

Advocating for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in the time of COVID-19

WGNRR2020
ANNUAL REPORT



WGNRR2020

ANNUAL REPORT



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ABOUT WGNRR

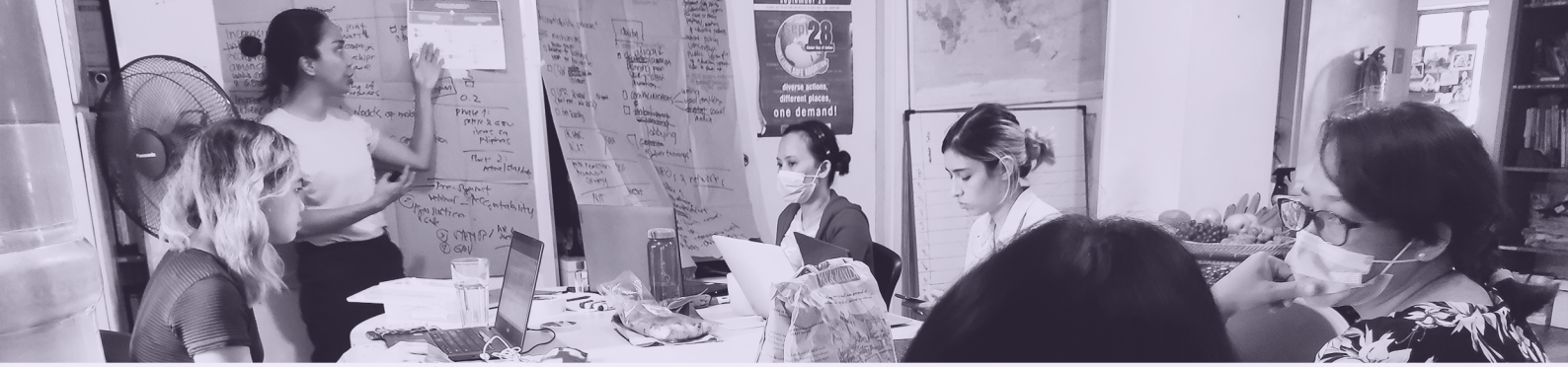


WHO WE ARE

Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) is a southern-based network that connects and strengthens movements for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and justice. Our work is grounded in the realities of those who most lack economic, social, and political power.

We work to realize the full sexual and reproductive health and rights of all people, with a particular focus on the most marginalized. We believe that achieving this goal requires transformative social change.

Through critical analysis and strategic actions, we connect partners and allies, build knowledge and capacities, and organize advocacy and campaign actions on critical feminist, SRHR, and justice issues.



OUR APPROACHES



Empowerment

Our members and allies are empowered and supported to take action based on their knowledge and experiences.



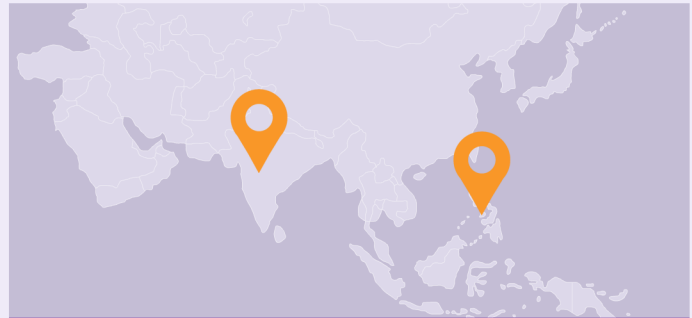
Grassroots and community-led

We believe that our actions should be informed and led by grassroots and community organizations and the people whose lives international human rights mechanisms and agreements are aimed at improving.



In partnership

We work in partnership with members and allies to strengthen its impact and work to achieve shared goals. We seek to enhance and not duplicate national and regional SRHR networks' work and emphasize our ability to connect SRHR activists globally.



OUR LOCATIONS

Our Coordination Office is located in Quezon City, Philippines, where our global operations are managed. In 2015, WGNRR Africa was established as a response to the expressed need of our members and partners in Africa. In 2016, WGNRR Africa was formally registered as a separate entity with its own NGO registration in Tanzania. WGNRR Africa is committed to the same vision and principles as WGNRR.

2020 - 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

We envisage a world where all people can fulfill their sexual and reproductive health and rights.



MISSION

Through critical analysis and strategic actions, we connect and partners and allies, strengthen capacities, and organize advocacy and campaign actions on critical feminist, SRHR, and justice issues.



VALUES

Our work is based on the foundation that sexual and reproductive health and rights are human rights, and that these should be respected, protected, and fulfilled, as articulated in numerous Human Rights treaties and consensus documents.

We work within rights, justice, and feminist frameworks. Our guiding principles are non-discrimination, respect, equality, transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. We are committed to equality for all genders and value diversity. We are self-reflective and independent from political, governmental, and religious institutions.



2020 – 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

PRIORITIES

1 Strong and focused actions for safe abortion rights

- Improved the ability of feminists and organizations in engaging in accountability mechanisms to highlight SRHR as human rights
- Supported meaningful participation of marginalized groups in accountability mechanisms and campaigns
- Improved engagement at global and regional human rights mechanisms.

2 Effective engagement with accountability mechanisms for SRHR

- Improved the ability of feminists and organizations in engaging in accountability mechanisms to highlight SRHR as human rights
- Supported meaningful participation of marginalized groups in accountability mechanisms and campaigns
- Improved engagement at global and regional human rights mechanisms.

