

Share-Net International

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights

Consolidated Report 2020-2024



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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CCC	Co-Creation Conference
CoP(s)	Community(ies) of Practice
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KIT	Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and more
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MPI	Multi-Party Initiative
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PMEL	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
SHIRIM	Share-Net International Rapid Improvement Model
SNI	Share-Net International
SN-BA	Share-Net Bangladesh
SN-BF	Share-Net Burkina Faso
SN-BU	Share-Net Burundi
SN-CO	Share-Net Colombia
SN-ET	Share-Net Ethiopia
SN-JO	Share-Net Jordan
SN-NL	Share-Net Netherlands
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organization





A MESSAGE

on behalf of the Share-Net International Secretariat

This report can be referred to as a “storyful” place. It captures 5 years of growth and exchange to advance Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). But the story goes back many more years. In 2024 we celebrated the 10th birthday of Share-Net International.

Share-Net International became my baby in 2020. But today many people will say Share-Net is their baby.

Well... it takes a village to raise a child, doesn't it? And to be honest, when I became the coordinator, Share-Net was not a baby anymore. There was a long history of Share-Net Netherlands established in 2001. Hubs in Bangladesh, Jordan and Burundi. I was handed a very well-fed child, adolescent, and young adult. With a suitcase full of experience and knowledge management tools and clear direction. About to spread our wings to three more country hubs (Colombia, Burkina-Faso and Ethiopia). As real Gen Z's, with a little push by Corona, we started to get into digital.

Today, we are very proud of all we have been able to build. With The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our partners, our country secretariats, but mostly our 3500+ members! We are even more proud with all the work we have done to bring research, policy, and practice together. Proud with our results! Even though this report is full of results, it remains a little difficult to talk about results. Let me tell you why.

Firstly, because we do not like to brag. Also, because I think honesty lasts the longest. It is just extremely hard to claim results when it comes to changes in policy and practice on SRHR. And this has little to do with WHAT we do. But with HOW we do things TOGETHER. I mean how can you claim things that are done by so many people? There is also something about the way we have been monitoring; focusing on outcomes, sometimes forgetting the process? But mostly because we do not live in a vacuum. The SRHR context is quite a special context. Highly political, sensitive, with many influences and forces. Extremely difficult to understand let alone control. And those influences and forces come in waves. And yes, we are in very troublesome water at the moment.

Yet with his report and the results presented we can be proud. Very proud of what we have been able to build in the past years. The successes that we have documented and /or witnessed as members. And I believe there is so much more that we were not able to capture. I hope that whatever the future brings, Share-Net International members hold on to and build on their own Share-Net International and SRHR successes. Because it is what we have built together and our shared successes that drive us and make us thrive.

Let's, one way or the other, keep sharing, for SRHR!

Dorine Thomissen, Share-Net International Co-Coordinator
on behalf of the SNI Secretariat



INTRODUCTION



Share-Net International is the knowledge platform on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), funded through the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Share-Net International is a membership network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), researchers, policymakers, implementers, advocates, students, the media, activists, and companies operating in the SRHR field, working across the globe. Since 2021, Share-Net International has seven operational national hubs in Bangladesh, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan and the Netherlands, as well as via a centralised Digital Platform.

This consolidated multi-annual report reflects on Share-Net International and the seven hub's activities that were carried out throughout 2020 - 2024, and details on the major changes which occurred throughout this period. The aim of this review is not only to report on Share-Net International's activities but to also analyse how and if activities have had a positive impact on moving the network closer to its goals, which are shared below. In preparation for this report, all hubs and Share-Net International have collected data from their members through qualitative interviews and surveys. Quotes and points of views from members are shared throughout this report to help us evaluate our outcomes and impact.

Our Mission and Vision

Below you can find the mission and vision of Share-Net International. Due to locally different political environments, some of the Share-Net hubs have opted for the contextualisation of the vision and mission, while all adhere in principle to our common vision and mission. All activities carried out by Share-Net International are done so with the hopes of achieving the goals that our mission and vision include.





1

ORGANISATIONAL GROWTH

This chapter focuses on organisational growth and changes that occurred in the Share-Net International network between 2020 and 2024, highlighting how the network has continued to expand globally, both online and offline, and provides a reflection on the development of the network.

1.1. Our Growing Network

Since 2020, Share-Net International has aimed to be a sexual and reproductive health and rights knowledge platform that provides innovative and creative solutions to help SRHR practitioners, policymakers and researchers generate, share, and translate knowledge on a wide range of sensitive and neglected SRHR topics. As part of the network, members benefit from opportunities to promote the use of knowledge via networking activities and a supportive space to come together and identify existing knowledge gaps. This ambition has also been fostered by the various hubs of the network which expanded in 2020 - 2021 to include Burkina Faso, Colombia and Ethiopia.

EXPANDING THE SHARE-NET FAMILY

In 2021, following an extensive selection process, Share-Net expanded its global network to include three new country hubs, Burkina Faso, Colombia and Ethiopia.

Throughout the year, the new hubs laid the groundwork for their national networks. Each hub established a Steering Committee, began forming Communities of Practice (CoPs), developed their website and launched national events to introduce themselves to local and national actors:

- **Share-Net Burkina Faso** launched on the 16 September 2021, with the engagement of the Dutch Ambassador and country's Ministry of Health.
- **Share-Net Colombia** launched on 30 November 2021, centering the topic 'Knowledge as a tool against Gender-Based Violence', bringing in actors from academia, civil society, the private sector and the government into the discussion (which was also live-streamed online).
- **Share-Net Ethiopia** went live on 12 August 2021, with a stakeholder workshop involving media, academia and civil society, aimed at bolstering their engagement on SRH issues, boost capacity building, and mark the start of the project's implementation.

To support the integration of the new hubs within the network and set a strong foundation for their work, an adapted version of the Share-Net International Rapid Improvement Model (SHIRIM) was implemented between April and September 2021. Normally designed to improve SRHR knowledge translation into policy and practice, the 2021 SHIRIM cycle was adapted to integrate capacity strengthening with a focus on the newly established hubs. It was also adjusted to take place online in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Still, SHIRIM's so-called Collaborative Approach remained at the heart of the programme – facilitating structured learning, peer exchange and community building amongst new and existing hubs. The key modules included: Values & Approaches; Decolonising Share-Net; Meaningful Youth Participation; Communication & Networking; Online skills-building and Fundraising. The ensuing evaluation, showed that participants from both the older and new hubs appreciated the strengthened sense of belonging to the network and the opportunity for mutual and in-depth learning on key topics for Share-Net.

Over the years, the network has vastly grown which can be attributed to the various ways in which Share-Net provides added value to its members and their work:

- **Diversity within the network**

The network has been successful not only engaging members working on SRHR issues, but also others working on aligned/ broader human rights, gender equality, and development topics. This provides member with a representative network that integrates a comprehensive approach, recognizing that SRHR issues cannot only be improved by SRHR actors but require a holistic approach beyond the field. For example, in 2020, Share-Net International also brought in members working on food security, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education.

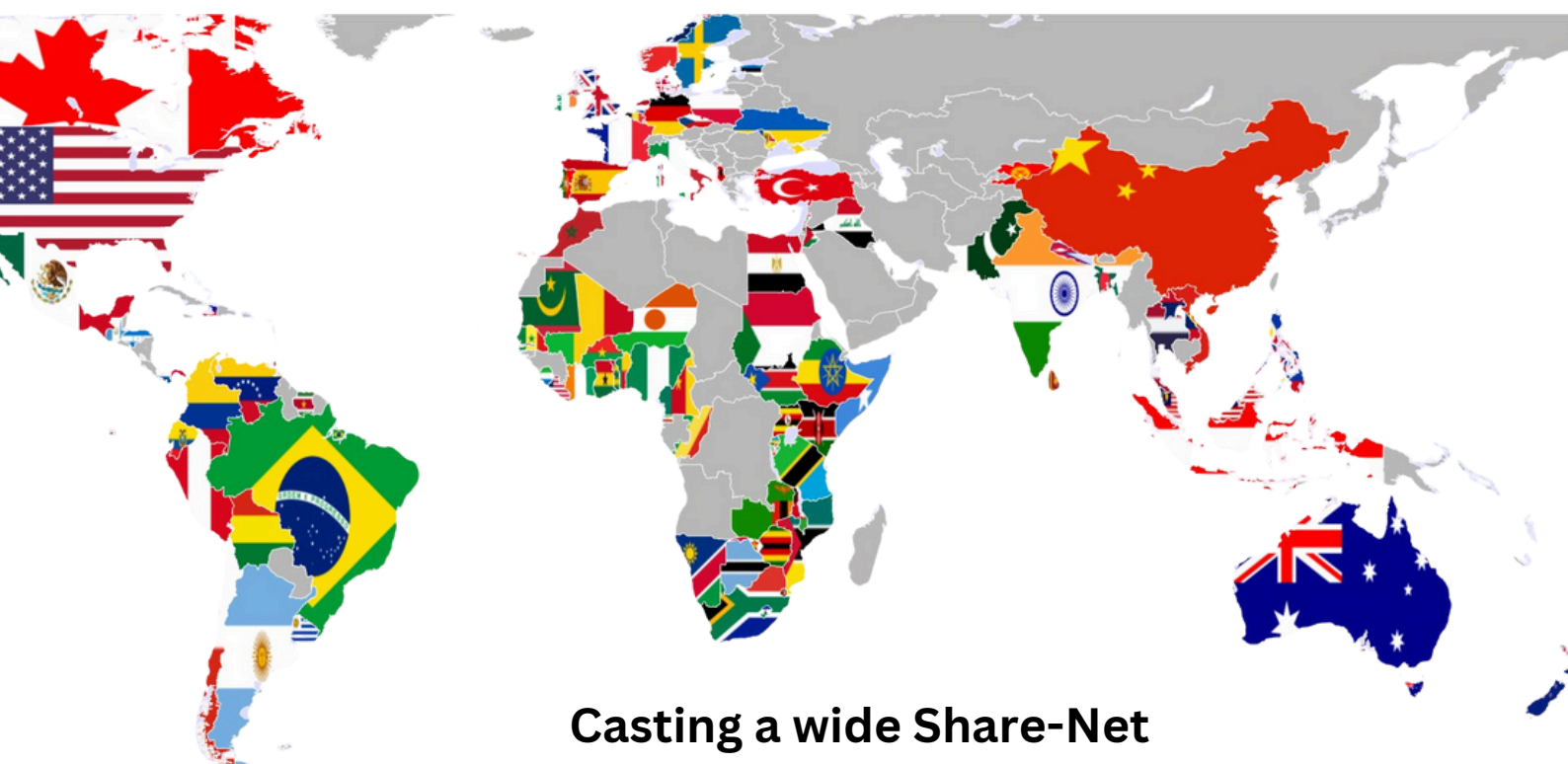
Furthermore, across all hubs, the various backgrounds of members – both individuals and organisations – brought in insights from academic, civil society organizations, governments, the private sector, social enterprises and youth organizations.

- **Space for synergies**

Recognizing the benefits of facilitating space for synergies, Share-Net has been able to support members across various fields, geographies and backgrounds to consult, collaborate and co-create collectively. For example, one of our members from Botswana shared that, for them, the diversity of the Share-Net International's membership provides depth and diversity in terms of perspectives and feedback that they would not receive at country level given the limited SRHR policy and programming frameworks in their national context.

- **Tailored initiatives based on regional / local priorities**

Through active recruitment and adjusted national and regional engagement, Share-Net has been able to attract members by maintaining an influence grounded in the contexts it serves. For example, in Bangladesh, the hub's ability to appeal to broader thematic issues and promote multi-sectoral collaboration contributed to Share-Net Bangladesh's position as the largest hub. In Colombia, introducing innovative initiatives, such as the 2024 Knowledge Exchange Fair, attracted participants not only from Colombia but the wider region, thus solidifying the hub's regional influence. Furthermore, Share-Net Netherlands' focus on inclusivity, such as on disability justice continued to attract members committed to advancing SRHR advocacy throughout 2024.



