

## Rights-driven Institutionalization of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Pakistan

A quarterly e-newsletter published by World Population Foundation for European Union's funded project titled "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development-Actions in Pakistan"

### Editorial

Much work has been done for the cause of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in many parts of the globe. Today, not only do we have SRHR charter at our disposal for guidance but it is heartening to see how ground breaking initiatives have met with success vis-à-vis technological advancement for the same. However, it is also a sad reality that owing to various sociological barriers, SRH Rights have not been able to receive the due acknowledgement in many other cultures, Pakistan being one of them.

While a number of initiatives are underway by non-governmental organizations, there is urgent need to bring this cause in the mainstream so the various efforts are no longer isolated from one another, rather the endeavours are consolidated and SRH Rights institutionalized and supported by the government.

It was then, this yearning for greater change that propelled World Population Foundation (WPF), Pakistan, after accomplishing a number of milestones, to embed the rights based approach at the policy level. Accordingly, from January 2009 WPF, Pakistan with generous support from European Union initiated "Rights Based Institutionalization of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Pakistan". At the conclusion of every quarter, WPF shall keep you up-dated with the progress of the project through this quarterly e-newsletter. May our collective efforts bring sustainable social change!

### Highlights of the Quarter

To achieve its set objectives, for "Rights-driven Institutionalization of SRH in Pakistan" WPF adopted a three pronged approach i.e. A.I.M, whereby it will Assess the prevalent SRHR landscape of Pakistan, Institutionalize SRHR in health and education sectors for young people and finally set up a mechanism to Monitor SRHR violations.

Accordingly, apart from the regular activities, such as procurement of equipment and supplies that follow the commencement of a project, the first quarter also saw an inflow of new recruitments. The project team being led by Mr. Saeed-ur-Rehman, consists of a diverse range of professionals to cater for the various dimensions of the project and make it a success.

Once the preliminaries were concluded, steps towards operationalization of the project were taken. In this realm literature review of the 12 SRH Rights and situational analysis of various parts of the world (with special emphasis on Pakistan) was conducted and concluded. Moreover, as a result of meetings with like minded organizations two Expert Panels, one at Islamabad and the other at Karachi consisting of 28 SRH specialists over all, have been formed to guide the study. An International Consultant, Dr. Jon De Wits, has also been engaged to finalize "Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Assessment Framework" (SeHRAF) and the "National Report on Status of SRHR of Young People in Pakistan". After discussion with the consultant, an International Expert Panel to review the research design, SeHRAF tool and the National Draft Report on the Status of SRH of Young People in Pakistan will also be formed.

Finally, in the last leg of the quarter, implementing partners in the target districts were oriented while their work plans and budgets finalized to operationalise the project at the district level in third quarter.

### Right in Focus

The Charter of 12 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights was chalked out by The International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF), a world wide body of 147 member associations, working in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. The Charter is rooted in the principled conviction that health and choice about one's Sexual and Reproductive life are the human rights of each individual. It is legal in character, as it is based on recognized international human rights law (UN charters, conventions etc.). Further, the rights engraved therein also address International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Millennium Development Goals. It is for this reason, that WPF, Pakistan adopted IPPF's Charter of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for the purpose of the national level SRH research. Each Quarter, this newsletter will take on one right in this section and provide in-depth information against it.

This Quarter, we will discuss "The Right to be Free from torture and ill-Treatment". This right holds that all men, women and children have the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and not to be subjected to medical or scientific treatment without free and informed consent. It can be used to campaign for protection of all persons from any form of sexual exploitation and abuse.

### Way Forward

Based on the ground-work concluded in the first quarter, the coming three months will witness the up gradation of "Rights Driven Institutionalization of Sexual and Reproductive Health in Pakistan". Some of the major highlights of the coming quarter will include:

- ⇒ 2 consultative meetings of the Expert Panel at Karachi and Islamabad;
- ⇒ Formulation of indicators in the local context for incorporation in SeHRAF tool;
- ⇒ Testing of SeHRAF model through 30 knowledge bearers from targeted districts and reworking of the prototype in light of the pilot test for full-scale implementation.

The focus of the institutionalization efforts will be in all three selected districts i.e. Karachi, Multan and Matiari. MOUs with the implementing partners will be signed and capacity building of relevant staff will be organized to launch the project there.

- ⇒ Literature review on SRHR situation in Pakistan conducted and completed
- ⇒ Expert Panel of SRHR experts formed
- ⇒ Partner organizations oriented on the project



### SRH Resources

This quarter we suggest our readers the following sources for further reading on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights issues, debates and developments nationally and globally:

☛ <http://www.ipgf.org/en/Resources/Statements/Charter+Guidelines.htm>

☛ <http://www.ipgf.org/en/Resources/Statements/Seul+rights+an+IPPF+declaration.htm>

☛ Adolescents and Reproductive Health in Pakistan: A Literature Review

Author: Ayesha Khan  
Published by: Population Council, Pakistan office  
Date: June 2000

### Editorial Team:

Areebah Shahid  
Saeed ur Rehman

### Technical Input:

Qadeer Baig  
Cyma Ashraf

### Designed by:

Kashif Muneer  
Tamim Abdul

### Disclaimer

"This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of World Population Foundation, Pakistan and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union."