3 Increased young people's leadership for SRHR

- Supported young people's advocacy and campaigns for SRHR
- Improve the ability of young people to advocate for their SRHR
- Widened spaces for young people's participation in SRHR advocacy and campaigning

4 Strengthened organizational capacity

- Deepened understanding of prevailing and emerging SRHR issues and enhancing skills to advocate and campaign for them
- Strengthened capacity to manage, monitor, and evaluate projects and initiatives
- Developed and implemented an effective fundraising strategy
Strengthened means of working with members and partners
- Enhanced organizational tools, measures, and policies to ensure preventive and remedial actions are undertaken during outbreaks and emergency situations

THE WGNRR TEAM

BOARD MEMBERS

Inna Hudaya	Indonesia
Sanne Van Keimpema	The Netherlands
Kathy Mulville	UK/Philippines
Easter Mwanjesa	Tanzania
L'Orangelis Thomas	Puerto Rico
Marevic Parcon	Executive Director

PROGRAMME TEAM

Manila Coordination Office

Shiphrah Belonguel	SRHR Advocacy Officer
Sarryna Gesite	Networking Officer
Maria Luisa Lentejas	Finance and Administrative Assistant
Danica Shahana G. Magtubo	Youth SRHR Officer
Abigail Roa-Matres	Project Associate
Christelyn Sibugon	Asia Projects Coordinator
Benily Valerio-Dimabuyu	Finance Manager
Ron Villegas	Website Management Consultant
Vonna Vista	Communications Assistant
Joralen Wenceslao	Operations Officer

INTERNS

Jayzelle Castillo	UP Los Baños
Leon Espenilla	UP Los Baños
Danica Inoceno	UP Los Baños
Jesse Antoinette Sunga	UP Manila

TANZANIA REGIONAL OFFICE

Matilda Deus	Youth SRHR Officer
Nondo Ejano	Africa Regional Coordinator
Mageda Esolyo	Campaigns and Networking Officer
Numbilya Kiseko	Advocacy Programme Associate
Devotha Sanga	Operations Officer
Catherine Swai	Finance Officer

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

Overcoming limitations and restrictions: SRHR Advocacy in the time of COVID-19

2020 has been a very challenging year for all of us. We found ourselves facing a public health crisis that directly impacts people's health, economic stability, and lives. The COVID-19 pandemic brings about unprecedented challenges that threaten a decline in the developmental gains of many countries, including advances made in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), where progress was never easy, to begin with.

As an SRHR activist organization, we continued our work despite the limitations and restrictions caused by COVID-19. We collaborated with other SRHR activists, feminists, and allies globally to creatively and innovatively continue our work and to respond to the crisis. We highlighted that a rights-based, just, and sustainable approach to the COVID-19 pandemic was critical. We captured stories and experiences of women and girls who were placed in precarious, even fatal situations. We called on governments to ensure that SRHR information and services remain essential as resources and priorities were reallocated to respond to the pandemic.

Even before COVID-19, women, and girls were already dealing with multiple barriers in accessing SRHR information and services. The public health crisis exacerbates the barriers of women and girls living in intersecting vulnerabilities, particularly those in contexts with fragile economic and health systems.

Faced with the challenges caused by the pandemic, we had to quickly adjust or run the risk of losing the momentum gained over the previous years. And so we did not stop because of the pandemic; we only got more creative in what we had to do. We utilized new tools and maximized online spaces to conduct our activities, and in areas where we were able to conduct offline activities, precautionary measures were practiced. We also implemented a COVID mitigation plan that includes measures to ensure that all staff members are supported during the pandemic.

The pandemic made it impossible in most areas to conduct face-to-face activities hence, we went online! Through our online work, we have seen an increase in the number of young people supporting our campaigns and capacity building activities. We utilized online meeting platforms for activities such as meetings, briefings, and consultations. We sustained our visibility through our social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter. However, shifting to online activities left out those who have no access to the internet and mobile technology. To counter this limitation, we supported our partners and members with communications stipend to ensure that they can participate in the online discussions and webinars.

We sustained our work at the Coordination Office in Manila, Philippines and at Dar Es Salaam regional office in Tanzania. We also sustained our satellite office in Nairobi, Kenya. Manila experienced hard lockdowns and restricted mobility, and thus, the shift to online work. The Dar Es Salaam Office was still able to continue implementing face-to-face activities but practiced extra precautionary measures. We continued connecting grassroots voices to national and regional advocacy and campaigning efforts and championing the rights-based approach on SRHR.

We continue to enhance our collaboration with other networks and alliances. We became a member of the Advisory Committee of Safe Abortion Advocacy Initiative- A Global South Engagement (SAIGE), a platform for Global South advocates and activists. We closely work with the September 28 International Safe Abortion Day working group together with ARROW, International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion, Ipas Alliance Kenya, ASAP, and Clacai. We also continued hosting Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition.

Another year has passed with satisfying achievements involving our partners, allies, and members. We are grateful for all the support that our members, partners, donors, and allies have provided. We thank our partners, members, partner communities and women and girls for being the reason, inspiration, and motivation for the work that we do.

