



WOMEN'S
GLOBAL NETWORK
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

W G N R R



YEARS

**OF ADVANCING AND DEFENDING
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
AND RIGHTS FOR ALL!**



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WHO WE ARE

The Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) is a Southern-based global network of organizations and individuals established in 1984 that serves as a nexus for connecting and empowering movements dedicated to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) worldwide. Particularly focused on regions of the Global South where these rights are often most challenged, WGNRR’s efforts aim to address the diverse needs and realities faced by individuals lacking economic, social, and political power.

WGNRR’s history is deeply rooted in the feminist and women’s health movements of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Milestones such as the declaration of May 28th as the International Day of Action for Women’s Health underscore their ongoing commitment to advocacy, while their involvement in key conferences and initiatives, such as the International Conference on Population and Development and the Women’s World Conference in Beijing, highlights their long-standing dedication to mobilizing and campaigning alongside partners and allies for the realization of SRHR worldwide

Central to their approach is a Theory of Change that identifies three interconnected areas of focus:

Figure 1: WGNRR 2023–2025 Theory of Change



Box 1: 2023–2025 WGNRR Strategic Plan

Our strategic plan for 2023–2025 delineates a comprehensive roadmap for advancing SRHR, with a special emphasis on advocating for abortion rights in regions where they are restricted or inaccessible. This plan is the culmination of a collaborative process involving the WGNRR board, staff, and key stakeholders from various countries such as India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Tanzania, and Uganda. Importantly, it is informed by the priorities and insights of grassroots, youth, and community-based organizations, ensuring that the strategies outlined resonate with the lived experiences and needs of those we aim to serve.

Our plan is deeply intertwined with broader global initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and regional processes like the Asia and Africa CPD Regional processes. By leveraging cross-movement and cross-national collaboration, WGNRR seeks to amplify dialogue surrounding SRHR challenges, offer solutions, and consolidate lessons learned and best practices for collective learning.

Over the next three years, WGNRR plans to work closely with grassroots, youth, and community-based organizations to lead SRHR actions at multiple levels, from local to international. We believe that by implementing the strategies outlined in the plan and by establishing clear metrics for measuring progress, they can contribute significantly to national, regional, and global efforts aimed at advancing SRHR and justice for all.

FROM MILESTONES TO MOMENTUM:

OUR WORK IN REVIEW



In alignment with the Network's values and feminist principles, we conducted an evaluation study of our impact over 40 years - essential for ensuring accountability, learning, and strategic decision-making as they continue their mission to advance SRHR and justice for all. A comprehensive evaluation elevates and demonstrates WGNRR's value and contributions to the SRHR movement over the past four decades. Evidencing the results of their work is crucial for several reasons:



Accountability:

Demonstrating tangible outcomes and impacts ensures transparency and accountability to our stakeholders, including funders, partner organizations, and the communities we serve. It allows us to showcase how resources are being utilized and the effectiveness of these interventions.



Learning and Improvement

Identify what strategies and approaches are most effective in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and building feminist movements. This enables continuous learning and improvement, helping to refine our programs and interventions over time.



Advocacy and Influence

Concrete evidence of success strengthens WGNRR's advocacy efforts by providing compelling arguments and data to support our calls for policy change and increased investment in SRHR. It enhances the credibility and influence we have with policymakers, donors, and other stakeholders.



Sustainability

Documenting the results of WGNRR's work helps to secure ongoing support and funding for our initiatives. It demonstrates the value and impact of our programs, making them more attractive to potential donors and partners interested in advancing SRHR and gender equality.



Empowerment

Sharing success stories and evidence of impact can empower the communities and individuals we work with, inspiring them to continue advocating for their rights and fostering a sense of pride and ownership in the achievements of their collective efforts.

Evidencing the results of our work not only validates WGNRR's efforts but also strengthens our ability to effect meaningful change in advancing SRHR and feminist movements globally.

NAVIGATING OUR LANDSCAPE

Addressing and actualizing the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) needs and issues of women, girls and LGBTQIA people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America is instrumental in realizing the full spectrum of human rights for all peoples. Centering the SRHR needs and issues of women and girls in Asia, Africa, and Latin America through a feminist lens is not merely a matter of policy or development but a profound commitment to dismantling systems of oppression, fostering collective empowerment, and realizing the transformative potential of feminist praxis.

Figure 3: SRHR Laws and Policies in Asia Pacific region

The stakes remain high in several countries in the Asia Pacific region - many countries have restrictive laws and policies related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Some of these countries include:



Indonesia: Abortion is heavily restricted in Indonesia, except in cases where the woman's life is at risk or in cases of rape or incest. Even in these cases, obtaining legal abortion services can be challenging due to cultural and religious stigma.

The Philippines: The Philippines has one of the most restrictive abortion laws globally, with abortion being illegal under all circumstances. Access to contraception is also limited in some areas due to cultural and religious beliefs.

Myanmar: Abortion is generally illegal in Myanmar, except in cases where the woman's life is at risk. Access to contraception and comprehensive sexuality education is limited, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Malaysia: Abortion is illegal in Malaysia except to save the woman's life. Access to contraception and comprehensive sexuality education is limited, and there are cultural and religious barriers to discussing SRHR openly.

Brunei: Abortion is illegal in Brunei under all circumstances. Access to contraception and comprehensive sexuality education is limited, and there are strict cultural and religious norms surrounding SRHR.

Afghanistan: Abortion is illegal in Afghanistan except to save the woman's life. Access to contraception and comprehensive sexuality education is limited due to cultural and religious beliefs and ongoing conflict.

Additionally, even in countries where laws are less restrictive, there may still be challenges related to stigma, discrimination, and limited access to services. Several countries in the Asia Pacific region have made progress in enacting policies and legislation to protect and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Some examples include:

Nepal: Nepal has made significant strides in advancing SRHR, including legalizing abortion in certain circumstances, such as to save the woman's life, protect her physical or mental health, or in cases of rape or incest. Nepal has also implemented comprehensive sexuality education programs in schools and increased access to contraceptives.

South Korea: South Korea has liberalized its abortion laws, decriminalizing abortion in the early stages of pregnancy and expanding access to abortion services. The country also provides comprehensive sexuality education in schools and has taken steps to improve access to contraceptives.

Thailand: Thailand has relatively liberal abortion laws compared to some other countries in the region, allowing abortion in cases of rape, incest, fetal impairment, or risk to the woman's physical or mental health. Thailand also provides comprehensive sexuality education in schools and offers a wide range of contraceptive options.

Taiwan: Taiwan legalized same-sex marriage in 2019, making it the first country in Asia to do so. This landmark decision represents significant progress for LGBTQ+ rights and SRHR in the region. Taiwan also provides comprehensive sexuality education in schools and offers access to contraceptives and reproductive health services.

Timor-Leste: Timor-Leste has made efforts to improve access to reproductive health services, including maternal and child health care, family planning, and HIV/AIDS prevention. The country has implemented programs to increase awareness of SRHR issues and promote gender equality.

While these countries have made notable progress, challenges remain, and there is still work to be done to ensure full realization of SRHR for all individuals in the region. Additionally, progress in one area of SRHR may not necessarily translate to progress in other areas, and ongoing advocacy and policy efforts are needed to address gaps and barriers comprehensively.

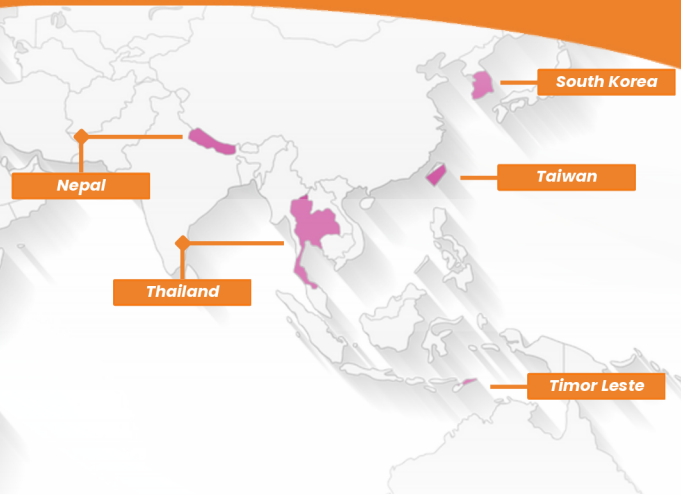
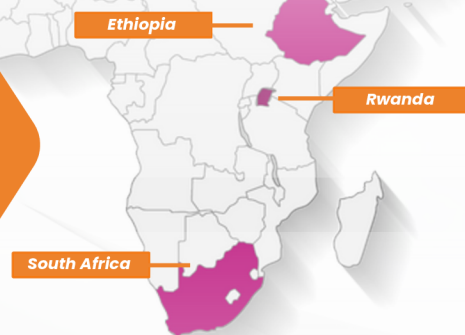


Figure 4: SRHR Laws and Policies in African region

In the African region, several countries have made progress in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), while others continue to face significant challenges. Here are some examples:

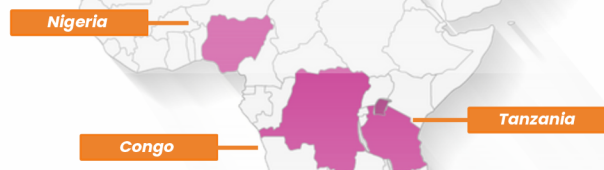


South Africa: South Africa has some of the most progressive laws and policies regarding SRHR in Africa. The country legalized abortion in 1996, allowing it on broad grounds, including socioeconomic reasons and risk to the woman's health. South Africa also provides comprehensive sexuality education in schools and offers access to contraceptives and reproductive health services.

Ethiopia: Ethiopia has made strides in improving maternal health and reducing maternal mortality rates. The country has implemented initiatives to increase access to family planning services, promote maternal and child health care, and prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. Ethiopia has also invested in comprehensive sexuality education programs.

Rwanda: Rwanda has prioritized women's health and empowerment, including SRHR. The country has implemented policies to increase access to family planning services, promote maternal health, and reduce maternal mortality rates. Rwanda has also taken steps to address gender-based violence and promote gender equality.