Casting a wide Share-Net

Share-Net has members registered on its Digital Platform from **93 countries**, including:

Argentina
Botswana
Cameroon
Cyprus
DRC
Egypt
France
The Gambia

Germany
Ghana
India
Ireland
Kenya
Malawi
Nepal
Nigeria

Pakistan
Palestine
Panama
Peru
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Suriname

Tanzania
Thailand
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States
Zimbabwe



3,336

members registered
on our Digital
Platform

4,214

total members
across Share-Net
International

A Flourishing Membership

Over the past years Share-Net has grown into a global network made up by its diverse membership.



SHARE-NET BANGLADESH: 1,874



SHARE-NET ETHIOPIA: 457



SHARE-NET BURKINA FASO: 223



SHARE-NET JORDAN: 332



SHARE-NET BURUNDI: 212



SHARE-NET NETHERLANDS: 132



SHARE-NET COLOMBIA: 458

1.2. Partnerships

In addition to membership growth, Share-Net's secretariat and hubs have been successful in forging and fostering strategic partnerships that have been impactful in addressing SRHR challenges in policy and practice. By co-organising meetings, promoting collaborative research, and contributing to national and international strategies, the network has leveraged partnerships to deliver on SRHR progress.

Between 2022 and 2024 alone, 92 new partnerships were forged. These include partnerships with multilateral organisations, civil society organisations, academia, government ministries and global donors. Such as, Asia Pacific Alliance for SRHR, the Center for Countering Digital Hate, Engender Health, Equality Now, European Parliamentary Forum on SRHR, IBP Network, IPAS, Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence, local Ministries of Health, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), USAID and the University of Edinburgh.

Key examples of successful collaborations throughout the years include:

- In 2023, Share-Net International signed a Global Health Pact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health Welfare and Sports, and 20 other organisations, to strengthen our forces.
- Similarly, in 2023, Share-Net International also strengthened its partnerships with the Royal Netherlands Embassies in Colombia, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh and Burundi and had meetings in other countries including Kenya and Uganda.
- Share-Net Ethiopia collaborated with the White Ribbon Alliance on the global "What Women Want" campaign, amplifying women's voices in national and global policy dialogues in 2024.
- Share-Net Jordan's partnership with the UNFPA under the 10th country program (2022–2027) supported the development of an action plan for the Jordanian national Sexual and Reproductive Health strategy (2020–2030).
- Share-Net Burundi's network growth has also been strong, cultivating relationships with the Government of Burundi via its specialised programs. This includes the National Reproductive Health Program, the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the National AIDS Control Council, the *Zero Pregnancy* unit within the Ministry of Education, and the United Nations agencies present in Burundi, including UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO and UNAIDS.

1.3. Regional Approach

In 2020, Share-Net international began exploring its regional approach as a gradual process towards fostering an inspiring and organic network of organisations and practitioners working on SRHR and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the geographical regions of the existing country hubs, meeting the needs and opportunities of each region, building on the Share-Net values.

In light of this, the following key objectives were identified and successfully implemented by 2024:

- Facilitate regional learning and knowledge exchange to influence and improve SRHR policy and practice in line with Share-Net International's vision and unique selling point
- Increase the visibility and recognition of Share-Net International and the Share-Net hub in the region
- Strengthen and expand the Share-Net International network by increasing the membership base with SRHR actors and building strategic partnerships to exchange best practices and accumulate knowledge findings
- Connect and link members in different countries in the region to work on context-relevant SRHR topics and implementation.

Across the various hubs in Jordan, Bangladesh, the Netherlands and later Burkina Faso and Burundi, strategic efforts were accelerated to move beyond national boundaries and engage at the regional level as leaders in knowledge generation, translation and sharing. The regional expansion process began with initial scoping studies conducted in 2020 and 2021, followed by planning and piloting in 2020 and by 2023-2024 implementation was in full swing. By building internal capacity as well as supporting partners, hubs were able to leverage regional efforts and increase their visibility. This included the launch of online platforms and communities of practice while actively participating in regional events to promote the hubs' work and the thematic expertise they offered.

Regional knowledge exchange formed the foundation of the regional strategy, which included strategic engagement through events, knowledge products and partnerships. More specifically, regional Co-Creation Conferences, webinars and virtual engagements, and regional mapping and best practice analysis took place through the implementation period in the various hubs.

REGIONAL APPROACH SPOTLIGHT

Bangladesh

Gender analysis on CSE in South Asia

Bangladesh's regional presence has grown since 2020 and in 2023 they explored South-Asian regional knowledge translation, learning, and knowledge-sharing activities in India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The core thematic focus centred on Equality and Mutual Collaboration in SRHR. The team has participated in developing a regional knowledge product under the theme SRHR and Education, entitled 'Gender Analysis of the Existing Government Comprehensive Sexuality Education Curriculum'.

Burkina Faso

Webinar on regional best practices

In 2023, the SN-BF Secretariat hosted a popular and well-attended webinar sharing regional best practices for SRHR in Burkina Faso and Senegal, featuring speakers from Marie Stopes Senegal, and CAPSSR, moderated by the Ouagadougou Partnership Coordination Unit. The various panellists shared examples of good practices, like communities of practice, youth engagement interventions, and safe abortion by law. The meeting encouraged networking and sharing between sub-regional players and boosted the visibility of the Share-Net Burkina Faso Platform regionally.

Another core element of the regional strategy was advancing strategic partnerships and fundraising, both at the regional and global levels. This included, participation at regional conferences and global conferences with a regional focus, collaboration with multilateral actors and civil society organizations and scoping sustainable funding opportunities.

Netherlands

Regional priorities and funding opportunities in the EU

Between 2023 and 2024, SN-NL invested in exploring EU-focused funding through research, mapping and strengthened positioning.

In 2023, the hub completed a desk-review of the European Union-level SRHR landscape and a European Union donor mapping, strengthening their positioning on the European context. In the following year, Share-Net Netherlands mapped EU donor opportunities. Thereby, highlighting emerging regional priorities, including growing SRHR opposition. The findings will guide plans to pursue European Commission funding in 2025, strengthening the network's regional influence in the EU.

Importantly, hubs integrated a tailored approach according to regional context and needs. Thus, ensuring contextual relevance and promoting localisation.

REGIONAL APPROACH SPOTLIGHT

Burundi

Linking regional SRHR to rule of law and security

Following their attendance at UNFPA's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, SN-BU was invited to join the Sister Knowledge Platform on Security and Rule of Law, where the secretariat built capacity on intersectionality of security and rule of law with SRHR. SN-BU's virtual presence helped them learn about advocacy achievements of the partnership, particularly about access to contraception and abortion service with regional partners in East-Africa's SRHR Bill, pending to pass in countries' parliaments, including Burundi. The insights gained are remained beneficial for future advocacy efforts.

Jordan

Exploring education system integration across the MENA region

In 2024, Share-Net Jordan organised its first Regional Co-Creation Conference (CCC), bringing together 22 experts from Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Jordan. The CCC focused on exploring how Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and SRHR concepts can be effectively integrated into school curricula across the MENA region – providing space for dialogue and knowledge exchange, identifying critical areas for further research. This included assessing educators' readiness to address sexuality education in Lebanon, developing a conceptual framework for SRHR integration into Egypt's educational curricula, and analysing tools used in Jordan



1.4. Operational Frameworks and Strategic Developments

Since 2020, Share-Net's frameworks, both operational and strategic, have been regularly reviewed and adapted based on evidence and feedback. Based on collective reflection and joint workshops with hub and secretariat staff, the Theory of Change was revised in 2023-2024, to ensure that the network remains relevant to the various contexts it operates in. Furthermore, the [2023-2027 Strategic Plan](#) was updated based on the mid-term review outcomes, which amongst others highlighted the need to increase diversity, inclusion and engagements amongst members (particularly from the Global South), and increase knowledge translation into policy advocacy.

A clear need that became apparent over the years, has been the urgent need to diversify funding and develop a sustainable funding plan. Here, the Mid-Term Review flagged funding volatility as a key threat to Share-Net's future. Additional strategic planning and workshoping identified potential new funders and revenue streams.

Between 2020- 2024, Share-Net shifted its focus towards supporting the hubs to lead and adapt strategies according to their national and regional realities. Hubs were supported to develop tailored knowledge products relevant to identified SRHR needs. In 2024, the Knowledge Translation Fund (KTF) encouraged decentralized decision-making and budgeting. Designed to enable hubs to contextualise and test knowledge translation methodologies tailored to their unique context, the KTF allowed each participating hub to create knowledge products and foster collaboration addressing national and regional SRHR challenges. This initiative facilitated the translation of SRHR knowledge into actionable policies and practices, showcasing the potential of contextualised approaches in achieving global impact.

As part of the KTF, a series of monthly KTF Check-in & Exchange Meetings were organised throughout 2024, totalling 12 sessions. These sessions provided a structured platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building across Share-Net hubs engaged in KTF projects, including Jordan, Colombia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso. One additional session focused on effective strategies for knowledge translation and use in the specific context of each hub.

The collective learnings from all the participating hubs were showcased at ["Strategies for Change" KTF Dissemination Event](#) in December 2024. This event aimed to showcase the objectives, journey, and achievements of the KTF at the international level and within each hub. Rather than focusing only on outcomes, the dissemination event emphasised the processes contributing to successful knowledge translation and application.

Knowledge Translation Fund SPOTLIGHT

Colombia

Share-Net Colombia awarded four grants, including a travelling museum on transgender SRHR, a digital toolbox for individuals with intellectual disabilities, a [didactic booklet with traditional games](#) and a capacity-building initiative on CSE for transgender leaders. These efforts highlight the fund's role in driving creative, context-specific solutions to SRHR challenges.

Jordan

Share-Net Jordan utilised the KTF to fund three projects stemming from a regional co-creation conference. These addressed educators' readiness for SRHR topics in Lebanon, developed frameworks for integrating SRHR into curricula, and analysed kindergarten tools to enhance sexuality education in Jordan.

[>> Read more about the Knowledge Translation Fund in the 2024 Annual Report](#)

Recognising the importance of sustainability and continuity, a series of co-creation workshops were organised in 2024 in Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso to chart a strategic path forward. The workshops aimed to explore strategies for sustaining operations with limited or no funding, with key discussions focusing on diversifying income, building local partnerships, and using existing network resources. Outputs included an overview of each hub's core expertise and themes, scoping of potential funders, partners and alternative income sources, and the identification of a minimal operational package to keep functioning. These informed sustainability plans and pitch decks for future fundraising.

1.5. Digital Presence

Developing an integrated Digital Platform

Since its launch in October 2021, Share-Net's Digital Platform has been a key online space for the secretariat and hubs to connect and interact, enhance knowledge sharing through a centralized platform and encourage matchmaking, collaboration and peer learning on SRHR issues globally. The platform was built to meet members' needs (including policymakers, practitioners and researchers), such as highlighting SRHR research and findings, funding calls, collaboration

opportunities, and spotlight events. It also integrated key functionalities such as the HubSpot CRM (to centralize contacts and communication), the Trainers Lab (an international matchmaking platform for trainers around the topic of SRHR, developed by the GUSO programme, funded by MofA between 2016-2020, with Sex Rights Africa Network) and the [Knowledge Product Library](#) (featuring over 120 SRHR knowledge products produced by members who have received Share-Net grants since 2014, thus, enabling easy access to evidence-based insights and strengthening the link between knowledge and practice).

Since its inception, the platform's reach has significantly expanded – attracting 28,300 unique visitors in 2024 alone. In light of the platform's growth, the design of the platform was informed by user research in 2020 and between 2021-2023 a strong emphasis was placed on ensuring digital safety and privacy on the platform. The latter included ensuring the platform is GDPR compliant and data management remains secure. Furthermore, in light of the sensitivity of SRHR work, particularly in restrictive environments, safeguarding user privacy was prioritized by updating privacy policies, implementing encryption protocols and anonymous participation and data collection.

Prioritizing Digital Rights for SRHR

In 2023 and 2024, digital rights for SRHR emerged as a thematic priority in light of worrying trends of censorship, dis- and misinformation, online surveillance and legal restrictions affecting SRHR content, information and research.

