



The Bulletin

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GOVERNANCE REFORMS PROJECT REFORMED, RENEWED & READY FOR 2023!

With funding support from IPPF, FPA Sri Lanka recently underwent a governance reform process to improve the inclusivity and efficacy of the organization's governing board and thereby improve service delivery.

Our goals with the recent reforms are simple – ensuring we reach more young people and those in marginalized communities, to make our service delivery better, stronger, and attuned to the needs of now!

To view the changes we made, [click here](#).

We also launched the 'Ask our Champions!' series, where we spoke with activists, advocates and our staff on their advocacy stories with FPA Sri Lanka. The videos promote values of youth leadership, diversity and inclusivity that FPA's mandate prioritizes.

[Click to view.](#)

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR FPA'S NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FPA Sri Lanka's strength from its inception has been the countless number of volunteers from diverse fields, who give of their knowledge, expertise and time, in all sincerity, to honour their commitment to serve the organization and its purpose of bringing reproductive health, education, information and solutions to people from all walks of life.

Session topics:

- FPA's history, evolution, an overview of operations and the future/strategic direction for 2023-2028 by Thushara Agus (Executive Director)
- Overview of the Social Marketing Programme by Suhail Junaid (Director – Marketing)
- A description of the activities of the Medical and Outreach Units by Dr. Nuzrath Nazoordeen (Director – Medical).
- Overview of Finance & Operations by Sureka Perera (Director Finance)
- FPA SRH Advocacy & Policy initiatives by Sonali Gunasekara (Director Advocacy)
- Code of Good Governance and an overview of IPPF by Dr Pramilla Senanayake (Hony. Past President)
- Youth volunteerism at FPA by Desaree Soysa (Past Youth Chairperson).

The orientation session concluded with the President, Aruni Akuretiyegama, speaking on the role of volunteers and the recent implementation of Governance Reforms.





An orientation programme was conducted for all FPA staff on the recent changes incorporated on the 29th of November, 2022.

The programme unfolded as follows:
 Message from FPA's President Aruni Akuretiyegama
 Overview of FPA Sri Lanka's operation/service delivery and leadership framework - Thushara Agus - Executive Director
 Presentation of the Governance Reforms process and outcomes - Lasantha Wickramasooriya (External Consultant who carried out the governance review).
 The session concluded with a time of Q&A.

MOBILE CLINICS: OVERCOMING ACCESS BARRIERS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE (SRH)



FPA Sri Lanka's 'Crisis Response Project' (Supported by UNFPA and DFAT) addresses the SRH needs of many underserved women in rural, hard-to-reach areas in this time of recession and economic crisis. Multiple Mobile Clinics were organised by the Nuwara Eliya, Batticaloa, Ampara, Koggala, Seethawaka, Wathupitiwala and Colombo Service Delivery Points.



In Nuwara Eliya, the clinic is operated via a functional bus that provides a full range of services and has the ability to reach the estate community directly.



Maternity kits containing hygiene and sanitary items and other items tailored to the needs of mothers were also distributed at all locations. This initiative aimed to provide necessary items that can significantly impact a woman's comfort and physical and psychological health.



Under this project, many community awareness programmes are also being carried out.

Knowledge about sexual and reproductive health services and access to adequate care have the power to improve the lives of people.

HEALTHCARE WORKER TRAININGS - CRISIS RESPONSE PROJECT



Three-day trainings took place for selected healthcare community workers from the six districts our SDPs are located in to enhance their capacity on SRH and MHPSS (Mental Health and Psychosocial support services).

The UNFPA-funded and DFAT-supported project aims to provide life-saving reproductive health and protection services to the most vulnerable women and girls, with a particular emphasis on preventing maternal morbidity and all forms of gender-based violence. The services will be provided through FPA Sri Lanka's 7 SDPs in Nuwara Eliya, Batticaloa, Ampara, Koggala, Seethawaka, Wathupitiwala, and Colombo, covering six districts in the country and targeting all women and girls of reproductive age in the selected districts.