Figure 5: Countries in the African region with complex challenges that are being addressed:



Countries in the African region with complex challenges that are being addressed:

Tanzania: Tanzania has restrictive laws and policies regarding SRHR, particularly concerning abortion. Abortion is only legal in Tanzania to save the woman's life, and access to safe abortion services is limited. Comprehensive sexuality education in schools is also lacking, and access to contraceptives can be limited, particularly for marginalized populations.

Nigeria: Nigeria faces challenges related to SRHR, including high maternal mortality rates, limited access to family planning services, and cultural barriers to discussing sexuality. While some progress has been made in increasing access to contraceptives, disparities persist, particularly in rural areas.

Democratic Republic of Congo: DRC has made notable progress in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) including initiatives to enhance maternal health and expand family planning services. However, challenges persist, such as limited access to healthcare due to infrastructure and financial constraints, restrictive abortion laws leading to unsafe procedures, pervasive gender-based violence, and cultural barriers hindering SRHR education and services. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive strategies prioritizing women's health, gender equality promotion, legal reforms for safe abortion access, and efforts to combat gender-based violence. Overcoming these challenges is crucial for advancing SRHR and improving the well-being of Congolese women and girls.

While these examples highlight some of the trends in SRHR progress and challenges in the African region, it's essential to recognize that each country's context is unique, and there are variations within countries based on factors such as geography, culture, and governance. Ongoing advocacy, policy reforms, and investments in health infrastructure are necessary to address the remaining challenges and ensure the full realization of SRHR for all individuals in Africa.

Supporting WGNRR and advocacy efforts in Africa and Asia aligns with the global community's commitments to human rights, gender equality, and social justice, reinforcing our roles as champions of these values. Secondly, it contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by addressing key challenges such as maternal mortality, gender-based violence, and HIV/AIDS prevalence. Additionally, resourcing such initiatives enhances partnerships with local organizations and communities, fostering collaboration and mutual learning. Ultimately, investing in WGNRR's work yields long-term dividends by promoting stability, prosperity, and sustainability in regions vital to global development and progress.

A WORLD WHERE WOMEN AND GIRLS THRIVE



WGNRR's vision remains clear - A world where women and girls thrive is characterized by gender equality in all spheres of life. Women have equal access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. They are empowered to make choices about their bodies, sexuality, and reproductive health. Gender-based violence and discrimination are eradicated, and women hold leadership positions in politics, business, and communities. Women's voices are heard, respected, and valued, and they enjoy freedom from stereotypes and cultural norms that limit their potential. In this world, women and girls live with dignity, agency, and the full realization of their rights and aspirations. It will include:



Gender Equity and Women's Liberation: Upholding comprehensive SRHR services is crucial for advancing gender equity and liberating women and girls from patriarchal constraints. By ensuring their autonomy over their bodies, sexuality, and reproductive choices, it fosters a society where women and girls can thrive free from oppression and control.



Health Justice and Bodily Autonomy: Guaranteeing access to SRHR services, encompassing contraception, maternal healthcare, and safe abortion, is essential for promoting health justice and affirming bodily autonomy. It mitigates the risks of maternal mortality, complications from unsafe abortions, and the spread of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, thus safeguarding women's well-being and sovereignty over their bodies.



Economic Emancipation and Poverty Eradication: SRHR interventions play a pivotal role in economic emancipation and eradicating poverty by enabling women and girls to exert control over their reproductive lives. By preventing unintended pregnancies and facilitating family planning, SRHR empowers women to pursue education, enter the workforce, and break the chains of intergenerational poverty.



Education as a Tool for Liberation: Access to comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive health services is a cornerstone of feminist praxis, providing women and girls with the knowledge and agency to navigate their sexual and reproductive lives. By challenging patriarchal norms and fostering a culture of consent, respect, and bodily integrity, SRHR education becomes a catalyst for social transformation and gender justice.



Human Rights and Intersectionality: Recognizing SRHR as an inalienable human right acknowledges the diverse identities and experiences of women and girls. By dismantling systemic barriers such as discrimination, stigma, and violence, it advances the collective struggle for human rights and social justice across intersecting axes of oppression.



Collective Liberation and Sustainable Futures: Prioritizing SRHR is integral to envisioning collective liberation and nurturing sustainable futures for all. By embracing reproductive justice principles and promoting responsible reproductive practices, it paves the way for ecological sustainability, social equity, and the flourishing of diverse communities.

WGNRR EVOLVING THRU THE DECADES

WGNRR Mexico

Between 2014 and 2017, WGNRR operated in Mexico with a mere three full-time staff members. Among the most notable campaigns undertaken by WGNRR Mexico was the regional advocacy for the freedom of the Las 17—a group charged for having abortions following obstetric emergencies and subsequently convicted of homicide, facing sentences of 30 to 40 years imprisonment. Noteworthy successes included the release of Guadalupe, granted a pardon, and Mirna, released after completing her prison term in 2015. However, the remaining 15 women continue to serve lengthy sentences. Following these efforts, WGNRR Mexico made the strategic decision to reallocate their support to other regional offices. This decision stemmed from various challenges, including the robust existing SRHR network within Latin America and the team's limited human resources, which posed significant hurdles to sustaining the office's operations.

WGNRR Africa

In line with WGNRR's decentralization strategy, the organization inaugurated its first regional office in Africa, located in Tanzania, in 2016. This milestone was accompanied by a significant increase in membership and the establishment of robust connections with national and regional networks. Formalizing its presence in Tanzania, with its headquarters in Dar Es Salaam, marked a pivotal achievement for WGNRR. Concurrently, the organization actively collaborated with strategic partners across Africa, particularly at the grassroots level, empowering members and allies to advocate for the creation of supportive environments for women to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.

WGNRR Africa embarked on its journey in 2010 with a modest membership of 92 individuals. By the time of establishing the Tanzania office in 2016, membership had soared to 292, representing individuals from 24 African countries. This growth underscores the organization's expanding reach and impact across the continent.

UNLOCKING TRANSFORMATION

LOCALIZE – COLLECTIVIZE – DEFEND

WGNRR's Theory of Change revolves around the belief that transformative change in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) can be achieved through strategic interventions aimed at strengthening partner and ally capacity, fostering network collaboration, and engaging in SRHR accountability mechanisms. By implementing these strategies, WGNRR seeks to shift power dynamics, consolidating and activating the power of grassroots activists, demand for changes in institutional and systemic policy, programs and practices, catalyze cultural changes in gender norms and belief systems so they collectively coalesce into better, affordable, accessible SRHR systems and eventually bring about lasting improvements in people's SRHR outcomes.



LOCALIZE

Partner and Ally Capacity Strengthening: WGNRR recognizes the importance of building the capacity of partners and allies to effectively advocate for SRHR at local, national, and global levels. Through capacity-building initiatives, including training programs, workshops, and resource-sharing, WGNRR empowers grassroots organizations, activists, and civil society groups to become effective agents of change in their communities. By equipping partners and allies with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources, WGNRR enables them to engage in advocacy efforts, mobilize communities, and challenge discriminatory norms and policies that impede access to SRHR services and information.

COLLECTIVIZE

Network Collaboration: WGNRR understands that collective action is essential for driving systemic change in SRHR. By fostering collaboration and solidarity among diverse stakeholders, including SRHR organizations, women's rights groups, youth networks, and other social justice movements, WGNRR amplifies the voices of marginalized communities and strengthens advocacy efforts. Through network-building activities, such as conferences, forums, and joint campaigns, WGNRR creates spaces for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collective strategizing to address shared challenges and advance common goals. By leveraging the collective power of networks, WGNRR is able to mobilize resources, influence policy decisions, and effect change on a broader scale.

DEFEND

WGNRR's Direct Engagement in SRHR Accountability Mechanisms: WGNRR actively participates in SRHR accountability mechanisms to hold governments, international agencies, and other stakeholders accountable for their commitments to SRHR. Through advocacy, monitoring, and documentation, WGNRR scrutinizes the implementation of SRHR policies and programs, identifies gaps and shortcomings, and advocates for corrective action. By engaging in accountability processes, such as human rights monitoring, policy analysis, and shadow reporting, WGNRR ensures that SRHR commitments are translated into meaningful action and that the rights and needs of marginalized populations are prioritized. By holding duty-bearers to account and amplifying the voices of rights-holders, WGNRR contributes to the creation of enabling environments where SRHR is upheld, protected, and realized for all.

WGNRR's Theory of Change believes that by strengthening partner and ally capacity, fostering network collaboration, and engaging in SRHR accountability mechanisms, the organization can achieve transformative impact on people's SRHR outcomes and shift power dynamics in favor of gender equity, social justice, and human rights. Through these strategic interventions, WGNRR empowers individuals and communities to claim their rights, challenge oppressive structures, and build a more just and equitable world for all. WGNRR's activities and accomplishments reflect an ecological approach to SRHR that recognizes the interconnectedness of social, economic, environmental, and health-related factors. By addressing these interconnections holistically and promoting collaboration across sectors, WGNRR strengthens efforts to advance SRHR and promote environmental sustainability worldwide.

HOW WE MEASURE PROGRESS



WOMEN'S
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WGNRR

By the numbers



68 Statements Issued: **146** Statements Supported

The organization is proactive in its advocacy efforts, having issued a substantial number of statements (68) and garnered support for a larger number (146). This indicates a strong voice and engagement in relevant issues.



36 Campaigns

With 36 campaigns undertaken, the organization demonstrates a commitment to driving change and raising awareness on multiple fronts. Each campaign likely targets specific issues or goals, showcasing a diversified approach to advocacy.



680 Organizations and Institutions

The organization's wide reach is evident in its engagement with 680 organizations and institutions. This suggests effective networking and collaboration efforts, essential for amplifying impact and achieving common goals.



64,804,274 Social Media Engagement

The significant social media engagement, totaling 64,804,274 interactions, highlights the organization's adeptness in leveraging digital platforms to disseminate messages, mobilize support, and foster dialogue on pertinent issues.



