



CASE STUDY ICPD+25

# The value of civil society alliances in realising women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights

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## Box 1

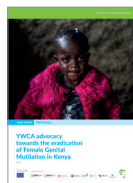
Overview of case studies and synthesis briefs (SoAW action learning process)

## Case studies



*The value of civil society alliances in realising women and girls' Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*

IPPF Africa Region



*YWCA advocacy towards the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation in Kenya*

YWCA Kenya



*Journalists networked across Africa for increased SRHR coverage in the media*

IPPF Africa Region



*Faith leadership of civil society collaboration towards adoption of the EAC SRHR Bill*

Faith to Action Network



*How African First Ladies spearheaded the successful launch of a continent-wide campaign to prevent HIV and AIDS in childhood*

OAFLAD



*Institutional change towards the integration of population and development issues in the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)*

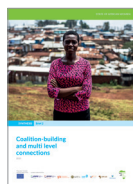
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and Faith to Action Network

## Synthesis briefs



*Progressing on the unfinished business*

KIT Royal Tropical Institute



*Coalition-building and multilevel connections*

KIT Royal Tropical Institute

# The value of civil society alliances in realising women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights

Partnership is a cornerstone in achieving civil society goals and impact. Mobilising the right and complementary partners results in better use of resources, harnessing of expertise, increased confidence and more progress towards ensuring that women and girls can realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights, amongst others by accessing information, health and services. This paper explores the experience of the State of the African Woman campaign on civil society mobilisation and organising at national, continental and international levels, to influence ICPD+25 Review process and related decision-making processes.

## Introduction

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (*Maputo Protocol*, 2003) remains one of the most progressive legal instruments providing a comprehensive set of human rights for African women. Unlike any other women's human rights instrument, it details wide-ranging and substantive human rights for women covering the entire spectrum of civil and political, economic, social and cultural as well as environmental rights. Another key African commitment is the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD, 2014), which covers a range of issues including health, governance, peace and mobility as well as data and statistics. The AADPD is commonly referred to as the African version of the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Human rights are implemented and enjoyed at the national level, by citizens of a country. Once a regional policy commitment is made, there is a need to domesticate it, through national laws, programmes and budgets that can be monitored and enforced. At the national level, the Maputo protocol, for example, is then divided into several 'parts' that would fit into existing sectors and ministries: for example, Article 2 on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women would be included in laws under the Ministry of Gender and Youth, while Article 14 on Health and Reproductive Rights would fall under the Ministry of Health and to some extent the Ministry of Education.

Civil society, including NGOs, plays an important role in monitoring continental commitments and ensuring that these do not get lost in the national contextualisation process. The process of translating provisions of the AADPD and the Maputo Protocol on sexual and reproductive health and rights into national laws is a long and negotiated one. These negotiations provide an opportunity for domestication and tailoring of the provisions to specific national contexts, such that commitments are as relevant possible. At the same time, the negotiations pose a risk of commitments being watered down, misinterpreted or even abandoned. In this, it can be difficult for civil society advocates to target the correct decision makers along the full process of contextualisation and implementation. Negotiations at continental and international levels are undertaken by Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as lead policy specialists in Ministries; at national and even sub-national level, implementation is undertaken by programme specialists, who are not always involved in the policy development stage.

In this long and negotiated translation process, the effectiveness of civil society can be challenged when CSOs are not well coordinated, or when messaging is fragmented, for instance due to the specialised focus areas of CSOs. In addition, because of the technical and formal conditions that have to be met in order to have observer status, civil society representation is usually characterised by international and national formal organisations, some of which do not have strong links or structures to engage the citizens, particularly at the grassroots level. With dwindling donor funding, and consequently reduced human resources, most organisations have been forced to focus on either the policy level advocacy or community level engagement. There are attempts by some to strengthen linkages between policy and community level development work, but with constrained resources, these linkages are generally sub-optimal.



Some NGOs have sought innovative ways to expand and diversify their reach and connections, including through research and surveys to understand the realities on the ground. Yet, because of time, logistics and other constraints, only a small sample of the population, which is not always representative of the community, is consulted; this affects how holistic and comprehensive analysis is, and consequently make that recommendations for policy change leave out specific groups and their priorities.

This paper explores some of the challenges and shares how in the State of the African Woman Campaign, African CSOs jointly explored improved ways of working together and actively sought to have a joint and holistic agenda, for accelerated progress on SRHR for women and girls in Africa.

