

## FPA joins forces to combat period poverty CAAPP Project in partnership with The French Embassy in Sri Lanka



The Collective Action Against Period Poverty (CAAPP) project aims at promoting inclusion and empowerment of women in Sri Lanka and is conducted as a part of the Solidarity Fund for Innovative Projects (FSPI), a key instrument of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs for development assistance. The FSPI enables French embassies to carry out innovative, high-impact and high-visibility actions for the benefit of the local community, with local actors initiating and leading the project and immediate benefits for local communities.

*“FPA is very pleased to partner with the French Embassy on the menstrual hygiene project. FPA has been involved in Menstrual Hygiene Management for some time, but through this project, we hope to expand our work towards ending menstrual stigma and discrimination; realising human rights to water and sanitation; addressing the lack of adequate WASH facilities in schools; and changing societal perceptions of menstruation and womanhood.*

*We look forward to working with many organisations on menstrual health and hygiene and hope to make a difference through this project towards changing the lives of women and girls in Sri Lanka. We thank the French embassy for giving us the management of this grant, and we hope to see changes on the ground together.” - Sonali Gunasekera, Director Advocacy*

## Mental Wellbeing programme:

### Building a cross-sector and intersectional approach to garment workers' mental wellbeing in Vietnam, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

FPA Sri Lanka is working with Stitching Women Win and Lululemon to implement a short-term Mental Wellbeing programme in Sri Lanka. The programme aims to better understand what it takes to strengthen women makers' resilience and mental wellbeing and will also be delivered in Vietnam and Bangladesh. As the selected local women's rights organization, FPA will lead the implementation of participatory Drawing the Tool (DTL) sessions in garment factories and co-facilitate knowledge sessions with vendors in Sri Lanka.

To kick off the programme, relevant members from FPA's Advocacy and Medical Units participated in a three-day training programme (9/05/2023- 11/05/2023) with the Women Win team, partners from Bangladesh, local and regional representatives from International Center for Research on Women (research partner) and Lululemon.



# FPA represented at the 'Strengthening the ICPD Ecosystem for Advocacy in Asia and the Pacific' meeting in Bangkok



## Some of the objectives of the meeting were:

- \* To reflect on the current landscape for SRHR and civil society space in Asia and the Pacific, and any lessons learned from the 2023 Commission on Population and Development (CPD), and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
- \* To discuss the challenges and opportunities in the region for advancing SRHR, including the 7th Asia and Pacific Population Conference, and explore the use of new narratives such as sexual and reproductive justice and linkages with sustainable development

The strategic meeting was organized to discuss the civil society organization (CSO) space, challenges, and strategies to mobilize support for the realization of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) in the region. The ICPD PoA is revolutionary in recognising gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as cornerstones of population development programmes and goals for the first time.

The meeting was organized by the Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health (APA - a network of national, regional and global civil society organisations that advocates for the fulfilment of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all persons in the Asia Pacific region) and RFSU - IPPF Sweden.

Representing FPA Sri Lanka was Director Advocacy, Sonali Gunasekara.



FPA is working together with the Family Health Bureau's (FHB) National Family Planning Programme to support and strengthen reproductive health knowledge, service delivery and access across the Kilinochchi district in the country. The proposed work is to conduct seven residential Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes to increase the capacity of public health officials in the Kilinochchi district responsible for providing key reproductive and sexual health services.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2023, FPA's Advocacy Unit and the MOH Office in Kilinochchi initiated the 1<sup>st</sup> of 7 Training of Trainer (TOT) programmes to be held this year. The programme covered the topic of Youth Friendly Health Services in-depth. Fifty-five (55) Public Health Officials participated in the workshop funded by the Advocacy unit.

Since then, two more TOTs were held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 on the topics of Family Health Issues and Food and Nutrition, attended by 60 and 48 Public Health Officials, respectively.

# UNFPA & DFAT supported REACH Project Awareness Sessions

## *High-risk pregnancy: Know what to expect*



Raising awareness of danger signs during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period is crucial for safe motherhood. The mother's health - before, during, and after pregnancy - directly impacts the child's health. The Seethawaka Service Delivery Point conducted an awareness session at the Pitumpe Maternal Clinic.



