



Monthly Newsletter

1. Advocacy Mission to Namibia, Windhoek by IPPF Africa Region Chairperson, Mrs. Hannatu Ibrahim

The IPPF Africa Region (IPPFAR) Chairperson, Mrs. Hannatu Ibrahim, visited Namibia from 21 to 25 April 2008 on an advocacy mission at the invitation of the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA). The main objectives of the mission were to:

- Meet with high-level government officials and development partners to solicit for increased political and financial support for sexual and reproductive health, as well as for NAPPA's work.
- Enhance collaboration between NAPPA and key stakeholders (government ministries, private sector, development agencies, high commissioners and embassies).
- Raise NAPPA profile as a key SRH actor in the country.
- Familiarize the Chairperson with the NAPPA's programmes and activities.

Mrs. Ibrahim held meetings with Prime Minister, Right Honourable Nahas Angula; NAPPA Patron and First Lady, H.E. Penexupifo Pohamba; NAPPA Chairperson Emeritus and Hon. Minister for Environment and Tourism, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah; Minister for Health and Social Services, Dr. Richard Kamwi; Assistant Minister for Gender and Child Welfare, Hon. Angelika Muharukua; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Communication, Ambassador Ekwake; and the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Ms. Ericah Shafudah. She also held discussions with the High Commissioners for Nigeria; Kenya; Britain and Chinese Embassy officials; as well as country representatives for UNICEF; UNFPA and WHO.

To familiarize herself with NAPPA's work, she visited NAPPA's first clinic in Okuryangava, in Windhoek and addressed staff and volunteers at the opening session of the 11th NAPPA National Council Meeting. She also addressed a public lecture on "Mobilizing for Reproductive health/HIV Integration" held at the Katutura Hospital.

Mrs. Ibrahim was accorded a warm reception by the high ranking government officials and key development partners who acknowledged NAPPA's significant contribution towards providing SRH services and information to youth. They also expressed their willingness to continue working with the Member Association.

She was accompanied on the mission by the NAPPA's Executive Director, Mr. Sam Ntelamo, NAPPA senior volunteer, Ms. Airah Schikwambi and Ms. Josephine Mutungi of the IPPF Africa Regional Office.

2. FHOK Serving Internally Displaced Persons

Following the disputed general elections in December last year, the country experienced a flare-up of post-election violence, which led to the deaths of over 1,000 Kenyans with an estimated 300,000 being displaced in many parts of the country. Many of these Internally Displaced People (IDPs) trickled in to camps that were set up by the government and other humanitarian agencies.

With regard to these IDPs and as an immediate response, FHOK assisted these victims and their families in different ways. As an organization that deals primarily with health concerns of the people, FHOK through its community health workers, Peer

Youth Educators and Youth Counsellors provided and continues to provide these IDPs with basic first aid care and other immediate curative services. As well as providing general and post-trauma counselling to these victims,

FHOK is also involved in tracing lost family members, an activity done in close collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross. FHOK continues to be instrumental in the distribution of emergency commodities such as condoms, contraceptives and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

With regard to PLWHIV who have been affected by the violence and who are in IDP camps, FHOK continues to provide them with ARVs, HAART, nutritional support and psychosocial counselling. In all the sites, FHOK clinics have been instrumental in the provision of reproductive health services to persons referred to these facilities for family planning, ECP, Child immunisation, HAART, PEP, VCT services, curative services, antenatal and postnatal services.



A service provider attending to an Internally Displaced post natal client

3. Rolling Out of the Reproductive Health Commodity Security Strategy

As a way forward from the launch of the Reproductive Health Commodity Security Strategy in July 2007, two joint planning workshops were held in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana in order to develop joint action plans for SRH commodity security. The RHCS strategy focuses on five strategic areas: Advocacy, Capacity Building, Resource Mobilization, Networking and Sustainability

The workshops targeted mainly the senior management of MAs who were divided up into two clusters as follows:

- a) Guinée Conakry-Cote D'Ivoire-Senegal and Mali
- b) Ghana-Nigeria-Sierra Leone- Liberia and the Gambia

During these workshops, draft joint action plans in RHCS for the period 2009-2012. The action plans are still in draft form and need to be finalized and costed.

MAs will include some of these activities in their 2009 APBs but will also solicit for in country or other development partner funding for the rest of the activities.

4. IPPFARO AND NAPPA participate in the post conference review meeting of the 3rd African Sexual Health and Rights Conference

From 6 to 8 May, 2008, IPPFARO and the MA of Namibia, NAPPA participated in a meeting to review the outcomes of the 3rd African Sexual Health and Rights Conference which was held in Abuja in February 2008. The purpose of the meeting was also to identify the next steps for transition and planning for the 4th Sexual Health and Rights Conference, and to identify next steps for action for the Namibia team of NGOs/CSOs who will be responsible for mobilising support and attending the meeting. The meeting was organised and hosted by NAPPA in Windhoek, and was attended by the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health, the WHO Representative for Adolescent Programming, representatives of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, the Forum for the Empowerment of Women and representatives of various Namibian NGOs involved in sexual and reproductive rights issues.