## The State of African Women campaign

The State of African Women campaign is a collaboration between eight organisations, under the lead of the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPF AR).<sup>1</sup> The consortium is a unique broad alliance of African SRHR advocates, young women leaders and faith institutions, engaging in close collaboration with African First ladies as well as European advocacy, research and communication partners. The main objective of the State of African Women (SoAW) campaign is to contribute to securing, realizing and extending women's rights enshrined in African Union (AU) policies in African countries. The campaign seeks to influence both legal and social norms change towards women and girls' rights in SRHR, at continental, regional, national and sub-national levels, through a stronger voice and meaningful participation of civil society in decision-making.

At the heart of the SoAW campaign focuses on increasing civil society's contribution to implementation of the African commitments on women and girls' rights in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The campaign focuses on four core rights areas (see also Figure 1):<sup>2</sup>

1. Gender-based violence against women (GVAW)
2. Harmful practices (in particular child marriage and female genital mutilation, FGM)
3. Reproductive rights and sexual and reproductive health (RR and SRH)
4. HIV and AIDS

Figure 1.

The four core rights area of this report, with the cross-cutting issues

## CORE RIGHTS AREAS



## CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



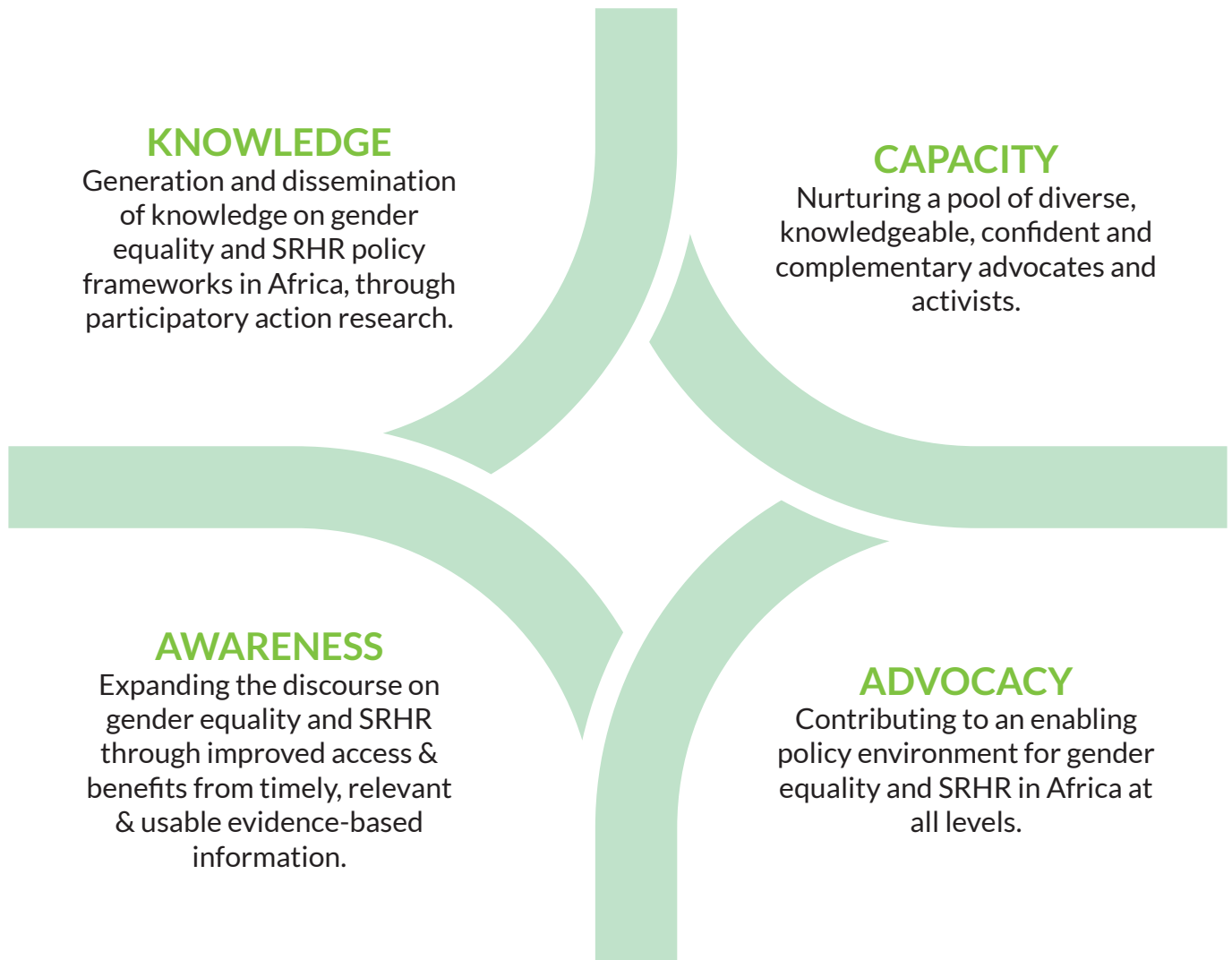
1 See [www.rightbyher.org](http://www.rightbyher.org). The campaign was funded by the European Union. The eight partners were the IPPF African Region, IPPF European Network, Faith to Action Network, the Young Women Christian Association, the Organization of African Ladies for Development, the KIT Royal Tropical Institute, DSW and GIZ.

