the secretariat to the Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and works to mobilise parliamentarians to advance and protect the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region.



Family Planning New South Wales
fpnsw.org.au
 Tel: +612 8752 4300

Family Planning NSW is an independent, not for profit organisation that promotes the reproductive and sexual health and rights of marginalised people by ensuring men and women in Australia and in the Asia-Pacific region have access to the widest range of family planning methods and services. It collaborates with organisations at national and international levels to strengthen the ability of local health providers to deliver high-quality family planning services.



International Women's Development Agency
iwda.org.au
 Tel: +613 9650 5574

International Women's Development Agency is an Australian development agency entirely focused on gender equality and women's rights. IWDA's vision is for a just, equitable and sustainable world where women enjoy the full range of human rights and have an effective voice in economic, cultural, civil and political structures. IWDA is firmly committed to transforming the structures and behaviours that perpetuate inequality.



Marie Stopes International Australia
mariestopes.org.au
 Tel: 1800 005 707

Millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable women trust Marie Stopes International to provide them with quality sexual and reproductive health care. We have been delivering contraception, safe abortion, and mother and baby care for over thirty years and work in over 40 countries around the world. By providing high quality services where they are needed the most, we prevent unnecessary deaths and make a sustainable impact on the lives of millions of people every year.



Médecins Sans Frontières Australia
msf.org.au
 Tel: +612 8570 2600

Médecins Sans Frontières is the world's leading independent organisation for medical humanitarian aid, providing relief after natural disasters and conflict, emergency food programs, treating disease, providing vaccinations and training local medical staff.



Plan International Australia
plan.org.au
 Tel: 13 75 26

Plan is one of the oldest and largest children's development organisations in the world. Plan works in 50 developing countries to uphold and defend child rights and lift millions of children out of poverty. Plan is independent, with no religious or political affiliations.



Save the Children Australia
savethechildren.org.au
 Tel: 1800 760 011

Save the Children is one of Australia's largest aid and development agencies dedicated to helping children. We protect and support children in need. We save lives in emergencies. We speak up for children's rights.

The International Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Consortium



Who we are

The International Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Consortium (the Consortium) is a partnership of non-government organisations committed to advancing universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a focus on Asia and the Pacific.

Our vision

The Consortium is committed to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of race, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, religious or political beliefs can enjoy the highest attainable standard of sexual and reproductive health. This includes the right to pursue a satisfying sex life free from discrimination, coercion and violence, and free from the risk of unintended pregnancy, sexually transmissible infection and HIV.

What we do

Our members work in over 100 countries, bringing together diverse technical, policy, programmatic and research expertise in sexual and reproductive health and rights. Collectively, we advocate for increased political and financial investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights – recognising that this is central to the equitable achievement of global health and development goals, including gender equality, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.



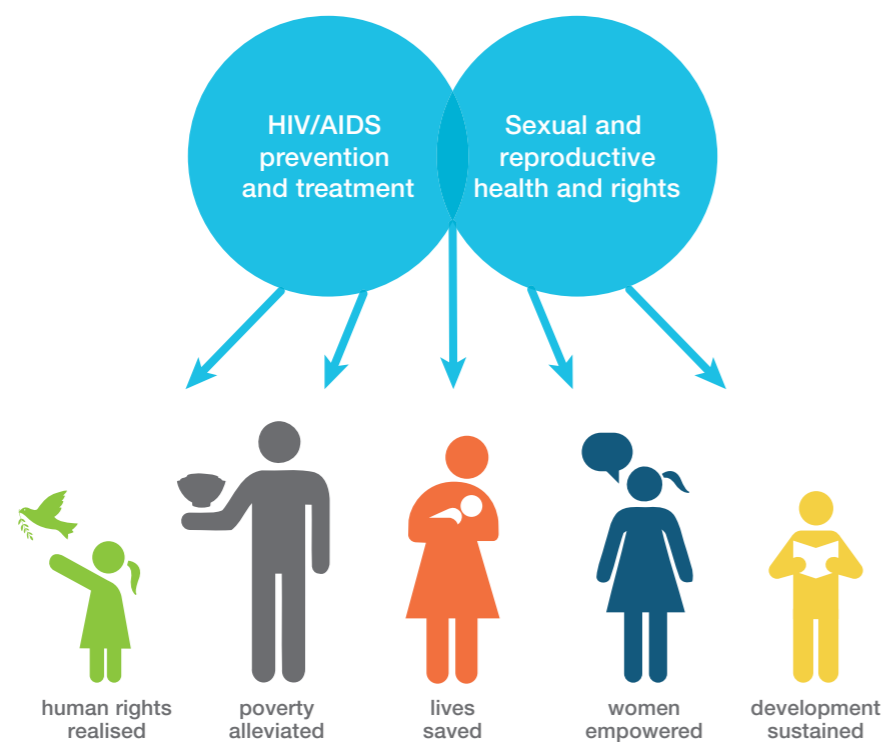
“Would the world have a serious AIDS epidemic today if gender inequalities were less pronounced? If more women had greater control of matters related to their reproductive and sexual health?” (UNIFEM, 2000)

The links between HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights are undeniable.