Some of the main topics addressed were SRH, Maternal Health, STDs & HIV, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Gender and Sexual orientation, types of GBV, Screening, Case detection and referral, support services and counselling, Psychosocial Services, Roles and responsibilities of a health worker in the community (Ethics in SRH service provision and Counselling - Confidentiality, Privacy, Gender-sensitive counselling, communications) and recording and reporting processes. 100 healthcare workers will be trained over four months under this project.

Ten counsellors (7 from SDPs and three hired counsellors) have commenced implementing the One-call - call centre hotline application that enables women and girls to receive counselling and psychological support from 8 am - 8 pm daily.

Video testimonials from participants of the Batticaloa workshop. [Click to view.](#)

'We learnt about GBV and child abuse. I will work harder to stop these kinds of crimes in our village. We also learnt about HIV. We will protect villagers by raising awareness and guide them to meet the relevant authorities to help find a solution.' - Pushparani

'This training programme is beneficial for us. We learnt about mental health, reproductive health and sexual abuse. We have learnt new subjects through this training.' - Sutharshan

RESPONDING WITH ESSENTIAL SRHR PROVISION AND NEW DELIVERY (RESPOND PROJECT)



The project aims to restore services impacted by COVID-19, particularly to marginalized populations such as young people, people living in poverty, people with disabilities, garment and estate factory workers, LGBTQI and key populations, and urban and slum dwellers. Our work was highlighted in a recent blog by IPPF.

[Click to view.](#)

For more information on the project, [click here.](#)

CREATING YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES FOR SRH LITERACY IS A MUST!



Comprehensive Sexuality Education protects children and helps build a safer, inclusive society!

CSE not only provides children and young people with age-appropriate and phased education on human rights, gender equality, relationships, reproduction, sexual behaviours risks and prevention of ill health but also emphasizes values such as respect, consent, inclusion, non-discrimination, equality, empathy and responsibility

Our Wathupitiwala Service Delivery Point conducted a three-day interactive workshop for students of President's College Veyangoda.

EMPOWERING SRI LANKAN NURSING STUDENTS IN DELIVERING RESPONSIVE HEALTH CARE

The SRH essentials course for H & D Nursing school students in Arayampathy, Batticaloa, aimed to provide interactive learning opportunities with scenario-based case studies, presentations, group work and a time for discussion and questions.

At the end of the workshop, participants were able to:

- Develop the skills and confidence to talk with patients about their sexual and reproductive healthcare needs
- Have a thorough knowledge of contraceptive methods
- Have an understanding and knowledge of antenatal and postnatal care
- Gain knowledge and skills in the prevention, control and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (including HIV /AIDS)



INTRODUCING YOUTH TO HUMANITARIAN ACTION!



Advocating for and responding to the sexual and reproductive needs of people in humanitarian settings is a key priority of FPA. We also believe young people can play a vital role in humanitarian action!

To strengthen young people's capacities to be effective humanitarian actors and support government and local organizations in humanitarian response, youth volunteers from the districts of Nuwara Eliya and Koggala were trained to prepare them as leaders and responders in an emergency situation. FPA Sri Lanka coordinates with the Disaster Management Centre when responding to a crisis in the country.

SIMEX 2022

Although it is impossible to completely eliminate disaster risk, countries that design policy and legislative frameworks and that prepare their institutions in line with the goal, targets and priorities for action have a greater capacity to manage disaster risk and, therefore to reduce the impact of disasters when they occur.



SimEx 2022 is the first roll-out of the Simulation Exercise in the Asia region and was conducted by the Humanitarian Hub of IPPF SARO. Several national-level stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women, Child affairs and Women empowerment, Disaster Management Centre, National Disaster Management Centre, National Child Protection Authority, SL Army and Women and Children's Bureau of the SL Police, as well as representatives from several CSOs were present at the training.