2 alongside the four core rights areas, four cross-cutting issues were taken into account: peace and security; education and training; participation of women in political and decision-making processes; and marginalised and vulnerable groups of women and girls (in particular adolescent girls and young women, elderly women, women with disabilities, women in distress, and individuals marginalised on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, SOGIE).

The State of the African Women campaign pursued four strategic areas for engagement and learning (see Figure 2):

1. the need for up-to-date **knowledge and analysis of SRHR**;
2. the need for improved **strategic communications on SRHR**;
3. the need for **strengthened capacity and confidence** of advocates as well as champions for stronger influence in national policy processes and
4. the need for **longer term, better coordinated, more complementary civil society agendas** for advocacy.

**Figure 2.**  
Strategic areas of SoAW campaign



## Progressing on the unfinished business

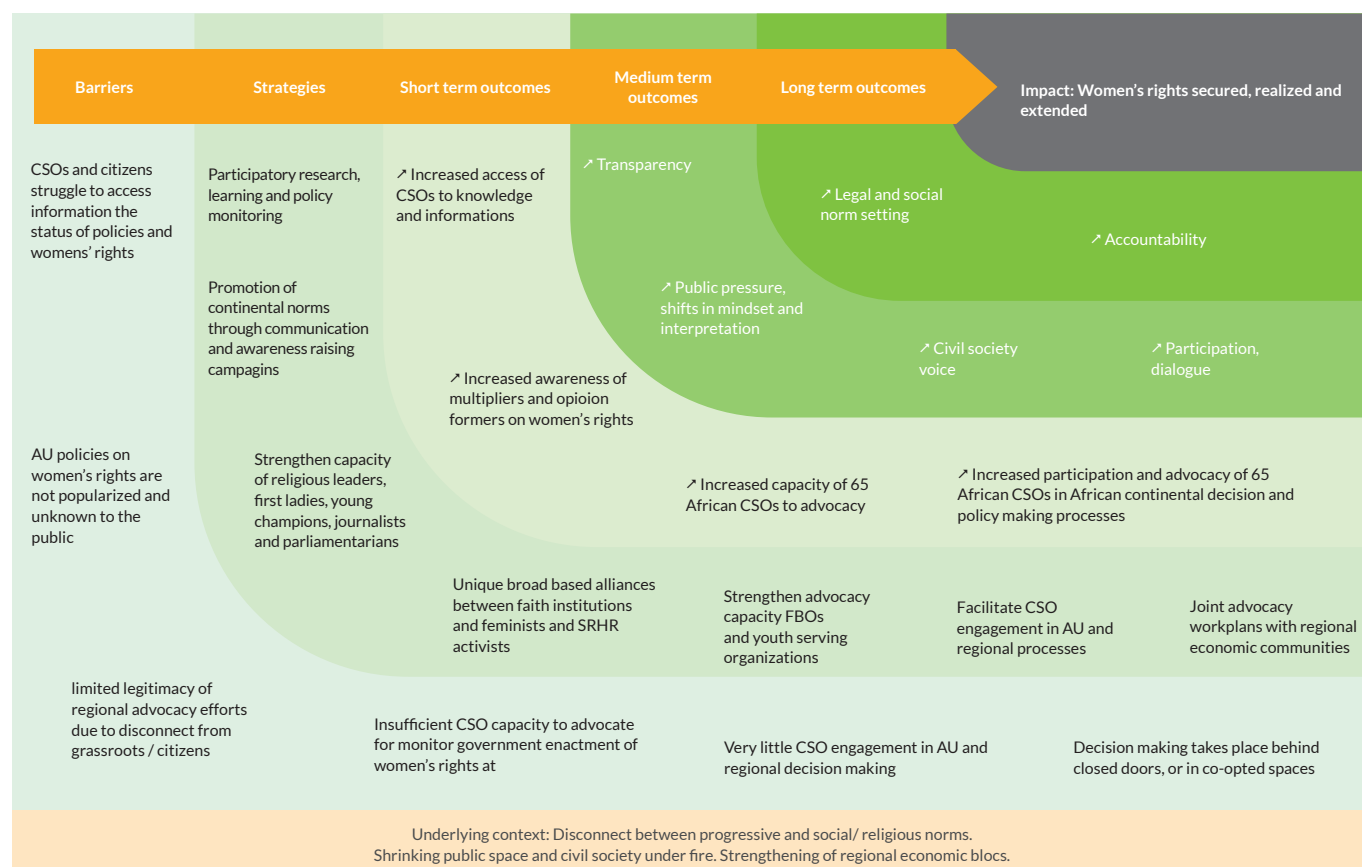
The campaign focuses on advancing African commitments on women and girls' rights in SRHR. These concern in particular the AU's Maputo Protocol (the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa) and the Maputo Plan of Action (MPoA), which is the implementation framework for the Continental Policy Framework on SRHR. Whereas much progress has been made in realizing women and girls' SRHR, there is also a lot of unfinished business. The State of African Women campaign sought to safeguard the gains made so far, in terms of both content and process:

