

Africa Regional Office Partnerships Unit – what do we do?

Quarter 3, 2008 - A two-page update

ARO Partnerships Unit is currently made up of the Head of Partnerships, three Advisors and an Assistant, all based in Nairobi.

According to the IPPF ARO strategic plan 2005-09 'the Partnerships Department will provide a new focus and professionalism to external communications to promote IPPFAR's leadership in the region...central to this role are advocacy, resource mobilization and publications production.' The Unit's main roles are:

- To liaise with key advocacy targets in Africa and overseas –targets are local or high-level, depending on the objective - the aim is to secure increased political and financial commitments to SRH&R in Africa Region (e.g. in 2008 this has been about 'putting Maputo into action' and focused on regional economic groupings)
- To liaise between donors, Member Associations (MAs) and ARO Financial Advisors to assist MAs in project/grant management of contracts that focus on advocacy e.g. EU, Hewlett, Gates (contracts relating to *programme* issues are overseen by the programme department)

These are the big two tasks keeping the team busy. However, Partnerships Unit also:

- Provides technical assistance and information to all AR MAs to enhance advocacy and resource mobilization (not *all* AR MAs can receive this annually as it depends on Nairobi teams' capacity, contracts, resources etc)
- Liaises with IPPF CO to ensure links are made between national, regional and global advocacy
- Liaises with other IPPF ARO departments to ensure advocacy & resource mobilization are integrated into all aspects of ARO's business
- Plays a communications function; writing speeches, editing key documents, managing the publication of Africa Link, a twice-yearly publication on topical SRH advocacy issues as well as the Ya Magazine quarterly
- IPPF ARO, apart from in exceptional circumstances, is also usually the focal point for all communications to Africa Region MAs from donors & IPPF Central Office's Advocacy/Resource Mobilization staff e.g. donor enquiries, proposals to be developed and contracts to be managed. This coordination role can be time consuming but hopefully is useful for donors, IPPF Central Office and MAs by streamlining and coordinating (and adding value) to the flow of information throughout the Federation

The IPPF AR strategic plan contains objectives that are operationalized by the Unit in the annual planning budget (APB). The main objectives/ focus of the Unit within the Jan-Dec 2008 APB are:

<p align="center">Objective 1</p> <p align="center">Regional & Global Advocacy + ARO Strategic Planning</p>	<p align="center">Objective 2</p> <p align="center">MA/National level advocacy¹</p>	<p align="center">Objective 3</p> <p align="center">Resource Mobilization for MAs/ARO</p>	<p align="center">Objective 4</p> <p align="center">Regional communication</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High-level advocacy missions to push for the operationalization of Maputo (<i>focal point: Cesaire</i>) - Project management of the Hewlett funds (<i>focal point Jacqueline</i>). This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging in regional/international advocacy processes e.g. TICAD - Strengthening relations with key regional stakeholders (parliamentarians, media) etc and undertaking advocacy to increase commitment for the operationalisation of the Maputo Plan among Regional Economic Communities, i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SADC (<i>Jacqueline supported by Josephine</i>) - ECOWAS (<i>Cesaire & Josephine</i>) - EAC (<i>Josephine supported by Jacqueline</i>) - Central Africa (<i>Cesaire</i>) - Review and strengthen relations with large-scale stakeholders through MoUs, joint-actions or funding partnerships e.g. WHO, UNFPA (<i>focal point: Cesaire</i>) - Mapping current advocacy capacities among MAs, donor priorities, Accreditation priorities etc so as to prioritize interventions in 2009 (<i>focal point: Jacqueline</i>) - Develop strategic & operational ARO advocacy plan and contribute to development of global strategy (<i>focal point: Jacqueline</i>) 	<p>Project RMA: Through national advocacy, increasing funds to MAs/the SRH sector to increase RH supplies – being piloted in Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda 2007-10 (<i>focal point: Pierre</i>)</p> <p>Project management of the EU funded project - Donorship to Ownership. This involves improving awareness on reproductive health policies among in-country stakeholders in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana and other ECOWAS countries (<i>focal point: Josephine</i>)</p> <p>The Hewlett project that focuses on regional/global advocacy also requires technical assistance to targeted MAs to facilitate national-level advocacy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operationalizing the Resource Mob strategy developed in 2007 (<i>focal Point Pierre</i>). This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information gathering of funding opportunities - Facilitating training of MA staff - Providing TA to MAs to help them access funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa Link publication (to also be evaluated mid-2008) - Ya – magazine (published quarterly) <i>Focal points: Cesaire/Angelo</i>

¹ For this document we reorganized the projects/objectives compared to how they appeared in the 2008 APB. E.g. the 2008 APB had separate objectives/projects for 'putting Maputo into action' and 'linking national to regional advocacy', yet these objectives overlap extensively and are not separate (this is partly a product of the eIMS which needs separate 'projects' even for work that overlaps). As there was not in the 2008 APB an objective/project focusing on MA/National level advocacy, which is the remit of the EU and Gates funded project (and part of Hewlett) for this update we organized the objectives so this distinction is clear.