Women with high-risk pregnancies are among the most vulnerable groups needing accurate information and healthcare access. Sometimes a high-risk pregnancy results from a medical condition present before pregnancy. In other cases, a medical condition that develops during pregnancy causes a pregnancy to become high risk.

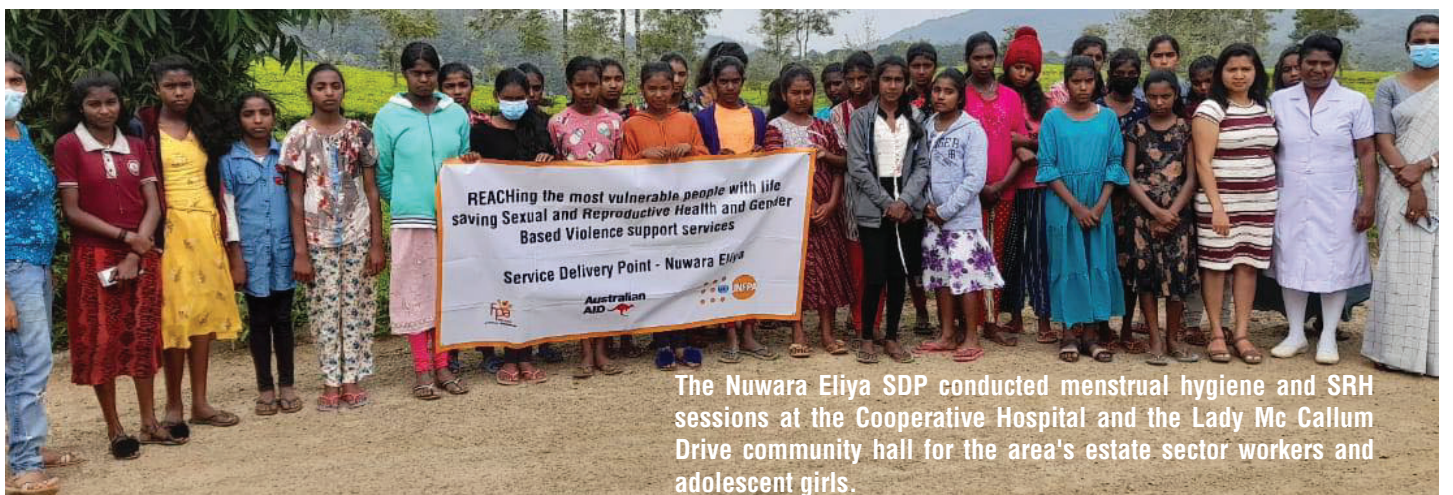


Understanding Sexual and Reproductive Health is important for women's overall wellbeing. It is central to their ability to make choices and decisions about their lives. The Foundation of Goodness held its first SRH awareness programme in June for 30 girls between the ages of 16-25 and the session was coordinated by the Koggala Service Delivery Point.

Women's awareness of obstetric danger signs and early seeking of medical care is the first intervention in reducing maternal deaths. An awareness programme for a select group of pregnant mothers was held at Maryam Village in Thiyawattawan by FPA's Batticaloa Service Delivery Point.



Public Health Midwives (PHMs) and Public Health Nursing Sisters (PHNS) are key contributors to sexual, reproductive, maternal and newborn health care. FPA's Wathupitiwala Service Delivery Point carried out a capacity - building training programme.



The Nuwara Eliya SDP conducted menstrual hygiene and SRH sessions at the Cooperative Hospital and the Lady Mc Callum Drive community hall for the area's estate sector workers and adolescent girls.

## Comprehensive sexuality education: For healthy, informed and empowered learners



Too many young people receive confusing and conflicting information about puberty, relationships, love and sex as they transition from childhood to adulthood.

FPA's CSE workshops emphasize values such as respect, inclusion, non-discrimination, equality, empathy and responsibility. It shares accurate information about puberty, relationships and pertinent health issues.

Our Wathupitiwala Service Delivery Point carried out a 2-day workshop for students of Nenamal Royal College in Biyagama. It was supported by the Biyagama MOH and the District Secretariat - Gampaha.

