

KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION

STRATEGY 2022-2026

OUR VISION

We envision a world where sexual and reproductive health and rights are respected, protected and fulfilled and where sexual and reproductive health-related laws, policies, health systems and practices are based on human rights and social justice and the needs of all people without discrimination and violence.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to advance the creation and dissemination of sexual and reproductive health knowledge that is grounded in human rights and based on credible evidence, and to facilitate the transformation of such knowledge into action for improved sexual and reproductive health and rights.

WHO WE ARE

SRHM is the only global organisation linked to a scientific, highly reputed journal in the field of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) that provides an independent voice, has a long-time, trusted reputation, and offers space to a truly global network of researchers, policy makers, programme managers, lawyers and activists in the field of SRH.

Our mission is shaped by the understanding that rights- and evidence-based knowledge is power.

SRHM's ever-growing community of researchers, activists and other experts contributes to shift ideology and power-driven politics that are hostile to people's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) towards human rights and social justice in SRHR policies and programmes. SRHM's core tenet is that sound, evidence-based and rights-grounded knowledge is of critical importance to the decisions to be made and the actions to be taken to improve SRHR.

Reproductive Health Matters (RHM) (SRHM from 2019) was established and started publishing its journal nearly 30 years ago.

Since then, hundreds of thousands have placed their trust in SRHM's fearless approach to the critical issues affecting people's SRHR, wherever they are. They have confidence in SRHM's independent voice, scientific rigour, explicit attention to sexual and reproductive justice, and unique approach to articulating and expanding the understanding of how sexual and reproductive health and human rights are inextricably interlinked.



S/RHM's 25th anniversary event in London, England in 2019.

© SRHM



SRHM South Asia regional hub meeting in New Delhi, India in 2022.

© SRHM



Francophone Africa regional mentoring programme meeting in Cotonou, Benin in 2022.

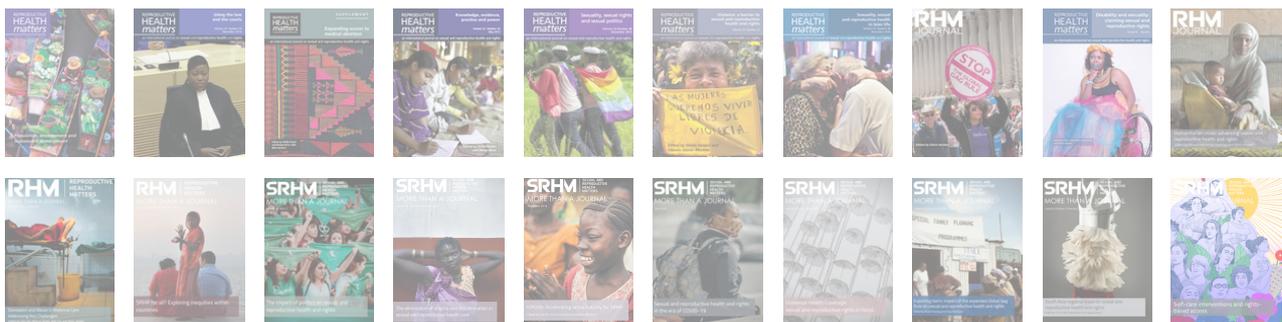
© SRHM

OUR INFLUENCE

Over the past 30 years, SRHM has been at the forefront of creating dialogues and thinking space about cutting-edge issues. Through the SRHM journal, we have been leaders in publishing evidence and documenting the impact of the criminalisation of sexuality and reproduction, the privatisation of health systems, the Global Gag Rule on abortion access, and the discrimination and disrespect in the provision of SRH services. We developed evidence- and rights-based knowledge on access to medical abortion, pregnancy and HIV, and on adolescents' access to SRH services and sexual education. The SRHM journal responded immediately to the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic and was the first to publish on the impacts for SRHR and to continue to cover this comprehensively. Papers relating to COVID-19 and SRHR were among the most downloaded and cited in 2021.

This body of information has contributed to strategic decision making in the SRHR movement, has influenced judicial, treaty monitoring body and regional court decisions, has been incorporated into WHO standards and UN General Assembly resolutions, and influenced laws, policies and health system reforms around the world. The knowledge produced and communicated through the SRHM journal has been incorporated into university and training curricula, influencing the growth of a new generation of SRHR actors around the world. Our mentoring programme amplified voices and knowledge rarely heard in scientific spaces. Our rights-based research initiative has been gaining interest and influencing researchers in producing knowledge that can influence rights-based action.