220 Events **10,000** Participants

Hosting 220 events with a cumulative participation of 10,000 individuals underscores the organization's commitment to community engagement and grassroots mobilization. These events likely serve as platforms for education, advocacy, and fostering solidarity.



34 Publications

Although relatively fewer in number (34), publications play a crucial role in disseminating research findings, policy recommendations, and educational resources. Each publication represents an opportunity to contribute to knowledge sharing and informed discourse.



4 Album/
Concerts

While fewer in number (4), album/concert initiatives signify the organization's creative approach to advocacy and outreach. Such cultural interventions can effectively engage audiences, raise awareness, and inspire action on social issues.

The data provided offers insights into the online presence and engagement of WGNRR across two major social media platforms:



22,000

Facebook Likes

23,000

Facebook Followers

The WGNRR Facebook page boasts 22,000 likes and 23,000 followers. This indicates a sizable audience that is interested in or supportive of the organization's mission and content. The high number of followers suggests that the page likely enjoys a significant level of engagement and reach, with the potential to disseminate information widely and mobilize support for campaigns and initiatives.



8,291

Twitter Followers

On Twitter, WGNRR has 8,291 followers. While this number is smaller compared to the Facebook following, it still represents a substantial audience on this platform. Twitter's nature as a real-time, concise communication platform makes it ideal for sharing timely updates, engaging in conversations, and amplifying key messages. Despite the relatively smaller audience compared to Facebook, Twitter provides a valuable channel for reaching diverse stakeholders, including policymakers, activists, and the media.

Overall, this report showcases the organization's multifaceted approach to advocacy, encompassing strategic communication, community mobilization, collaboration, and creative expression. WGNRR's social media presence demonstrates an effective use of digital platforms to connect with supporters, raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights issues, and mobilize action. The breadth and depth of its activities reflect a holistic commitment to advancing its mission and creating positive social change.

Source: Annual report from: 2014-2016 & 2019-2022

WGNRR BUDGET



Table 1: Budget Disbursements and Excess/(Deficit) Analysis: Africa and Manila Offices (2014–2022)

	Budget (USD)	Disbursements (USD)	Excess/(Deficit) for the year (USD)	
2014	450,571.00	488,013.00	-37,443.00	both Africa and Manila office
2015	627,188.00	627,179.00	9.56695	both Africa and Manila office
2016	338,724.00	403,504.00	-64,780.00	both Africa and Manila office
2017	481,296.00	493,665.00	-12,369.00	both Africa and Manila office
2018	482,960.00	473,149.00	9,810.92	both Africa and Manila office
2019	648,384.00	447,938.00	200,446.00	both Africa and Manila office
2020	445,171.00	565,013.00	565,013.00	both Africa and Manila office
2021	371,110.00	386,379.00	-15,269.00	Manila office only
2022	365,277.00	383,637.00	-18,360.00	Manila office only

Source: 2014–2022 WGNRR Annual Financial Report

This table provides a comprehensive overview of the budget disbursements and resulting excess or deficit for the years 2014 to 2022 for both the Africa and Manila offices of the organization.

2014: The year commenced with a budget of \$450,571.00. However, disbursements exceeded the budget by \$488,013.00, resulting in a deficit for the year.

2015: The budget increased to \$627,188.00, with disbursements nearly matching the allocated funds, resulting in a marginal surplus of \$9.56695.

2016: Despite a reduced budget of \$338,724.00, the disbursements remained high at \$403,504.00, resulting in a deficit of -\$64,780.00.

WGNRR BUDGET



2017: The budget increased to \$481,296.00, with disbursements totaling \$493,665.00, resulting in a deficit of -\$12,369.00

2018: The budget slightly increased to \$482,960.00 and disbursements exceeded the budget, resulting in a surplus of \$9,810.92

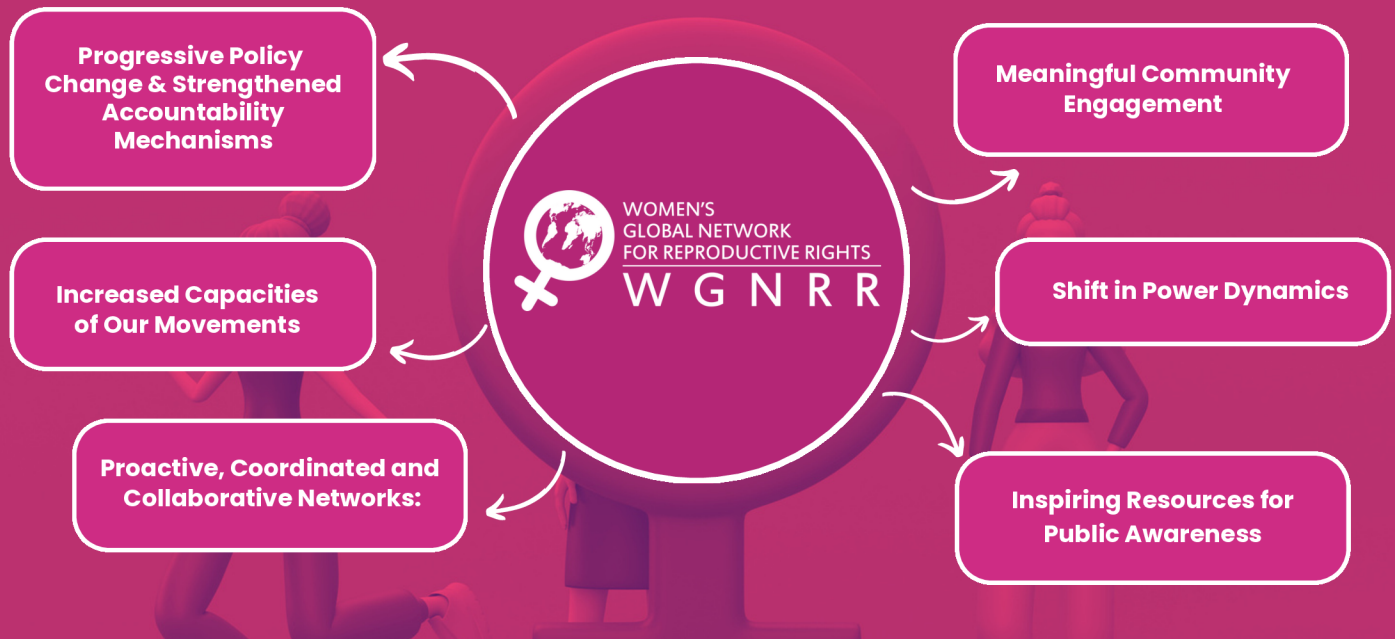
2019: A significant budget increase to \$648,384.00 resulted in surplus disbursements of \$447,938.00

2020: The budget decreased to \$445,171.00, with disbursements exceeding the allocated funds, leading to a deficit of \$565,013.00

2021-2022: These years saw the budget and disbursements primarily focusing on the Manila office. In 2021, the Manila office incurred a deficit of -\$15,269.00, with disbursements slightly exceeding the budget. In 2022, a similar trend continued, with a deficit of -\$18,360.00

This analysis highlights the financial fluctuations and management challenges faced by both the Africa and Manila offices over the specified period. While some years recorded deficits, others showcased surpluses, indicating the need for strategic financial planning and resource allocation to ensure sustainable operations and growth.

WGNRR identified the following strategies of change as effective in building feminist movements because they result in building our individual, collective and consolidated power.



These strategies can help WGNRR leverage resources, amplify advocacy efforts, and hold stakeholders accountable, ultimately contributing to the realization of SRHR for all women and girls. In accordance with our feminist values, the process is as important as the outcomes. The results of WGNRR's strategies and activities can be assessed not just on win-or-lose outcomes such as legislative or electoral change but also on how they help build the activists, actions, organizations, networks and campaigns that result in various outcomes and impacts, including:

Progressive Policy Change & Strengthened Accountability Mechanisms: The adoption of laws and policies that promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), such as improved access to comprehensive sexuality education, contraception, and safe abortion services. Additionally, the repeal or amendment of restrictive laws and policies that hinder SRHR.

Increased Capacities of Our Movements: Enhanced knowledge, skills, and confidence among partner organizations and allies in advocating for SRHR, leading to more effective engagement in policy dialogue, community mobilization, and empowerment initiatives.

Proactive, Coordinated and Collaborative Networks: Strengthened relationships and solidarity among feminist movements and other rights and justice movements, resulting in increased collective action, shared resources, and coordinated advocacy efforts on SRHR issues.

Progressive Policy Change & Strengthened Accountability Mechanisms: The adoption of laws and policies that promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), such as improved access to comprehensive sexuality education, contraception, and safe abortion services. Additionally, the repeal or amendment of restrictive laws and policies that hinder SRHR.

Over the years, WGNRR advocated for SRHR at global forums such as CSW, CPD and HLPF. We have also engaged in UN mechanisms like UPS and CSW. These international engagements have inspired WGNRR programs and networks to create a two-way process of advocates influencing global policies and in turn global accountability mechanisms being implemented and re-echoed in the local communities.

