



Strengthening a network of FP/RH professionals and policymakers in Asia

PROGRAM BRIEF

Background information on
Asia regional work

Knowledge
SUCCESS

Family planning priorities within the Asia region vary among countries within the region, but have the following common themes; expanding FP/RH services and availability of methods, integrated FP programming, strengthening adolescent health programs and the health system.

Access to family planning and reproductive health services for youth and adolescents underpins nearly all FP priorities in the region. Of the global adolescent population of 1.2 billion aged 10 to 19 years, more than half live in Asia and the Pacific Region, so this population is a focus area for FP/RH programming for the next decade.

The Knowledge SUCCESS Asia team is working to strengthen family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) programs throughout the region by advocating for and helping implement knowledge management (KM) approaches that are effective and sustainable. Our key strategy is to support the creation of a network of health professionals and policymakers who are trained to implement KM best practices within their organizations and act as advocates in the wider FP/RH community. Some of our team's key activities include: building KM capacity with our partners, enabling FP/RH practitioners to document and share knowledge; creating networks for regional and national collaboration, allowing partners to share knowledge gained during the implementation of new programs; and offering KM trainings and solutions that target our partners' specific needs.

FP/RH challenges and goals

FP/RH programs and practitioners in Asia face a number of challenges Asia. Based on

a regional landscape analysis, co-creation workshops, and interactions with stakeholders in the region, the Knowledge SUCCESS Asia team identified the following as some of the primary challenges:

- There is no central platform or network for sharing knowledge within the region, meaning that valuable information does not always reach the right constituents.
- Some partners only share knowledge with donors or funding organizations. Others only share it within working groups. This is often because these groups are focused on individual programs and do not have the time or resources to share information more broadly.
- FP/RH professionals and policymakers do not always know how or where to share their experiences and knowledge.
- There is a need to engage with youth groups in order to improve health outcomes in the field of adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health (AYSRH). (This is also a USAID global priority.)

Based on these findings, our team set the following goals for our work:

1. Help implement stronger KM systems that allow for data and knowledge to be shared within countries
2. Build a better understanding of KM and how to use it to improve communities' health
3. Encourage the FP/RH community to share knowledge within and between countries
4. Create platforms that allow for the sharing of this knowledge (including technical working groups [TWGs])

5. Foster more collaboration between FP/RH stakeholders

Addressing these challenges: Strategies and Activities

The Asia team's strategies dovetail with the goals of Knowledge SUCCESS as a whole: we hope to become a broker for information in the region and to make KM a systematic, accessible, and sustainable element of FP/RH programs. If we can help organizations build greater KM capacity, collaborate across countries, and document and share knowledge within the FP/RH community, then practitioners and policymakers will feel more empowered to serve their communities *and* they will know who to reach out to when designing new programs or policies.

Below, we have outlined some of our key strategies, along with the activities we have used to support these strategies in the region.

Strategy: Strengthen KM capacity among FP/RH stakeholders in Asia

By building greater KM capacity, especially among grassroots organizations that have a direct impact on the communities they serve, we can improve FP/RH programs and initiatives and improve health outcomes.

Activities: We have employed a wide range of activities to help educate our partners about KM and support the development of KM tools and approaches. These activities target key organizations in the region, encouraging these organizations to share

knowledge more widely and collaborate more closely. They include:

1. A five-part regional KM training series covering topics such as how to document, package, and use knowledge, as well as the art of storytelling. Sessions to date have averaged 40 participants and encompassed eight countries (Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines). In a survey conducted after the fact, 79% of participants said they would be very likely to recommend the training series to a colleague.
2. Quarterly "Introduction to Knowledge Management" workshops that have reached 29 FP/RH practitioners from five countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines).
3. A collaborative project with the Philippines Commission on Population Development (POPCOM) to create a KM strategy for POPCOM's work.
4. Providing KM technical support to Pathfinder International for the development of a FP/contraception-focused Community of Practice (CoP), including brainstorming the strategy and launch of the CoP and developing a survey to determine CoP members' needs.

Strategy: Improve regional- and national-level knowledge sharing and dissemination

Our team is continually seeking out partnerships with a wide range of organizations, including government agencies, FP/RH organizations and consortiums, and development partners. Our goal is to build more collaboration

across the region, which in turn will make knowledge more accessible to more FP/RH stakeholders.

Activities: We have helped organize a wide range of initiatives that connect organizations in the FP/RH community. We have also used existing events, platforms, and partnerships to provide organizations with more information and education on how KM can help them in their work. Some of our activities include:

1. A regional stakeholder analysis that included interviews and discussions with USAID priority countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Yemen) and 42 organizations, from NGOs and donors to regional TWGs
2. Regional or country-specific events, such as workshops and peer-to-peer sessions, that educate partners about KM and connect TWGs across Asia
3. Using existing events and platforms to maximize knowledge sharing and discussions of KM. These have included the FP2030 regional workshops, the International Conference on Family Planning, and platforms such as [UNFPA Asia Pacific](#), and [BRAC](#).
4. KM trainings tailored to four national TWGs and partners:
 - a. Pakistan's SBCC FP CoP, which includes 24 influential FP/RH organizations
 - b. Nepal's National FP Subcommittee, which is a driving force behind FP policymaking and collaboration in the country
 - c. The Bangladesh BCC Working Group, which oversees the country's FP programs and coordinates behavior change communication activities in

the health, population, and nutrition sector

- d. USAID's Reach Health project in the Philippines, which works in 32 provinces and reaches almost half of the country's population, with the goal of reducing unmet need for FP services, decreasing teen pregnancy rates, and improving newborn morbidity and mortality rates

Strategy: Help organizations in the AYSRH arena engage more effectively with their audiences

One of USAID's FP/RH focuses for Asia is strengthening youth-focused programs. Professionals in Asia also identified meaningful youth engagement as key focus area in surveys conducted by Knowledge SUCCESS. For these reasons, one of our primary focuses has been on helping AYSRH organizations engage as effectively as possible with young people.