The WGNRR Team

BY THE NUMBERS



3
global
campaigns



100+
organizations
mobilized



330,237
Facebook
reach



471,900
Twitter
impressions



50
online &
offline



5000
participants

Campaigning

Social media

Events



10
statements
produced



50+
social media
cards & posters



20
videos
produced



10
webcasts

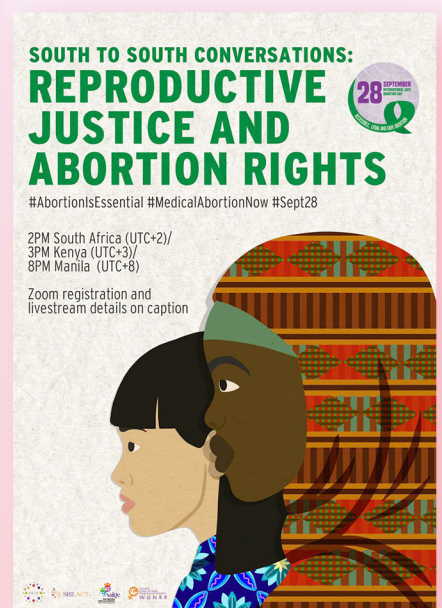


7
publication



1
concert

Resources



2020 **ACTIVITIES**

Through advocacy and campaigns, capacity building, and networking & strategic partnerships, we worked tirelessly to contribute to the global effort to achieve SRHR for all people via the four program areas:

Safe Abortion
Rights

Accountability
for SRHR

Young People's
SRHR

Internal Capacity
Strengthening

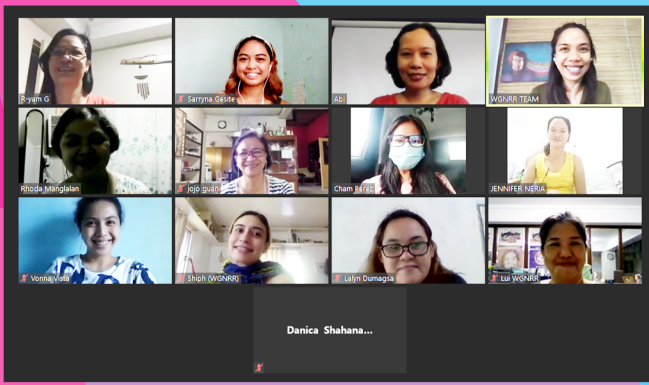
PRIORITY AREA 1

Strong and focused actions for safe abortion rights

Utilizing a combination of virtual and offline spaces, WGNRR continued to mobilize and provide convening spaces for SRHR organizations, young activists, grassroots leaders, SRHR advocates, for joint actions, information and strategies sharing, linking, and learning on abortion rights.

In the midst of the pandemic, we persevered and worked with other feminist organizations and rights movements to call on addressing SRHR. We continued working closely with grassroots organizations specifically in the areas of campaigning and capacity building.

20
20



SAFE
ABORTION
RIGHTS

X

WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC
RIGHTS

WGNRR X CWR

INTER SECT IONS



WOMEN'S
GLOBAL NETWORK
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
WGNRR



CLAIMING THE RIGHTS TO SAFE ABORTION

STIGMA REDUCTON
DIALOGUE
COLLABORATIONS



We provided technical and financial support to the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) - that during the hard lockdown in the Philippines held online consultations on the decriminalization of abortion. PINSAN launched the decriminalization campaign on September 28 Day of Action. In Africa, we were able to increase the capacity of our partners in Tanzania in the importance of the provision of medical abortion information and commodities to marginalized women. We have seen an increase of the support to a positive narrative around the right to safe abortion in East Africa (Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda), and an increase in the mobilization during the September 28 campaign.

In January 2020, the Manila Coordination Office together with PINSAN, brought together healthcare service providers, healthcare students, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) advocates in a conversation on urgent maternal health concerns and the human rights commitments of the government. Participants explored the role of pre-service and continuing education of healthcare providers in ensuring that women and girls' sexual and reproductive health needs are comprehensively met, and how healthcare education address other issues surrounding maternal mortality and morbidity such as unsafe abortion and post-abortion care.

Together with SHEActs Africa, we conducted South to South learning exchanges on SRHR, particularly on the issue of obstetric violence, which is systemic and global against minority communities most impacted by HIV, and the shared advocacy that is being done on this around the world. A 3-part online discussion series on Young People, Reproductive Justice, and Abortion Rights was conducted with 38 young people from Indonesia, India, Kenya, Tanzania, and the Philippines. The "LEARNING WHY: Safe Abortion and Post-abortion Care, a South to South conversation" was held with healthcare practitioners and students and SRHR advocates and featured experts from Kenya and Malaysia to discuss the importance of integrating rights-based curriculum in medical schools when teaching abortion.

In September, we sparked conversations with Global South activists to emphasize that access to safe abortion services is crucial to protecting and realizing fundamental human rights - and that this remains true during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Together with SAIGE and SHEActs, we responded to the global theme on access to telemedicine and self-managed abortion by highlighting the lived realities of women from the Global South, which are different and diverse, and where access still remains a huge challenge for women. We contributed to the global campaign by leading conversations on access to medical abortion on our pages. Our online materials and messages gathered a total reach of more than 250,000 instances.