IPPFAR facilitated discussion sessions on planning and mobilising for the 4th conference, and also facilitated group work and worked closely with the group working on the linkages between sexuality, HIV/AIDS and adolescent and youth sexual rights issues. It was acknowledged that the 3rd conference was a success in general but with the larger scope envisaged for the 4th conference-which is to be organised by IPPFAR, there was need for timely preparatory work as well as the need for an early formation for a committee for resource mobilisation, identification of patrons, identification of conference sub-themes, and abstract reviews.

It was agreed that the 4th Conference would be held during the week of February 8, 2010 in Addis

Ababa. The theme of the conference is Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS. IPPFAR MAs are expected to play a key role in mobilising country teams and country support for this initiative. A concept paper is being developed and will be shared with the MAs in July that will provide more information on the initiative.

5. Ouagadougou Burkina Faso 28-30 April 2008: International Conference on the Revitalisation of Primary Health Care, Reform of the Health System to attain Millennium Development Objectives

The above conference which was organised by the WHO Africa Office in collaboration with UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, World Bank and the African Development Bank of Burkina Faso drew the participation of over 600 people from diverse socio-professional backgrounds including the civil society and international NGOs. It is worth noting that the conference was graced by the presence of 48 Ministers of Health.

IPPFARO participated in plenary sessions and two parallel sessions whose key themes included:

- Health Financing;
- Good governance and democracy in health ;
- Community participation ;
- Decentralisation of the health system ;
- Service provision and quality of services;
- Essential drugs and traditional pharmacopeia.

IPPFARO participated through the sharing of experiences on the following interventions:

- The RHR community programme through the establishment of a mobile clinic in Ethiopia;
- The Quality Assurance Programme;
- Promotion of long-term FP methods through the introduction of cutaneous implants for the first time in a number of countries.

The conference culminated in the adoption of the final version of the Ouagadougou Declaration which was signed by all ministers present and their representatives for the African Continent. The main thrusts of the Declaration include:

- Reaffirmation of the centrality of SSR towards the achievement of MDGs for the Africa Region;

- The need to develop national community health programmes ;
- Development of a remuneration system for community health workers and their recognition as being an integral part of the health system in particular, and development in general;
- Reaffirmation of the position that health occupies as a central pillar of development programmes and the fight against poverty.

6. Kuala Lumpur Training of trainers on MISP 28 April -2 May SPRINT

Dr. Kiran Asif, Senior Technical Advisor from Central office and Ada Pouye Emergency Response Advisor of IPPF Africa Regional office attended the first Training of Trainers on the Minimum Initial Service Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crises organised by SPRINT (Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme in crisis and post crisis situation in East, South- East Asia and the pacific).

SPRINT is an initiative by IPPF ESEAOR in partnership with UNFPA, the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance (ARHA).

This was one of the three training of trainers scheduled to take place in the ESEAOR Region in 2008. The other two TOTs will take place in Sydney (end June) and Fiji (early July)

Participants included Country representatives of UNFPA, Red Cross Society, Ministry of health, and IPPF Member Associations from Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

SPRINT initiative and its activities are planned for a three year period (2007-2010) and it aims to increase ESEAOR Regional capacity to respond to crisis and post-crisis situations.

Overall outcome and significant themes

1. Minimum initial service package (MISP)- over view and the importance of co-ordination among different stakeholders during crisis and post-crisis situation – The training included a written post-test at the end of the training prior to certification
2. The Key components of MISP are
 - Sexual and gender-based violence

- Maternal and newborn health
 - HIV and STIs
3. Establishment of comprehensive SRH service during post-crisis phase includes establishment of services and health care systems in the areas affected during crisis

All the participants were grouped together by country and at the end of every training day; they had to prepare an action plan for specific interventions learned during the training. At the end the action plans were presented to all other groups which will be followed up by the SPRINT-Secretariat at ESEAOR after the training.

Dr. Kiran Asif and Ada Pouye from ARO worked on a plan of activities to raise awareness about MISP and SPRINT at CO and RO level.

The TOT was an opportunity for ARO to meet potential donors; Mrs Jane Singleton AM, CEO of Australian Reproductive Health Alliance and to build on inter regional strategic partnership. It was very important to participate in the TOT while ARO is moving on with the Great lakes SRH initiative. The first TOT on MISP in Africa and the launch of joint SRH initiative will take place in Bujumbura from June 9th -13th with 10 MAs from the Great Lakes Region in collaboration with UNFPA and UNHCR.

Having trained participants from Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Congo Brazzaville, and the CAR Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Kenya will be useful to have critical mass of master trainers in the continent which is more affected by crisis.

7. FHOK Capacity building on Reproductive Health

Family Health Options Kenya in partnership with Foundation for Professional Development (FDP), a South African private University accredited by South Africa Commission for Higher Education offered the following courses in the Month of March.

- Adherence Counseling for ART
- HIV/AIDS Counseling, Prevention & Education Programme for Community Workers

The courses are offered in two phases annually, the next phase will be in Sept/Oct. The focus of the project is to build capacity for organisations, communities and individuals on various SRH and HIV service delivery areas. The courses are heavily subsidised and are offered in most major towns where FHOK is present.

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| <p><i>A+ News letter Editor: Dr. Josephine Moyo- Director, Organizational Development Effectiveness and Governance-IPPF Africa Region</i></p> |
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