Activities: We have focused on creating content that is specific to youth-focused issues and worked with partners to strengthen KM skills among youth FP/RH organizations. Some activities in this area include:

1. Curating FPInsight collections on youth-related health issues
2. Hosting webinars and peer-to-peer events for youth-focused organizations
3. Creating webinars and digital microcontent that reaches youth FP/RH audiences
4. A KM capacity session with the Southeast Asia Youth Health Action Network (SYAN), a regional network of youth organizations working across 10 Asian countries that included topics on

documenting, organizing, packaging, and better sharing of knowledge with peers, audiences, and policymakers.

Strategy: Document and share lessons from FP/RH program implementation in Asia

Given the lack of platforms for sharing knowledge about FP/RH programs, it became a clear priority to help organizations document and share their learnings. In doing so, we can help more partner organizations learn what works and what challenges they might face in their work with patients on the ground.

Activities: *Our two primary activities supporting this strategy have focused on content creation and peer-to-peer learning, including:*

1. **Creating content for the Knowledge SUCCESS website** that highlights critical FP/RH information from the Asia region. In collaboration with six FP/RH partners in four countries we documented the successes and challenges these partners have faced. This content was shared in webinars, via FPInsight, and on the Knowledge SUCCESS website, with the goal of providing other partners in the region with data, best practices and country-specific knowledge.
2. **A regional Learning Circle that incorporated a cohort of 28 participants from eight Asian countries.** The participants discussed the importance of maintaining access to FP/RH services during emergencies in Asia, a region of the world that is affected by a number of prolonged crises and conflicts and is home to more than half of the world's refugee

population. An [interactive synthesis piece](#) was published after the fact, containing relevant insights from the event.

A key element to our work is also flexibility. Rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach, we are responsive to our partners' needs and create a work plan that grows out of listening and collaboration. This approach is also a fundamental part of our strategy, because an organization's needs can change depending on cultural and political contexts.

Successes and next steps

The Asia team has seen great success to date in helping FP/RH partners understand the value of KM and in assisting partners who wish to implement new KM tools. What is even more exciting is that partners are now actively reaching out to us for assistance on specific projects, from creating CoPs to promoting KM within their own country or field, as a result of hearing about our work with other partners in the region. Some key examples of this include an organization that decided to create its own CoP after attending our regional KM trainings; our work with POPCOM in the Philippines, which grew out of previous collaborations with partners across Asia; and requests for technical assistance from partners eager to showcase their work.

We hope that the knowledge and opportunities that we have generated so far will pave the way for other partners to apply KM in their work. In turn, this should build a more systemic knowledge sharing system for FP/RH programs in the region.

Table: How audiences are accessing, sharing, and using the knowledge/opportunities generated from Asia activities

REGIONAL ACTIVITY	HOW AUDIENCES ARE ACCESSING, SHARING, & USING THE KNOWLEDGE/ OPPORTUNITIES GENERATED	PROGRAM MANAGERS	TECHNICAL ADVISORS	DECISION MAKERS	CONVENERS
Conducted tailored KM training to four national technical working groups and family planning partners in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Philippines.	Nepal's National FP Sub-committee, the critical driving force behind policy-making, coordination and collaboration of all stakeholders working in FP in the country, requested for technical assistance on having a peer-assist with another country that has successful experience on FP/RH advocacy within the context of a devolved political structure and health system. Knowledge SUCCESS just completed facilitating their peer-assist between Nepal and Indonesia on April 27, 2022.	●	●	●	
Facilitated a 5-part regional KM training series and Introduction to Knowledge Management workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathfinder International started to create and launch its global CoP on FP and Contraception. • The Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) in the Philippines started to develop its own KM strategy with technical assistance from the project. • USAID ReachHealth started developing its own platform to store and showcase their knowledge products • Pakistan Social Behavior Change and Communication (SBCC) CoP requested for a KM orientation for its members. • MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery Project in Nepal requested for KM technical assistance. 	●	●		
Partnered with two organizations to publish relevant and timely content pieces regarding important regional FP/RH topics.	Path Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PFPI), Family Planning Association Nepal (FPAN), and PSI India each agreed to collaborate with the project in creating content pieces on priority technical topics: female empowerment, strengthening youth and adolescent health programs, and integrated FP programming.	●	●		
Facilitated a Learning Circles cohort focused on ensuring continuity of essential FP/RH services during emergencies.	Representatives from organizations who participated in the Learning Circle (AYON, FPAN, The YP Foundation, USAID ReachHealth) shared their challenges and lessons learned through a webinar.	●	●	●	●

