



UNFPA and Rehabilitation International Joint Initiative Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women and Young People with Disabilities

Newsletter Issue 1, August 2021

ESCAP Asia-Pacific Regional Forum addresses the SRH needs of women and girls with disabilities



During the UNESCAP Regional Forum on Advancing Disability-inclusive Development through the Beijing Action Plan in December 2019 in Guangzhou, China, UNFPA and Rehabilitation International (RI) co-organized a session "Empowering women and girls with disabilities, including addressing their specific needs for sexual and reproductive health services" to promote universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and ending gender-based violence (GBV) for women and girls with disabilities.

The Forum brought together representatives and experts from Asia-Pacific governments, civil society and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to support ESCAP member states in accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Rights Real" for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Asia and the Pacific.

The Regional Forum, especially the session on SRH which focused on Incheon Strategy goal 6, identified the needs of ESCAP member States for technical cooperation to promote universal access to SRH for women and girls with disabilities and called on policymakers to accelerate the implementation of the Incheon Strategy and Beijing Action Plan.

Learn more about the Forum

UNFPA Asia-Pacific launches a video on SRH and COVID-19 for PWDs







In December 2020, on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the UNFPA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (APRO) launched a fully accessible video "Respect, Recognize and Engage: Addressing Challenges for People with

Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific." The video was produced in consultation with PWDs themselves and with support from RI, UNFPA China and other partners. It is the first-of-its-kind video at UNFPA, seeking to make the film truly accessible by PWDs with large-font subtitles, audio description of important visual content, and international sign interpretation. It calls on society to "respect" the rights of PWDs, "recognize" the challenges in their lives, and "engage" them in all spheres of social life. It promotes PWDs' access to SRH information and services, GBV prevention, their rights to education, representation and to achieve their full potential, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more about the video

UNFPA, RI, WEI and OPDs consultations on COVID-19, SRH, gender and disability in Asia-Pacific for the resource pack on COVID-19

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN **AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES**

A Global Assessment and Case Studies on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, **Gender-Based Violence, and Related Rights**











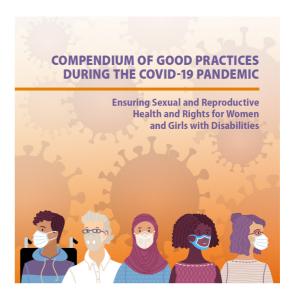




COVID-19, GENDER, AND DISABILITY CHECKLIST:

Ensuring Human Rights-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women, Girls, and Gender Non-conforming Persons with Disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic





























From October to December 2020, with RI support, UNFPA, Women Enabled International (WEI) and three women-led OPDs and youth-led organizations in the Asia-Pacific region conducted eight virtual consultations, with two additional in-personal consultations in the Asia-Pacific region. Eighty-six PWDs (primarily women, with a small number of non-binary persons) participated in these virtual consultations, representing persons with intellectual, psychosocial, visual, hearing, and physical impairments as well as PWDs from youth, indigenous or other minority groups.

These consultations were held in the context of a larger UNFPA global project and fed into three critical outcome documents with easy read versions published globally in June 2021:

- 1) The impact of COVID-19 on women and girls with disabilities: A global assessment and case studies on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, and related rights;
- 2) Easy read: Life for women and girls with disabilities in the world during COVID-19;
- 3) Compendium of good practices during the COVID-19 pandemic: Ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls with disabilities;
- 4) Easy read: Some good examples of women and girls with disabilities getting their rights during COVID-19;
- 5) COVID-19, gender and disability checklist: Ensuring human rights-based sexual and reproductive health for women, girls, and gender non-conforming persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 6) Easy read: Making sure that people with disabilities get the right health care to do with their bodies, sex, relationships and having children during COVID-19.

This resource pack aims to aid a range of actors such as United Nations Country Teams, civil society, governments, multilateral organizations, and others involved in COVID-19 response and recovery—as well as planning, response, and recovery from other crises—to ensure that their policies and practices are inclusive of women and girls with disabilities and their rights are promoted. This resource pack focuses on three objectives:

- Ensuring gender- and disability-inclusive SRH during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Meeting social determinants of health for women and girls with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ensuring long-term SRHR for women and girls with disabilities in the recovery from COVID-19 and beyond.

This resource pack will provide guidance for future programming to ensure PWDs' rights and needs, especially in relation to SRHR and GBV, are fully included.

Learn more about the resource pack

Webinar on COVID-19 at the Intersection of Gender and Disability in Asia and the Pacific



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5 20057