## Health worker training programme - Strengthening health workforce capacity

The 3-day programmes by the Nuwara Eliya and Batticaloa SDP's covered various topics that would enrich knowledge and enable the health workers to provide a comprehensive service to their communities.

FPA's D2D application (which supports health workers in recording and reporting service statistics, including stock management) was also introduced. The programme training methodologies included group work, case study discussions, role plays and intermittent Q&A sessions.



## Training youth - developing change makers!

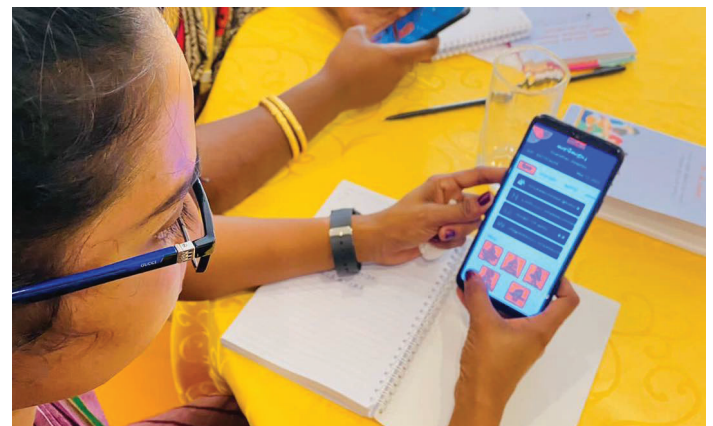


The Batticaloa SDP conducted an interactive 2-day capacity building programme for youth volunteers training on SRH topics at the Batticaloa District Psychosocial Centre in Kallady.

This workshop was designed to engage young people in skills training on SRH, bodily autonomy, puberty, gender-based violence and related information and services while dispelling SRH myths and misconceptions. As active agents in the community, these volunteers will be peer educators.



2-day workshops were held at BT/KK/Pettalai Vipulananda College, Valaichenai and at BT/KK/ Chenkalady Central College.





FPA's Suwa Sewa Centre in Batticaloa conducted a mobile health clinic at the Social Care Centre in Karuwakeni Batticaloa.

Providing a variety of SRH and general health services, Mobile Clinics are one mechanism that has helped reach the under-served and hard-to-reach rural communities.



FPA carries out the Crisis Response Project with support from UNFPA Sri Lanka and DFAT- (The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australia). The project aims to provide life-saving reproductive health and protection services to the most vulnerable women and girls, particularly preventing maternal morbidity and all forms of gender-based violence. The services are provided through FPA's SDPs in Nuwara Eliya, Batticaloa, Ampara, Koggala, Seethawaka, Wathupitiwala, and Colombo.

The Batticaloa Service Delivery Point staff, met with the Public Health Nursing Sisters (PHNS) and Public Health Inspectors (PHI) of the MOH Office in Valaichenai. Strengthening relationships and systems thereby enables efficient service delivery to those in need.



The National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) led a training for Community level (MSM Component) HIV/PrEP clinic staff belonging to the Colombo & Gampaha Districts at the FPA Head office. These clinics provide HIV prevention and treatment services. PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, is medicine people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting HIV from unsafe sex.

## SK PA-2 Project Update

At the beginning of this quarter, the AFAO programme team visited Sri Lanka to collaborate with the SKPA-2 project team for a week. The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations- AFAO delegation included Deputy Director Lauren Bradly, Technical Director Mike Merrigon, Senior Programme Officer Philips Loh, and Senior Grants Officer Edzelyn Zabala-Baduya. They met with the newly appointed Director of the National STD/AIDS Control Programme, Dr Janaki Vidanapathirana, to introduce her to the SKPA-2 team and discuss the project's objectives, the Baseline Report, the National HIV/STD Strategic Plan, the upcoming Community-led Monitoring (CLM) pilot, and other future activities.

The AFAO team also met with the outreach working staff of Heart To Heart Lanka, an organization involved in the National HIV Prevention programme. They discussed the current status of community testing programmes, PrEP usage among communities, and their challenges.