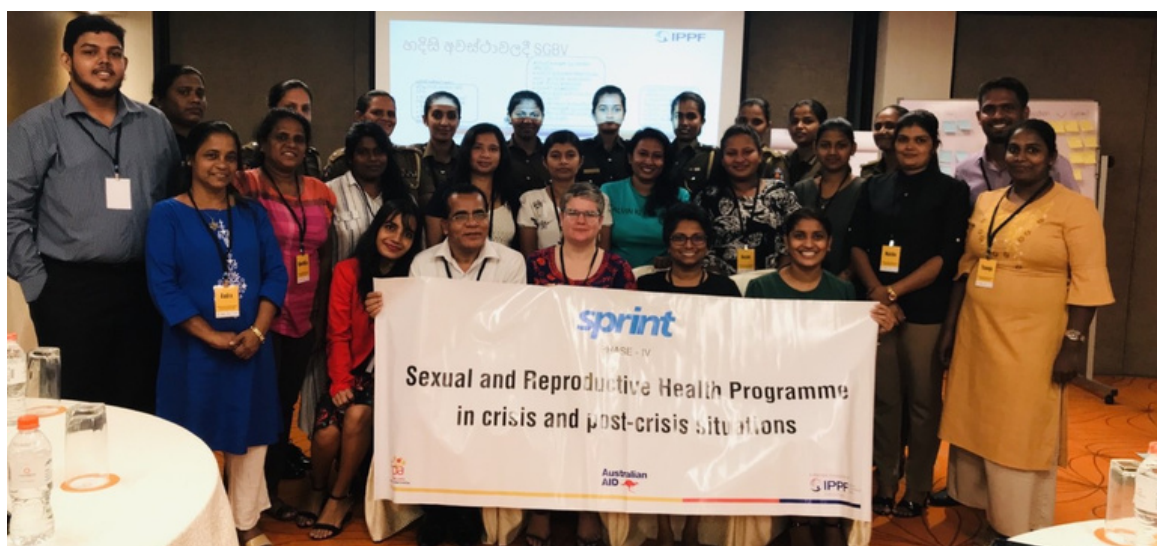


With the orientation of all key organizations involved in disaster response, every one providing the same standard of service can be ensured to all populations in need.

FPA's SPRINT IV Project provides lifesaving sexual and reproductive health support in emergencies incorporating the Minimal Initial Service Package (MISP). It is an internationally accepted minimum standard of care for reproductive health, pioneered and rolled out by IPPF. [Click here](#) to view some testimonials.



A two-day residential training programme was conducted on the 8th and 9th of December at Mandarina Hotel, Colombo. The training programme covered various topics relating to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and raising awareness of referral mechanisms. The training was facilitated by Clare Hollowell, Senior SGBV and Gender Advisor, Humanitarian Team of IPPF. Participants were Woman Police Officers connected to the Children and Women's Bureau and FPASL Service Delivery Point staff.



SKPA Kickoff in Colombo

Whilst Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in Asia Program-2 (SKPA-2) officially started on 1 July 2022, a kick-off workshop was held in Bangkok in mid-August which really helped set the wheels in motion. The workshop brought together SKPA-2 sub-recipients, The Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations (AFAO) Team, SKPA-2 team as well as key stakeholders such as representatives from the Global Fund, UNAIDS, and WHO amongst others.



Colombo had its own Kickoff meeting on the 23rd of September with the Executive Director, Thushara Agus, AFAO representatives joining virtually and the SKPA Sri Lanka team in attendance. The event brought together other key stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Health, The National STD/AIDS Control Programme, Key Population Focal Points, Country Coordinating Mechanism CCM representatives and the Human Right Commission. The goal of the event was to launch SKPA2's year one priorities, with the baseline report being vital among the list of year one priorities.

Completion of Baseline Assessment

FPA Sri Lanka is one of several partners working to deliver the Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in South-East Asia (SKPA-2). Designed to improve the sustainability of evidence-informed, prioritized HIV services for key populations in Bhutan, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, the SKPA programme is directed by four objectives: Accelerate financial sustainability of HIV service for key populations; Improve strategic information availability and use; Promote sustainability of programs which support key populations; Remove human rights and gender-related barriers to services.

These important and ambitious objectives need to be realized with a country-specific strategy and, as a way of understanding the current situation for each objective, with the need to fine-tune strategy and track progress through the life of the project, SKPA conducted a baseline assessment. The assessment comprised of two parts: a literature review, in which key documents relevant to HIV and key populations were analyzed, and a series of interviews with individuals from important stakeholder organisations. These include stakeholders from civil society organisations and community groups, national and subnational governments, the Country Coordinating Mechanism, and development partners. The team was led by Jim Rock in the four countries, and Dr. Kumari Navaratna, Ambika Satkunanathan, and Sathish Kumar worked in Sri Lanka to conduct the assessment together with the International Consultants. The final report is expected at the end of this year.