In August 2023, a restrictive new cyber law in Jordan severely limited Share-Net Jordan's ability to share SRHR information. A legal review was commissioned, prompting a broader assessment of legal and digital SRHR restrictions across all Share-Net hubs, continuing into 2024.

Recognizing the need for increased digital safety in a rapidly changing and increasingly hostile digital landscape, Share-Net International also started drafting digital safety and security information for SRHR practitioners in the network and engaged in Digital Rights events throughout 2023 (e.g. RightsCon 2023 and two Digital Rights for SRHR

webinars by Share Net Netherlands and Women's Link Worldwide). In 2024, a new International CoP on Digital Rights was formed, aiming to foster shared experiences and knowledge and efforts to bridge gaps between research, policy, and practice.

Strengthening Hybrid Integration within the Network

While there was a strong growth of the network online, such as through the Digital Platform, within Share-Net there also was a strong recognition of the importance of sustained in-person and offline engagements. This was visible in the new membership engagement strategy which responded to the fatigue of virtual-only platforms after COVID.

In line with this, Share-Net recognized the demand for a stronger integration of hybrid events to improve inclusion and accessibility, along with a need to address the digital divide within the network. The strengthened integration of hybrid efforts, successfully helped expand the network's global reach and local impact by 2024, through harnessing digital innovation and on-the-ground engagement.

In turn, the network has continued to build a thriving global community that is well-positioned to address the complex challenges of SRHR in diverse contexts.





2

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

This chapter will look at the impact and outcomes of Share-Net International's activities between 2020- 2024. Impact and outcomes are assessed along the different outcomes stated in the Theory of Change (Annex I).

The Theory of Change assumes that through the four knowledge management pathways of knowledge generation, translation, sharing and promotion of knowledge use, combined with network development, the following outcomes can be achieved:

- A network of SRHR Community of Practice (CoP) is operational, enabling members and strategic partners to connect, discuss and share, translate and co create SRHR knowledge;
- These CoPs are empowered and sustainable;
- Policymakers, practitioners, and researchers have better access to SRHR information and knowledge;
- Researchers can address scientifically, politically and practically relevant knowledge gaps in SRHR;
- Actual and effective learning is taking place between and in countries among researchers, policymakers and practitioners
- Knowledge is applied to evidence-informed SRHR programmes, policies and practice

Upon achieving these outcomes, Share-Net International will reach its goal of contributing to the improvement of SRHR by promoting evidence-based knowledge that is applied to SRHR policies and practice. This chapter shares the collective activities of Share-Net International and its hubs that were conducted between 2020-2024 that have contributed to further reaching the Theory of Change outcomes.

2.1. Network development outcomes

2.1.1. A network of SRHR CoPs is operational, enabling members and strategic partners to connect, discuss, share, translate and co-create SRHR knowledge.

A Community of Practice is a space where individuals with shared interests gather—virtually or in-person—to share experiences, explore challenges and opportunities, exchange best practices, and co-create knowledge. Across Share-Net hubs, CoPs are vibrant spaces for members at all career stages to connect and collaborate on key SRHR issues. They provide opportunities for critical thinking, discussions, and action to address knowledge gaps and

advocacy needs. Between 2020 and 2024, the number of active CoPs grew from 25 to 44 across all hubs and the Share-Net International Secretariat.

View all (International) Communities of Practice [here](#).

Reflections from within the CoP

Building and Nurturing Connections Across Diverse Disciplines and Perspectives

"Share-Net Netherlands' convening power is something that can't be overstated. Bringing together people with diverse expertise gave us insights we wouldn't have had otherwise." Similarly, another member from Bangladesh reflected, "Share-Net's ability to bring together multidisciplinary voices enabled us to capture diverse perspectives, which is indispensable in shaping inclusive SRHR policies"

– Member Share-Net Bangladesh, 2024.

"Share-Net's ability to bring together multidisciplinary voices enabled us to capture diverse perspectives, which is indispensable in shaping inclusive SRHR policies".

– Member Share-Net Bangladesh, 2024.

"In the Communities there are members who come from all walks of life, who come from academic or 'formal' knowledge, but there are also those who come from the 'street school', or who have knowledge that is not considered 'formal', this mix makes the groups very dynamic."

– Share-Net Member, 2023.

"Talking about menstruation in Burundi is still considered taboo. The fact that we have a community of practice to deal with this topic that nobody talks about has been a great learning experience. Through this community of practice, we had an opportunity to network with other actors in the field. We presented on the state of the art of menstrual health."

– Member Share-Net Burundi, 2022.

Reflections from within the CoP

Stimulating and promoting knowledge co-creation

SN-JO's CoP on Empowering Women and Girls and Achieving Gender Equality by Ensuring Access to SRHR produced a policy brief on this very topic and a member who participated in the creation of the brief shared his appreciation for the CoP as an effective mechanism that brings members together and allows for the sharing of data and studies from members in different fields. The knowledge gathered through the CoP prompted this SN-JO member to disseminate studies shared from other CoP members as well as the policy brief to his master's students at the university in which he teaches. The policy brief along with other findings from studies conducted by SN-JO's CoPs were relayed to key policy makers who, it is hoped, will use this knowledge in their work. (2020 Annual Report)

A member of SN-NL's CoP on infertility shared that *"It's the fact Share-Net brings together this field in the Netherlands and more broadly – I think that is huge. That is very valuable. Knowing who the actors and organisations are, knowing where to find people and easily contact them."* As infertility is a neglected area within SRHR, this member stressed that the main objective of their CoP is to raise the profile of this issue, placing it higher up on the agendas of various policy makers and NGOs. They felt that their involvement with Share-Net and the networking opportunities brought forward by SN-NL and its CoP had helped to do this. Furthermore, this member shared how she uses the work of the CoP in her own work. She reported that Share-Net allows her to translate research conducted by herself and others, and to apply this in policies and practice. She discussed the way in which the infertility CoP brings together people from different corners of the sector – policy, practice, and academic. She described how *"Working together from those different directions has been the biggest asset of Share-Net [Netherlands]. I collaborate with other people and we share insights to get things done. Without this network, if I only worked with academics, I would never be able to do that."* (2020 Annual Report)



Reflections from within the CoP

Fostering Spaces for Mutual / Peer-To-Peer Learning and Support

Drug use by youth in Burkina Faso is very relevant in the context of the country which became in the recent years a “consumer country” in terms of drug use, consequently exposing youth. This situation worsened with the deterioration of national security and since 2022, the hub rolled out a CoP on Drug Use and SRHR.

“This community helps to break the silence around this very sensitive topic for parents and especially youth. Thanks to the knowledge sharing within this Community of Practice I now know that many youth SRHR issues like unintended pregnancies, abortion, and sexual diseases resulted from drug use,” according to a youth member in 2022. Their organisation shared that they will add this question in their youth approach: *“Share-Net Burkina Faso is effectively playing its role as a networking platform given the diversity of stakeholders involved in this community of practice”*. A year later, in 2023, a member further shared: *“Thanks to the members of the CoP [on drug use and SRHR], I'm now aware of the extent of drug use and, above all, the types of drugs because we used to consume certain drinks without even knowing that they were part of the drug class. This CoP is an innovation and should have more funds to implement awareness-raising activities and facilitate care for people in need.”* (2022 and 2023 Annual Report)

“It has been more than three years since I first joined the SRHR & Media CoP. Since then, I have already attended various meetings and seminars focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and related issues. I have managed to establish links with peer journalists in Ethiopia, health professionals and experts working under the Consortium of Reproductive Health Associations. Moreover, I have attended trainings that have contributed to my efforts to enhance my capacity in SRHR reporting and related matters. Based on this, I have produced several news stories covering range of issues in the area. I am now equipped with basic understanding on how to cover SRHR and other health related matters in a way that can shed light on underlying problems and possible solutions for the challenges in the country.

The Share-Net Media CoP has also enabled me to get a clear understanding on extent of challenges in the delivery of adolescent and sexual reproductive health in the country. I have also developed my understanding on policy related issues and the ways to convince policy makers through up-to-date reports on the issue. Generally, thanks to the CoP, I have managed to become a journalist specialising on the aforementioned issues.” - Member Share-Net Ethiopia, SRHR & Media CoP, 2023.

2.1.2. National, sustainable and empowered CoPs on SRHR are established and operational

The concept of CoPs established by Share-Net International is contingent on them being spaces of change and flexibility. While the ultimate goal of CoPs is that SRHR actors can connect, learn and exchange, and identify and address knowledge gaps, the ways in which CoPs are composed and function differ across the different country hubs. This ensures that the CoPs are contextualised, fit-for-purpose and meet the needs of the members as identified by the national secretariats. To assess whether CoPs were indeed empowered and operational, surveys were sent to members across the years, spanning from 2020 – 2024.

On the whole, members shared that their SRHR-related knowledge, skills, and capacity have been strengthened through their CoP engagement. They also noted that CoP stimulate their professional development, contributing to their own work performance and competencies. Moreover, members shared that CoPs are safe and respectful spaces for dialogue and learning and that their relevance to their local context is effective in meeting country-specific SRHR needs. The strong focus on collaboration, peer learning and co-creation of knowledge products was also flagged as a key benefit of CoPs.

More specifically, in 2020, members were positive about the high member engagement, the diversity within the network, scope for learning, and overall atmosphere within CoPs. These benefits were also reflected in the following year, where members also reported satisfaction with the influencing actions taken by CoPs, the implementation of the knowledge acquired, the link with topics from their areas of work and the contribution of CoPs in work improvement, knowledge dissemination efforts, the quality of outputs and outcomes and room offered to address challenges. A welcome development was the introduction of WhatsApp groups as a way to stay informed and exchange relevant information. To strengthen the sustainability of CoPs, members across hubs shared that identifying clear thematic goals remains key and Share-Net Netherlands and Share-Net Colombia highlighted that identifying CoP leads/ chairpersons could play a crucial role.

Responses from members in 2022, underlined the important role of CoPs in knowledge-sharing and learning. Members viewed their participation positively highlighting improve competencies, the respectful environment within CoPs, the quality of outcomes and outputs and the added value to their own work. They also highlighted that existing challenges could be tackled collectively. In 2023, members were positive about CoPs member engagement, diversity of engagement, improvement of knowledge, skill and capacity, influencing actions taken by the CoP, respectful environment,

implementation of the knowledge acquired, addressing topics from their areas of work, knowledge dissemination, quality output and outcome, the contribution of the CoP in the improvement of work, and room to address challenges. In 2024, responses showed members showed appreciation for how CoPs had managed to foster empowerment, promoted shared leadership and catalyse ownership amongst members – which in part were attributed to rotating leadership, integrating external experts and structured event planning. Members also valued the opportunity CoPs presented for professional development coupled with inclusive and dynamic engagement.

Community of Practice Spotlight

Columbia

Share-Net Colombia member involved in abortion rights campaigns highlighted how the CoP on abortion added significant value by addressing the often-overlooked issue of social decriminalization of abortion, which restricts access to safe and quality services. Through the CoP, members collectively produced two impactful podcasts in 2023 which challenged prevailing public narratives by sharing diverse perspectives from women, providers, and community members. They emphasized that the CoP's collaborative and supportive environment was key to the creative process. The resulting advocacy materials were adapted to reach wider audiences. Additionally, she pointed out that CoPs are crucial spaces for multi-faceted advocacy, as shown by their invitation to review a national survey, demonstrating how CoPs foster influence, knowledge-sharing, and opportunities that extend beyond traditional advocacy efforts. (2023 Annual Report)



Community of Practice Spotlight

Bangladesh

Ms. Tasnima Iqbal, Project Coordinator of Right Here Right Now 2 at BRAC and an active member of Share-Net Bangladesh's Community of Practice on Comprehensive Sexuality Education, has leveraged the platform's learning and resources to significantly address youth SRHR in Bangladesh.

"Equipping youth with accurate information about SRHR, especially in contexts where taboos prevail, is essential for fostering their confidence in decision-making and for building supportive communities," – Tasnima Iqbal.