We are particularly proud of our partnership and support to the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) that on September 28, 2020 launched a proposed bill to decriminalize abortion in the Philippines. The draft legislation, "Act Decriminalizing Induced Abortion to Save the Lives of Women, Girls, and Persons of Diverse Gender Identities, Amending Article 256-259 of the Revised Penal Code" when passed into law, will provide access to safe abortion and avert maternal deaths resulting from unsafe abortion complications. The launch of the proposed bill was a result of the series of consultations with various stakeholders that united in the advocacy to prevent the unnecessary deaths of Filipino women due to unsafe abortion and denial of services. We are particularly proud of our partnership and support to the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) that on September 28, 2020 launched a proposed bill to decriminalize abortion in the Philippines. The draft legislation, "Act Decriminalizing Induced Abortion to Save the Lives of Women, Girls, and Persons of Diverse Gender Identities, Amending Article 256-259 of the Revised Penal Code" when passed into law, will provide access to safe abortion and avert maternal deaths resulting from unsafe abortion complications. The launch of the proposed bill was a result of the series of consultations with various stakeholders that united in the advocacy to prevent the unnecessary deaths of Filipino women due to unsafe abortion and denial of services.



The decriminalization of abortion campaign in the Philippines has put the country as one of the abortion rights hotspots for 2021, following the victory of the Green Wave campaign in Argentina.



Tanzania-based Africa Office continued its work to increase the knowledge, ability, and confidence of its members & partners to integrate abortion VCAT in their rights-based advocacy to destigmatize abortion for policy change. While strictly exercising anti-COVID measures, WGNRR Africa was able to conduct face-to-face activities and has trained a total of 106 grassroots advocates from Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda to increase their knowledge, ability, and confidence in addressing issues of sexuality, abortion, menstrual health and intersecting stigma; security assessment, and protection mechanisms; and championing SRHR of young people. The trained advocates from thirteen organizations were provided with technical and financial support to implement a range of advocacy strategies in their communities to increase understanding of the linkage between sexuality, abortion, menstrual health, and sexuality. They also implemented activities that address intersecting stigma and influence an enabling and supportive social and policy environment to improve access to information and services. The supported CSOs have integrated abortion VCAT in their routine rights-based SRH work.

Trained advocates in the East Africa sub-region (Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda) collected myths around the most stigmatized SRHR issues, i.e abortion, menstruation and sexuality. The common myths were debunked and compiled in a myths debunking booklet. Together with many other May 28 and September 28 campaign materials, the myths debunking booklet was used by grassroots advocates to mobilize different actors (gatekeepers, policy and decision-makers, men and boys) in their communities to support women and girls' SRHR.

Before the closure of airports and the cancelation of flights, our Regional Coordinators Christelyn Sibugon and Nondo Ejano attended the INROADS Global Gathering in Mombasa, Kenya. The global gathering included 120 persons from across the globe with a large proportion coming from the continent of Africa.

SEPT 28 *International Safe Abortion Day Actions*



WGNRR as a member of the September 28 International Safe Abortion Day campaign working group supported the global theme: Telemedicine, self-managed abortion and access to abortion in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. The global campaign focused on challenging the barriers women face both in health systems and in the minds of policymakers and providers. At the regional level, we collaborated with SAIGE in translating the global call into the realities of women who are based in the Global South. We called on "Access to Medical abortion Now!" and highlighted the collective experience as women from the Global South in accessing medical abortion as an important method for women seeking to end pregnancies. The campaign also focused on calling for feminist solidarity during the time of the pandemic. We held a South-to-South discussion on reproductive justice and abortion rights with SAIGE, the Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition (SRJC), and the Strong, Harmonized and Empowered Advocacy Actions (SHE ACT) Alliance members.

WGNRR also organized a Twitter Rally participated in by 36 young south-based feminists and 37 organizations (including SAAF grantee partners) from 24 countries. The Twitter Rally generated 268 responses, gathered almost 43,000 impressions, and resulted in the trending of two of our hashtags: #AbortionsEssential and #Sept28



200k 

generated impressions by WGNRR alone on September 28 posts throughout the September 28 campaign

At the national level, WGNRR Africa together with CREA, WomenSpaces and Ticah held a webinar on Contextualization of Abortion in Kenya. In the Philippines, we supported the launching of the campaign to decriminalize in the Philippines along with the proposed bill. This was attended by 118 individuals, representing 50 organizations.

PRIORITY AREA 2

Effective engagement with accountability mechanisms for SRHR

We sustained partnerships with organizations through our capacity-building and campaign activities to effectively advocate for SRHR for all. Discussions and learning sessions on a range of topics on human rights and SRHR were held engaging grassroots leaders, SRHR advocates, health workers, youth leaders, and government representatives.

Through our Pasya online webcasts and social media campaigns, we put out key messages and positions on various SRHR issues and development and human rights issues of the day. Our webcasts and public engagement activities engaged key government agencies, such as the Department of Health, Commission on Population and Development, Philippine Commission on Women, and the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, as well as Civil Society organizations and advocates.

SHEkahan Webcast Series

WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
WGNRR

SHE
SEXUAL HEALTH & EMPOWERMENT

OXFAM

**HELLO!
NARIRINIG N'YO BA AKO?**

On advocating SRHR during pandemic:
SHEkahan with Oxfam Pilipinas

OCTOBER 7, 2020 | 2 PM | PasyaPH Facebook page

We sustained partnerships with organizations through our capacity-building and campaign activities to effectively advocate for SRHR for all.

Online capacity building activities

We work with our existing and new partner organizations and advocates to craft modules for the SRHR advocacy workshops. The module on "What is SRHR?" was developed with inputs from the Center for Reproductive Rights. We created a Lecture Video on International and Local Policy Mandates on SRHR. We supported the 6-part #FeministFridays workshops to discuss a range of topics on SRHR and feminism. The Feminist Fridays reached more than 600 feminists and activists. Workshops on Minimum Initial Service Package and Psychological First Aid were also carried out by WGNRR as part of the staff and networks capacity-building on SRHR.