The Principal Director of AFAO, Felicity Young and Cookie Mansuda were also in Sri Lanka at this time to meet with stakeholders and discuss progress of the programme.



From Left to Right:

Nadika Fernandopulle (Project Lead for GFATM Grant - FPA), Dr Kumari Navarathne (consulting on Programmatic Sustainability & Strategic Information), Sathiesh Kumar (Consulting on Financial Sustainability), Jim Rock (Baseline Assessment Team Lead - AFAO), Felicity Young (Principal Director, International - AFAO), Jake Oorloff (Programme Officer - SKPA-2), Ambika Satkunanathan (Consulting on Human Rights & Gender), Cookie Monsuda Chansiri (Country Lead AFAO, Sonali Gunasekera (Director - Advocacy - FPA) and Ranaka Siriwardana (Project Officer - SKPA-2)

Community Voices in the National HIV/STI Strategic Plan (NSP)

The National STI/HIV Strategic Plan is presently being drafted by the National HIV/AIDS Control Programme for the years 2023-2030. The costed action plan would direct Sri Lanka's response in the period leading up to the year 2030, and SKPA responded to the need for the inclusion of community recommendations as a way of enriching the interventions and direction of the NSP.

Following a two-day intensive consultation with Key Population organizations and individual activists, a set of recommendations titled Community Voices for the NSP were provided to Dr. Rasanjali Hettiarachchi, Director of the National STD/AIDS Control Programme and the coordinator of the NSP drafting process, Dr. Janaka Weragoda.



Community-Led Monitoring Kicks Off

Community Led Monitoring is an important aspect of community engagement in HIV programme delivery to ensure quality and responsive HIV services for the key vulnerable populations impacted by the HIV epidemic. It involves activities that are carried out by community-led key population organizations and community members to assess the quality, availability, accessibility and acceptability of the HIV services they receive.

SKPA established a Technical Working (TWG) Group to oversee this process. The TWG comprising technical experts from both government and community-based key population- led organizations, is chaired by Mr. Palitha Vijayabandara of Lanka Plus.

Transgender specific healthcare clinic to be launched

Discussions have commenced with Trans Organizations and Healthcare Facilities about the roll-out of a Transgender specific Healthcare Facility.

Activities commenced in SKPA 1 will provide the basis for partnering with Community Based Organizations providing services for the Transgender community as SKPA initiates a healthcare clinic that caters to the very specific needs of the Transgender community. The initial plans include working with the National HIV/AIDS Control Programme as well as with other related government authorities and private service providers.

Country Visit by the AFAO team

SKPA SL team hosted Mike Merrigan- Technical Director, SKPA2 and Matthew Kusen, Senior Technical Officer, SKPA 2, in Sri Lanka for a five-day country visit. The visiting delegation met with stakeholders from the National STD/AIDS Control Programme, Key-population representatives and other Government officials.

The interviews and meetings were beneficial for the SKPA team as we embark on a reprogramming following the Baseline Assessment.



TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Pregnancies under the age of 20 years are defined as teenage pregnancies. This is a global problem in high, middle and low-income countries in poor communities which lack education and employment opportunities.

As reported by WHO, in January 2020, approximately 12 million teenage mothers between the ages of 15 -19 mothers gave birth, and 7.7 million girls gave birth before their fifteenth birthday from the developing region.

Sri Lanka is a developing country facing the same problem that burdens the health sector and economy. As reported by the Family Health Bureau, 4.1 per cent of registered pregnancies were adolescent pregnancies in 2020. It shows a slight reduction in the prevalence when comparing the rate over the last decade.

It is noted that the pregnant adolescent is at higher risk of having an unsafe abortion and related complications such as sepsis, long-term fertility issues and maternal death as the extreme. It is estimated that 3.9 million abortions are considered unsafe out of 5.6 million abortions that girls undergo between the ages of 15 and 19.