**Safeguarding SRHR for all** – An important gain to safeguard is to ensure that SRHR issues are addressed from social and human rights perspectives, in addition to a medical angle. This, for instance, means that women and girls cannot be denied access to important reproductive information, spaces and services because of their age, skin colour, religion, or other forms of social exclusion. This also means that SRHR issues are not trivialised in development issues; on the contrary, it is important to ensure strong and clear linkages to emerging and prioritized development issues, including migration and the COVID19 pandemic. Safeguarding gains also means to ensure deliberate efforts for the inclusion of all people in planning and budgeting on SRHR, including key populations.

**Protecting and expanding the CSO space** – In terms of process, an important gain that requires continued safeguarding is the protection of civil society space in decision making processes at national and continental levels. This includes creating and expanding spaces for CSOs to discuss and negotiate amongst themselves on key priorities, which is important for strengthening understanding of the diversities and complexities between and amongst different geographic and thematic perspectives. Such spaces allow CSOs to negotiate amongst themselves and agree on common agendas at national and regional levels. In addition, it is important to promote diverse and inclusive CSO presence and engagement in key decision-making processes and spaces. Diversity in CSO presence is important, to strengthen inclusion by taking into account geography, age, gender, race, disability, and representation of the realities and issues of vulnerable groups and key populations.

The Theory of Change, as designed in an early stage, of the State of African Women campaign is visually presented in Figure 3:

**Figure 3.**  
Theory of change of the SoAW campaign



## Strategies

The advocacy strategies of the State of African Women campaign aimed to contribute to progress on the unfinished business through innovative strategies.

These can be clustered around (1) engagement with the policy continuum and (2) strengthening CSOs to join forces. Both sets of strategies are discussed in more detail below.