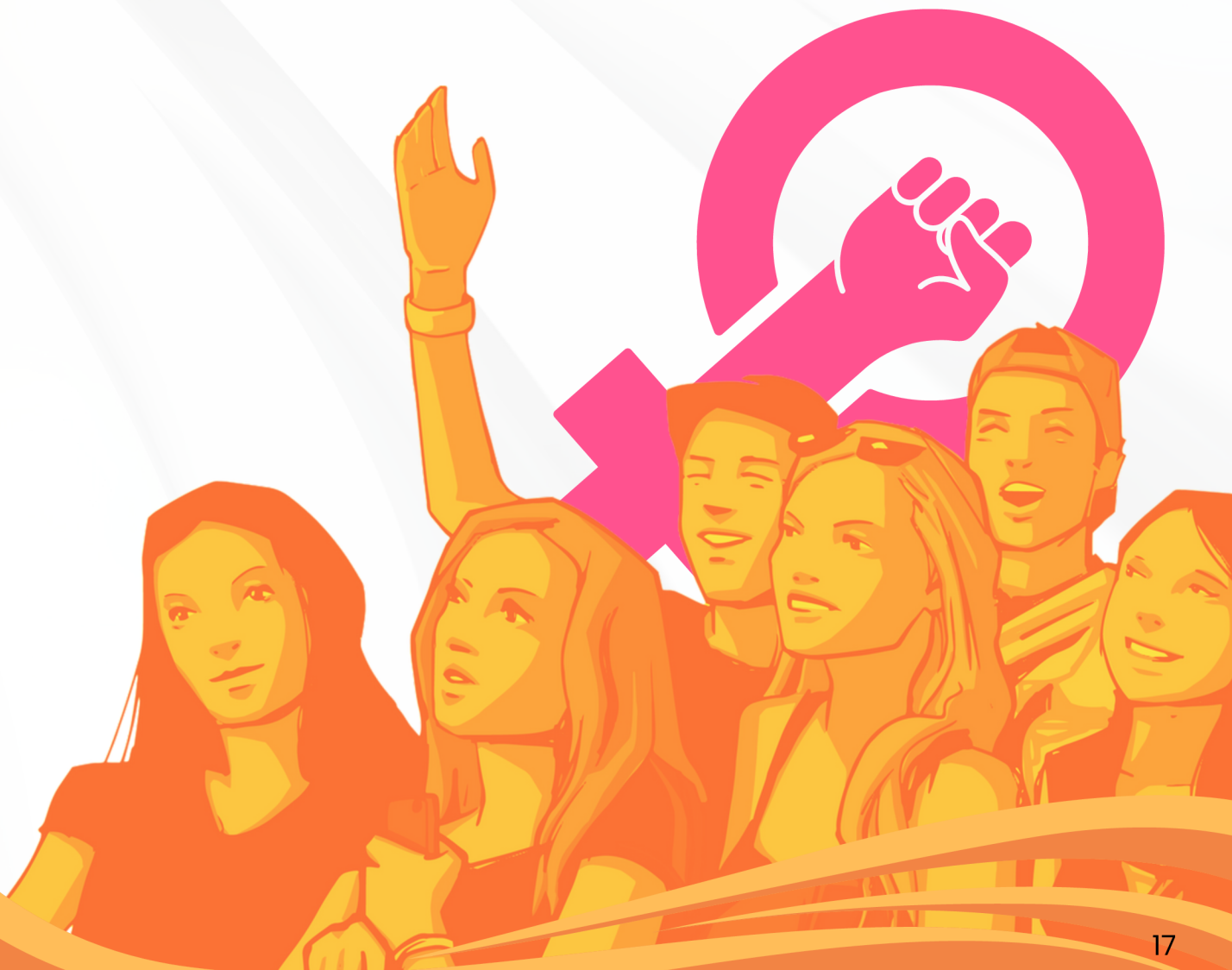
One example was when WGNRR helped in the formulation and submission of urgent action to UN Special Rapporteurs urging the Dominican Republic parliament to pass the bill where abortion was decriminalized. As a result of a consistent campaign, in 2015 the Dominican Republic eventually liberalized its abortion laws. In 2014, México, we partnered with la Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto in coordinating global respondents to garner support both for retaining one of the 17 women who have been wrongfully imprisoned on the suspicion of having an abortion known as “Las 17” and to end the total abortion ban. The Dominican Republic’s President introduced the amendment of Penal Code in 2014, a laudable attempt to decriminalize abortion in the case of rape and incest; if the pregnancy poses a risk to a woman’s or girl’s health or life; or in cases where a fetus would be unable to survive outside the womb.

In Africa, we’ve seen a contrasting campaign situation on safe abortion and contraception. Although the campaign on access and use of contraception was widely accepted, the long-standing campaign on safe abortion still faces a high opposition and stigma from the community. In the effort to strengthen the abortion campaign, WGNRR Africa centers the messaging of “abortion is a public health issue”. Mr. Nondo Ejano, our current Regional Director of Africa, highlighted that one of the most effective strategies of WGNRR Africa over the years would be the building of coalitions which further on serves as an effective tool to forward progressive policy change. In Africa, we were able to manage and influence the coalition by providing them the necessary skills they need to develop and advocate for a specific campaign. These coalitions also served a critical role in crafting legislative statements in international and regional SRHR conventions that were later on adapted by the national and local decision makers. Some of these policies were the EARSH bill where we had an opportunity to meet the parliamentarians and ministry that later on changed the position of the Tanzanian government. Additionally, WGNRR’s support in the domestication of the Maputo protocol was pivotal in strengthening the advocacy in Tanzania. Lastly, WGNRR Africa chaired the commission that produced the Kampala Civil Society position statement for the post 2015 consultation process. Kampala Civil Society is an organization composed of international and local organizations that serves as a watchdog that advocates for inclusiveness, transparency and accountability of cooperation projects.

In the Philippines, WGNRR together with Philippine Reproductive Health Movement welcomed the Supreme Court of the Philippines decision to uphold the constitutionality of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, commonly known as RH Law. Since the passage of the historic bill, WGNRR continued to advocate for the decriminalization and access to safe abortion which remains an irony as Philippines enjoys the rank of the most gender-inclusive nation in Asia up to date, the country has among the highest in number of maternal and mortality and adolescent pregnancies. Consistent with our call to the campaign of promoting the right to safe abortion, WGNRR became a member of the Advisory Committee of Safe Abortion Advocacy Initiative last 2020. This committee proposed a landmark bill that amends the Article 256-259 of the Philippine Penal Code entitled “Act Decriminalizing Induced Abortion to Save the Lives of Women, Girls and Persons of Diverse Gender Identities”




Despite the wide range of WGNRR’s work and the complexity of the realities we have to work with, we remain committed to dismantling the systemic blockage that has been built by the conservative and populist leaders.

Table 2: Policies passed/influenced by WGNRR



NUMBERS OF WRA IMPACTED BY POLICIES PASSED/ INFLUENCED

Table 2: Policies passed/influenced by WGNRR

 <p>PHILIPPINES</p>	<p>Women of reproductive age (2023)</p> <p>30,091,360</p>	<p>Category V - Prohibited altogether</p>	<p>Liberalization status of abortion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft bill launched by PINSAN in 2020 • In 2022, the PCHR unequivocally articulated its recommendation for the decriminalization of abortion as a priority legislation for the 19th Congress.
 <p>TANZANIA</p>	<p>Women of reproductive age (2023)</p> <p>16,379,650</p>	<p>Abortion restrictions</p> <p>Category IV - To Save a Person's Life</p>	<p>Liberalization status of abortion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanzania's Penal Code (2002) authorizes abortion to save a woman's life • Maputo Protocol ratified in 2007, but provisions have not yet been domesticated
 <p>Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)</p>	<p>Women of reproductive age (2023)</p> <p>22,771,260</p>	<p>Abortion restrictions</p> <p>Category III - To Preserve Health (Also permitted in cases of fetal diagnosis, incest, and rape)</p>	<p>Liberalization status of abortion</p> <p>March 2018: Maputo Protocol article 14 on health and reproductive rights published in DRC national legal journal, resulting in the legalization of abortion in the DRC.</p>

Source: WHO Data Portal, Center for Reproductive Rights

Increased Capacities of Our Movements: Enhanced knowledge, skills, and confidence among partner organizations and allies in advocating for SRHR, leading to more effective engagement in policy dialogue, community mobilization, and empowerment initiatives.

Enhanced knowledge, skills, and confidence among partner organizations and allies in advocating for SRHR, leading to more effective engagement in policy dialogue, community mobilization, and empowerment initiatives.

One important strategy of WGNRR is to invest in strengthening the capacities of our partners and allies. In the last decade, WGNRR provided knowledge and capacity building sessions on various topics such as advocacy and policy-influencing, abortion values clarification, women-centered and rights-based approaches, and monitoring and evaluation.

For instance, during the Third International Congress on Safe Abortion (IWAC) in 2016, the organization facilitated capacity-building sessions for 44 SRHR defenders and service providers from 18 countries. In 2021, creative workshops were organized together with YAS, providing training on how to utilize mediums such as spoken poetry, comic drawing, and songwriting to communicate advocacy messages effectively

WGNRR also capacitates our partners by providing them with resources to engage globally and with materials to forward their advocacy efforts. WGNRR sponsored several members to attend the Commission on the Status of Women conference in 2017 and the Nairobi Summit on the ICPD+25 in 2019. During the pandemic, WGNRR provided a campaign support fund for women's month related activities to three regional youth-led organizations in Nepal, Indonesia and Tanzania.

In terms of campaign and advocacy materials, WGNRR provides easy-to-use intersectional feminist messaging communications templates that our partners can access and use for their own campaigns.

These activities yielded significant outputs and outcomes. Notably, we enhanced the participants' capacity in evidence-based advocacy for policy influencing, strengthened networks, empowered activists, and amplified advocacy efforts. Moreover, the creation of multilingual platforms improved access to information, contributing to a broader understanding and support for SRHR issues globally.





“WGNRR plays a crucial role in advocating for the abortion rights advocacy and we have to make sure that we are strong on-ground and that means we are equipped to campaign for the most challenging topic in SRHR” former Executive Director Bing Parcon

Box 1: Sexual Reproductive Justice Coalition (SRJ) Profile

CASE STUDY

Sexual Reproductive Justice Coalition (SRJ)

SRHR & CJ COALITION

Sexual Reproductive Justice coalition is an organization that was established in 2015 when the need for a fresh and new narrative was growing in South Africa. Their vision is informed by an intersectional perspective in which all people, irrespective of class, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, age, religion, or any other factor may enjoy their sexuality, make reproductive decisions and access high quality services in ways that enhance their dignity, bodily integrity and well-being.

The organization was born when Ipas halted its operations in South Africa. At the time, there was no real SRHR-movement happening in South Africa and prior attempts at sustaining a movement had unfortunately not been successful. In 2018, SAIGE was officially registered as a Non-Profit Organization and has been focusing on the following focal areas since then



SRJC undertakes activism and advocacy that challenges the social, political, economic and legal structures that inhibit the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive justice.

