



# Share-Net International Update July 2014

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## **Priority country news**

Over the past weeks there have been significant moves forward in terms of establishing Share-Net in Bangladesh and Burundi. Local consultants were appointed who undertook an agenda setting and mapping exercise in each country. Their findings were documented in country reports. In June the Coordinator of Share-Net International, Colin Dixon, was able to visit both countries to meet with potential partners and hosts for the local knowledge node. During well attended local stakeholder meetings the country reports were discussed and priority SRHR themes identified. These themes will form the basis for activity over the next four years and set the research agenda for the calls being managed through NWO/ WOTRO. In the meantime the final negotiations are underway to agree who the local knowledge nodes and hosts of Share-Net will be. These will be announced when finalised.

### *Highlights of country reports and visits*

In both countries the priority overarching theme will be youth and adolescents.

The need for a population based study on knowledge, perceptions, and practises of SRHR, with a focus on youth, was identified in both.

Sub themes which will be included in both programmes are youth friendly services, comprehensive sexuality education and the role of men and boys.

Additionally, in Bangladesh other themes will include issues for LGBT, early marriage and engagement with the private sector.

In Burundi the need was expressed to frame the work in the context of family planning and generational issues. An important theme for knowledge gathering and generation will be the role of religion in SRHR in Burundi.

### *Third Focus Country*

At meetings on the 25<sup>th</sup> June the third and final priority country was agreed.

8 nominations were received from members; Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ghana, South Africa, Indonesia, Georgia, Palestinian Territories and Jordan.

At an open meeting, members were invited to pitch for the countries nominated and discuss the selection with the Steering Committee.

After much deliberation the Steering Committee chose Jordan as the final country. The primary focus will be SRHR with refugees and include reaching out into the Palestinian Territories.

It was felt all 8 nominated countries met the criteria for a focus country and therefore the eventual decision was based on the following:

- It was felt this was a very under researched area and one in which Share-Net International could therefore have significant impact
- It was felt desirable to have a regional and thematic spread
- This was an opportunity to work in a country which wasn't seen as one of the 'usual suspects'
- The Dutch embassy in Jordan has expressed positive interest in engaging with SRHR issues
- There is potential for developing a sustainable programme and private sector interest

Work is already underway to start identifying entry points and potential stakeholders. With more focused work due to start from mid August.

### *Writing Group*

A Writing group has been formed which is now liaising with NWO/WOTRO to develop a programme document. This will be developed by NWO/WOTRO into the final research call which we aim to release in late September.

## **Website**

During the AIDS 2014 Conference in Melbourne the Share-Net International Website will be formally launched. The building and adding of different functions has been ongoing throughout the last few months so that by mid July the site will be almost fully operational. The final function which will be added in August is the online community (chat and forum). More information on this will be available later in the month.

## **Share-Net International at AIDS 2014**

We have been busy working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and STOPAIDSNOW! to plan the Holland House, a booth in the exhibition area promoting the Dutch approach. Share-Net will be staffing the booth much of the time through the 2 PLWHIV selected to attend on our behalf.

In addition Share-Net International has organised two sessions to feedback from 3 of the pre-conferences. On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July (12.45 to 14.00) Robin Irwin (GNP+ and HIV Vereniging) will present feedback from the HIV Criminalisation pre-conference and Sara Coumans (Dance4life) will present on key findings from the youth pre-conference. On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July (12.45 to 14.00) Leo Schenk (Hello Gorgeous magazine and HIV Vereniging) and Colin Dixon will present on the 2 day MSM pre-conference. In addition we have been invited to speak at a number of other sessions being

held during the conference. A debriefing session for all Share-Net International members in The Netherlands will be held in August 26, 10.00-11.30, details to follow.

## **Expert and Other meetings**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July the second expert meeting of the year was held on the subject of Youth Friendly Services. A group was formed consisting of members from Rutgers WPF, CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, KIT, Cordaid, PSI Europe, IS Academie (UvA) and STOPAIDSNOW! Together with the Share-Net secretariat this group prepared the meeting which was attended by over 80 participants. A full report will be developed and distributed by the 21<sup>st</sup> July.

The next Expert Meeting is already being planned. This will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October and will be on the subject of Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> June a meeting was organised to launch the State of the Worlds Midwifery Report. Representatives from two of the report's sponsors, UNFPA and the International Confederation of Midwives, were present to introduce the report and take questions and comments from the audience. A report from this meeting will also be available soon.

## **Working Groups**

1. Linking Research and Practice Working Group is (co-)organising two events this year: 1) the annual meeting for Master Students and NGOs end of September/early October and the annual NVTG congress of 22 October where we will organise a special session on SRHR related research. More information about these events will be sent to you shortly;
2. Operations Research Working Group had a meeting on 26 June in which different methods of Systematic Reviews re. quality and efficiency (Janneke Staaks, UvA) and realist review (Elsbet Lodenstein, VU/KIT) were presented and discussed. After these presentations organisations shared an update on the operations research in their SRHR-framework programs. The report will be available soon.

Colin Dixon

Share-Net International Coordinator