Share-Net's technical guidance, peer learning and strategic capacity-building supported her to deepen her understanding of stigma reduction and rights-based comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). She applied these insights to successfully mobilize over 100 youth groups, reaching over 2500 people across 25 districts. With support from Share-Net, Ms. Tasnima was able to engage District Education Officers, leading to formal endorsements for CSE integration in schools and madrassas. Share-Net's ability to foster evidence sharing, advocacy skill-building and cross-sector collaboration strengthened her ability to push for policy-level change rooted in community realities and shared learning. (2024 Annual Report)

2.2. Knowledge Management Outcomes

Knowledge management is the process of identifying, organising, storing and disseminating information within an organisation. In collaboration with our partners and members, we use this knowledge to influence policies and practice and advocate for more impactful SRHR programmes.

2.2.1 Policymakers, practitioners, and researchers have better access to information and knowledge on SRHR

A core objective of Share-Net International and its hubs is to provide policymakers, practitioners, and researchers with accessible, high-quality, and up-to-date SRHR knowledge. Through Share-Net's newsletters, digital platform, social media campaigns, and knowledge translation initiatives, Share-Net continues to expand access to up-to-date SRHR resources, information and knowledge.

Knowledge translation efforts between 2020-2024 focused on converting evidence into visually engaging knowledge products in accessible formats to inform SRHR policies and practices.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Since 2020, newsletters, websites and social media have been used across all country hubs as communication channels to share SRHR knowledge.

2020

In 2020, Share-Net Bangladesh, Share-Net Jordan and Share-Net Netherlands used newsletters to share updates and SRHR news and knowledge with members. In turn, members shared that the newsletters added to their knowledge, including staying up to date with regional SRHR news, and were the most relevant resource to read and connect with others in the SRHR field. They also shared that it was a great way to disseminate their own work. Social media networks – such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram – were also referred to for SRHR knowledge gathering, in addition to Share-Net websites, which included open access to content and resources. The use of online channels ensured that SRHR knowledge could be shared more widely to ensure that policymakers, practitioners, and researchers have better access to SRHR knowledge.

- Importantly in 2020, Share-Net International evaluated the effectiveness of its communications efforts for members, identifying strengths and areas for improvement. In turn a **Communication Strategy** was developed which analysed the SRHR landscape from a communications perspective, incorporated best practices and a rapid needs assessment and identified aligning objectives – keeping in mind key audiences, messaging guidelines and communication channels. Key recommendations included the further development of strategic and guiding documents, building internal capacity, strengthening collaboration between hubs, and increasing Share-Net's visibility and branding as an SRHR knowledge leader.

2021

Throughout 2021, while other hubs continued to increase their reach, the new hubs (i.e. SN-BU, SN-CO and SN-ET) developed their own newsletters, social media accounts, and website. The latter were developed in partnership with RedOrange and remained critical in ensuring that local researchers, policymakers, and practitioners could start engaging with the hubs online and that the hubs started to build national credibility as reliable and evidence-based sources of SRHR information.

- With support from Flame Design, Share-Net International developed a [webpage](#) to highlight all the COVID-19 SRHR project and their outcomes called '**Affecting Change**', which was also accompanied by a social media campaign on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to promote the webpage and the developed knowledge products.
- In collaboration with RedOrange, Share-Net International developed the **ARTchive** [webpage](#), a digital collection of creative works showcasing diverse global experiences of COVID-19's impact on SRHR and amplifying voices that were silenced in the response.
- Supported by Shake The Dust, during the 2021 **SHIRIM**, hubs were invited to pitch and develop action plans for their communication strategy. As part of the training, Share-Net Ethiopia and Share-Net Jordan developed their own communication strategies which were tailored to their own contexts. Share-Net Colombia used this opportunity to develop a youth-focused communications strategy based on consultations with young people and youth-led organizations.

2022

Throughout 2022, Share-Net hubs continued to expand their online reach by further developing their digital platforms, bolstering social media engagement, and tailoring content to the diverse audiences online. Here, ensuring that policymakers, practitioners and researchers were reached on the most relevant platforms was a key priority. In light of this, hubs moved beyond social media engagement alone. Share-Net Burundi began making use of WhatsApp communication while Share-Net Ethiopia stimulated engagement via Telegram.

Share-Net Jordan began also delivering their quarterly newsletters in Arabic and English in printed versions – making the most of a hybrid approach to reach their key contacts. Furthermore, through consultations with members and other stakeholders, Share-Net Bangladesh recognized a growing need to have communications channels and content in the Bangla-language, as a way to expand accessibility and promote inclusion of its diverse membership. Thus, the development of a Bangla version of the hub's website began. This translated website would also serve the purpose of reaching a broader audience with SRHR knowledge, as Bangla is the first language of 98% of the country's population.

- In 2022, as hubs continued to experiment with different types of digital engagement, **Meta's live feature** gained popularity as a format to share knowledge online – particularly with younger audiences. Share-Net Burundi and Share-Net Colombia used social media live options on Facebook and Instagram to engage youth and raise awareness on SRHR issues.

- Share-Net Burundi partnered with Yaga Burundi for a Facebook dialogue on preventing unwanted pregnancies in schools, reaching 2,600 viewers, and later hosted an Instagram live on breaking menstrual hygiene taboos with Miss Burundi 2022 and the First Lady. Share-Net Colombia held an Instagram live on 'Youth and Sexuality in Intersectionality', featuring diverse voices from marginalized communities to highlight their rights to safe and inclusive sexuality.
- At the end of the year, in December 2022, Share-Net Jordan worked together with the Higher Population Council to launch a new sexual and reproductive health knowledge [platform](#) for young people, called **DARBY**, to raise awareness and provide information and data to community members so they can make informed decisions about their reproductive health.

2023

Further expansion of Share-Net's online engagement took place in 2023, building on the continued focus of developing accessible SRHR content, translating knowledge into various accessible formats, sending tailored and relevant email communications to members, and publishing new SRHR information online.

- In 2023, in response to the [research report](#) Beyond Bananas: A guide to identifying good, pleasure-focused imagery, Share-Net Netherlands CoP on Sexual Pleasure launched **The Pleasure Bank** - an [online gallery](#) of accurate and realistic sexual pleasure imagery which is useful for inclusive and accurate Comprehensive Sexuality Education.
- The development of context-specific communication channels continued in 2023. Share-Net Burundi launched a faster **French-language website**, tailored to enable those with low-bandwidth internet connections to easily access the website. Moreover, Share-Net Burundi, in collaboration with activation grant holders APROSAP and ARPH, launched **E-baza**, a French-language [online SRHR platform](#). Share-Net Bangladesh launched the **Bangla-language website**, increasing its reach and accessibility amongst members.
- Interestingly, 2023 also marked an expansion of the network's use of **multimedia tools** to share SRHR information in different and accessible formats. Share-Net Burundi's CoP on Diversity and Inclusion developed two audio-visual knowledge products about disability inclusion. Share-Net Colombia launched a [podcast channel](#), *Conversaciones Resonantes*, focused on access to justice for gender-based violence, sexual violence, femicide, and abortion narratives in Colombia. Share-Net Ethiopia, in collaboration with Women Can Do It, launched radio talk shows and podcasts responding to gender-based violence as well as audio documentaries on the life experiences of sex-workers.

- Furthermore, Share-Net Jordan published various podcast episodes on adult-adolescent Sexual Health and Rights and Reproductive Rights information.

2024

Throughout 2024, newsletters, email updates, website content and social media engagement remained integral to bolstering the network's online visibility and reach.

- Share-Net's **SRHR Knowledge Product Library** was developed throughout 2023 and launched in 2024, featuring over 120 SRHR Knowledge Products produced by Share-Net members since 2014.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Between 2020 – 2024, a total of **238 thematic meetings and webinars** were organized by Share-Net International and the country hubs (i.e. 36 in 2020, 47 in 2021, 48 in 2022, 53 in 2023 and 54 in 2024). Please find below a snapshot of the most impactful events and activities:

2020

In 2020, Share-Net International's activities moved online due to COVID-19 measures and for the first time hub-level thematic events were open for all to attend. The expanded global accessibility resulted into more diverse audiences at events, which enriched dialogues with new perspectives.

- Share-Net Jordan hosted a **workshop on the intersections between climate change and SRHR**, which resulted in expanded knowledge in the SRH field on key needs in Jordan. This new knowledge generated more interest to apply the knowledge and following the workshop, Share-Net Jordan developed a policy brief on the topic.
- Share-Net Netherlands organised their 9th **young researchers' event: Linking Research, Policy and Practice** in 2020. Here, 16 master's students presented their research on a wide range of SRHR topics which were grouped into four thematic sessions on: menstrual, vulva and obstetric care; social, cultural, organisational norms change; SRHR services and reproductive care; and sexuality, sexual pleasure and LGBTI+ health.
- Share-Net Burundi organised a **roundtable** for youth-led organisations to discuss **meaningful youth participation** and to co-create solutions towards the involvement of young people in SRHR programming in Burundi. The roundtable highlighted the role that young people can play in SRHR programming and young people shared their experiences of why they are in the position to be channels for better access to SRHR services. The key recommendations were then presented by the secretariat to the Dutch embassy in Burundi and partners.

2021

- Based on the success and impact of the 2020 edition in providing a platform for young SRHR researchers to present their work and network, Share-Net Netherlands' 10th edition of the **young researchers' event: Linking Research, Policy, and Practice** was expanded to welcome submissions from students from all country hubs (i.e. Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, and the Netherlands). During the online conference, 26 young researchers presented on SRHR and gender equality topics to a global audience, including menstrual health, maternity care, intimate partner violence and sex work. To capture the conference outcomes, Share-Net Netherlands worked with FramMenti, a queer art collective, to produce a **zine** featuring highlights from the research that was presented in English, French and Spanish.
- Share-Net Burundi and the association of students in medicine (ABEM), organised a series of **exchange events** with four universities in December 2021. Bringing together hundreds of young researchers along with students and teacher-researchers in health and social sciences, the events inspired young students and informed the hub of researchers own aspirations.
- Share-Net Ethiopia joined CORHA in organising a **two-day knowledge-sharing workshop** in December 2021. Bringing together government actors, civil society organizations and community-based organisations, the workshop aimed to promote knowledge and best practices to scale up successful advocacy and programming initiatives to end FGM/C in Ethiopia. As a result, participants agreed that a broad coalition would be needed to implement the country's national strategy to end FGM/C, child marriage and other gender-based harmful traditional practices: including government actors, donors, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia and community structures. Moreover, a consensus was reached on mainstreaming efforts in support of the national action plan.
- In December 2021, Share-Net Burkina Faso organised a **round table** to facilitate exchanges between actors, research and policymakers on **approaches to SRHR knowledge and information collection**, including access to information. The Institut Supérieur en Science de la Population shared challenges and perspectives on SRHR research, such as taboos and sensitivities on specific subjects and lack of resources. The event also included a panel on access to SRHR information and youth, highlighting the need to consider marginalised youth and youth in rural areas, the development of exchange frameworks to improve SRHR for all, the multiplication of frameworks on results dissemination, and the promotion of practitioner-led actions and action research. Participants shared that the event was much appreciated and highly relevant to the national context.

2022

- As part of World Population Day and with funding support from UNFPA, Share-Net Jordan worked with UNFPA and the Higher Population Council, to hold a **roundtable discussion to present two factsheets on reproductive family health**. National authorities attended the event where the first factsheet focused on the role of the media and communication in SRH advocacy and awareness-raising, while the second focused on providing recommendations based on identified gaps in the reproductive health of the elderly in Jordan.
- In September 2022, Share-Net Colombia organised a **webinar of the issue of new masculinities** bringing speakers from various esteemed backgrounds to share key concepts and discuss the relation of masculinity in academia and public policy.
- Share-Net Burkina Faso's CoP on Drug Use and SRHR organised a **public conference on parents' role in addressing drug use and unwanted pregnancies** aimed at bringing together about 50 young people and parents for intergenerational linking and learning. It also linked parents with experts and consultants and provided them with information to address drug use amongst adolescents and youth.
- Throughout the year, Share-Net Netherlands piloted a **new learning initiative, Deep Dive**, which focused the hub's network on a specific annual knowledge priority which in 2022 was on the growing conservatism and SRHR pushback.