HIV and conditions related to pregnancy and childbirth are the two leading causes of death of women of reproductive age. Globally, the majority of HIV infections are sexually transmitted or related to pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding, and both HIV and poor sexual and reproductive health are driven by common root causes.

Where sexual and reproductive health and rights are denied, the risks of HIV are heightened – particularly for young women. More than 40% of new HIV infections in 2010 occurred among young people aged 15-24 years: globally young women have infection rates twice as high as young men. Key factors contributing to poor HIV and sexual and reproductive health outcomes include:

- Sexual and gender-based violence – 1 in 3 women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.
- Harmful socio-cultural and gender norms.
- Poor access to comprehensive sexuality education – only a third of young men and 20% of young women have comprehensive knowledge of HIV.
- Low coverage and quality of sexual and reproductive health services – 222 million women have an unmet need for effective contraception.
- Punitive laws and regulatory barriers that limit adolescents’ and unmarried people’s access to services and/or criminalise consensual sexual behaviour.



Eliminating sexual transmission of HIV by 2030 will not be achieved unless sexual and reproductive health and rights are realised for all. The Consortium is working to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights in Asia and the Pacific through collective evidence-informed advocacy with key Australian and regional stakeholders. We call for greater investment in policy reform, research and programs that: address barriers limiting young people’s access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services; combat sexual and gender-based violence; empower women and girls; and promote and protect sexual and reproductive rights as fundamental human rights.



Linking midwives to national health insurance in the Philippines

In 2008, Population Services Pilipinas Inc. (Marie Stopes International’s affiliate in the Philippines) established a social franchise partnership with midwives offering reproductive and maternal health services, which they delivered from their own private facilities. BlueStar Pilipinas provides midwives with: family planning training; access to equipment and supplies necessary to offer family planning services; and marketing support to grow their client base. Significantly, BlueStar Pilipinas brings these midwives into the health system by supporting their accreditation with the national health insurance scheme – PhilHealth – as providers of the maternal care package. Over the past six years, BlueStar Pilipinas has grown into a network of 270 members. As a result, BlueStar Pilipinas provides contraceptive information and services to over 90,000 women annually, ensuring that thousands of women have access to an accredited facility where they can receive reproductive healthcare with no out-of-pocket payment for services.

Reaching most at risk populations in Papua New Guinea

Save the Children in Papua New Guinea (SCiPNG) with the support of Save the Children Australia has been delivering HIV-AIDS programs in Papua New Guinea for over 10 years as well as supporting other areas of child rights, child protection and women and children’s health. Since 2002, SCiPNG has been managing projects that support HIV prevention, treatment, and care, as well as contributing to national monitoring and evaluation and surveillance systems. It is upon this solid foundation and the lessons learned that SCiPNG intends to refine its approach in working with most at risk populations and strengthen capacity among other service providers. The approach proposes to expand services for HIV and sexually transmitted infections to offer a continuum of prevention and care, with attention to the sexual and reproductive health and rights of key affected population. The objective is to strengthen service delivery and increase demand for and access to services through client friendly sexual and reproductive health services for most at risk populations. This is to be achieved through complementary interventions in prevention; counselling, testing, treatment, care and support; and health systems strengthening.

Addressing young people’s vulnerability to HIV in Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea has the highest prevalence of HIV in the Pacific, and young people are particularly affected. CARE has been working with partners in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville to develop Komuniti Tingim AIDS, an Australian government funded sexual and reproductive health project focused on vulnerable youth who grew up in a profoundly weakened social and economic context after the decade-long conflict. CARE is working with health service providers to strengthen sexual and reproductive health services, including for sexually transmitted infections and HIV. The project’s primary focus on HIV prevention was later broadened to improve sexual and reproductive health more widely, with a special focus on out-of-school peri-urban youth. The project works through a peer-to-peer approach, working with community leaders to create an enabling environment, and training youth volunteers to support their peers in improving their knowledge of sex and sexual health. CARE’s gender empowerment framework is integrated throughout to empower young men and women to address gender attitudes that can drive inequality and violence.

Increasing adolescents’ access to information and services in Vanuatu

While onset of sexual activity is common during adolescence, young people in Vanuatu have limited access to essential sexual and reproductive health information and services and subsequently suffer a disproportionate burden of poor health outcomes, including high rates of sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy. Burnet has worked with Wan Smolbag Theatre since 2010 to better understand and address the barriers that limit young people’s access to information and services. A study conducted with over 340 young people, service providers and policymakers revealed that while young people had access to information about HIV, there was a significant unmet need for comprehensive information and life-skills based education addressing the broader context of young people’s sexual and reproductive health. The study also identified attitudes and skills of health providers, and socio-cultural norms and taboos, as the major factors impacting on access to services. These findings have led to the development and testing of new public health interventions delivered at community level to improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviours, and informed efforts to strengthen the delivery of youth-friendly health services.