The journal continues to see an increase in submissions, downloads and impact demonstrating a significant need for the journal globally and regionally. Since the journal became open access in 2017, paper submissions grew steadily with a peak following the launch of the COVID-19 call for papers. During that same time, article downloads increased by 515% to over 1.6 million downloads while the journal impact factor has increased from 1.4 to 5.7. We also saw unprecedented participation in our webinars including more than 3000 online participants for our COVID-19 webinar in March 2020; eager participation in our dialogue spaces; dedication to and success of our mentoring activities and programmes; and committed collaboration to establishing our regional hubs - all these further demonstrate the relevance and need for SRHM in the SRHR field.



SRHM'S WORK IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER



© Panos Pictures

Sexual and reproductive health-related laws, policies and programmes across the world are increasingly influenced by ideologically-inspired politics and rhetoric that lack any evidential basis and frequently violate human rights and damage health. The consequences are often dire and can include restricting or denying access to sexual and reproductive health services, including those related to contraception, abortion and HIV, and systematic and persistent discrimination against structurally excluded communities and people, such as adolescents, migrants, refugees, people living with disabilities, sex workers, gay, lesbian, trans and intersex people.

The promulgation of SRH knowledge that is rooted in people's needs and experiences, and communicated in participatory, multi-stakeholder processes linked to action, on the other hand, is likely to lead to the adoption and implementation of laws, policies and practices that respect and protect human rights and address the needs of those most affected by poor sexual and reproductive health.

There is a need to:

- **challenge traditional hierarchies of evidence** and methodological boundaries of research and knowledge creation, so that knowledge becomes a tool for rights-based action,
- **hear the voices and document the experiences** of those who are most in need, so their perspectives become evidence and their needs and rights can influence action,
- **renew rights- and evidence-based strategies** to safeguard and adopt laws, policies and implement programmes that are based on people's needs and their human rights,
- **dismantle the silos** among SRHR movements, disciplines and actors and support cross-country, cross-movement and cross-discipline conversations and actions,
- **empower and influence** law and policy makers, judges and service providers with rights- and evidence-based information, so that their actions can improve sexual and reproductive health and rights.

SRHM'S CONTRIBUTION IN 2022-2026

Considering the moment, our historical strengths and the needs of the movements working on sexual and reproductive health and rights worldwide, these are the 7 Key Outcomes SRHM intends to achieve by the end of 2026:

1- SRH researchers, activists, policy makers, communities use strong rights- and evidence-based SRH knowledge for legal, policy and service delivery change

How?

We will challenge historically rooted power dynamics in knowledge creation by co-creating new, rights-based frameworks for research agenda-setting, bringing more diverse scholars, activists, and practitioners into a knowledge creation process that leads to action.

We will provide a trusted independent SRHR knowledge space for researchers, academics, lawyers, human rights advocates, policy makers, service providers and community members all around the world, by continuing to produce and disseminate the high quality, cutting edge, multidisciplinary, open access, peer-reviewed, international SRHM journal.

In the journal we will promote the use of a broad range of innovative, interdisciplinary, rights-based methodologies and approaches for communicating knowledge from diverse actors, accommodated by a broad range of article types and publication forms.

We will connect this knowledge to international, regional and local advocacy, legal and policy and health system development.



SRHM and partners presenting at ICPD25 in Nairobi, Kenya in 2019.

© SRHM

2- The knowledge of local activists, experts, and services providers is amplified, influencing law and policy making and programme development worldwide and the voice of communities is considered to be evidence

How?

We will facilitate regional, national and community ownership of rights-based and evidence-informed SRHR knowledge creation by establishing regional SRHM Hubs and regional and local collaborations.

We will amplify voices of the structurally excluded, and enhance co-creation of knowledge, by bringing a wider range of local actors into the knowledge creation process, and engaging with those whose voices are often neglected.

We will organise regional mentoring programmes and learning exchanges with local partners; and use the trusted voice of SRHM for advocacy locally, regionally and internationally. in partnership with local organisations.



South Asia regional hub meeting in New Delhi, India in 2020.

© SRHM

3- A new generation of SRHR researchers and activists are emerging with skills of creating rights- and evidence-based knowledge for action

How?

We will organise multidisciplinary exchanges for SRHR researchers, activists and other experts with different experiences, so as to foster a better understanding of rights-based and action-oriented knowledge creation.

We will strengthen and expand our mentoring programme for researchers, human rights lawyers and activists, practitioners and community members who have less experience in academic writing while supporting them to publish articles in the SRHM journal.