Problems associated with teenage pregnancy are psychological stress and nutritional demand of the adolescent mother, complications related to the pregnancy such as eclampsia, puerperal endometritis and systemic infection and fetal & neonatal complications. Teenage pregnancy and complications are among the leading causes of death in this age group globally.

Feto-neonatal problems associated with teenage pregnancy are congenital anomalies, fetal growth restriction, and increased perinatal morbidity and mortality. Stillbirth and neonatal death are 50 % higher in fetuses/infants of this group than in the 20-29-year age group.

Teenage pregnancy is a preventable problem in the community/world by educating and empowering the community. Sri Lanka, a culturally bound country in South Asia, had an incidence of 4 % adolescent pregnancy in 2020.

Proper age-appropriate reproductive health education regarding the reproductive health of adolescence will improve their knowledge and prevent them from misinformation from inaccurate sources. Knowledge and access to birth control methods will prevent adolescent pregnancy. Though the termination of pregnancy is not legalized in the Sri Lankan context, it may reduce septic abortion and its complication.

A National Strategic Plan adopted by the Family Health Bureau in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka may reduce adolescent pregnancy and pregnancy-related complications by providing adolescent and youth-friendly health services.

Adolescents are the nation's and the world's future, and they need to be safeguarded from harm and ill-treatment. Proper implementation of the sustainable development goal in the Sri Lankan context is mandatory to improve adolescent health.



Prof. Sanath Lanerolle

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Castle Street Hospital for Women – Borella
President – Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Past President – Menopause Society of Sri Lanka
Chairperson – FPA Sri Lanka's Medical Technical Advisory Committee

IN FOCUS

*In conversation with Ganga Shyamalee
Assistant Director - Finance*



You joined FPA in 2004. Explain, in brief, your career journey.

After my graduation, before me joining FPA in 2004, I worked in two other organisations. One of which was Mast Lanka Group, now known as Brandix Lanka. I joined FPA as a Management Trainee and was promoted to Manager- Accounts after three years. After being in that position for six years, I was promoted to Senior Manager- Accounts. In 2017, I was promoted to Assistant Director - Finance. This is my 18th year of service!

You have seen many changes in the work systems and procedures, from manual to digitalisation. How has this transformation been? Has it all been positive?

Yes, it has all been positive.

When I joined FPA, the staff salary cheques were written by hand. After that, we moved to the Windows system payroll package. On the instructions of the Director of Finance, I transferred the salaries to employees' respective bank accounts directly by the "E transfer" method with the Windows payroll package of Accsoft Solutions. This change was very successful.

Then the Accounts package also changed from the Dos system to the Windows package, which is much more convenient for managing Accounts, Stores, and Marketing related work by minimising manual work.

When handling multiple internal financial transactions and backend work, what are the issues, and how do you resolve them?

One of the main issues faced is the non-provision of supporting documents for some payments from related staff. In such incidences, we have to follow up often, which can lead to insufficient time to process the payments. We have to remind the staff to adhere to organisational finance procedures.

Then there are instances that issues arise with the banks and supplier companies. Through discussions with our Director of Finance, we receive guidance to implement systems and procedures to resolve the issues.

Environmental factors such as pandemic restrictions can cause delays affecting internal finance systems and procedures. How do you and your colleagues balance unit cohesion and donor requirements?

During the recent COVID-19 pandemic situation, we had to work from home. We, as a team, managed to do our work accordingly and met the deadlines with the support of online platforms.

Work-life balance is important. Please share some words of advice on how you did it as a working parent.

I think planning is the best method for a better work-life balance. We should set priorities and create a schedule around these priorities. There has to be a designated time allocated to work and personal life that you follow.



The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

We launched a campaign titled #16Ways16Days, where we shared a 'way' a day on how we all can help end violence against women and girls.

[Click to view](#) the campaign posters.

WORLD AIDS DAY - DECEMBER 1

In commemoration of World AIDS Day, FPA Sri Lanka and The National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) of the Ministry of Health launched two campaigns; 'Community Voices' via social media channels and the 'Celebrity Voices' campaign at the national event held at the Waters Edge Hotel on the 1st of December.