*Feminist
fridays*

A central graphic featuring the text "Feminist Fridays" in a white, cursive font. The text is surrounded by various decorative symbols including hearts, female symbols (♀), and stars, all in a light pink or white color. The background is a gradient from purple on the left to pink on the right.

Cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships

In February, WGNRR Coordination Office hosted an event that provided a space to share our advocacy priorities and agenda with the UN CSW Philippine delegation. It was done through a partnership with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). Though the leadership of PCW has changed since then, we were still able to sustain engagement with them through our campaigns.

In Tanzania, we continued our collaboration with DPOs, CSOs, and the government for the development and submission of the first-ever disability-inclusive Code of Ethics for public and private health care to PWDs. We mobilized, connected and empowered grassroots through the Together with the members of the established Advancing SRHR of Women with Disability Alliance (ASWOD), we successfully submitted the Code of Ethics to the Ministry of Labor, Youth, Employment and Disabled (MoLYED).

We created the SHEActs private portal to cater to the needs of our partners and members in the African Region. The portal hosts information on safe abortion rights, menstrual health and hygiene, and sexuality issues.

In collaboration with MenEngage Africa has resulted in the development of a comprehensive Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy to enhance male involvement in advancing SRHR for all in Africa. Using the SBCC strategy, men and boys in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Mali, DRC, Zambia and Botswana were engaged and became supportive allies in supporting women and girls' access to safe abortion, improved menstrual health commodities and comprehensive sexuality education.



**MAY
28**

*International Day of
Action for Women's
Health Mobilizations*



As SRHR activists, feminists, and allies the world over uncovered stories and experiences of women who had been placed in precarious, even fatal situations, because of reallocation of resources and priorities to respond to the pandemic, the call to ensure SRHR in COVID-19 response became critical. The [May 28](#) campaign found itself against the backdrop of a public health crisis that directly impacts women's and girls' health, and, particularly, their sexual and reproductive health. Together with campaign partners the Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), MenEngage, Strong, Harmonized and Empowered Advocacy Actions in Africa (SHE ACTS Alliance), Safe Abortion Advocacy Initiative Global South Engagement (SAIGE), Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN), South Asia Reproductive Justice, Accountability Initiative (SARJAI), Ipas Africa Alliance, and International Campaign for Women's Rights to Safe Abortion we jointly developed the May 28 International Day of Action for Women's Health Call for Action, "Women's Health STILL Matters: Women's access to essential SRHR information and services remain critical in responding to COVID-19."

During the day of action, we supported, facilitated, and coordinated actions such as webinars and discussions with campaign partners. Collaborated with ARROW and SAIGE for a webinar on "Safe Abortion amid a pandemic" with guest speakers from WGNRR, Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal and PROMSEX in Latin America. To ensure that our members are supported during the campaign we organized a webinar on "Strategic Collaboration on SRHR campaigning for May 28" together with MenEngage Africa Alliance. We also presented at an online talk show on "Essential is essential. Ensuring RH and women's health care during the pandemic" hosted by PLCPD, in partnership with the Philippine Population Commission.

The May 28 campaign found itself against the backdrop of a public health crisis that directly impacts women's and girls' health, and, particularly, their sexual and reproductive health.

**50+
actions
world wide**

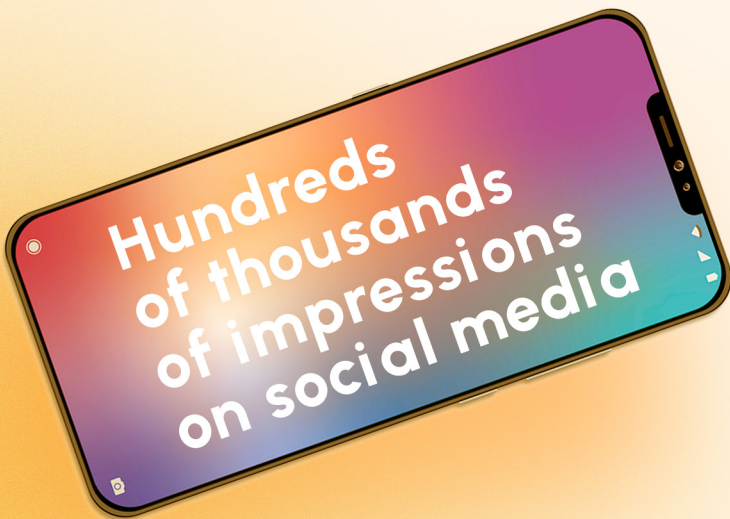


**20 features
& mentions**

on mainstream media
RADIO, TV, PRINT, ONLINE NEWS



**#MAY28
20,000
tweets**



WGNRR and partners in the Philippines wrote to key government agencies strongly urging the Philippine government to ensure the availability and equitable access of essential sexual and reproductive health services during the Covid-19 pandemic. 61 individuals and organizations signed a statement expressing outrage over the preventable maternal deaths of 3 pregnant women after they were refused emergency obstetric care. We condemned how the government's Covid-19 response has overlooked the availability and accessibility of quality life-saving reproductive health services. The statement calls on for clear mechanisms to ensure availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality of sexual and reproductive health information and services. The Department of Health then issued a memorandum order on May 28, 2020 specifically providing that "All pregnant women who are about to deliver and those who have delivered but manifesting signs of complication shall not be under any circumstance be refused admission by the health facility."

