



SECURING SHARE-NET

Share-Net International's Call to Diversify Funding and Build Partnerships

March 2024, Netherlands



SHARE-NET INTERNATIONAL

Established initially as a Dutch Network in 2001 with the support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Share-Net International (SNI) has since grown into the biggest global knowledge platform on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and a leading SRHR knowledge management entity.

Share-Net has seven country hubs working at a national and regional level in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan and the Netherlands. The network counts over 3,500 members from 80+ countries. SNI's members are registered on our centralized [Digital Platform](#).

SNI's mission is to strengthen linkages between research, policy, and practice by generating, sharing, translating, and promoting the use of knowledge for the development of better policies and practices in SRHR. We strengthen the role that knowledge can play in developing evidence-based policies and practices, ensuring that resources are used strategically and to maximum effect.

In a globally changing SRHR landscape, it is important for Share-Net to be sustained, as we contribute to keeping SRHR issues on the agenda for a more equitable society. We work from a rights based, intersectional feminist perspective, and enhance Global South leadership.

In 2022, the [Mid-Term Review](#) concluded prioritising financial sustainability with a recommendation to diversify funds. This recommendation has been acknowledged and incorporated in our [Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#).

Expanding and diversifying funding sources is aimed to be achieved at all levels of the platform internationally through the Secretariat and through the country hubs.



OUR EXPERTISE

Our knowledge broker role and expertise in **facilitation, learning trajectories, co-creation, Communities of Practice and participatory grant making** can be offered at different levels - national, regional, international - in similar or different packages based on needs.

Based in the Netherlands, SNI is the **strategic knowledge partner in SRHR for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. In the past 4 years Share-Net has taken up a knowledge brokering role between the Dutch funded SRHR partnerships in both the Netherlands as well as in the other six country hubs where SRHR partnerships are being implemented.

At the same time, a wide portfolio of expertise in knowledge management has been built. SNI members are served with this expertise and have access to many resources and activities. Feedback and evaluations are overwhelmingly positive, and we regularly receive requests to roll out or upscale our work. The Digital Platform has also become a valuable resource. Donor organizations could hugely benefit from the enormous network and the opportunities to generate information about specific SRHR needs. Selected member groups could be approached and consulted on specific themes, assumptions can be tested, and input and expertise can be requested.

FACILITATION

Our effective off- and online facilitation guides members through change processes while creating inclusive spaces that encourage diverse perspectives, promoting a culture of openness and collaboration. SNI believes that facilitation is beyond just steering conversations; it is about **harnessing collective wisdom and cultivating an environment where every voice is being heard**. In webinars, workshops, events, creative activities, or campaigns, SNI connects members and non-members from all over the globe strengthening knowledge on SRHR.



LEARNING TRAJECTORIES

Another expertise is the development of learning trajectories. SNI uses its own [rapid improvement model](#), which is a collaborative approach designed to be an engaging and meaningful experience to explore, experiment, and exchange together. For example, about effective strategies to translate newly acquired knowledge around SRHR. Our approach helps members to **close the gap between what we know and what we do**, by creating a structure in which members can easily learn from each other and from recognized experts in areas where they want to make improvements.



CO-CREATION

We use the co-creation methodology for knowledge translation. Co-Creation is a **participatory, inclusive, and creative process encouraging active engagement** from all participants who will develop a knowledge product together. SNI has implemented this methodology in three Co-Creation Conferences, organized over the past five years on different SRHR and global health topics. The methodology is documented in a [workshop facilitation toolkit](#).



COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

SNI believes that learning exchanges and knowledge sharing are integral to maximizing impact among members working on a particular topic, or different members working towards a similar objective. To facilitate this, we provide support to members collaborating with different stakeholders to set up and facilitate Communities of Practices (CoPs) based on the needs of the members and their stakeholders. SNI has experience setting up and facilitating CoPs on different SRHR topics, currently over 20 CoPs are managed across SNI's platform. A guide has been developed on [How to Set Up a SRHR CoP](#).



PARTICIPATORY GRANT MAKING

We use Participatory Grant Making (PGM) to activate knowledge, research, and resources concerning SRHR. PGM is value-based and recognizes that selecting grants contributes directly to movement building and is about more than funding. It involves the community in all parts of the grantmaking. The grant application process is open, simple, and flexible. It is transparent and builds and strengthens SRHR movements. Over the years, SNI has awarded more than 100 grants to its members. This has resulted in the creation of various knowledge products (KPs) ranging from policy briefs to podcasts and card games. A [Knowledge Product Library](#) showcase all these knowledge products.



*Connecting with like-minded individuals fuels collaboration and passion. Embracing diversity within groups amplifies learning opportunities. The **shared commitment to advancing rights for young people, women, and minorities** unites diverse CoPs. While not always centered on tangible outcomes, the exchange of knowledge and mutual education enhances personal development. These connections prove meaningful, fostering enriching relationships and understanding among individuals dedicated to various causes. In essence, the **power lies in the collective pursuit of shared goals and continuous learning.***

– Lindsay van Clief, Share-Net Netherlands' Member

OUR AMBITION

In our pursuit of sustained impact and enhanced reach within the realm of sexual and reproductive health and rights, we are **actively seeking new partnerships and collaborations**. As the foremost international network and platform in this field, we recognise our pivotal role in advancing the visibility of SRHR issues.

While we are grateful for the ongoing support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands, we anticipate a significant and pressing funding gap beyond 2024. Diversifying our funding base is imperative to fortify our platform amidst uncertain financial landscapes. Expanding our sources of support would not only enable us to expand our initiatives but also empower us to address specific geographic and thematic areas with greater security.

Partnerships with us can facilitate core funding, empowering Share-Net International to sustain and expand our collaborative efforts as knowledge brokers on a global scale. Moreover, joining forces with Share-Net International on diverse projects promises mutual impact and ensures the continued prominence of SRHR on the international agenda.

In 2022, **'Unplugged' in Kenya** received a Share-Net Knowledge Activation Grant, enabling **crucial LGBTQI+ research**. Overcoming government-driven fears, they united organizations working with the community, collecting fresh data through interviews. Their report catalyzed positive shifts – heightened acceptance, friendlier health providers, and a consortium for intersectional advocacy. The ripple effect extended nationwide, connecting grassroots organizations.

Empowered by the grant, Unplugged now advocates for research-based LGBTQI+ policies, showcasing the transformative impact of the Knowledge Activation Grant on **community visibility, acceptance, and policy reform**.



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