Additionally, the AFAO team met with the newly established 'HIV/TB CSO Network,' supported by the SKPA-2 project. The meeting aimed to review the progress of establishing the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) network working on HIV and TB capacities. Representatives from the 24 member network organisations attended the meeting to provide updates, discuss challenges, and share their plans with the AFAO representatives.

Furthermore, the visiting team met with KP organizations from Colombo, Gampaha, and Kalutara districts to express their interest in planning activities related to the accreditation of KP CSOs and staff working in the HIV field. They discussed the need for an accreditation procedure, explored possibilities given the current circumstances, and emphasized the importance of strengthening the connection between capacity building and organizational performance for effective implementation.



# 'In Pursuit of 95-95-95' – Analyses for impact, efficiency, and sustainability of priority key population services in Sri Lanka and the launch of the Optima Allocative and Implementation Efficiency Study

The event was held at the Courtyard by Marriot on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 and was organized by FPA Sri Lanka – SKPA-2 Project and The National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) of the Ministry of Health.

FPA's SKPA 2 Programme is a Global Fund Multi-country grant that aims to steer countries towards sustainability in HIV services and to improve evidence-informed, prioritised HIV services for key populations in Sri Lanka.

'95-95-95' represents global targets; 95% of all people living with HIV to know their HIV status, 95% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection to receive sustained antiretroviral therapy, and 95% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy to have viral suppression by 2025.

## Panel Discussion



The Panellists from left to right: Palitha Vijaya Bandara, PLHIV Activist and Project Manager, Positive Hopes Alliance, Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana, Director of the National STD/AIDS Control Programme, Dr Mahendran Arnold, Deputy Director General of Public Health Services and Dr. Pradeep Edward, Director General Manager, Hemas Hospitals.

Moderator: Niluka Perera, Independent Consultant of the Optima Allocative and Implementation Efficiency Study.

'We need to further empower CBOs & NGOs to carry out the HIV prevention work and extend our reach as we are now active in only 15 districts. Public - Private partnerships have to be strengthened.' - **Dr Janaki Vidanapathirana**

'We must ensure sustainability in our response. We must gradually get the government's commitment from the Treasury before the Global Fund support ends' - **Dr Mahendran Arnold**

'For sustainable HIV services to be a reality, let's join hands and make it happen'. - **Dr. Pradeep Edward**

'Community organizations must be responsible in helping the government by utilizing resources responsibly'. - **Palitha Vijaya Bandara**

## Launch of the Optima Allocative and Implementation Efficiency Study

The Optima modelling report offers a comprehensive analysis of the HIV epidemic, combining epidemiological data, behavioural surveys, and healthcare system analysis. It presents valuable insights into prevalence, incidence, and the barriers hindering prevention, treatment and care. It also attempts to provide a comprehensive understanding of the HIV situation in Sri Lanka and develop effective strategies for addressing this public health challenge.

It was presented by Dr. Kumari Navaratna, Allocative Efficiency Roadmap Consultant of the SKPA 2 Project.

[Click](#) to view the launch event.





*In conversation with*  
**Mahesh Kumara**  
Assistant Director / National Coach  
Global Fund Project

**You joined FPA in 2007. Explain, in brief, your career journey.**

I started as an Assistant Manager at the Nainamada Training Centre in 2007 and served half a year there. Later, I extended my service as a District Project manager for the “Prajā Shanthi” Project, which was implemented in the Puttlam District for one year. Mid-2008, I moved to the Service Delivery Point in the Ampara district to serve as a programme Assistant for 06 months.

From the beginning of 2009 to mid-2010, I led the establishment of the “Youth Friendly Centre / Model” in Colombo-04, initiated as a pilot project by FPA. After four and half years with the Outreach Unit, I moved to the Advocacy Unit as a Programme Coordinator. I was promoted to Manager in 2013, Senior Manager in 2016 and Assistant Director in 2020. I successfully implemented the “Youth Health Policy” in the Uva and Southern provinces during this period.

During my tenure, I have gained experience and knowledge from implementing several advocacy initiatives, such as Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) for Youth Project, Treatment, Care and Support for the PLHIV Project, Global Fund project etc.