2023

- Share-Net Burkina Faso facilitated a **workshop with journalists** on the influence of social media knowledge translation with a focus on the challenges and taboos of reporting on sexual health topics. The event fostered space for participants to share experiences, lessons learned and recommendations.
- In July 2023, as part of the SHIRM, Share-Net Jordan organised an event to **launch a parents' guide and an educational film**, "Educating Children about Sexual and Reproductive Health". Both products were developed by Jordanian health, education and psychology experts based on recommendations of studies by the Higher Population Council and Share-Net Jordan. The guide and film aimed to enhance dialogue and communication between parents and children. They were produced by researchers affiliated with international universities who called for the strengthening and supporting role of parents in SRH education. During the event, the hub also announced winners of their media competition centred on raising public awareness on SRHR issues.
- Share-Net Colombia organised a webinar on barriers faced by transgender men and non-binary people in accessing reproductive health services – particularly abortion care – in Colombia, Bolivia and Chile bringing in expert speakers from the various countries.

- In July 2023, Share-Net International organised the 1st Edition of the Share-Net Knowledge Product Showcase, where International Grant Alumnus presented 12 SRHR Knowledge Products developed with funding from the SNI in 2022 – covering everything from SRHR awareness in conflict settings and menstrual health approaches for people with disabilities, to introducing SRHR card games, and an app for ancestral medicine in Afro-Colombia.

2024

- In collaboration with the IBP Network/WHO and The CORE Group, Share-Net International co-hosted a **side event during the 77th World Health Assembly**. The event brought a diverse audience for a networking lunch, technical panel and Linking and Learning workshop. With opening remarks for the Dutch Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, the aim was to elevate the key role of CSOs in shaping the global SRH agenda in turbulent times, identify key SRHR research, programming and policy priorities and provide space to connect and build alliances at the convergence of SRRH and other sectors.
- The **2nd Edition of the Knowledge Product Showcase** took place in July 2024, highlighting 10 SRHR knowledge products developed via Share-Net activation grants. Topics included chemsex treatment responses, forced marriages within LGBTQIA+ communities, and parental support for menstruation. The event offered space for learning and collaboration and fostered dialogue amongst participants and creators.
- In July 2024, Share-Net Burundi hosted a **three-day workshop** for university students to build their research skills, including methodology, proposal development, and data collection techniques. Using the knowledge they acquired, following the workshop participants conducted a survey to evaluate the psychological, social and economic impacts of gender-based violence on victims and their communities.
- In February 2024, Share-Net Colombia launched a webinar discussing the **intersection of ageing and SRHR** with key panellists, including academics, sociologists, and gerontologists.



SRHR KNOWLEDGE FAIR SPOTLIGHT

Bangladesh

The SRHR Knowledge Fair, annually organized by Share-Net Bangladesh, is the biggest SRHR event for sharing knowledge, innovations and practices in the country. The event aims to promote evidence-based dialogue, highlight policy gaps and foster collaboration among key actors – including policymakers, researchers, youth leaders, civil society organizations, practitioners and global actors it brings together. The SRHR Knowledge Fair aims to strengthen the SRHR ecosystem in Bangladesh by supporting knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and policy advocacy.

In 2020, the Knowledge Fair theme was ‘Youth Power: SRHR for Adolescents and Youth’, a topic which was revisited in 2024 with the theme ‘Youth Power 2024: Nothing Without Us’. The 2021 edition focused on the interlinkages between SRHR and climate, and the year after zoomed in on access to SRHR information. In 2023, attendees explored the issue of SRHR and education.

Between 2020 and 2024, the Knowledge Fair has successfully expanded its reach through the hybrid and virtual formats during and after COVID-19. It has consistently been provided room for diverse audiences to explore cross-cutting themes while promoting access to SRHR information. The SRHR Knowledge Fair has also strengthened policy engagement by drawing commitments from government officials and global partners. For young people and adolescents, the Knowledge Fair has been a space to amplify their needs and voices as key actors and beneficiaries within the SRHR movement. It has also focused on the integration of SRHR within education and on digital platforms.

2.2.2 Researchers address scientifically, politically and practically relevant knowledge gaps in SRHR

As part of the effort to achieve our vision that all people have freedom of choice, can make informed decisions, can act on their sexual and reproductive health, and have access to quality care to meet their sexual and reproductive health needs and rights, knowledge gaps that exist in policy, practice and research need to be addressed. Through knowledge-sharing activities and connecting actors, Share-Net International has supported its members in identifying these gaps and encouraging researchers to address them. One of the ways in which Share-Net International supports researchers in addressing scientifically, politically, and practically relevant SRHR knowledge gaps is through the Activation Grants Facility.

Between 2020-2024, a total of 97 grants were awarded by Share-Net International (i.e. 26 in 2020, 21 in 2021, 20 in 2022, 13 in 2023 and 17 in 2024).

2020

- To respond to the demand for knowledge on COVID-19's impact on SRHR and Gender Equality, Share-Net International reallocated funds into small grants. In total, six small grants were funded covering seven different countries: the Netherlands, Bangladesh, Iran, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, and Cameroon. They touched upon topics such as SRH services in fragile settings, access to contraception and abortions services, menstrual health management, GBV and the COVID-19 experiences of transgender and hijra people.
 - The **Menstruation Shouts project** gathered insights on menstrual health challenges faced by frontline healthcare workers and adolescent girls affected by the stay-at-home measures in Egypt and Kenya. Using an innovative digital storytelling approach, it fostered cross-country collaboration and learning amongst SNI members. Despite contextual differences, shared experiences fostered mutual support and the creation of knowledge products including four storytelling videos and two factsheets.
 - Balanced Sustainable Development Association (BALSDA) and the Organization for Health in Sustainable Development (OHISD) conducted a **literature review on access to SRHR services in fragile and humanitarian settings** during COVID-19 in Nigeria and Cameroon. This led to the development of a toolkit and a call to action advocating for the improvement of SRHR services during COVID-19 and future pandemics. The collaboration integrated input from key stakeholders including the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria and Cameroon, local organizations and international NGOs such as UNFPA and Plan International. The project helped to boost BALSDA's visibility and growth, leading to plans to create policy briefs and translated versions of the toolkit.
- A total of 14 regular small grants were issued, resulting in a large variety of knowledge products.
 - Together with her colleague, a Share-Net Netherlands member received a **small grant to analyse how knowledge products, specifically visualization tools, were being used by Global South partners to support youth SRHR initiatives**. The study explored whether these tools were adopted as blueprints, adapted best practice frameworks or viewed as externally imposed. Findings, shared during the Her Choice programme's closing symposium, showed that most partners welcomed these tools. Still, some recommended adjustments for better cultural fit which could enable practical and context-sensitive

- refinements to be used by partners across varied contexts. A policy officer from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed interest in sharing the tools with Dutch embassies to promote their boarder use in SRHR work in different countries.
- Following the 2019 Co-Creation Conference, Share-Net International a opened small grants call for attendees to work out the solutions they had developed to tackle identified knowledge gaps. This grant aimed to contribute to research in understudied SRHR topic and adjust existing knowledge into accessible formats.
 - Together with members from Share-Net Jordan, Burundi and Bangladesh, IPPF led the development of **a short video** (in English, French and Arabic) **focused on breaking the silence around infertility**, framing it both as a reproductive rights and gender equality issue. The English version was submitted to the WHO short film festival in 2021.

2021

- In 2021, Share-Net International remodeled the Small Grants Facility to change the type and maximum amount of allocated grants and shifted to participatory grant making where members and country platforms gained more decision-making power. The focus of small grants in 2021 was on innovation and piloting new approaches, translating existing knowledge into products and/or promoting its use to influence and improve SRHR practice and policy.
 - Balanced Stewardship Development Association (BALSDA) in collaboration with Earthspring International and Society for Women and Girl-Child Empowerment (SWOGE), developed a **policy brief exploring the intersections between SRHR and Climate Change**. It called upon the Government of Nigeria to include SRHR and gender in their National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and was shared with the Deputy Director of the Federal Ministry of Environment who committed to including SRHR in the NAP in collaboration with BALSDA. The brief received further national coverage in leading Nigerian media platforms.
 - Wreetu developed 'A Comprehensive Period Guide for Dads to Help Daughters to be Empowered with the Necessary Knowledge, Confidence and Self-Esteem to Ensure their Menstrual Wellbeing', which included an **accessible booklet and a video series in English and Bangla for fathers to help them discuss periods and puberty with their adolescent daughters**. A booklet dissemination workshop brought together 15 fathers with daughters and soon-to-be fathers and was much appreciated by attendees.

- As in the previous year, Share-Net International opened up a second round of Co-Creation Conference grants for participants, which helped participants of the annual Co-Creation Conference further develop and promote knowledge products on SRHR for Adolescents and Youth.
 - The joint project “Checklist for Promoting Inclusion and Accessibility of People with Disabilities in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Sector” was developed through the collaboration between the Association Women Psychologists in Action (AFPA) from Burundi and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) from Bangladesh during the 2021 Share-Net International Co-Creation Conference. The project created an accessible multilingual checklist to promote inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities in the sexual and reproductive health and rights sector, which was integrated into SRHR websites. Additionally, a promotional video was produced and advocacy meetings and online campaign were planned to promote the checklist and its use.
 - The **Multimedia Campaign BLOOM** (Buy-in and Learning through Outcomes of Meaningful Youth Participation) reflected examples of successful meaningful youth participation outcomes to illustrate how adult-youth partnerships can be leveraged to achieve a broader impact in the field of adolescent and youth SRHR. The [global project](#) aimed to generate more buy-in and awareness amongst adult stakeholders and was formed by the International Institute for Social Sciences (ISS) (lead), National Network of Young People Living with HIV (RNJ+ Burundi), CHOICE for Youth & Sexuality, EngenderHealth, Living Equality Initiative (LIVEI Rwanda), Talent Youth Association (TaYA) and KIT Royal Tropical Institute (KIT).

2022

- In light of the key shifts made to the Small Grants Facility in the previous year, the granting mechanism was rebranded as Activation Grants in 2022. Additionally, 2022 was the first year the grant facility was managed via the digital platform and an online peer-review system was developed. The 2022 Grantees’ projects covered various SRHR topics: from abortion rights, SRHR for persons with disabilities and special needs, projects focusing on Female Genital Mutilation, menstrual hygiene for LGBTQIA+ people and contraceptive rights.
 - Good Samaritan Association (GSA) created a **glimpse-assessment report on ‘Sexual and Reproductive Health Knowledge, Attitude, and Access among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) In Azezo woreda, North Gondar Zone, Amhara Region of Ethiopia’**, with the aim of responding to the critical SRHR needs of IDPs in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. A validation workshop was organized to validate the report and gather input from concerned stakeholders, such as IDPs camp representatives and health workers, and it was used to develop

- materials in print and digital form with SRHR information. Knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising were done in IDP community events and spaces, such as religious events, coffee ceremonies and community conversations. Furthermore, GSA's nurses and health workers at the IDP camp continued community dialogues with the intention of sharing health education, including on SRHR.
- Favour Low-cost Healthcare Foundation (FALCOH) in Cameroon, conducted an assessment of knowledge and identification of barriers for persons with disabilities in the context of SRHR in conflict-affected areas. The aim was to generate knowledge on the barriers and challenges persons with disabilities face in accessing sexual reproductive services and knowledge, and to examine how conflict in the region is affecting them. Outcomes showed that 80% of people with disabilities in the southwest region did not have a comprehensive knowledge of SRHR, that healthcare worker training was absent, and that health policies to promote SRHR for people with disability and foster knowledge and access were missing.
- The 2022 Co-Creation Conference grants provided funding of up to €10,000 to produce and promote knowledge products used for national, regional and global policy and practice influencing.
 - Fairspace (The Netherlands), YAGA (Burundi) and Mesa Comunitaria LGBTIQ+ (Colombia), in partnership with RedOrange (Bangladesh) and Higher Population Council (Jordan), developed Let's Talk!, [a card game](#) for young people aged 14-24 to talk and learn about SRHR. It was developed through a highly co-creative process, through virtual meetings and in-country validation workshops, where diverse young people and youth leaders in Burundi, Colombia and the Netherlands played a central role in co-defining, designing and developing the card content, design and gameplay. This ensured that the game and facilitator's guide were rooted in the lived realities and perspectives of young people, increasing ownership and long-term potential for sustainability.
 - Balanced Stewardship Development Association (BALSDA) and Far Western University worked to develop two toolkits used to reach women and adolescent/young people in Nigeria and Nepal with quality and relevant family planning information. Through the use of community radio, translation and improved behavioural change communications among health professionals the toolkits aim to target advocates, planners and policy-makers, and those who engage in family planning promotion in rural areas.

