



On the **28<sup>th</sup> of June** Share-Net has organized a debriefing session about the Women Deliver conference 2016. Participants were asked to sum up highlights and key take-aways from the conference. Also, participants were encouraged to formulate future actions based on what they have seen and learned at the conference.

Additionally, some feedback on the Dutch Booth was given. Although this was not the main aim of this meeting. After the IAC this July in Durban, where the booth will be also used, a bigger meeting will be organized for the overall evaluation of the Dutch Booth.

This report is a summary of what has been shared during the debriefing and on paper by others who couldn't be at the debriefing. Statements and opinions were given during the debriefing session, that not necessary reflect everyone's opinion or view. Please find a list of people at the end whose input was integrated in this report.

### Conference: location & logistics

**5,700** policymakers, service providers, researchers, advocates, journalists and young people attended the conference from more than **2,000** organizations and **169** countries

This was the largest Women Deliver Conference to date and the largest gathering of women's health and rights advocates in over a decade, and first after adoption of Agenda 2013 – the SDGs.

During the debriefing it was mentioned that the conference was very well organized in a spacious venue, where you could move easily to the various rooms. You never felt alone though and lots of positive energy was present. The program was very diverse, detailed and well put together. Nice coffee and food available during the day. This all freed your mind to really focus on the content.

Conference delegates could find new knowledge and networks. The conference attracted many 'new' people, 81% of the participants came for the first time. Also, it was mentioned that the scope of the whole conference is widened / opened up to the broader (rights-based) issues of women and girls. It is not only in the domain of health anymore.

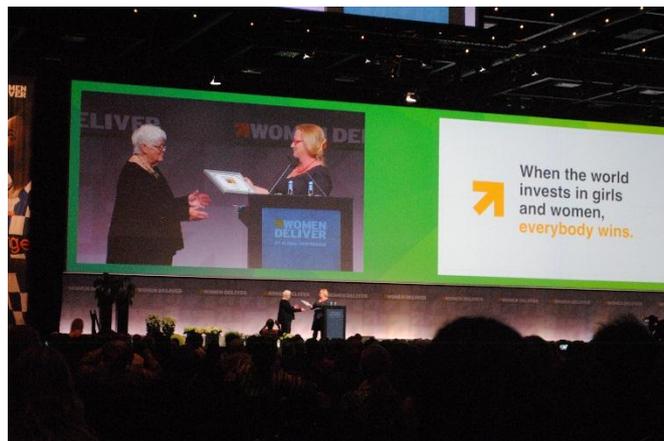
Another observation is that the conference shows more cooperation with the private sector and businesses. Multinationals, such as Philips, were present as well as smaller entrepreneurs.

One of the conference delegates mentioned during the debriefing that preparations were difficult, because the conference organizers did not give clear directions and opportunities to apply for organizing sessions within the main programme, and confirmation came very late. Suggested is a more intermediary role / facilitating role of the Dutch MoFA (as one of the big donors). Regarding the scheduling of the conference session it is mentioned that interesting side events / scientific sessions were often at ridiculous hours (6.30 am). Also, sessions organised by Dutch alliances and Dutch NGOs were scheduled at the same time by the organizers, following the closing ceremony, on the Thursday afternoon. Thus, they were competing, rather than re-enforcing the Dutch approach throughout the conference.

Another delegate doesn't share this observation and says that the organizers wanted a clear focus: how can we make SDGs work for women and girls. That is why they organized it differently compared to previous WD conferences. They put together a programming team, that set the programme. For each theme or track a group of three outstanding and widely acknowledged organizations were invited to organize the track, and strongly focus on the 'how' and on scaling up. There was no open invitation to present.

### What did we hear?

- As Chief Executive Director of Women Deliver, Katja Iversen, stated during the opening plenary; "Investing in girls and women unlocks untapped potential, and creates a ripple effect that benefits families, communities and entire nations. It's 2016. Now is the time to turn the conversation from 'if and why' to 'how and now'."
- Expansion to SDGs. How can we make SDGs work for health, well-being and rights of girls and women. Example: water and sanitation got more attention.
- Links were established with other fields. Invest in Women to Tackle Climate Change and Conserve the Environment. Given their traditional roles in agricultural production, and as the procurers of water, cooking fuel, and other household resources, women are not only well suited to find solutions to prevent further degradation and adapt to the changing climate – they have a vested interest in doing so.
- Abortion had a higher profile in the program compared to previous conferences. At least 22,500 women died from unsafe abortion complications in 2014.
- A strong call was made to liberalize abortion laws and provide safe abortion and post-abortion care. However it was recognized that we are a long way from achieving this in many countries.
- Breastfeeding and nutrition, including micro-nutrients also 'new' important RH topics.
- Lots of talk about engaging men: including Queen Maxima. The need for male engagement in feminism. Gender inequality is not a women's problem, it is everybody's problem! Therefore, we need to engage men in solving this problem.