We will organise online and in-person courses, global and regional mentoring programmes and multidisciplinary learning exchanges, writing workshops, webinars and dialogue meetings, in collaboration with global and local institutions, NGO's, international organisations and other partners. We will collaborate with academic institutions and teaching programmes to strengthen academic and training curricula development to support the growth of the next generation of SRHR researchers, activists and other experts.

4- Silos within and across SRHR movements are broken down, with different SRHR stakeholder groups learning from each other and using well informed strategies at local and global levels



Event co-organised by ThisAbility and SRHM in Nairobi, Kenya in 2019.
© SRHM

How?

We will empower SRHR actors and activists with new evidence-based strategies and support the growth and harmonisation of the global SRHR movement.

We will provide platforms for dialogue and exchange on emerging and neglected SRHR issues. By stimulating discussion and bringing researchers, policy makers, funders, service providers, activists, and community representatives together across countries, across regions, across disciplines and perspectives, we will foster the exchange of ideas and strategies to influence SRHR politics, policies, research, and practice.

Through our dialogue, journal space and advocacy space we will explore and document discourses and strategic developments across global, regional and local spaces, and various movements, including feminist and women's rights movements, sex workers movements, LGBTIQ+, trans, intersex, and disability movements.

5- Parliamentarians, judges, politicians, international and national policy makers are effectively using counternarratives to disinformation influencing international and government action all over the world

How?

We will engage with parliamentary, treaty, judicial and policy processes internationally, regionally and nationally through learning and information exchanges so to provide parliamentarians, judges, policy makers, treaty monitoring body, regional courts, and commission members with rights- and evidence-based SRH information.

We will ensure that activists engaging in such processes, locally, regionally and internationally, have all relevant information needed to influence these processes.

We will organise dialogue for multi-stakeholder actors and activists to strategise on how to influence emerging and politically relevant SRHR issues and processes. We will make sure that the voices of structurally excluded communities are included in these processes.

6- Policy makers and programme implementers are working for improved SRH services by effective use of positive examples of rights-based SRH service provision

How?

We will document knowledge on rights-based service provision that takes into consideration the rights and needs of the structurally excluded communities, that are not discriminatory and that respect choice. In order to do so, we will engage with researchers, programme implementers and service providers who use rights-based methodologies in their work and help them to document, publish and disseminate their knowledge as credible evidence through the SRHM journal.

We will continue to invest in technology and expanding networks to make sure that this knowledge and learning reaches a wide range of audiences.

7- Abortion activists, policy makers and politicians are empowered with knowledge and new evidence-based strategies they are using to influence the abortion agenda at the international and national levels

How?

We will create dialogue spaces for developing new abortion rights strategies, narratives and partnerships.

We will document how political environments can influence abortion rights successes or retreats, and how legal, policy and service delivery barriers and their elimination can have an impact on access to safe abortion services and women's health.

We will collect evidence and document how technological developments can accommodate or hinder access to safe abortion services, and how they influence equalities and inequalities within enabling or restrictive and criminalised settings.

We will fuel the movement for abortion rights solidarity globally that can lead to joint action.

We will ensure that politicians, judges, policy makers, activists, affected communities and service providers are equipped with rights- and evidence-based information, and act together to safeguard abortion rights.



© Malvestida, Unsplash

SRHM AS A SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

In working to achieve all of the above, SRHM also strives to be an organisation with strengthened institutional and financial sustainability in order to maintain SRHM's core mission, vision and values.

We will ensure effective governance by maintaining an effectively functioning Board of Trustees and Editorial Advisory Board, corresponding with the UK Charity Law and Companies Act, and representing and safeguarding the vision, mission and values of SRHM; whose members draw on diverse, multidisciplinary and long-standing expertise related to SRHM.

We will develop institutional partnerships through joint - for example, consortium-based - programmes and collaborations to ensure participatory, collaborative and solidarity-based processes.

We will ensure organisational effectiveness through maintaining a stable operational team, effective resource management and operational systems that correspond with our strategic goals, and by establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure accountability for the effective implementation of this strategy.

We will improve and maintain financial stability by seeking long-term, diverse, sustainable income streams to enable greater stability, manage risk, rebuild reserves and sustain core financial operations.

We will track the progress we are making against the intended outcomes outlined in our plan. SRHM will use Outcome Harvesting to gather and track the results that emanate from our activities and outputs, analysing this information yearly and using this analysis to learn and adapt our programmes based on what we are learning.