2023

In 2023, learnings from the previous two years were taken along and the grant management was further improved. This included the integration of the first

grant dissemination and promotion strategy to increase grantees visibility in future years. Funded projects covered various SRHR topics, including Abortion Rights, SRHR for persons with disabilities and special needs, young people's SRHR, SRHR for LGBTQIA+ people, and sexual and gender-based violence.

- In Burkina Faso, to address the specific SRHR needs of the LGBTQIA+ community, sex workers and drug users Colibri Sub conducted a study to evaluate SRHR needs, conducted workshops for health providers and traditional and religious leaders, and ran theatre plays in collaboration with the OSKIMO Tour awareness caravan.
- Via Share-Net International, Community Forum in Malawi produced media materials for health awareness to inform and educate the public about important health issues and promote healthy behaviours – including, print, audio, video, and digital content. The materials aimed to fill knowledge gaps and equip individuals with the needed information to make informed decisions about their health, serving as tools for health promotion, disease prevention, and ensuring overall well-being.

In addition to the activation grants, several hubs allocated special funds for young researchers.

- Share-Net Bangladesh awarded two grants via the Young Researcher Fellowship Programme, with a project focusing on SRHR education for adolescents and another on how men influence SRHR education for women.
- Share-Net Burkina Faso provided four grants focused on digital tools in family planning for young girls, contraceptive use among adolescents with HIV, and contraceptive knowledge and practices among university students.
- Share-Net Ethiopia awarded seven grants to Master's students at Addis Ababa University, covering issues from perinatal mortality and access to youth-friendly services by high school students, to family planning service quality.



2024

- In 2024, the Knowledge Activation Grants process was improved to streamline participatory approaches as the second year where applicants could self-assess the grants. Throughout the year, grantees were spotlighted through Share-Net's communication channels. Amongst others, Knowledge Activation Grants in 2024 covered abortion stigma, menstrual equity, adolescent sexual health, and disability-inclusive SRHR as well as the unique SRHR needs of displaced populations.
 - In the Netherlands, Treat it Queer Foundation and RadboudUMC created a **project focused on transforming complex SRHR knowledge for transgender and gender-diverse individuals with endometriosis into an accessible, engaging graphic medicine comic**. The project aimed to make SRHR knowledge accessible, amplify marginalized voices, and promote inclusivity through visual storytelling. The final product engaged healthcare professionals in inclusive care practices and offers practical guidance, fostering empathy and breaking down barriers.
 - The Transforming Adolescent Sexual Health (TASH) **project**, led by Streecher Youth Organization in Kwale County, Kenya, **promoted cross-sector collaboration on the SRHR needs of adolescents and youth**. Via a youth-centred inception meeting with government and health actors and focus group discussions with 483 young people, the project developed a memorandum. The memorandum advocated for policy reform, improved operational guidelines, increased funding and stronger multi-sectoral coordination. This led to an improved understanding of youth SRHR needs, supported youth voices in policymaking and reinforced partnerships with civil society and government to drive inclusive and responsive SRHR policies.
- Aside from SNI's activation grants, some hubs dedicated grants to young researchers:
 - Share-Net Bangladesh awarded two grants to further explore SRHR and gender inequality among garment workers and identify barriers women with disabilities face in preventing gender-based violence.
 - Share-Net Burundi supported four research grants focused on digital tools for family planning, contraceptive use among adolescents living with HIV, and contraception knowledge among university students.
 - In Ethiopia, five Master's students were granted funding for research on youth-friendly health services, SRHR disparities for adolescents with disabilities, stillbirth risk factors, respectful maternity care, and teenage pregnancy trends.
- Knowledge Translation Fund grants enabled hubs to translate research into actionable knowledge products. >> [Read more in the spotlight in Chapter 1, under Operational Frameworks and Strategic Developments.](#)

2.2.3 Actual and effective learning is taking place in and between countries among policymakers, practitioners and researchers

Across the Share-Net network, hubs as well as the Share-Net International secretariat organise activities to promote effective learning in-and between countries, among policymakers, practitioners and researcher. The following examples highlight relevant experiences across the years.

2020

- **International Community of Practice on COVID-19, SRHR and Gender Equality:** To address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SRHR and gender equality, Share-Net International launched an iCoP of 55 members from different hubs and global partners. Meetings were held every six weeks throughout the year to share updates, discuss challenges, and present results. The iCoP focused on different topics: contraception and abortion, gender-based violence and harmful practices, WASH and SRHR, SRHR in humanitarian settings, and gender empowerment. Special funding was allocated for COVID-19 small grant. >> *Read more at 2.2.2 Researchers address scientifically, politically and practically relevant knowledge gaps in SRHR under 2020*

2021

- **Share-Net International Annual Business Meeting:** The 2021 Annual Business Meeting offered space for members across the network to reflect and interact with each other. As a platform for organizational updates along with learning and exchange, it included a session on making SRHR more inclusive, power talks by members, and offered room for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to strengthen ties.

2024

- **Share-Net Cross-Country Learning Exchange:** Over the course of two days, Share-Net International and hub members came together to promote knowledge sharing, practical application, and collaboration among Communities of Practice. Day one focused on spotlighting lessons from implementing CoPs and working with vulnerable populations, such as people affected by HIV, older adults, people with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ communities. Day two touched upon sensitive SRHR topics including abortion, gender-based violence, contraception, and menstrual health. The programme integrated interactive activities and concluded with a session identifying best practices, key challenges, and takeaways. The event strengthened collaboration between hubs and Share-Net International as co-organisers.

>> *To read more about efforts to support actual and effective learning in regional contexts, see Chapter 1 - Regional Approach.*

DEEP DIVE //

Co-Creation Conference Throughout the Years

Organized by Share-Net International and its hubs, the [Co-Creation Conference](#) (CCC) has been designed to collaboratively develop evidence-informed knowledge products that influence SRHR knowledge policies and practices.

In 2020, preparations began for the second edition of the SNI CCC, hosted by Bangladesh. Throughout 2020 the scope and design of the conference were developed through a participatory process which included the creation of national CoPs along with the rollout of a narrative review, an evidence brief, and deliberative dialogues. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the [conference](#) was held online a year later in January 2021. Ultimately, the CCC focused on SRHR for Adolescents and Youth across eight thematic tracks where over 38 participants from 25 countries worked on developing knowledge products on the event's topic. Over 259 people joined the interactive [open sessions](#) which included the presentation of the knowledge products, a presentation on the state of the art and a power talk.

The [third edition](#) of the CCC took place in 2022 and was organised by Share-Net International, Share-Net Colombia, and Profamilia. The hybrid event took place over four days both online and in-person and focused on the theme 'Access to Quality Information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights'. Similar to the previous edition, a participatory process informed the set-up of the conference. In total 75 professionals attended the event in-person and 25 others tuned in online from 15 different countries.

"For global problems we need to find global solutions. But not solutions that are developed in privileged spaces, like international organisations such as the United Nations. But in global spaces with people who work in the different communities in the world to guarantee human rights. And that is what this conference allowed". – Attendee of the 2022 CCC.

"The co-creation process within my group was very inspiring and collaborative as everyone participated and gave ideas on what could be done to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights to people who are left out and often forgotten in the community. What I liked was the mutual collaboration between the people in our group, the freedom of expression and opinion of everyone and the sharing of diverse ideas, the sense of creativity in the activities to access quality information on sexual and reproductive health and rights." – Online attendee of the 2022 CCC.

In 2024, various regional and national co-creation conferences were organized by the various hubs. >> [See the spotlights in Chapter 1 - Regional Approach.](#)



DEEP DIVE //

Share-Net as a Knowledge Broker for SRHR Partnerships

Between 2020 and 2023, SNI and SN-NL supported the 2016- 2020 and 2021-2025 SRHR Partnerships funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2020, Share-Net supported reflections on the past five years of SRHR Partnerships. In December, a learning event was hosted which brought together in-country and global partners from all partnerships to share experiences, best practices and challenges. In total, 185 people participated in dialogue sessions (in English, French and Spanish) on SRHR themes: youth leadership, movement building and meaningful participation; sexual pleasure; community-based COVID-19 responses; gender perspectives in programming; and social accountability mechanisms. The dialogues enabled cross-country sharing, and the event fostered actual and effective learning between the respective partnerships.

In May 2021, SN-NL organised a kick-off [event](#) to launch the new strategic partnerships titled 'Bridging Our Efforts: Moving to the SRHR Partnerships of 2021-2025'. The event aimed to help partners orient their work to each other, foster relationship-build and share key insights and lessons learned from the previous partnership phase. The event was well-received, as attendees appreciated the interactive format which allowed them to connect with (new) partners across the alliances.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, SN-NL continued facilitating structured learning for the seven SRHR Partnerships, by hosting:

- Regular coordination and PMEL (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) meetings focused on power shifts, internal governance and cooperation.
- Events on digital security and safety in collaboration with partners as IPAS and RNW media.
- Workshops on SRHR opposition, in light of anti-rights movements, shrinking civil space and backlash against SRHR. This was done in collaboration with the Make Way consortium and Justice for Prosperity and brought in contributions from experts from Brazil, Egypt, Kenya and Poland.
- Linking and learning events such as a session entitled 'Looking to the Future: Lessons Learned from the MTRs and What they Mean Moving Forward', focusing on main findings from the mid-term reviews and advice sharing on the development of the next policy framework.

All in all, Share-Net's support as a knowledge broker for the Strategic Partnerships strengthened collaboration across partnerships, created synergies and enabled operational and strategic peer learning and support.

DEEP DIVE //

Share-Net International Rapid Improvement Model (SHIRIM) Learning Trajectory

Between 2022 and 2023, the third [SHIRIM](#) cycle launched an 18th-month action-learning initiative rooted in Collaborative Approaches and Systems Thinking. SHIRIM aimed to help country hubs co-develop, test and apply strategies to effectively translate SRHR knowledge into policy influence and improved practices. The SHIRIM III theme was ‘Access to SRHR Information and Education’, where each country addressed a sub-topic within the theme.

Here, 2022 included the roll out of three international learning sessions (of which two virtually and one in-person in Amsterdam) which were followed by three-month action periods where hubs localized learnings and developed context specific knowledge products. Capacity-building workshops were facilitated in collaboration with international partners (e.g. AMAZE, the Guttmacher Institute and Justice for Prosperity). Supported through a stipend facility, in-country members were able to develop knowledge products.

“Through active participation in the SHIRIM learning sessions, our organisation connected with academic research institutions and SRHR advocates. Through the learning sessions we learned a lot of different knowledge from the trainers and had the opportunity to connect with other colleagues who have many years of experience working on SRHR issues. We learned different techniques and unusual ways of doing things for our day-to-day activities. For example, reframing is a different way of thinking to see each and every move in a different way.” – Share-Net Ethiopia member, 2022.

In 2023, the final SHIRIM learning session took place in Addis Ababa. Hubs presented their knowledge products, discussed lessons learned, explored sustainability models and improved knowledge translation strategies. At the end of 2023, an independent evaluation was conducted and recommendations were released by the start of 2024.