I have also served more than 15 years as a National Trainer for SRHR and STI topics to enhance the knowledge of different target groups while contributing to implementing other projects.

**What is your motivation to do what you do?**

Since school, I have been passionate about engaging in humanitarian activities. Commitment and networking are what motivate me to do a good job. Knowing that my hard work and perseverance will help me achieve greater professional success keeps me going. I feel that aligning FPA Sri Lanka’s vision and values with mine is one way to accomplish that.

**You have 15 years of experience as a trainer and facilitator of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) workshops. Have perceptions changed over the years, and are people more accepting of them?**

Indeed, the perception of the general public in the country has changed over time due to the engagement of different service providers in the SRHR field, e.g., government authorities (FHB, NSACP), INGOs/NGOs (FPASL, UNFPA, Child Fund), Civil society organizations, media platforms including social media etc. Due to the changes in their knowledge and practices on SRHR, people are accepting them.

Furthermore, knowledge-based transformation is key to changing the perception, and as a trainer, I did that. To conduct the training, we use improved, innovative practices to create behavioural change for the participants.

With the knowledge and experience gained in the SRHR field, I published a book, “SRH Promotion Guidelines for Adolescents”, to enhance readers’ and practitioners’ knowledge. In addition, I make regular efforts to protect the SRH rights of the key target population whom we are supposed to serve.

**Working with and educating youth has always been a passion of yours. In your opinion, what are the main concerns you have regarding their SRH needs?**

Sri Lanka has a very good literacy rate; however, the education system needs to be changed and aligned with global needs and trends. We also have a poor knowledge transformation system on SRHR, especially in the rural areas, due to cultural sensitivity, limited access to SRHR services and knowledge transformations, less acceptance, poor practices etc.

SRHR education should be promoted and integrated with the school-based education system.

According to my knowledge, how to become a “responsible youth” is a crucial factor.

This has been challenged by misleading youth with wrong interpretations about SRHR through social media and web-based platforms.

**You were an essential part of the Advocacy Unit team, drafting the National Youth Policy in 2011. How has the Policy impacted the work in this sphere thereafter?**

Yes, I was involved with implementing the Youth Policy in the Uva and Southern provinces.

The Policy made considerable changes in the knowledge, attitude, and behaviours through different initiatives. The Policy gave ownership to youth to become more responsible as changemakers in the SRHR field in their areas of focus.

**Currently, you serve as the National Coach for the government's National HIV prevention programme. Describe your role. What are the outcomes of this job?**

I am implementing the "Case finding model", which helps identify more people living with HIV and direct/coach them for treatments in the STD clinics. Now, I can witness that they have a better and healthy life with proper treatment. FPA implements this model in Colombo and Gampaha Districts, and I am playing the role of "National Coach".

**How has FPA changed its way of reaching the youth and marginalized communities since you joined?**

As a "Pioneer in Reproductive Health", FPA has worked towards transforming the knowledge of youth and marginalized groups on SRHR over the years through different initiatives. FPA promotes youth engagement in all its programmes and platforms as it's a key focus of FPA's Strategic Plan. Relevant government authorities also recognize FPA's initiatives for youth participation and peer support mechanisms well incorporated in our service delivery.

In addition, FPA delivers its services island-wide for youth and marginalized groups through different modes, such as service delivery points, mobile clinics, trainings, workshops, projects, counselling centres etc.

**Share some words of advice for youth.**

I encourage youth to join us through our innovative and digitalized initiatives where they can access accurate information quickly, i.e. have knowledge at their fingertips, such as hotline services, social media platforms, web pages etc. Also, there are many projects and training opportunities where youth can engage as change agents on SRHR.

## Welcome to the Team



Dhanika Kaluarachchi  
Accountant - GFATM



Hema Ranawake  
Assistant Director  
Alokaya Counselling Centre



Kamith Weerasinghe  
Data Entry Operator cum  
Programme Assistant



Ruwanthi Charuka  
Project Assistant  
GFATM



Hansani Perera  
Procurement Assistant



Pathini Anuththara  
Project Officer  
CAAPP





# FPPL Sri Lanka strikes another first!

'Family Planning Premier League' -  
Inter-division Cricket Tournament and Fellowship Day



'FPPL', a 7-a-side cricket tournament, initiated to coincide with FPA's 70th year of operations, was an event designed as a sports and activity-based fellowship programme to build stronger ties amongst the staff.