## Advocacy expanded along the policy continuum

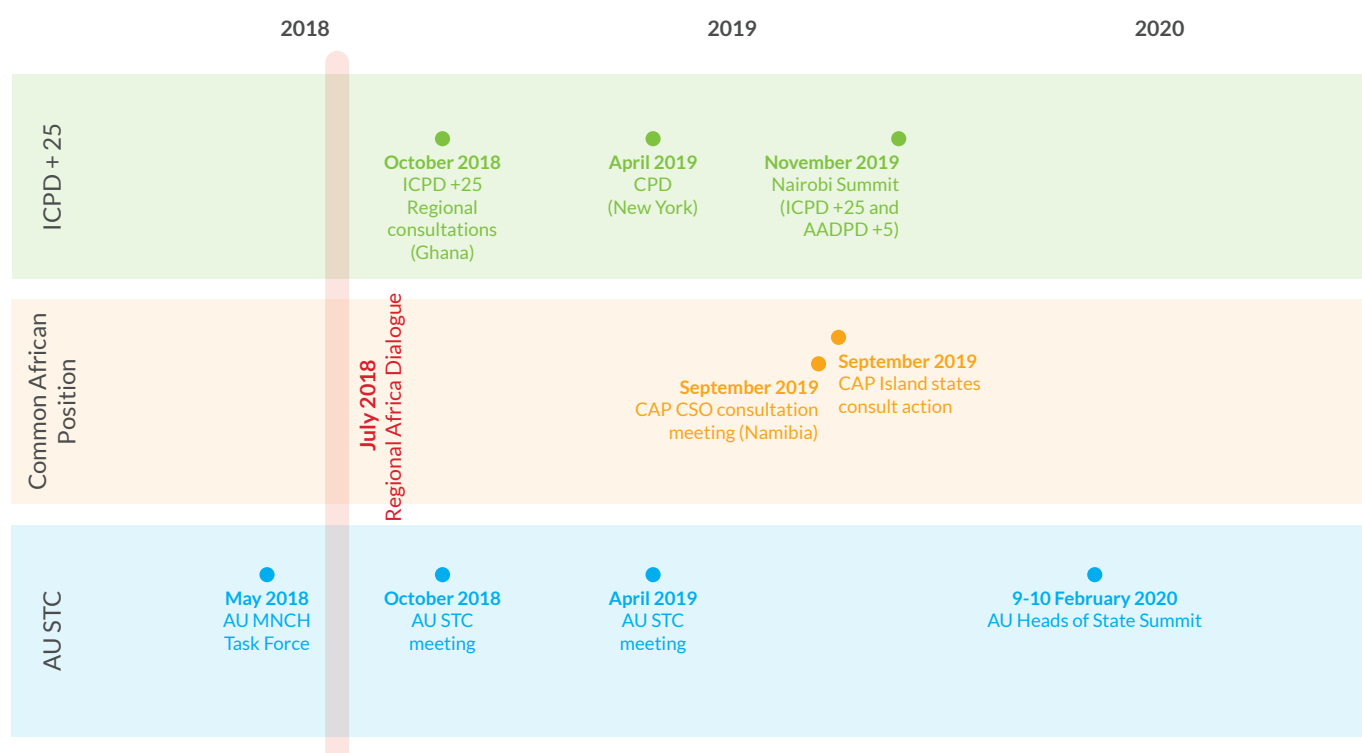
### Advocacy along the entire continuum of policy process

There was a deliberate effort to have a longer-term plan, that took into account and leveraged linkages between a number of policy processes at national, continental and international levels. The campaign unfolded in a period where the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development was reviewed (AADPD+5), and the fifteenth anniversary of the Maputo Protocol was marked. Internationally, the 25-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development took place, and at the continental level Agenda 2063 had taken shape. In addition, the AU was undertaking discussions to develop a Common Africa Position on Population and Development, which would inform and guide Africa's negotiations, as one block, in global fora, including the annual Commission on Population and Development. These globally agreed on commitments would then need to be implemented and reported on by UN member states.

Figure 4 presents an overview of the timeline highlighting these important interlinked processes at the African continental level. It also draws attention to the relevance of AU level technical Committees and Task Forces. The campaign engaged with both the AU Taskforce on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health as well as the AU Specialised Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control. These were important opportunities to inform their recommendations, which are submitted to both Ministerial convenings on Health and the annual AU Heads of States Summit. Similarly, policy commitments agreed on at this level are expected to be implemented at national level, with regular reporting to the African Union Commission.

**Figure 4.**

Timeline of interlinked policy process



All these policy processes and reviews provided a web of interlinked opportunities for our advocacy strategies. In addition to the linkages between different policy processes at the continental and international levels, we also explored and amplified their linkages with the national level. For the AADPD+5 review, we started with mapping out when national level consultations would happen in Ghana for example. We then provided technical support in the CSO recommendations for the Ghana AADPD+5 report in October 2018, in the Ghana CSO position paper on the 2019 CPD as well as recommendations by CSOs on the countries' commitments in the November 2019 Nairobi Summit.

To ensure a more coordinated and stronger civil society voice across these multiple linkages, the campaign co-convened, in partnership with UNFPA, African civil society members to jointly agree on key recommendations to prioritise and jointly advocate for. This convening happened at two important occasions: the Regional Africa Dialogue (July 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya) and during CSO Consultations on the ICPD+25/AADPD+5 (October 2018, in Accra, Ghana). The jointly articulated priorities later informed recommendations to government and consultants developing AADPD+5 country reports in 2019, as well as the CSO position papers with recommendations to the 2019 Commission on Population and Development in New York and to the 2019 Nairobi summit.