Success stories: Bangladesh

INFLUENCING POLICY ON SRHR & CLIMATE CHANGE

Share-Net Bangladesh successfully implemented several on SRHR and climate throughout 2023, resulting in a [policy brief](#), ‘Climate Change and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Education and Information for Policy Makers’. The SHIRIM trajectory ended successfully for the country hub, with the Ministry of Health committing to establish a ‘Climate Change and SRHR Forum’ and with a commitment to include climate change and SRHR in the government’s next Operational Health Plan. (Annual Report 2023)

Success stories: Burkina Faso

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION BY TRAINING JOURNALISTS

As part of SHIRIM, SN-BF trained 18 journalists on how to translate sensitive SRHR topics into accessible and impactful stories, including on menstrual health, gender-based violence and positive masculinity. A participating journalist underlined the relevance of training for journalists as key actors in shaping public understanding and social behaviour. By providing them with accurate information and effective communication tools, SHIRIM strengthened the journalists’ ability to report responsibly and meaningfully on SRHR issues. Thus, reinforcing their role as key agents of change in their communities. (Annual Report 2022)

Success stories: Jordan**EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS VIA AN INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM**

A member of Share-Net Jordan's SHIRIM country team used the process to drive systemic change in adolescent SRHR education. SHIRIM's structured learning sessions, collaborative environment and focus on practical knowledge translations gave her the tools, insights and peer support she needed to identify key gaps in Jordan's curriculum (specifically the reproductive health curriculum in vocational education). SHIRIM provided her with deeper expertise and the confidence and capacity to act.

"The knowledge and skills I gained through SHIRIM have been invaluable in my work at the Ministry of Education. I am now able to create more inclusive curriculums for our students and ensure that they receive the education they need to make informed decisions about their health."

At the Ministry of Education, she led a survey which revealed major shortcomings on how SRHR concepts were being taught. In turn, she developed evidence-based recommendations which are being considered to inform curricula to be more inclusive, comprehensive and relevant. Her experience thus showcases how SHRIM has been able to go beyond capacity building into supporting real-work policy and practice change by empowering professions to become agents of change within national systems. (Annual Report 2022)

>> To see the final knowledge products and explore more about SHIRIM III, see the 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports.

2.2.4 Knowledge is applied to evidence-informed SRHR programmes, policies and practices

At the core of Share-Net International's mission is applying evidence-informed knowledge to shape SRHR policies, programs, and practices. Together with Share-Net's other outcomes, this forms the building blocks which contribute to this final long-term outcome of Share-Net's work. As outlined in the Theory of Change, this outcome entails: 'Evidence-informed policies and practices are used in line with the actual and context-specific SRHR needs of individuals and take their perspectives and rights into account, established CoPs are able to agree on common values and similar goals with regard to SRHR and finally, improved SRHR knowledge of policymakers, practitioners and researchers leads to better SRHR research, policy and practice such as societally relevant research and use of evidence-informed laws, policies and programmes'.

To bridge the gap between research and practical implementation, all Share-Net activities are designed to promote the use of evidence-based knowledge in shaping SRHR policies, programs, and practices. Drawing on data and insights gathered from Share-Net members, the following examples illustrate how these activities have been applied to shape evidence-informed SRHR programs, policies, and practices between 2020-2024.

EXAMPLES OF APPLIED KNOWLEDGE

Share-Net Colombia, 2021

DEEPENING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Laura, a member of Share-Net Colombia from SISMA Mujer - a feminist organization working with survivors of GBV - joined the CoP on GBV following her engagement as a speaker at the hub's launch. Her participation in the CoP inspired her organization to integrate knowledge translation and sharing into its annual work plan. SISMA Mujer planned a research study on institutional violence as a barrier to justice, supported by a regional infographic and a co-created podcast with other Share-Net members.

Share-Net Ethiopia, 2024

ENHANCING REPORTING ON GENDER AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Amid pressing gender and adolescent health challenges worsened by political unrest impacting millions, Share-Net Ethiopia plays a key role in connecting research organizations with the media. The hub has enabled accurate evidence-based reporting - such as through the production of news stories and an hour-long programme on the impact of the northern Ethiopian war on women and adolescents. Its role bridging the gap is challenging, but the hub has been successful in promoting informed, knowledge-driven coverage in the country.

Share-Net International, 2020

CREATIVELY DELIVERING CSE

An Share-Net International member noted that they appreciate SNI's knowledge sharing efforts given that best practices in programmes, policies, and interventions are not well-documented. She adapted ideas from the online thematic event on 'Delivery of CSE in Non-Conventional Settings during COVID-19 in Low-and Middle-Income Countries', notably using WhatsApp for CSE delivery in Kenya, which she planned to apply in Egypt.

Share-Net Jordan, 2024

INTEGRATING SRHR INTO EDUCATION

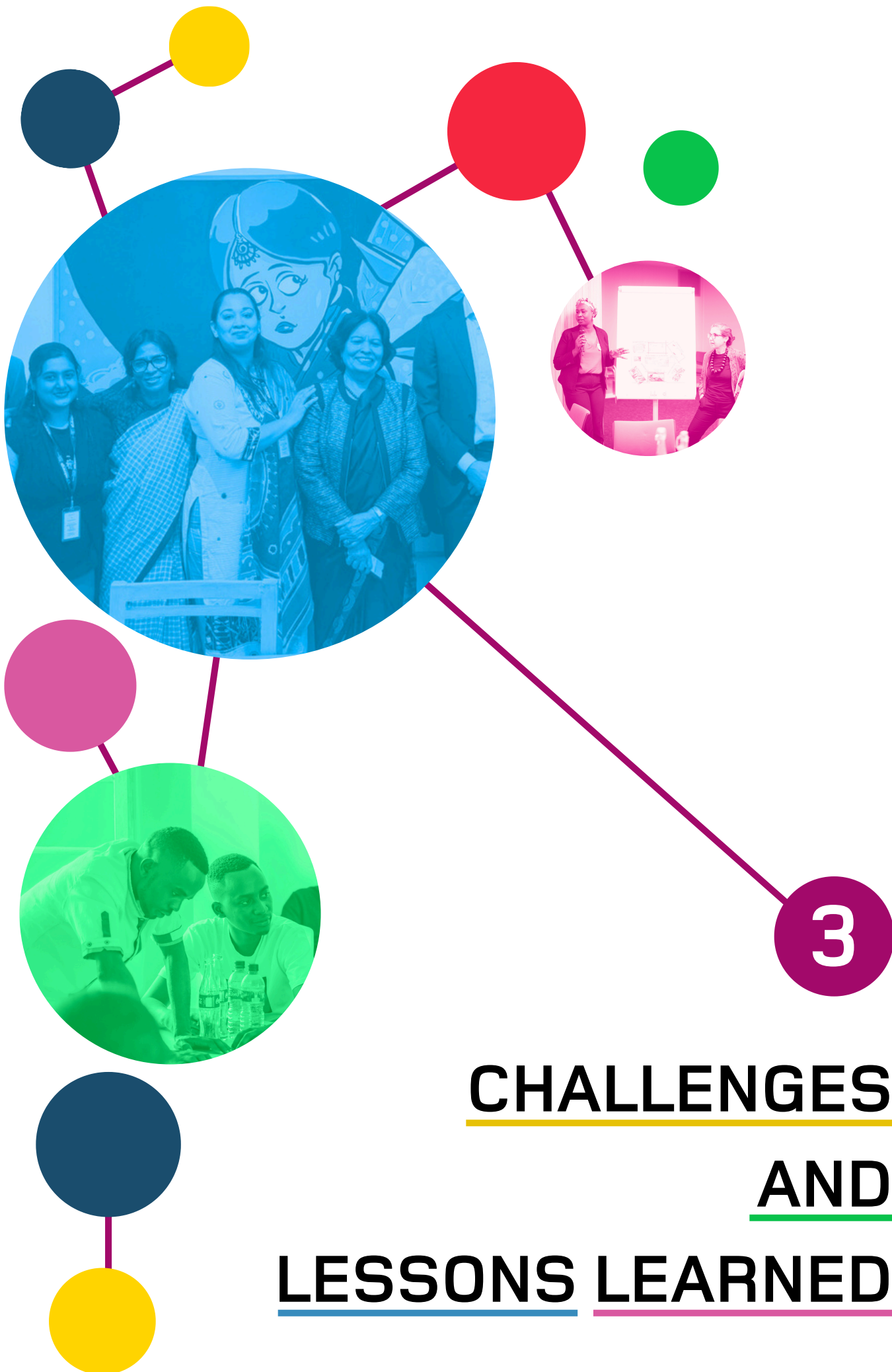
Dr. Ziad Obaisat, Social Studies Coordinator at Jordan's National Curriculum Center, gained important insights from SN-JO's 2024 Regional Co-Creation Conference on SRHR in Education. Inspired by the context-sensitive approaches shared during the event by experts from the MENA region, Ziad advocated for the integration of Share-Net's SRHR guidelines into Jordan's social studies curriculum. According to him, "The conference offered a realistic view of what works in our region, allowing us to advance education in a meaningful way."

Regardless of the sensitivity of the topic, he successfully secured support from curriculum writers, thus highlighting the added value of Share-Net's culturally relevant and well-informed resources in driving inclusive educational reform.

Share-Net Netherlands, 2020

BRIDGING CSO INPUT AND POLICY REFORM

A Share-Net Netherlands member from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs share that the Global Financing Facility (GFF) CoP was very helpful in providing quick, diverse NGO feedback on GFF-related work and proposals. It provided them with inputs on country-level successes and challenges. These insights helped inform the Ministry's strategic planning, particularly during a strategy refresh, where they were included in shaping new approaches and ways of working with CSOs.



Reflecting back on 2020 to 2024, various challenges and key learnings can be identified for the Share-Net Secretariats and members.

3.1. Governance

Expanding the Network and Growing Pains

At the beginning of the 2020-2024 cycle, Share-Net International faced several challenges in its efforts to expand the network. The integration of Burkina Faso, Colombia, and Ethiopia brought growing pains, with a selection process in 2020 delaying final decision until the following year. This delay postponed planned activities into 2022, forcing the SHIRIM on capacity strengthening to be organized under tight timelines and rescheduling the SHIRIM on knowledge translation to 2022. The SHIRIM process also faced additional challenges and pitfalls, as the new hubs reported difficulties in adapting lessons while still building their network and membership. They also shared they were lacking practical content in the programme, such as budget management. Coupled with working exclusively online and lacking face-to-face engagement build relationships with new colleagues became harder.

Pandemic-driven Challenges within Share-Net

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted Share-Net International and the hubs. In 2020, members of CoPs struggled to find time to contribute on top of their own work commitments, highlighting the need for better planning and coordination. The delayed programming due to the pandemic, with many activities being pushed into the final quarter of the year, added to secretariats' and members' workloads.

By 2021, members highlighted that online-only engagement was weakening relationships within the network. One member shared: "Physical encounters are important, they strengthen ties." In turn, this impacted the effectiveness of CoPs, with reduced responsiveness among members and a slow return to physical meetings – even in places where COVID-19 restrictions had been lifted. The concerns were echoed in the Mid-Term recommendations, prompting a push in 2022 and beyond for hybrid formats to rebuild connections and enhance member engagement.

Governance Challenges as Outlined in the Mid-Term Review

The 2022 Share-Net International Mid-Term Review underscored the need for the network to have a more diverse and inclusive membership, particularly from the Global South. This concern was also reflected in the 2022 and 2024 CoP evaluations, with the former calling for greater representation of rural areas.

In response, Share-Net introduced a Membership Engagement Strategy to enhance active member participation, promote diversity, and better meet member's needs. This included raising awareness of Share-Net International, recruiting SRHR advocates to join the network, and increasing engagement via targeted activities and events. The strategy emphasized the inclusion of marginalized and diverse groups and was accompanied with a monitoring framework to track engagement and make adjustments where needed.

Dependence on Secretariat Support for CoPs

CoP Evaluations in 2020, 2023, and 2024 revealed that secretariats played a key role in facilitating and coordinating CoPs activities and providing logistical support. This raised concerns about the long-term sustainability of CoPs should this support diminish or end. Furthermore, members called for stronger alignment amongst CoPs efforts, as well as CoP activities and their own professional needs. Membership engagement challenges identified in 2022 persisted into 2024, underlining the need for structured agendas and follow-up mechanisms to enhance accountability and maximise impact.