## What did we miss?

- LGBTI issues, gender diversity: not so much on the agenda (but in some sessions)
- Really progressive talk. There is a trend that the conference has become more progressive, but sometimes it still looks for the easiest way out.
- Even more links to other communities. We preach to the converted. More links to climate, water sanitation etc. But it is difficult to find good jargon to speak to each other.
- What works? What do we know what works? How do we scale up? There were less little pilots like the ones that were presented in Kuala Lumpur. Many people were annoyed that they couldn't present and felt that the program was steered and selection not transparent. This did not help to be out of the box.
- There was a lot of American programming. This could have been better balanced, more from Europe would have possibly made it more progressive. Although it was a lot less American than in 2013, there was more voice for Africa now (but not so much for Latin-America).
- Engaging men is mentioned so often, but the terminology is becoming hollow. We need in depth: which men, at which level, patriarchal systems, etc. Go into it. What does it mean.
- Blind people / disabled people – not in the program and at the conference itself the facilities for disabled people were lacking
- Relative little talk on HIV/AIDS. It was not made explicit, but more taken for granted. SRHR includes HIV/AIDS! And vice versa.
- Digital divide between older and younger people wasn't addressed at all.

## More info:

- Bringing world leaders, policy makers, civil society organizations and youth advocates together for a global summit also comes with commitments and launches. The SRHR Alliance, used the conference as a platform to present its achievements from previous programs. Amongst others, the SRHR Alliance launched a manual about SRHR programming for youth. The SRHR Alliance also launched an action agenda, 'I Commit to Deliver', to further improve and scale up SRHR for adolescents and youth based on evidence, lessons learned and successes of the Dutch SRHR alliance programs.
- CHOICE interviewed many inspiring people for the new #yourCHOICE campaign. Armed with a camera and a voice recorder they gathered a lot of interesting, compelling and provoking stories that young people shared when asked "have you ever had to make an important choice in terms of love and sexuality?" All stories will be shared (after consent is given) on Facebook and Instagram: @your\_choice\_insta. Our CHOICErs are planning to gather more stories the coming months. If you're interested to participate, you can always contact CHOICE!
- Deliver for Good is an evidence-based advocacy campaign and communications push to promote the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women.  
<http://womendeliver.org/deliver-for-good/>
- A core element of the campaign are the following policy briefs related to the 12 investment areas. These initial briefs were drafted in consultation with more than 25 issue experts from around the world. And now it's your turn—add your expertise, insights, share case studies, and review! You're feedback is very valuable and will be carefully reviewed by the Deliver for Good team. We expect the updated briefs to be launched around the one-year anniversary

of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2016—stay tuned!

<http://womendeliver.org/deliver-for-good/review-briefs/>



## Dutch Booth



For next time:

- We should have something, a flyer?, that explains: What is the Dutch booth? What is the Dutch approach? Who is partnering? That was very much missed. On the other hand we would like to avoid paperwork – so less flyers – better have more technology in the booth, so we can show people online by e.g. using tablets.
- To be recognized as ‘one’, we could think of wearing badges.
- Why are not all (SRHR) members participating in the Dutch Booth?
- We have to take into account the many other sessions at such a conference. The schedule of the booth was too ambitious and too full.
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## Likes:

- The booth was very well appreciated by participants. We got compliments from many participants. Outstanding, attractive and easy to find booth.
- Stroopwafeltjes were appreciated.
- The booth was used as a meeting point. This was very much appreciated by people we wanted to meet.
- It was a great joint effort and a powerful message that we all stand for the 'Dutch approach'.
- The little movies that were shown on the screen were well made. We can think of re-using them for other occasions.

## Participants Debriefing

Katinka Moonen	Oxfam Novib
Judith Kreukels	AFEW
Morillio Williams	Simavi
Iris Weges	FHC
Myrna Derksen	healthefoundation
Judith de Lange	healthefoundation
Tirza de Lange	healthefoundation
Meike Stieglis	KIT/Share-Net
Colin Dixon	KIT/Share-Net
Kimberley Meijers	KIT/Share-Net
Lincie Kusters	KIT
Denise van Dijk	FHC
Ilse Wittebrood-Flink	Rutgers
Elly Leemhuis	Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken
Christina de Vries*	Cordaid
Franka Cadee*	KNOV
Leroy Smeenk*	CHOICE
Robin Jasperse*	CHOICE

\*Gave input in writing