16 Days of Action

During the 16 Days of Action Campaign that started on November 25 until December 10, with the hashtag #SaferinSolidarity, we underscored that we find safety in our solidarity in the midst of the crisis. WGNRR launched numerous activities as a contribution to the global campaign. Our activities were sustained actions focusing on raising awareness on gender-based violence and strengthening accountability for all forms of gender-based violence. From November 25 until December 10, we conducted a range of activities from webinars, teach-ins, online contests, online concerts, among others.

Statements and Petitions

During the year, we responded to the urgent calls to defend SRHR and ensure the delivery of SRH services in the midst of the pandemic. In our statement on the U.S. administration's attempt to roll back SRHR, we reiterate that the COVID-19 pandemic should not be used as an opportunity by any one country's sitting administration to roll back on the rights of women around the world have sought for decades. We circulated a joint statement that was signed by 61 orgs and individuals. We condemn all attacks on women's rights and the disturbing pattern of criminalization of women's rights defenders expressing dissent in the Philippines government signing of the anti-terror law and in Poland where the Polish government detained abortion rights activists.



International Human Rights Mechanism Engagement

WGNRR co-signed submissions made by the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) to the Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) highlighting restrictive laws on abortion in the Philippines and the government's obligations to ensure abortion access

- **OHCHR submission on the situation of human rights in the Philippines as requested by the Human Rights Council (the Council) in its Resolution 41/2 adopted on 11 July 2019 on the promotion and protection of human rights in the country**
– submitted in January 2020
- **Human Rights Committee submission (for the List of Issues)**
– submitted in January 2020
- **Committee on the Rights of the Child submission (for the List of Issues)**
– submitted in March 2020
- **Committee on the Rights of the Child additional submission (for the List of Issues)**
– submitted in October 2020

STATEMENTS

In 2020, WGNRR issued the following statements:

- Ensuring SRHR in a rights-based, justice, sustainable approach to Covid-19 Pandemic
- Women's Health Still Matters: Ensure availability and equitable access to essential SRH services in COVID-19 Response
- WGNRR statement on the U.S. administration's attempt to roll back SRHR
- Defend LGBTQIA+ Rights! Fight for Equality and #SRHR4All
- WGNRR solidarity statement for women and abortion rights activists in Poland
- WGNRR statement on Philippine government's actions against political prisoner Reina Nasino and child River Nasino

We supported and endorsed petitions and statements:

- Independent submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Philippines
- IPPF Statement at Human Rights Council (HRC) Panel on COVID-19 and Women
- Advocacy Letter to ratify the ILO Convention 190
- PINSAN position re: United States' Request for Philippines to co-sponsor Geneva Consensus Declaration
- Request to UN HRC for an international investigation on extrajudicial killings and other human rights abuses in the Philippines
- Civil Society Statement of Solidarity with UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders
- HRC 45: Joint Civil Society Statement on Abortion
- Joint CSO statement urging member states to take an intersectional approach when addressing discrimination against and SRHR of young people and adolescents
- South Feminist Solidarity Statement With The Egyptian Initiative For Personal Rights (EIPR)
- SWIFA Statement on the CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 38 (2020) on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration



It is not enough to make our rights legal but it is also necessary to strive for reproductive justice and freedom....

— Youth advocate from the Reproductive Justice webinar series



PRIORITY AREA 3

Increased young people's leadership for SRHR

We continue to create activities to strengthen and support existing youth leadership and activism in SRHR as well as provide advocacy spaces for meaningful engagement of young people.

To inform our strategies in working with young people at the onset of the pandemic, we conducted an online survey to learn about the fears, perspectives and asks of young people in the COVID response strategies of the Philippine government. The survey was conducted among 53 young people ages 15 to 29 years old from various areas in the Philippines. More than half of young people expressed challenges in accessing basic needs like food (55%) and psychosocial services (55%) during quarantine. Sixty-two per cent (62%) mentioned that they need age-appropriate information on COVID-19 and contact information to report forms of violence. The survey results were shared with young people's groups at the local and international level.

Together with the Young Advocates for SRHR, we conducted an online SRHR Bootcamp gathering 15 young people of diverse genders and backgrounds from all over the Philippines. For three weeks, the Young People + SRHR Online Bootcamp held an online training program on SRHR and basic skills in creative communications. The online bootcamp was offered through modules, videos, presentations, Zoom discussions and the like and with reading and weekly assignments that allowed the participants to demonstrate their knowledge creatively. The SRHR bootcamp provided spaces for young people's voices and actions for their SRHR, enabling them to advocate for young people's right to making informed decisions in all matters relating to their sexual and reproductive health, free from

discrimination, fear, and violence. After three weeks, a new cohort of young advocates for SRHR was formed, where they led online discussions and social media engagements in support of WGNRR's campaigns.

During the May 28 International Day of Action for Women's Health, the Young People in Quarantine (YPinQ) Challenge was launched through the Young Advocates for SRHR. The YPinQ Challenge was organized as a challenge to engage young people in mobilizing wider support for women and girls' health in the midst of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions. Through various online learning sessions and creative contests, young people joined our call to ensure SRHR of women, girls and young people during the pandemic. There were four online learning sessions on creative skills for SRHR campaigning, including photography, opinion-writing, short story writing, and an information session on SRHR. The challenge also launched its first YAS Talks on Young People and COVID-19 with policymakers as guests who expressed commitments in ensuring SRHR would be part of their proposed policies for COVID-19 response. The online contests received 663 entries in Health Quiz Bee, Essay Writing Contest, Photo Contest, Poster Making Contest, Creative Placards Contest, Opinion Writing Contest, and Short Story Contest. Out of the more than 600 entries in different contests, 135 young people received phone credits and cash prizes, with their work featured on the YAS Facebook page and the Young People in Quarantine Publication.