FPPL provided an opportunity for FPA's workforce to enjoy a day of fun cricketing action, traditional Avrudu games and other activities to showcase their sporting prowess.

Eight teams of 7 players (5 men and two women) each – Nuwara Eliya Preethis, Koggala Easy Gliders, Ampara Rough Riders, Wathupitiwala Mixed Berries, Seethawaka Staminas, Colombo Skyns, Batticaloa Mithuris, Narahenpita Preethi Supers participated in the FPPL. The team names represented FPA Sri Lanka's Service Delivery Point (Clinics) locations together with product names.

Cheered on by all FPA staff, the members of all teams rose to the occasion to put on display an exciting brand of cricket. After a competitive league phase where the teams were split into two groups of four, the Semi-Finals witnessed the top two teams from each group face off against each other. In the Final, Ampara Rough Riders emerged Champions after beating the Koggala Easy Gliders in a closely contested game. In addition to the trophies for the Champion and Runner-up, multiple individual awards were presented to the top performers of the FPPL as follows:

- Best Bowler - Female - Jayamini Kumarasinghe - Koggala Easy Gliders
- Best Batsman - Female - Neranjana Keerthirathne - Ampara Rough Riders
- Best Bowler Male - Manjula Liyanage - Ampara Rough Riders
- Best Batsman - Sanjaya Pinto - Ampara Rough Riders
- Player of the Final - Rajitha Jayamuni - Ampara Rough Riders
- Most Valuable Player - Female - Natasha de Rosayro - Ampara Rough Riders
- Most Valuable Player Male - Shehal Fernando - Koggala Easy Gliders

The Avrudu-themed games and other activities were designed to encourage team spirit, participation, learning, and understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses.

FPA Sri Lanka is the country's oldest and leading sexual and reproductive rights entity, working with the government and renowned donor organizations to provide quality, affordable reproductive healthcare and allied services to women, men, youth, and marginalized and underserved communities throughout the country.



Launch of FPPL



All teams lined up



Best cheering squad



Avrudu-themed games

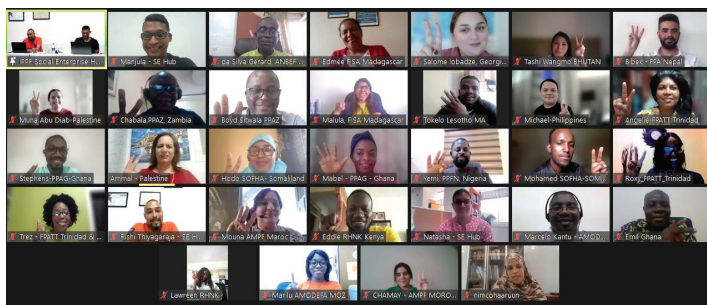


Runners-Up



Winning Team

# 'Master's programme in Social Enterprises' [MSe]: Global Workshop 2023



'MSe' organized by IPPF's Social Enterprise Hub, took place from the 29th of May – 9th of June 2023, live-streamed via Zoom from FPA Sri Lanka. 30 participants from 16 affiliated organizations representing all 6 IPPF regions were in attendance.

Such 2-week capacity building programmes were initiated in 2019 as an on-site event. This year's event was held online, as it was in 2021 and 2022. The daily session duration was approximately 4.5 each a day.

This workshop was designed mainly for MAs who have attended previous capacity-building workshops (2019 to 2022) as "MSe" was an advanced follow-up course on a business entrepreneur's "must have" skills and competencies. External expert facilitators and IPPF, MA and FPA Staff delivered the tailor-made curriculum. To inform participants of the course content, communicate expected outcomes and activities, and for the participants to connect, a pre-workshop meeting was organised a week prior to the main event.