3.2. Financial Sustainability

In 2020, as SRHR remained chronically underfunded, members noted sector-wide funding gaps impacting the network. The onboarding of new hubs brought additional complications, with (banking) issues delaying the release of the first instalments and implementation throughout 2021. Both the 2022 Mid-Term Review and the 2024 CoP evaluation stressed the urgent need for Share-Net International to diversify its funding sources to remain sustainable amid a volatile funding environment. Particularly after the Mid-Term Review fundraising efforts have been stepped up. A working group with hub members was formed and met regularly, developing a strategy and sustainability plan focused on multi-level acquisition. Key donors were identified nationally and internationally. Despite challenges in finding entry points, persistent efforts led to several introductory meetings and appreciated pitches, including from IDRC and the Canadian, Finnish, and Belgium governments, and various embassies.

The network deepened tied with strategic partners, adding Gutmacher and MSI to our SNI Advisory Board. Given rising anti-rights and SRHR politics, efforts have been shifted to focus on foundations. While international competition remains high, more success has been seen at the country level and secured international cost-sharing, such as events with IPPF and Asia Pacific Alliance on SRHR.

In the 2022 CoP evaluation, members expressed a strong desire to scale up activities and increase frequency, but they also noted that budget constraints limited these ambitions and that the current amounts they receive were not sufficient to make a long-term impact.

3.3. Backlash in and Beyond the Network

Political and Environmental Instability

Over the years, the work of Share-Net International and country hubs' work has been impacted by political and environmental instability. For example, in 2023, socio-political instability in Burkina Faso, where a military regime came into power, stopped the large-scale dissemination of a knowledge product developed an Activation Grant recipient, Colibri Sud, due to the rising opposition to LGBTQI+ rights.

Growing Backlash on SRHR and Shrinking Civic Space

From 2020 to 2024, global pushback against SRHR intensified. Alongside a shrinking civic space, Share-Net faced increasing challenges in supporting members, maintaining security and safety within the network, and continuing its mission to advance SRHR knowledge.

Aligning Values within the Network

Challenges also persisted within Share-Net International around maintaining unified values. With SRHR encompassing various issues, ensuring that those upheld a comprehensive understanding of SRHR and commitment to universal human rights proved difficult.

3.4. Showcasing the impact of the platform

While Share-Net International's grants programme succeeded in generating, translating and sharing knowledge, reflections in 2020 noted that measuring policy and practice impact remained difficult. Two years later, this was echoed in the Mid-Term Review, which underlined the need for greater focus on influencing policy and practice, particularly at a hub level. At the regional level, demonstrating impact was even more difficult due to the national set-up of country hubs, thus lacking a strong integration of secretariats rooted in amongst the respective region.

3.5. Equitable partnerships and shifting the power

The network's governance followed a traditional donor-recipient format. Even though equitable partnerships and the discussion around decolonizing grew, governance reorganisation was not prioritised after mid-term reflections. However, gradual shifts were made – more power, responsibilities and funds were delegated to the hubs. The board was diversified, with separate advisory and executive boards established to amplify diverse voices. Participatory grant-making was introduced, increasing country-level responsibility. The final SHIRIM phase became a Knowledge Management Fund, allowing hubs to lead their own trajectories. Despite Share-Net International's commitment to equity and decolonization challenges persist. Ensuring balance, mutual respect and fair collaboration, especially between Global North and South actors, continues to require deliberate, ongoing effort and eventually a different organisational set-up. The end of the MoFa-KIT agreement presents a chance to restructure. MoUs are being drafted to define future collaboration with mutual responsibilities at the core.

3.6. Accessibility

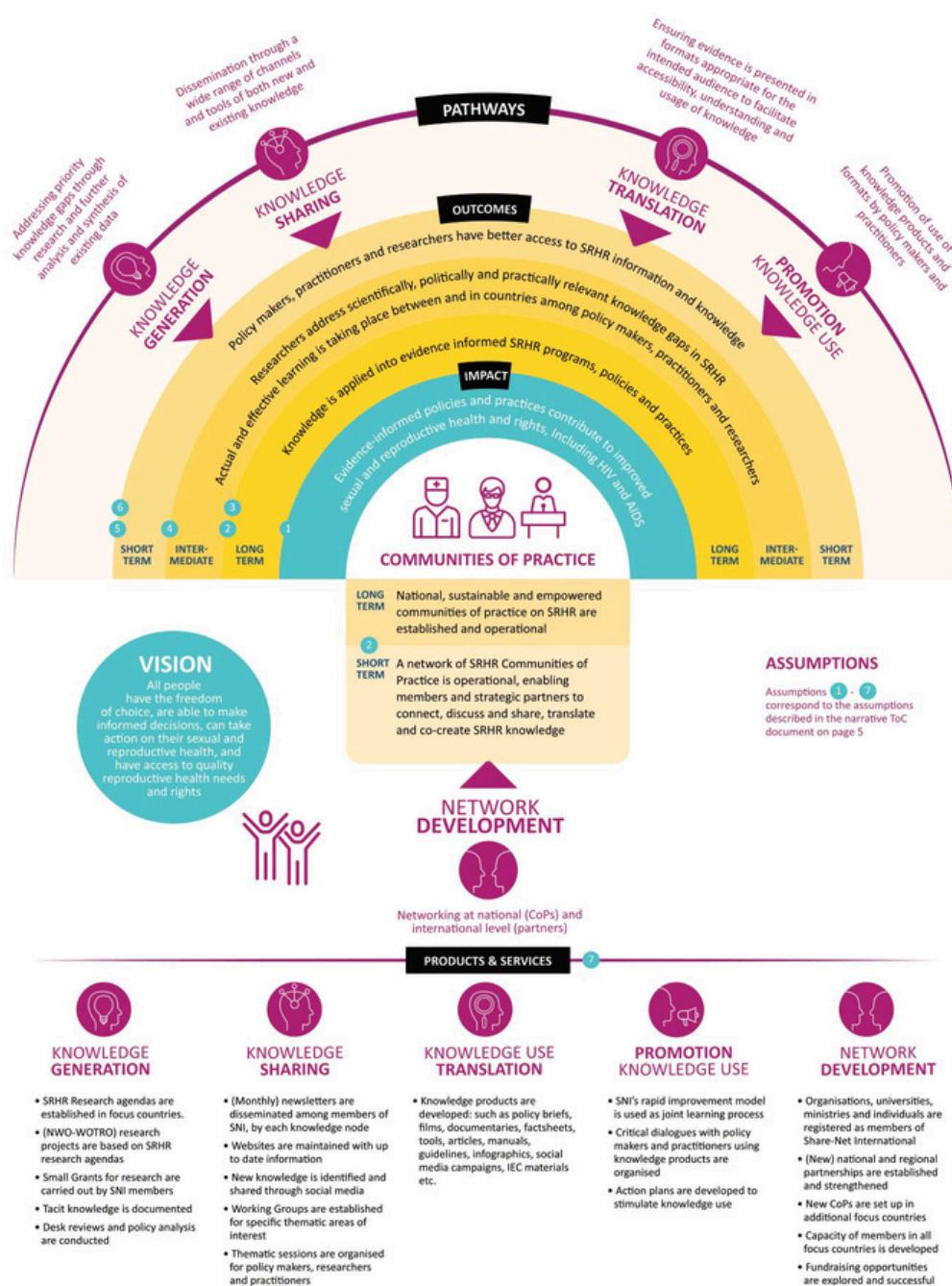
Share-Net International has emphasized the need for tailored approaches in its knowledge-sharing and translation efforts to better serve members and users with different needs. Still, despite this commitment, persistent challenges remain in ensuring accessibility for all stakeholders across contexts and geographies. In 2020 and 2021, meetings were primarily held online, leading to some countries and members missing out and lagging behind due to a lack of access to the internet.

ANNEX



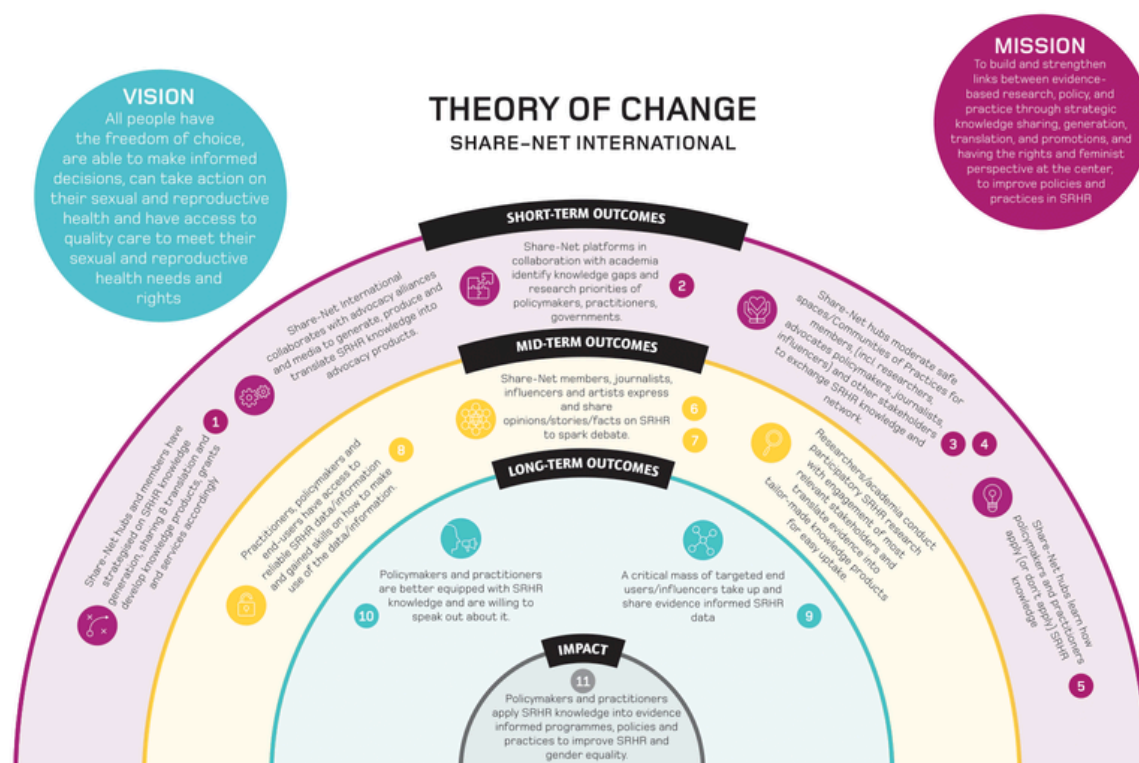
ANNEX 1

ORIGINAL THEORY OF CHANGE 2018-22



ANNEX 2

REVISED THEORY OF CHANGE 2023-27



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



ASSUMPTIONS

- Share-Net platforms underscore the plurality of knowledge and take different knowledge perspectives into account when prioritizing knowledge gaps.
- Knowledge gaps and defined research priorities are inline with the objectives of Share-Net hubs chosen focus areas.
- Lack of evidence informed data, power dynamics and harmful social norms and values are an obstacle to debate SRHR issues.
- Safe spaces support the exchange of SRHR information and improve learning.
- Applying the outcome harvesting method and exchange of knowledge will give Share-Net more insights into strategies that work to achieve impact.
- Journalists, influencers and artists have an interest to collaborate with the Share-Net platforms.
- A safe and conducive environment is there for journalists, influencers, artists and Share-Net members to express themselves on SRHR and address harmful norms and practices.
- Share-Net International's knowledge platform is regarded as a credible source for the uptake of data/information.
- A critical mass is required to shift, political spaces in favor of SRH knowledge and rights over harmful social norms and populist voices.
- Policymakers and practitioners are willing to speak out, when they are strategically supported by the Share-Net platform and advocacy alliances to address opposition voices.
- When policymakers and SRHR practitioners are equipped with knowledge and skills for its application, have the willingness to address harmful social and cultural norms and there is a supportive environment to do so, they will adjust policy and practices.

Share-Net International

The Knowledge Platform on
Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights



Netherlands

Jordan

Bangladesh

Colombia

Burkina Faso

Ethiopia

Burundi



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