On that same year of establishment of SRJC, they had been working with WGNRR with series of trainings such as the Global Health Strategies and supported joint statements such as the Global Declaration on Abortion for the Nairobi Summit (ICPD25)

Proactive, Coordinated and Collaborative Networks: Strengthened relationships and solidarity among feminist movements and other rights and justice movements, resulting in increased collective action, shared resources, and coordinated advocacy efforts on SRHR issues.

WGNRR mobilized and engaged stakeholders across Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria, including grassroots, communities, and policymakers, to influence attitudes and laws regarding abortion. We participated in the Women Deliver Global Conference and panel discussions. Participation in strategic meetings and conferences in El Salvador and Asia Pacific. And we were able to maintain ties with youth-led and youth-serving organizations globally, such as CHOICE for Youth Sexuality and Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights.

Our May 28 International Day of Action and September 28 International Safe Abortion Day remains to be the most collaboration extensive aspect of our work of WGNRR serves as the secretariat for partner organizations globally to consolidate the stories, campaigns, policies as well as challenges they continue to face as they work tirelessly on promoting and asserting the right to access to safe and stigma-free abortion

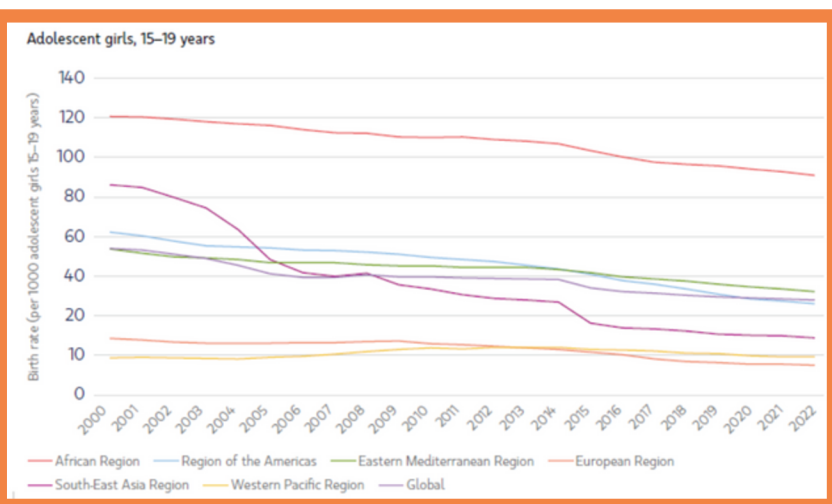


Meaningful Community Engagement: WGNRR encourages the increased participation and leadership of marginalized groups, including women, young people, indigenous communities, and LGBTQIA+ individuals, in SRHR advocacy and decision-making processes at local, national, and global levels.

In recognition of the additional barriers and challenges marginalized groups face in accessing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, WGNRR provides platforms for these groups to participate and further their advocacies. The organization's commitment to social inclusion is evidenced by its support for the formation and capacity-building for SRHR networks enhancing representation for different marginalized groups. In Tanzania, Advancing SRHR of Women with Disabilities (ASWOD), was established in 2019 with WGNRR's support. Technical support was provided to SHEWE, a coalition of organizations, committed to advancing the SRHR of women living with HIV.

Youth face various challenges in accessing SRH services and this poses various risks to their health and safety. This is particularly salient in countries in the Global South. Adolescents in the African and Southeast Asian Region had the highest adolescent birth rates (ABR) in the early 2000's (World Health Organization, 2023). Although there have been strides in its reduction, the African Region maintains the highest ABR globally as of 2023. This underscores the critical role of WGNRR in facilitating interventions that enhance the sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents. Interviews with program officers and partners also emphasized the need for a particular focus on youth and identified WGNRR's partnership with youth organizations as one of the priorities of the organization.

Figure 8. Trends in adolescent birth rates, by age group and WHO region, 2000–2022



Source: World Health Organization, 2023

Box 2. YouCan Profile

YouCan is a dynamic organization committed to championing youth empowerment and reproductive health rights. Through innovative programs and advocacy, YouCan engages with young people, healthcare providers, and policymakers to promote inclusive and accessible sexual and reproductive health education and services.

WGNRR's youth interventions have been multifaceted and impactful. The organization recognizes the potential of the youth sector to initiate meaningful change and has provided crucial support to various youth organizations to build their capabilities in furthering their advocacies. A prime example of WGNRR support to youth is evidenced by the success of Youth Collective Actions Now or YouCAN, launched in 2022 focusing on ten organizations in the East African Community (Box X.).



During their collaboration with WGNRR, YouCan has made substantial contributions to various policy initiatives, including the East African Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill, the adaptation of the Maputo Protocol to local contexts, and the promotion of other youth-centric policies. The organization received critical support received from WGNRR in developing a robust and secure social media strategy, which has been instrumental in advancing their campaigns safely, away from government scrutiny. Beyond policy work, YouCan has been pivotal in educating youth leaders across multiple universities through their SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights) trainings. One issue that emerged in their work is the heartbreaking reality that many participants had experienced the loss of friends to unsafe abortions. Moreover, in partnership with WGNRR, YouCan has also made strides in transforming healthcare provision by training providers who previously harbored stigmatizing attitudes towards individuals seeking abortion. The organization has noted that perception and attitude training with WGNRR resulted in reformed approaches and practices of training providers. YouCan acknowledges that challenges still lie ahead. The increased need for funding, government surveillance, and stigma from other organizations continue to pose significant obstacles.

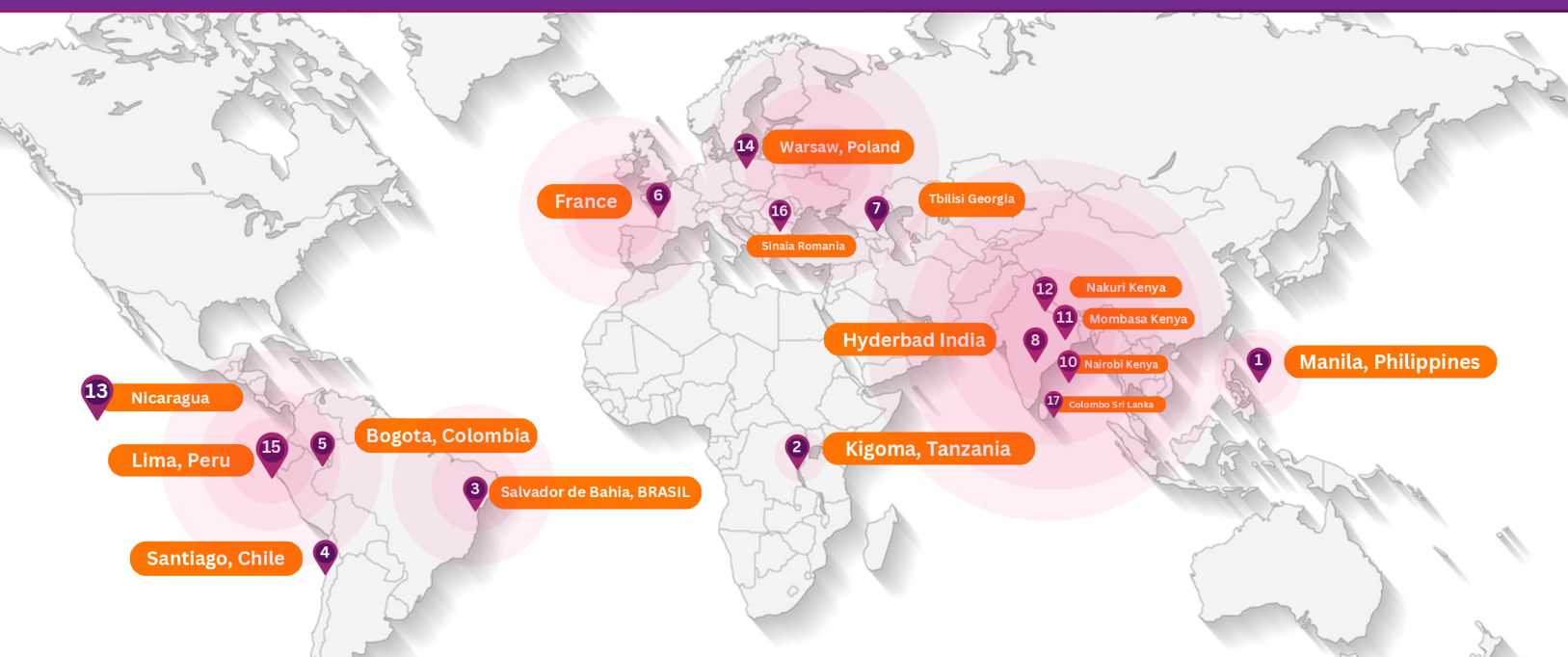
WGNRR held several capacity and knowledge building workshops in the last ten years specifically targeted towards youth. In 2014, they held workshops in Senegal and Nigeria with youth organizations to enhance their knowledge and skills in SRHR advocacy. 2020 workshops with youth-led or youth-focused organizations from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Kenya. WGNRR's engagement with youth organizations has been instrumental in achieving significant legislative successes across multiple countries. In 2016, WGNRR supported youth participation in the Morocco Forum for African and Arab Adolescents and Youth Driving Sustainable Development. This forum resulted in an agreement to develop an accountability framework based on the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development and the Cairo Declaration on Population and Development.

In 2019, WGNRR collaborated with FEMNET, where its Kenya campaigns officer participated in drafting the Call to Action on Youth Regional Consultations on Beijing+25. WGNRR Africa also provided training to youth on influencing access to youth-friendly SRHR information and services and supported the development of a youth manifesto outlining key SRHR demands and priorities in 2020. The WGNRR also provided support for the East Africa Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill (EACSRH Bill) 2021. This initiative engaged 46 youth-led organizations from Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya in actively participating in the public hearing and collectively developing and submitting a Joint Memorandum and position statement to the East Africa Legislative Assembly. This demonstrated a strong advocacy push for addressing youth SRHR needs and demands, showcasing WGNRR's commitment to advancing youth rights in legislative processes.