Training methodologies used were synchronous trainer-led sessions, group work, interactive discussions, experience sharing, assignments and intermittent Q & A sessions. 'The Buzz', an inspirational short video series featuring renowned Sri Lankan business leaders and entrepreneurs sharing their knowledge, experiences, challenges and practical tips on building a successful enterprise, were showcased throughout the event. Simultaneous French interpretations of the sessions were provided together with translated workshop content materials.

Some participants shared their experiences with the group on the closing day. It was followed by the certificate awarding ceremony, graced by well-wishers from the Federation, Executive Directors and Senior Management teams of the participants, trainers and external personnel.

The Workshop is part of IPPF's effort to enable MAs to achieve financial sustainability. By enhancing entrepreneurial knowledge and business acumen in enterprise development, participants who are SE focal points in their organizations, are better equipped to work on their start-up ideas or take their existing social enterprise to the next level, income- generating and sustainability wise.

Income generated by SEs enhances financial sustainability by reducing dependence on donors or the budgets of grant giving foundations/government agencies.

Where applicable, and post-workshop interest continues from the MAs, the Hub will work closely with the participants and their organizations to guide them on the next steps and provide technical assistance or further training if required. All were required to submit an 'Action Log', including information on their learning points, actions to be taken at the MA to start/expand an SE, and realistic timelines.

Online training involves systematic planning and creative interventions to keep the participants engaged. The group activities, particularly the icebreakers, encouraged a sense of community and informal conversations, building camaraderie and networking skills.

Thematic sessions covered across the 2 weeks were as follows:

## Week 1

Introduction to and the need for Social Enterprise (SE)  
 SE experience sharing - by four Associations with active SEs (Nepal, Lesotho, Bhutan, Morocco)  
 How to use market research for enterprise success  
 Marketing and Branding of Products & Services  
 Finance Performance Management

## Week 2

Finance Performance Management (contd.)  
 Enterprise Performance Management  
 Reengineering your business process  
 Business Leadership for your Enterprise  
 How to evaluate the social impact of your SE?  
 Panel discussion - Build your Equity/Equity funding and approaching investors and How to reinvest your own profits/-surplus?  
 Creating a winning attitude in life and business - Experience sharing/motivational session titled 'Positive approach towards victory'.



Welcome address by Suhail Junaid, Director Marketing

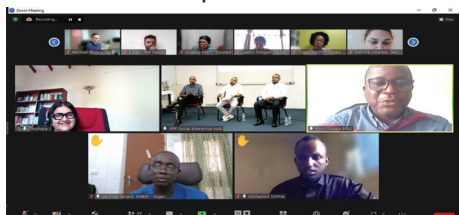


"The 'MSe 2023 programme' is the SE Hub's 5<sup>th</sup> overall global workshop, and it has come a full circle in bringing together previous workshop participants/Associations for a follow-up and advanced learning opportunity to further the development of their social enterprises and focus on financial sustainability. Deeper topical deliberations, new thematic areas and online methods were explored to keep the delegates engaged and engrossed. This event has further enhanced our credentials as a capacity-building centre in IPPF's enablement of MA-supporting MAs. Personally humbled and proud to have played a key role in organizing, coordinating and moderating this programme."

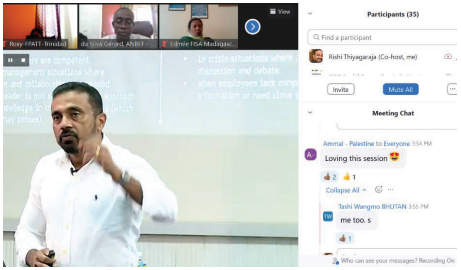
**Rishikeshan Thiyagaraja**  
Assistant Director  
IPPF Social Enterprise Hub

"The MSe was the most advanced capacity-building programme conducted by the SE Hub. The participants better understood the basics of Social Enterprises as they had attended previous workshops. The programme was purely designed to enhance the advanced business skills needed to diversify the product/service portfolio, penetrate the market and for market development. The MSe aimed at establishing a performance-driven culture in social enterprises of IPPF's Member Associations."