WGNRR, together with Resurj, Satuvisi Indonesia, ASAP, Hidden Pockets Collective, and People's Health Movement, held an online discussion series on Young People, Reproductive Justice. The online workshop series aimed to capacitate and strengthen young people in the Global South regarding the reproductive justice framework and imparted new strategies to resist rollbacks and advance sexual and reproductive justice. The webinar series gathered 30 youth-led/youth-focused organizations from the Philippines, Indonesia, India and Kenya for a linking and learning session.

WGNRR Africa also developed the ability and leadership of 60 Tanzanian young people to influence access to youth-friendly SRHR information and services, and challenge taboos, stigma, and misconceptions associated with their SRHR through multi-stakeholder collaboration. The trained WGNRR Tanzania Youth Activists for SRHR (YAS) have conducted 180 peer to peer sessions and 120 advocacy and community dialogue and mobilized their communities to avail facilities and commodities such as sanitary pad changing rooms, incinerators, sanitary towels, emergency pants, pieces of Khanga (a piece of local cloth), etc. for menstrual health management in schools. YAS also developed a youth manifesto with key youth SRHR asks.

PRIORITY AREA 4

Strengthened organizational capacity and sustainability

At the start of 2020, we finalized the 2020–2023 strategic plan documents for both the Coordination Office and WGNRR Africa. The strategic documents are a collective effort of both staff and board members. It sets out our priority programme areas, the objectives and strategies and tactics for each thematic area. We believe that the work planned in the strategic document will meet the core issues and needs of our partners and will contribute to national, regional and global efforts to achieve SRHR for all. The strategic plan document of WGNRR Africa clarified the structure of Tanzania office as a separate entity but is committed to the same vision and principles as WGNRR Coordination Office and has established an indirect relationship with the WGNRR Coordination Office that provides technical advice and support.



The WGNRR Africa commissioned a feasibility study to assess the current and projected conditions that affect the operation and direction of its work in Africa from the Tanzania-based regional office. The outcomes of the feasibility study set a footprint on the materialization of WGNRR Africa autonomy. It identified key external and internal organizational strengths, opportunities, challenges, resources and capacity, and assessed and provided concrete suggestions on the legalities and processes for WGNRR Africa's organizational viability in the next few years.

The study validated WGNRR Africa's presence in the region as a strong champion of the rights-based approach on SRH including the right to abortion; connecting, strengthening capacity and supporting local organizations working at the community level to implement strategies to advance SRH and rights; influencing policy change for SRH and rights of marginalized communities, such as people with disabilities; amplifying the voice of grassroots organizations in regional and international policy platforms. This is being achieved despite a challenging operating environment in terms of existing legal barriers to abortion services, recent rollbacks on human rights, especially SRHR; the narrow base of funding and limited technical capacity of local staff and board members. The feasibility study set out recommendations for immediate and long-term actions including proactive fundraising, internal capacity strengthening and the possibility of relocation. Noting the outcomes of the feasibility study, WGNRR Africa continued in the delivery of project commitments and programmatic work.

WGNRR COORDINATION OFFICE

Early in 2020, the WGNRR Manila Coordination Office launched a campaign to mobilize support for women and girls affected by the Taal Volcano eruption, where over 60,000 individuals were affected, most of whom are taking temporary shelters in evacuation centers. Taal Volcano in Batangas, Philippines, about 60 kilometers away from Manila, is one of the country's most active volcanoes. WGNRR Coordination Office partnered with organizations in conducting relief operations to provide sanitary and basic hygiene supplies, including much-needed items to address menstrual hygiene.

When the Philippine Government imposed COVID-19 related lockdowns and restrictions, we implemented a COVID mitigation plan that includes measures to ensure that staff is supported during the pandemic, such as flexible work arrangements, and that staff wellbeing is taken care of.

In November, the Philippines was hit by four typhoons, one of which was super typhoon Rolly (international name: Goni) - considered to be "one of the strongest tropical cyclones to hit Earth in 2020". Twelve regions in the Philippines suffered in the aftermath of the super typhoon, with more than 500,000 families affected, while almost 300,000 families were displaced mostly in Southern Luzon, killing at least 16 people while 3 are still missing. It was followed by Typhoon Ulysses (international name: Vanco) three typhoons after, which brought the worst impact to the island of Luzon in the Philippines. The succession of typhoons that month caused the worst floods in northern Luzon as the Cagayan river rose quickly reaching its critical spilling level that ultimately led to the flooding in Isabel, Cagayan including Tuguegarao City. At least 1.1 million people were affected, more than 80,000 remain displaced. WGNRR and its partner organizations provided humanitarian responses to at least 500 families, especially ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services in the typhoon-affected areas as they rebuild their homes.

The Coordination Office staff has undergone a 5-day Monitoring and Evaluation Online Bootcamp held from December 14, 2020 to December 18, 2020. The Bootcamp was participated by 8 staff, 7 from the Programmes team and 1 from the Finance and Admin staff. The goal of which is to equip the staff with a deeper understanding of monitoring and evaluation to efficiently and effectively carry out its campaigns and advocacies.