The organization has leveraged technological developments in its engagement with youth to strengthen their campaigns and partnership. It annually joins campaigns for International Youth Day and supports youth campaigns through co-organizing and signal boosting. This includes campaigns such as the #YoungFeministVisions campaign in 2017, Young People in Quarantine Challenge (YPinQ) in 2020, and Twitter Space Fridays and Equally Artsy Fest co-organized by Young Advocates for SRHR (YAS) in 2021.

The impact of these interventions is evident in the platforms provided for young people to share their experiences, visions, and demands, contributing significantly to advocacy efforts for youth SRHR. The inclusion of investing in youth-led organizations as a strategy further underscores the importance WGNRR places on empowering young advocates and addressing their SRHR concerns effectively.

MAP OF CAMPAIGNS IN COUNTRIES AMPLIFYING/ BROADCASTING ADVOCACY MESSAGES



Global Actions (May 28 Campaign partners from 2014–2020)

1 Manila, Philippines	WGNRR and Upstart Productions
2 Kigoma, Tanzania	Women's Promotion Centre and WGNRR
3 Salvador de Bahia, BRASIL	Movimento de Mulheres and Odara Instituto da Mulher
4 Santiago, Chile	International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS Chile
5 Bogota, Colombia	La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres
6 France	Médecins du Monde
7 Tbilisi, Georgia	Reproductive Youth Group of Union Women Center
8 Hyderabad, India	Telugu Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (TNP+)
9 Mombasa, Kenya	Pani GBV Network and Coast Women in Development
10 Nairobi, Kenya	Fortress of Hope Africa
11 Mombasa, Kenya	Kenya Association for Maternal & Neonatal Health - KAMANEH
12 Nakuri, Kenya	Dandelion Kenya
13 Managua, Nicaragua	Colectivo Feminista Panteras Rosas
14 Warsaw, Poland	Federation for Women and Family Planning
15 Lima Peru	CLACAI and La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres
16 Sinaia, Romania	International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)
17 Colombo, Sri Lanka	ASAP Sri Lanka

MAP OF CAMPAIGNS IN COUNTRIES AMPLIFYING/ BROADCASTING ADVOCACY MESSAGES



18 Freetown, Sierra Leon	Ipas Sierra Leone
19 Pretoria, South Africa	A'Dare Women Wellness Centre
20 Kampala, Uganda	Empowered at Dusk Women's Association (EADWA)
21 Kira, Uganda	Uganda Network of Young People living eith HIV & Community Health Rights Network
22 Argentina	Amnesty International & Abortion Rights Campaign in Rosario
23 Pakistan	Shirkat Gah
24 Philippines	Gabriela
25 Egypt	Alexandria Students Scientific Association (ASSA)
26 Kenya	WGNRR Alliance Kenya (WAK)
27 Nigeria	GYWIN
28 Tanzania	Women's Promotion Center
29 Uganda	Community Network for Reproductive Health Rights
30 Spain	Ayuntamiento Villanueva de la Serena
31 El Salvador	Activistas Feministas, Defensoras de Derechose Humanos and Organizaciones de Mujeres
32 Spain	La Xarxa de Dones per la Salut and Cala Dona
33 India	White Ribbon Alliance
34 Nepal	Women's Rehabilitation Centre

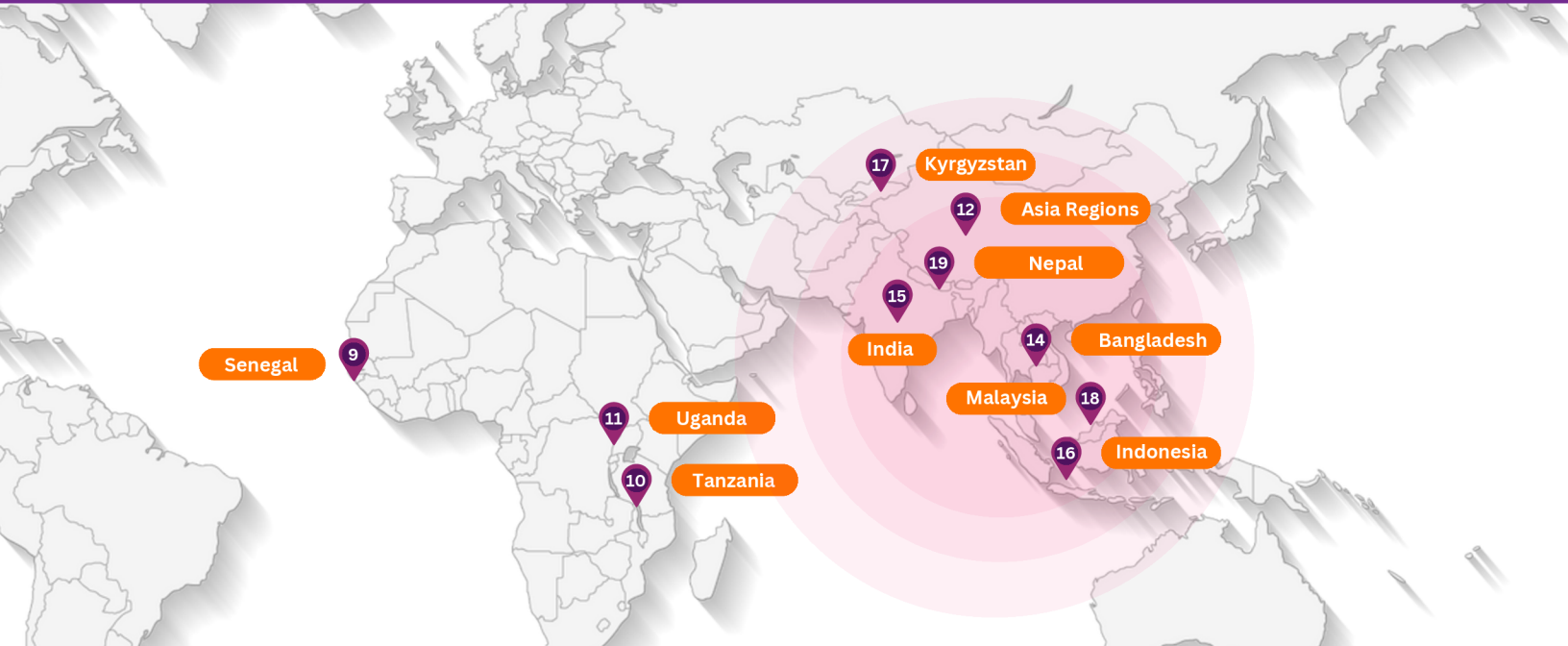
MAP OF CAMPAIGNS IN COUNTRIES AMPLIFYING/ BROADCASTING ADVOCACY MESSAGES



September 28 campaign partners

1 Africa	
2 Burundi	Solidarite des Femmes Burundaises pour la Lutte contre le Sida et le Paludisme au Burundi
3 Cameroon	Cameroon Neighbourhood 7
4 Democratic Republic of Congo	Groupede Volontaires pour la Promotion de la Maternitesans Risques en RDC
	Observatoire de la Parite (Gender Equality Observatory) Coalition Article 14
5 Ghana	Healthy Ghana, Ipas Ghana, Population Council and Ghana Health Service
	Integrated Development in Focus - Ghana; Ipas Ghana
	Ipas Ghana
6 Kenya	WGNRR Alliance Kenya; Reproductive Health Alliance/Ipas Africa Alliance
	Young Women's Leadership Institute
	African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET; Nimechanuka
	Coast Women in Development (CWID)
7 Malawi	Center for Girls and Interaction (CEGI) African Youth Safe Abortion Alliance (AYOSA) Malawi Chapter
8 Mozambique	Coalition for the Defense of Sexual and Reproductive Rights; Coalition Association of Mozambique; Women Law and Development; Ipas; Mozambican Network of Organization Against AIDS
9 Nigeria	Generation Initiative for women and Youth Network (GIWYN) National Coalition for Safe Abortion
	Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC)
	#Choice4Life

MAP OF CAMPAIGNS IN COUNTRIES AMPLIFYING/ BROADCASTING ADVOCACY MESSAGES



9 Senegal	Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)
	Association of Female Doctors; Senegalses Lawyers Association
10 Tanzania	Women's Promotion Center WPC Tanzania Safe Abortion Advocacy Project; Tanzania Coalition to Address Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion
11 Uganda	Community Network for Reproductive Health Rights (CNRHR)
	National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU)
12	Asia
13 Asia Region	Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)
14 Bangladesh	Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Program (RHSTEP)
	Bangladesh Assembly of Youth Advocates (BAYA)
	Community Life Bangladesh
15 India	Kractivism Bridge Gap Bring the Change
16 Indonesia	Samsara
	Indonesia Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA) Jogiakarta Chapter
17 Kyrgyztan	Reproductive Health Alliance Kyrgyztan
18 Malaysia	Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)
19 Nepal	Action Works Nepal (AWON)
	Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) Nepal
	Bhaktapur Youth Information Forum
	Family Planning Association of Nepal

MAP OF CAMPAIGNS IN COUNTRIES AMPLIFYING/ BROADCASTING ADVOCACY MESSAGES



20	Pakistan	Peace Foundation
21	Philippines	Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
22	Sri Lanka	ASAP Youth Champions - Sri Lanka
23	Europe Region	
24	Albania	Albanian Centre for Population and Development
25	Austria	Frauenzentrum Wien; Platform 2000 Frauen; Red Federica Montseny Vienna
26	Belgium	Centre d'ActionLaique
27	Georgia	Association HERA XXI
28	Hungary	Patent Association Hungary
29	Ireland	Coalition to Repeal the 8th Amendment, Abortion Rights Campaign; Galway Pro-Choice; Alliance for Choice; Cork Women's Right to Choose; Limerick Pro Choice; National Women's Council; My Body My Rights; Amnesty Ireland
30	Macedonia	Hera
31	Netherlands	Women Help Women
32	Poland	Federation for Women and Family Planning
33	Portugal	Rede de Solidaridade com as mulheres do Estado Espanhol Contra a lei Gallardon (Solidarity Network with Spanish women against the Gallardon bill)
34	Romania	EuDecid/ Decide; Romanian Group for Reproductive Rights
35	Russia	Russian Association for Population & Development; Center for Reproductive Rights
36	Spain	DecidirNosHaceLibre; Alianzapor la Solidaridad
37	Sweden	Riksförbundetforsexuellupplysning (RFSU)