**Manjula Liyanage**  
Technical Advisor  
IPPF Social Enterprise Hub



Panel Discussion in progress



"The workshop was incredible, captivating our attention and provoking our thoughts. Sessions were meticulously designed, covering a wide range of topics that broadened our understanding of the SE landscape. The thought-provoking discussions and interactive exercises given by trainers and experts greatly enriched our knowledge and left us inspired to make a positive impact in our respective fields"

**Mohamed Abdi Muhumed**  
Head of Programmes  
SOFHA - Somaliland

Excerpts from some of the participants on their workshop experience: [Click](#) here.

To view the highlights of the Programme, [click](#) here.

[Click](#) here to view Photo Album.



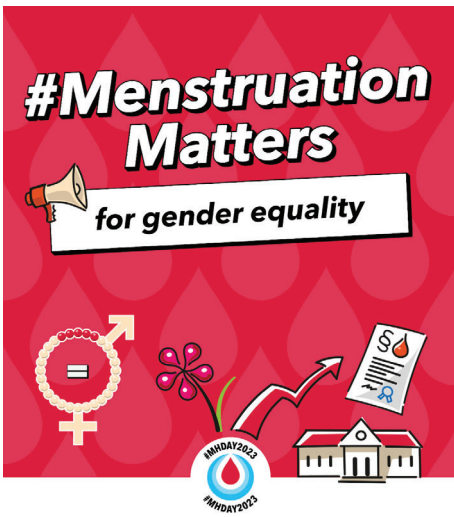
## Social Media Campaigns

### World Health Day – April 7

World Health Day (WHD), held every year on 7 April, marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948, and each year focuses on a specific public health concern. This year FPA focused on the need for cancer screening for both men and women. Cancer screening tests identify any underlying cause of malignancy or cancer in individuals with no symptoms.

[Click](#) to view campaign posters.

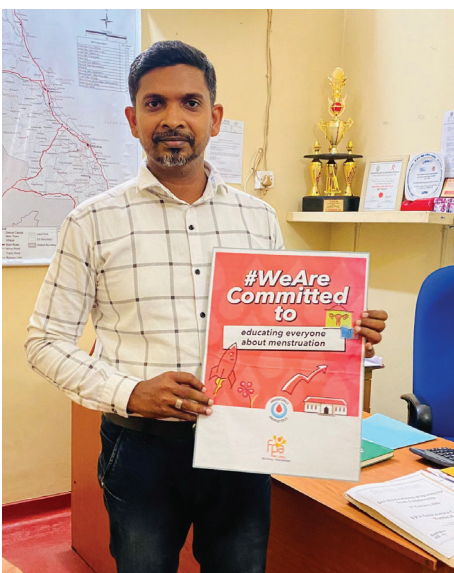
## Menstrual Hygiene Day - May 28



Millions of women/girls and people around the world are stigmatised, excluded and discriminated against simply because they menstruate. It's unacceptable that because of a natural bodily function, they continue to be prevented from getting an education, earning an income and fully and equally participating in everyday life. A lack of period education in schools is one of the key contributors to period stigma.

Through a video and poster series, FPA featured a few 'Period Pros' and advocates on menstrual health and hygiene to raise awareness of related issues and topics such as the importance of menstrual hygiene, endometriosis and Premenstrual syndrome (PMS).

[Click](#) to view the videos



# FPA's Annual General Meeting

The 52<sup>nd</sup> AGM of FPA Sri Lanka took place at Mövenpick Colombo on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.

The main body of governance of the Association is the Board of Directors. All operational-level decisions are made by the Senior Management Team, while policy-related decisions are taken at the Board level so as to maintain credibility, accountability and transparency.

The five Technical Advisory Committees are tasked with specific operational and administrative areas.



Ms. Kusum De Silva - Vice President & Ms. Aruni Marcelline, President



Ms. Sureka Perera - Director Finance



Ms. Thushara Agus  
Executive Director



Ms. Aruni Marcelline  
President



The Annual report for 2022, titled 'Dare to be Different', was also presented at the event. In a year of considerable challenges, the Report captures the agility, innovation and responsiveness in FPA's service delivery to all Sri Lankans.

[Click](#) to view.

We want to hear your views and suggestions! Please write to: FPA Sri Lanka, 37/27, Bullers Lane, Colombo - 07, Sri Lanka.

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