These campaigns aimed to raise awareness about ending stigma and discrimination, and raising awareness on HIV/AIDS, HIV prevention, testing, care and available support services.

FPA is grateful to all the celebrities and popular personalities who joined the 'Celebrity Voices for Change' campaign. We are confident that they can influence young people and drive positive messages about the urgent need to unite to eliminate the disparities and inequities that create barriers to HIV testing, prevention, to HIV care.



Princy Mangalika lighting the traditional oil lamp representing the PLHIV community



Launch of the 'Celebrity Voices' campaign.

Left to Right: Nadika Fernandopulle (FPA's Deputy Director - HIV & GFATM Project Manager). NSACP Director Dr. Rasanjali Hettiarachchi, Nalaka Daluwaththa (Actor) and Dr. Janaka Weragoda (Consultant Community Physician, Multi-Sectoral Unit, NSACP, Ministry of Health)

"ශුචරි නැතැ වගේද?"

රහසිතව සහ විශ්වාසවන්තව ඔබ කැමති තැනක සිට HIV පරීක්ෂාවක් සඳහා අදම විමසන්න."

"The correct and consistent use of condoms will prevent HIV."



Strategic Alliance for Research and Development (SARD) - Gampaha District
Hotline Number: 0740 997 474



Heart to Heart Team - Colombo District
Hotline Numbers: 0112 368 218, 0775 753 005

FPA works with the community and key population-led organisations in Colombo and Gampaha that employ outreach workers trained to provide a service package that includes prevention services, condom and lubricant distribution, case finding, linking to PrEP clinics and conducting Rapid testing for community members.

Community HIV testing and PrEP clinics are conducted on Sundays and holidays at night to provide easy access to these communities. Delivery of self-test kits, providing assisted self-testing services and linking reactive clients to STD clinics for confirmation, network tracing and supporting the treatment process for new young PLHIV members are some of the services provided by outreach workers.

HIV testing happens in the following settings:

- Government STD clinics (free) - routine (ELISA Test) or rapid testing depending on resources available due to the current situation in the country
 - Private Hospitals
 - FPA and other service providers
 - Community clinics targeted at Key populations (sex workers, drug users, transgender, etc.).
- Outreach workers are trained to do rapid HIV tests or assist in self-testing in the field.

[Click to view](#) the celebrity videos.

[Click to view](#) the community posters.

[Click to view](#) the images from the event.

FPA Sri Lanka works as the sub-recipient under the National HIV Prevention Programme by the Ministry of Health, funded by the Global Fund and the Government of Sri Lanka.

"ඒඩ්ස් අවසන් කිරීම සඳහා සැවොම එක් වෙමු."

HIV දැන් ඉස්සර වගේ නෙවෙයි. බෙහෙත් වලින් සාර්ථකව පාලනය කරන්න පුළුවන්. කලින් හඳුනාගත්තොත් පාලනය තවත් පහසුයි. කලී දාන්න එපා, ඔබත් අදම HIV පරීක්ෂාව කරගන්න.



Community Strength Development Foundation (CSDSF)
Hotline Number: 0112 534 838



FPA Sri Lanka Team
Hotline Number: 076 588 488 1

ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR THE SRI LANKA POLICE



FPA Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) and the Sri Lanka Police, conducted a training programme on 'Prevention of Violence against Key Populations' addressing issues of stigma and discrimination and HIV for police officers in the Galle, Matara and Hambantota Districts.

Some of the key speakers for the trainings were Ajith Rohana (Senior Deputy Inspector General of police), who spoke on Laws Relating to Key Populations, Dr. Janaka Weragoda (Consultant Community Physician NSACP) on Challenges in Ending AIDS by 2030, Nadika Fernandopulle (FPA Deputy Director -HIV) on the Role of NGO/ CBO for prevention of HIV, Dr. Sathya Herath (Consultant Community Physician NSACP) on Harm Reduction and Pre-exposure Prophylaxis, Dr. Darshani Wijewickrama, Consultant Venereologist - Galle on Challenges in Ending AIDS by 2030 in Sri Lanka (Gender, sexual orientation, stigma, and discrimination) and Anya Gallage (Key population member) on Experiences of a Transgender Person.