MAP OF CAMPAIGNS IN COUNTRIES AMPLIFYING/ BROADCASTING ADVOCACY MESSAGES



38	Switzerland	Sexual Rights Initiative; Action Canada for Population & Development
39	United Kingdom	Central America Women's Network; 15M Women's Assembly; Hysteria; My Belly is Mine; Speaking of I.M.E.L.D.A; Amnesty UK
		International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
40	Latin America; Colombia	Consortio Latino Americano Contra el Aborto Inseguro (CLACAI); La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres
41	Latin America and Caribbean	Campana 28 de Septiembre por la Despenalizacion del Abortion
42	Latin America	Latin American Network of Catholics for the Right to Decide
43	Argentina	Campana Nacional por el Derecho al Aborto Legal, Seguro y Gratuito
		Centro de Estudios y Sociedad (CEDES) Fundacion Estudio e Investigacion de la Mujer (FEIM)
		CEDES; Group de Estudios sobre Sexualidad (GES)
44	Bolivia	PanyRosas Bolivia and other activist groups
45	Brazil	Catolicaspelo Direito de Decidir with Frente Nacional pela Legalizacao do Aborto e Descriminalizacao das Mulheres
		Sexuality Policy Watch (SPW)
46	Chile	Articulacion Feminista por la Libertad de Decidir
47	El Salvador	Agrupacion Ciudadana por la Despenalizacion del Aborto en El Salvador
		Collectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local; Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL) Center for Reproductive Rights, WGNRR
		Campana 28 de Septiembre El Salvador
48	Haiti	Initiative for Equitable Development in Haiti (Ideh) Solidarity of Haitian Women (Solidarity FanmAyisyen/Sofa)
49	Mexico	Fondo Maria
		Redefine Morelos; Caribbean Colectivo Pactos Violeta

MAP OF CAMPAIGNS IN COUNTRIES AMPLIFYING/ BROADCASTING ADVOCACY MESSAGES



50 Nicaragua	Feministas Paiwenas
	El Colectivo Casa De Los Colores Leon
	La Colectiva con Letra F y el Colectivo Panteras Rosas
	Puntos de Encuentro; Flow (Funding Leadership & Opportunities for Women)
51 North America	
52 Canada	Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada
53 United States of America	Catholics for Choice
	Ibis Reproductive Health
	International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region; Ipas Center for Reproductive Rights
	Ipas
	Post-Abortion Care (PAC) Consortium
	Pathfinder International
	Lilith Fund; NARAL Pro-Choice Texas
Population & Development Program Hampshire College	
54 Pacific	
55 Australia	Vocal Majority
	Multicultural Centre for Women's Health
56 New Zealand	Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand (ALRANZ)

Shift in Power Dynamics: Empowerment of women and young people, particularly from the Global South, to challenge patriarchal norms and structures, advocate for their rights, and influence policy agendas, leading to a more inclusive and equitable feminist movement.

WGNRR upholds the empowerment of women and young people, particularly from the Global South, to challenge patriarchal norms and structures, advocate for their rights, and influence policy agendas, leading to a more inclusive and equitable feminist movement.

This commitment is evident in their support for grassroots organizations and networks such as Strong, Harmonized, and Empowered Advocacy Actions (SHE ACTS) Alliance in Africa and Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network in the Philippines (PINSAN). Through their coordination work, WGNRR supported various organizations in their conduct of advocacy and networking activities on SRHR and safe abortion.

The organization provides significant support to its grassroots members through building their capacity and supplementing their resources. In 2020, WGNRR provided support to the SHE ACTS Alliance by hosting South-to-South learning exchanges on SRHR on obstetric violence. In addition to this, they also facilitated the creation of the SHE ACTS private portal hosting information on safe abortion rights, menstrual health and hygiene (MHH), and health and sexuality issues for their partners and members in the African region.

WGNRR's engagement with their members has yielded tangible outcomes, including influencing policy agendas and legislative processes. In 2014, the organization participated in the petition to the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly for pardons for women convicted of homicide after suffering obstetric emergencies. WGNRR's work with PINSAN in advocacy, campaigning, and engagement with the Philippine government has also seen progress in the legislative sphere. Notably, their collaboration with PINSAN continues to spur progress in the decriminalization of abortion in the Philippines. In 2020, the PINSAN network was able to push for the launch of a bill on the decriminalization of abortion in the Philippines.

Overall, WGNRR's efforts underscore their pivotal role in advancing an inclusive and equitable feminist movement, driving positive change on vital issues affecting women and young people globally.



“In 2012 alone, in the Philippines more than 600,000 abortions happen every year. Every day, around 3 women die due to abortion complications”

The Philippines is one of only six countries worldwide where abortion is entirely illegal without exceptions—even to save a woman's life or protect her health—poor, rural, and young women are especially prone to experiencing unintended pregnancies and resorting to unsafe abortion practices. These unsafe procedures, often carried out in unsanitary conditions using outdated methods, lead to a significant number of women requiring post-abortion care. However, they encounter substantial obstacles in accessing such care, including societal stigma and the prohibitive cost of medical services. Furthermore, women in the Philippines who undergo abortions, for any reason, risk imprisonment ranging from two to six years. Similarly, physicians and midwives who perform abortions with the consent of the woman face up to six years in prison, highlighting the severe legal and social challenges surrounding abortion in the country.

Given this perennial problem, Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) was established in 2015 committed to work towards achieving full realization of women and girl's human rights - including their sexual and reproductive health rights. PINSAN believes that if women and girls cannot control their own bodies, sexualities and fertility including their right to access safe abortion services and information - they cannot exercise other civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights.

For the past 10 years, PINSAN has been working tirelessly together with WGNRR to fill the gap in promoting safe and dignified abortion.

Prevent Unsafe Abortion

Ensure Women's Rights

Review Current Policies

End Abortion Stigma

Supply accurate Information

Fight for the Decriminalization of Abortion

Over the years, PINSAN has successfully established a local and international network of advocates that helps to shape and improve the campaign strategies on the abortion campaign. In 2015, PINSAN held their very first public event on abortion in the Philippines which was followed by another international exchange in 2018 which was attended by 70 advocates from six countries.

At the height of the pandemic, WGNRR together with PINSAN launched a call to reject the anti-abortion bill filed in the Philippine Congress. The call garnered 51 organizations and 145 individuals and the [change.org petition](#) for the decriminalization of abortion in the Philippines witnessed a significant increase of 4,000 signatures from 2020 reaching a total of 29,000 signatures by December 2021. Currently, the petition now stands with 30,582 signatures.

TARGETS INFLUENCED BY WGNRR ACTIVISTS



Community Members



Government Officials and Policy Makers



Healthcare Providers



Civil Society Organizations



International Bodies and Donor

1. Community Members: At the grassroots level, WGNRR activists engage with and empower community members, particularly women and marginalized groups, to advocate for their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). By providing education, resources, and support, activists help community members assert their rights, access healthcare services, and challenge harmful social norms and practices.

2. Government Officials and Policymakers: WGNRR activists work to influence government officials and policymakers at local, national, and international levels. Through advocacy campaigns, lobbying efforts, and participation in policy forums, activists seek to shape legislation, policies, and programs that promote gender equality, reproductive justice, and comprehensive SRHR services.

3. Healthcare Providers: WGNRR activists collaborate with healthcare providers to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services are accessible, non-discriminatory, and responsive to the needs of all individuals, including those from marginalized communities. Activists may conduct trainings, provide resources, and advocate for the integration of SRHR services into healthcare systems.

4. Civil Society Organizations: WGNRR activists collaborate with and support other civil society organizations working on SRHR issues. By sharing resources, coordinating advocacy efforts, and building alliances, activists strengthen the broader movement for reproductive justice and gender equity.

5. International Bodies and Donor: WGNRR activists engage with international bodies, such as the United Nations, and donors to advocate for increased attention and resources for SRHR issues globally. Through participation in conferences, consultations, and advocacy campaigns, activists raise awareness of key issues and push for policy changes and financial support.

Overall, WGNRR activists play a crucial role in influencing a wide range of targets, from local communities to international organizations, in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights and promoting social justice and equity for all.

Raised awareness and changed attitudes towards SRHR issues, reduced stigma and discrimination, and increased support for gender-transformative policies and practices among policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public.

WGNRR has been actively engaged in reducing stigma and discrimination related to sexual and reproductive health rights while simultaneously working to increase support for gender-transformative policies and practices among policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public. One of the organization's notable contributions in this regard are their consistent efforts to uphold the annual campaigns commemorating women's SRHR - specifically, the May 28 International Day of Action for Women's Health and the September 28 International Safe Abortion Day. Through their dedicated work in crafting advocacy campaigns, developing resources, and mobilizing their members, they have consistently maintained engagement with these campaigns, amplifying the reach and impact of the messages they aim to convey.

By harnessing their network, the organization is able to reach millions of individuals across multiple countries every year. WGNRR's campaigns are well-attended and have a significant reach. In 2014, they held a 24 hour tweet-a-thon on May 28 which reached 385,000 people, while on September 28 of the same year, more than 100 events across 65 countries were held by their member organizations. The organization also employs creative means to reach their audience, uplifting the work of their local partners in the process. The September 28 commemoration in 2017 showcased comic strips created by their partners, employing the hashtag #IResistWePersist which reached 3.8 million users. In 2020, the organization engaged young people through the Young People in Quarantine (YPiQ) Challenge which received 663 entries. These initiatives have significantly contributed to raising awareness and fostering a deeper understanding of SRHR issues among stakeholders. By capacitating their network and partners in engagement in media campaigns and online activism, they are able to broaden the reach of their messages and support the movements of their partners in their local communities..