In spite of the work from home arrangement, we increased our capacity by recruiting new staff. We hired Danica Shahana Magtubo as Youth SRHR Officer, Maria Luisa Lentejas as Finance and Admin Assistant, Shiphrah Gold Belonguel as SRHR Advocacy Officer, Vonna Vida Vista as Communications Assistant, and Sarryna Gesite as Networking Officer.

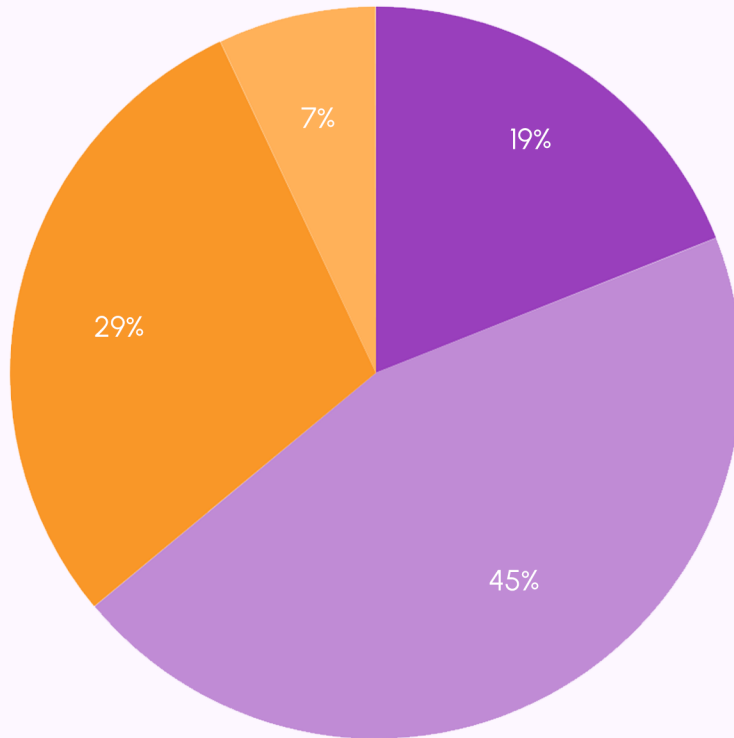
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In 2020, WGNRR was able to secure six new grants to support its advocacy and institutional strengthening efforts. Two of which are new grants for the Tanzania office for its work on youth SRHR and capacity strengthening. The combined income for the Philippine Coordination Office and Tanzania Office was at PHP 22,544,325.00 (USD 479,666.00) with a total available funds of PHP32,542,577.33 (USD692,395.00) including the balances forwarded from 2019 (see Table 1. SCHEDULE OF SOURCES OF FUNDS AND DISBURSEMENTS). This amount was allocated to cover the activities under our four strategic priority areas namely, Accountability for SRHR, Safe Abortion Rights, Youth Leadership for SRHR, and Internal Capacity Strengthening (see graph on percentage share per programmatic area). The income for 2020 is 31% lower than in 2019 but the successful proposals in 2020 include a guaranteed 3-year support for SRHR advocacy work in the Philippines.

Table 1. SCHEDULE OF SOURCES OF FUNDS AND DISBURSEMENTS
for the year ended December 31, 2020

	TOTAL in PhP
OPERATING FUND BALANCE - Beginning	9,998,252.32
Total Grants received	21,793,576.39
Donation and contributions	468,430.73
Other sources	282,317.89
Total sources of Funds	22,544,325.01
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	32,542,577.33
DISBURSEMENTS	
HUMAN RESOURCES	6,952,702.00
PROJECT MANAGEMENT COSTS	20,668,356.25
OPERATING COSTS	1,237,779.03
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	28,858,837.28
OPERATING FUND BALANCE - End	3,683,740.05
Add: PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT FUND, End	826,396.83
2020 TOTAL FUND BALANCES	4,510,136.88

PROGRAMMATIC COSTS



- 

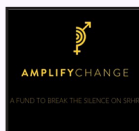
Accountability for SRHR
- 

Safe Abortion Rights
- 

Youth Leadership in SRHR
- 

Internal Capacity Strengthening

We wish to thank all our funders and partners for the continued collaboration. With your support, we are able to undertake activities to defend & advance SRHR for all.



MOVING FORWARD


The pandemic has placed us under extreme pressure to be more effective and efficient in our ways of working with members and partners. We have proven that by closely working with partners and members, we were able to strategically position our advocacy initiatives and campaigns to respond to the realities of the marginalized communities. We were able to consolidate the strengths, insights, resources, and influence of our members and implementing partners in asserting access to essential SRHR information and services to remain critical in responding to COVID-19. We strengthened the capacity of our members to mobilize support and deliver SRHR advocacy messages across regions and sectors.

Now, more than ever, we need continued financial support to optimize our gains in the past years in providing safe spaces and platforms for grassroots organizations and youth groups to undertake SRHR advocacy at various levels. In the 65th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, UN-CSW Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterated the need to put women "at the front and center of pandemic recovery". Our ongoing work aligns with this imperative. It is central to transforming current inequalities that will enable women, girls and other marginalized communities to exercise full autonomy over their bodies, gender, and sexualities.

WGNRR is a southern-based global network that connects and strengthens movements for sexual and reproductive health, rights (SRHR) and justice. WGNRR has a consultative status with ECOSOC.

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WOMEN'S
GLOBAL NETWORK
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

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