TRAINING ON DIGITAL HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

KNOW4SURE.LK FOR SERVICE DELIVERY POINT CLINIC STAFF AT FPA SRI LANKA

KNOW4SURE is an online reservation system/web app that aims to provide the most convenient means to assess your level of risk and make reservations for HIV testing services with the National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) and preferred private practitioners for rapid HIV screening tests while handling data ensuring anonymity and privacy. Home delivery services to deliver health products such as HIV self-test kits, condoms and lubricants to the doorstep are also offered through this platform.



Dr. Ariyaratne Manathunge
National STD/AIDS Control Programme

Going forward, FPA's clinic staff will also promote this platform to visiting clients.

Access the site via: <https://know4sure.lk/201800>

Benefits of the platform:

- Enables self-care
- Engages clients directly
- Facilitates live consultations and case management
- Real-time data entry process
- Decentralized service provision



IPPF celebrates its 70th Anniversary this year as well as its General Assembly.

This year's IPPF General Assembly was held in Bogotá, Colombia in November. The objective of the forum was to bring together IPPF's Member Associations from across the world to agree and approve of IPPF's global strategy for the next 5 years. From Sri Lanka, we saw the participation of Anuki Premachandra as our youth representative and Chandima Gunawardena, FPA's Past President, representing the IPPF Board of Trustees.

We look forward to embodying IPPF's global strategy in our work, centering care around people; moving the sexuality agenda; supporting solidarity for change, and nurturing the global federation.



Chandima Gunawardena receiving the IPPF's Best Member Association award that FPA won in 2019 for collective contribution to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the award ceremony scheduled for 2020 in London was not held.



2022 General Assembly wrap-up video.
[Click to view.](#)



Anuki Premachandra, FPA Sri Lanka's current General Secretary and former Youth Chair shared an update from the IPPF Youth Forum that took place on Day 1 of the IPPF General Assembly.

Over 50 youth representatives from all over the world got together on the first day of the IPPF global forum to discuss sexual health needs of young people, and how to address them better. The day was filled with interactive sessions, panels and group activities that got us to think about how youth can participate better in decision making roles within their countries.

The takeaways:

1. Stark need to improve funding for youth-led programmes and prioritise youth-budgeting
2. Introduce more learning and global exchange programmes so that young people can learn from one another
3. Recognise the importance of hosting more regional and global youth interaction
4. Make every country's Member Association a safe space for young people to deliberate and act
5. Enable Intergenerational growth so that young people get a seat at decision making tables

IPPF EMBRACES NEW STRATEGY AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 70TH BIRTHDAY



IPPF, the world's largest sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) organization, is celebrating its 70th birthday by embracing a new and bold global strategy.

The International Planned Parenthood Federation was founded on 24th November 1952 in an act of international solidarity between eight national family planning organizations. Now it has a network of more than 108 independent Member Associations (MAs) working in over 140 countries worldwide.

IPPF heralded its 70th Birthday with a renewed strategic vision. More than 300 members from IPPF MAs affirmed the new six-year strategy – Come Together – at its General Assembly in the Colombian capital, Bogota, committing to building a future where more people in more places have what they need to enjoy their rights to sexual and reproductive dignity and well-being.

The new strategy sets out an ambitious programme of work over the next five years and provides a compelling focus on revitalizing the Federation. It is accompanied by an Anti-Racism Declaration of Intent, a statement of public accountability to continue working to dismantle racism internally and externally.

To increase its impact and reach, IPPF is committing to bold and catalytic transformation driven by young people. To broaden access to the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights, IPPF's new strategy sets up four central pillars:

1. Centre care on people. IPPF will provide high-quality, person-centred care to more people in more places.
2. Move the sexuality agenda. IPPF will push for the societal and legislative change needed to make universal sexual and reproductive rights a reality for more.
3. Solidarity for change. IPPF will build bridges to other movements, sectors, and communities wherever sexual and reproductive health and rights can also help advance other human rights causes.
4. Nurture our Federation. IPPF will make its core values more explicit and apply their implications across the Federation more comprehensively to unleash stronger collective power for deeper global solidarity that can deliver a greater impact.

For more information, [click here](#) to read.