In Africa, they have done important work on stigma reduction, particularly in youth access to SRHR. The organization has supported various activities, such as workshops and campaigns, in the region in the effort to transform attitudes towards women and youth access to SRHR, particularly abortion. WGNRR implemented workshops with their partners in Africa to build their knowledge and capacity on abortion values clarification and transformation (VCAT) in the effort to destigmatize abortion for policy change. Together with Love Matters and RNTC Media Training Centre, they conducted online training for SRHR activists on campaigning to destigmatize abortion. They also held workshops on abortion VCAT in rights-based advocacy in 2020 which reached 106 grassroots advocates from 13 organizations. The organization also supported the establishment of YouCAN which is geared towards reducing stigma and discrimination of young people in accessing SRHR.

Moreover, WGNRR's actions have had a global impact, as they successfully challenged abortion stigma and mobilized support on an international scale. The organization is an established entity in the campaign for women's SRHR and has the platform to champion its causes and engage regional and international bodies on women's SRHR issues (Box 4.) These actions highlight the organization's dedication to driving positive change and advancing the rights and well-being of individuals worldwide.



Box 4. WGNRR participation in regional and international

2014	58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58) Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 47th Conference on Population and Development Forum United Nations General Assembly Special Session on ICPD Beyond 2014 The Beijing +20 Review Process
2016	High-Level Political Forum for Adolescent Girls and Agenda 2030 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators EGM on the rights of women sex workers under CEDAW
2017	61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) 50th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CDP50) Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development 27th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council Africa Leaders' Summit on Safe, Legal Abortion
2018	61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development CSO Session Geneva meeting with CEDAW experts and presentation to WHO officials International Safe Abortion Conference
2019	ICPD +25 Summit Global Symposium on Citizenship, Governance, and Accountability in Health (COPGS) Beijing +25 review 17th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development 52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development (Philippine Delegation)
2020	INROADS global gathering in Kenya Meeting with UN CSW Philippine delegation on WGNRR advocacy priorities and agenda
2021-2022	Commission on the Status of Women Commission on Population and Development Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development ASEAN People's Forum Submission of NGO alternative report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) South African Development Community summit ICPD +25

RESOURCES DEVELOPED BY WGNRR



Zines



Album



Workshop Toolkit



Publications

WHY WE MATTER: INFLUENCING RIPPLES AND TIDES

Ultimately, WGNRR seeks to impact the lives and SRHR of women and girls, improving the conditions that shape their health and well-being and enabling them to reach their full potential. Evidence of these results can demonstrate the effectiveness of WGNRR strategies and activities in advancing SRHR and contributing to feminist movement building globally, both directly and indirectly. In focal countries where we established a regional office, we see significant improvements in a selection of indicators and measures of women and girls' well-being, such as:



Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR): The CPR in Mexico has shown an increasing trend over the past few decades, indicating improved access to contraception among women of reproductive age.



Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR): The MMR in Mexico has been decreasing gradually, reflecting improvements in maternal health services and access to skilled birth attendance.



Adolescent Birth Rate: There has been a decreasing trend in the adolescent birth rate in Mexico, suggesting progress in reducing early and unintended pregnancies among adolescents.



Abortion Rate: Data on abortion rates in Mexico may vary due to underreporting and stigma associated with abortion. However, there have been efforts to decriminalize abortion in certain regions, which may impact reporting and access to safe abortion services.



Unmet Need for Family Planning: The unmet need for family planning in the Philippines may be decreasing due to efforts to improve access to contraception and family planning services.



Teenage Pregnancy Rate: The teenage pregnancy rate in the Philippines remains a concern, although there have been initiatives to address barriers to sexuality education and reproductive health services among adolescents.



Maternal Health Indicators: Maternal health indicators in the Philippines may show improvements in recent years, with increased coverage of antenatal care and skilled birth attendance.



Access to Safe Abortion Services: Access to safe abortion services in the Philippines are still limited due to restrictive laws and social stigma, although advocacy efforts continue to push for reforms in post-abortion care.



Antenatal Care (ANC) Coverage: ANC coverage in Tanzania has shown improvement, with more pregnant women accessing antenatal care services during pregnancy.



Modern Contraceptive Use: Modern contraceptive use in Tanzania may be increasing, indicating progress in family planning efforts and access to contraception.



HIV/AIDS Prevalence Rate: The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Tanzania may vary across regions, with efforts ongoing to reduce transmission and improve access to treatment and care.



Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting: Efforts to eliminate FGM/C in Tanzania have led to a decrease in prevalence in certain regions, although challenges remain in some communities.

While there have been positive trends in SRHR indicators in these countries, challenges such as limited access to services, restrictive policies, and cultural norms continue to impact progress.

A WORLD WITH STRONGER SRHR PROTECTIONS



Networks like WGNRR play a crucial role in changing public opinion and policy decisions by engaging in multifaceted advocacy efforts that mobilize communities, build solidarity, and drive transformative change towards realizing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. In the last forty years, they have played a critical role in advocating for marginalized communities and ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels.



South Africa: In 1996, South Africa legalized abortion on request during the first trimester under the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, making it one of the most progressive countries in Africa regarding abortion rights. In their Supreme Court decision *Minister of Home Affairs v. Fourie* (2005), deliberations by the Constitutional Court of South Africa led to the legalization of same-sex marriage in the country. The court ruled that the exclusion of same-sex couples from the institution of marriage was unconstitutional, affirming the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals.



Brazil: The Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled in *Ximenes Lopes v. Brazil* (2006) that Brazil violated the rights to life, personal integrity, and health of a woman who was denied access to legal abortion services after being raped. The decision emphasized the obligation of states to ensure access to legal and safe abortion in cases of rape.

Mexico: Mexico City decriminalized abortion in 2007, allowing women to access abortion services within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. However, access varies across different states in Mexico, with some states having more restrictive laws.



Colombia: In *Sarmiento Palacios v. Health Insurance Administrator* (2008) case, the Constitutional Court of Colombia ruled that abortion is legal under certain circumstances, including when the woman's life or health is at risk, the fetus has severe abnormalities incompatible with life, or the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. This decision expanded access to safe and legal abortion in Colombia.



Ireland: The historic referendum in 2018 resulted in the repeal of the Eighth Amendment to the Irish Constitution, paving the way for legislation allowing abortion in Ireland. The Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 legalized abortion in certain circumstances, ending decades of restrictive abortion laws.



Uruguay: In 2012, Uruguay passed a law decriminalizing abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy, making it one of the few countries in Latin America to legalize abortion to some extent.



India: In *Suchita Srivastava v. Chandigarh Administration*, the 2009 Indian Supreme Court's decision reaffirmed a woman's right to access safe abortion services under certain circumstances. The court emphasized the importance of protecting women's reproductive autonomy and health. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act was amended in 2021 to increase the gestational limit for abortion from 20 to 24 weeks in cases of fetal abnormalities or if the woman's health is at risk. This amendment expanded access to abortion services for women in India.

These examples illustrate the diverse legal landscapes and policy changes regarding abortion rights in different countries that WGNRR has worked in over the past four decades. At the UN level where WGNRR and our partners have consistently actively engaged in, multilateral deliberations have led to agreed conclusions from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) sessions that have provided guidance on the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including:

Agreed Conclusions of the fifty-third session (2009):

These conclusions addressed various aspects of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including reproductive rights, access to healthcare services, and the prevention of maternal mortality and morbidity.

Agreed Conclusions of the fifty-seventh session (2013):

This document focused on the priority theme of "the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls." It emphasized the importance of access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning and maternal healthcare.

Agreed Conclusions of the sixty-first session (2017):

These conclusions addressed women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work. They highlighted the importance of ensuring access to SRHR services, including family planning and reproductive healthcare, to enable women's full participation in the workforce.

These agreed conclusions provide member states with guidance and recommendations for policy development and implementation to advance gender equality and SRHR globally. They serve as important advocacy tools for civil society organizations working on these issues.

If grassroots networks like WGNRR based in the global South were to disappear, it would have significant repercussions for feminist movements worldwide:



Loss of Intersectional Perspectives: Grassroots networks like WGNRR often prioritize intersectional approaches to feminism, recognizing the interconnectedness of gender, race, class, sexuality, and other dimensions of identity. Their absence would result in a loss of diverse perspectives and experiences within feminist movements, undermining efforts to address the intersecting forms of oppression faced by marginalized communities.



Erosion of Localized Advocacy: Grassroots networks are deeply rooted in local communities and understand the unique socio-political contexts and challenges faced by women and marginalized groups in their regions. Their disappearance would lead to a vacuum in localized advocacy efforts, making it difficult to address region-specific issues and advance the rights of those most affected by systemic inequalities.



Diminished Solidarity and Collaboration: Grassroots networks play a crucial role in fostering solidarity and collaboration among feminist movements at the local, regional, and global levels. Their disappearance would weaken the bonds of solidarity within the feminist movement, hindering collective action and mutual support across borders.



Undermined Grassroots Leadership: Grassroots networks empower local activists and community leaders, providing them with the resources, skills, and platforms to lead advocacy efforts in their own communities. The disappearance of these networks would undermine grassroots leadership and deprive marginalized communities of opportunities for self-representation and participation in decision-making processes.



Impact on Policy Advocacy: Grassroots networks often engage in policy advocacy at the local, national, and international levels, amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and influencing policy agendas. Their absence would weaken the advocacy capacity of feminist movements, making it harder to push for legislative and policy changes that advance gender equality and social justice.



Disruption of Interconnectedness: Like interconnected species in an ecosystem, grassroots networks are intricately linked to various social, cultural, and political contexts. Their absence would disrupt the flow of information, resources, and solidarity among different parts of the movement, weakening its overall resilience.

The disappearance of grassroots networks like WGNRR would not only diminish the diversity and resilience of feminist movements but also undermine their ability to address localized issues, foster solidarity, empower grassroots leadership, and advocate for policy change. As such, the continued existence and support of grassroots networks are essential for the strength and effectiveness of feminist movements worldwide.

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