Pakistan

Increasing access to SRH services in fragile contexts for rural women in hard-to-reach areas

These country examples show how IPPF Member Associations are already implementing key elements of the new Strategic Framework. To deliver our new goals, Member Associations will have opportunities to capitalize on the achievements of peer organizations.

In some areas of Pakistan, girls and women are vulnerable to harmful traditional practices, like swara (now illegal, a form of reconciliation where a girl or woman is given in marriage to settle a dispute) and early marriage, and many of them face tremendous obstacles to basic services, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

Finally, Rahnuma has strengthened emergency preparedness by building the capacity of service providers and stakeholders to implement the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP).

Results

The charts overleaf show that Rahnuma has increased service delivery and enabled women to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. Specifically:

- 84% of services are provided to women
- 75% of clients in 2014 were poor and vulnerable
- SRH service delivery is increasing each year (e.g. 48% increase from 2013-14, 18% from 2011-12)

These achievements are due to increased investments in:

1. Services
2. Outreach services (including partnerships)
3. Integrated services

In recent years, there have been floods and an earthquake in Pakistan, during which service providers have provided the MISP. This was made possible by Rahnuma’s capacity building efforts.

Approach

Rahnuma, an IPPF Member Association, empowers girls and women in fragile contexts through four distinct programmes.

The first of these is community mobilization and sensitization, which includes improving women’s mobility and access to SRH services, and organizing microcredit programmes so women can access finance. Rahnuma works with local leaders to break the tradition of swara, and supports young women affected by swara.

Secondly, Rahnuma delivers rights-based, integrated health services in rural and semi-urban areas, through clinics, hospitals, mobile teams and home visitors.

Rahnuma is expanding health service coverage by providing training, supplies and quality assurance among private and public providers, and also delivers outreach services in partnership with public facilities.
The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is a global service provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. We are a worldwide movement of national organizations working with and for communities and individuals.

More examples of our Member Associations’ work can be found on our website: www.ippf.org.

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