The CSO position papers importantly inform country position papers, in which key priority issues on population and development are outlined, such as SRHR, youth friendly services, elimination of FGM and child marriage, and ending violence against women. The country position papers, in turn, inform negotiation block positions, such as the African Group of Negotiators or the Global Developing Country Group of Negotiators. Once these priorities are agreed on by negotiators, agreements are made at the global level that outline minimum standards that all countries should maintain, monitor and report on. These joint, minimum standards at continental and international levels then need to be domesticated and implemented at country level, by the implementing ministries.

## Employing a range of strategies for engaging in policy processes

To ensure a more holistic approach, the SoAW campaign employed a range of advocacy strategies, at these multiple levels. One of the most important resources was the publication of the State of African Women report, which provided updated evidence, data and language on women and girls' rights in SRHR. The SoAW report was a key resource that informed all of the campaign's policy recommendations at national level (e.g. in the development of the Kenya and Ghana position papers on the 2019 CPD), regional (sub-continental) level (e.g. in the ongoing negotiations on the East African Legislative Assembly SRH Bill) and international level (e.g. the 2019 CPD, the Women's Major Group key recommendations paper). The SoAW report also offered a clear overview of the existing African commitments and normative frameworks on women and girls' rights in SRHR, including an overview, explanation and detailed discussion of the provision in the Maputo Protocol, and key reference documents such as the *General Comments*.<sup>3</sup>

Safeguarding gains also implies engaging with and responding to resistance, contestations or misunderstandings. This was highly relevant for important issues as comprehensive sexuality education or the use of contraception. The campaign worked with other CSOs to amplify and diversify the voice of civil society, and the broad alliance in the consortium was foundational to that. Moreover, in the committees that were set up to synthesise and summarise the CSO discussions into position papers, diversity and expanded representation of civil society groups was key in ensuring more inclusive language and recommendations and, consequently, to strengthen broad buy-in from civil society groups.

Resistance and contestations around women and girls' rights in SRHR was also encountered among policy and decision-makers across the policy continuum. An important strategy of the campaign was that consortium members provided direct and indirect technical support to policy makers to propose bridging, more inclusive language in articulating some of the priority issues. The proposed language would be drawn from existing agreed language, such as in the General Comments to the Maputo Protocol. The project consortium members leveraged on existing relationships with negotiators and parliamentarians to negotiate for more progressive provisions in the agreements. In addition, the participation of the consortium members in technical committees and taskforces at multiple levels enabled more direct interaction and understanding of issues, for more specific and tailored technical assistance to policy makers, either directly or indirectly through collaboration with other civil society policy experts.

<sup>3</sup> General Comments are human rights tools used for the interpretation of provisions in international or regional legal treaties and provide guidance to states in the implementation of their obligations. Three General Comments are of high relevance for women and girls' rights in SRHR; one of the intersections between women's rights and HIV (Art. 14.1(d) and (e) of the Maputo Protocol), one concerning rights to reproductive freedom, to family planning education and to safe abortion (Art. 14.1(a), (b), (c) and (f) and Art. 14.2(a) and (c) of the Maputo Protocol), and a third one that speaks to ending child marriage (in reference to both the Maputo Protocol and the African Children's Charter. (see SoAW report (2019), chapter 3, page 82)



To ensure that new knowledge and skills could be directly translated into action, the project linked its knowledge sharing sessions, trainings and capacity development sessions to existing policy processes. For example, in 2018, the campaign shared the findings and analysis of the SoAW report to parliamentarians immediately before the annual Network of Parliamentary Committees on Health (NEAPACOH) conference, where the parliamentarians review and develop annual national commitments and action plans. In doing so, we sought to ensure that the content of the report would directly inform the annual country health priorities set by the parliamentarians, who are usually chairs and clerks of national parliamentary health committees.

## CSOs joining forces

### Understanding contestations and opposition and finding new language

Diverse and sometimes opposing voices often surface in negotiations around SRHR issues. Civil society organisations may push for improved access to a range of contraceptive options for women, to strengthen women's abilities plan and choose if and when to have children. This may be contested by some faith leaders, who view childbirth as a divine function, in addition to a biological one. In other cases, parliamentarians can push against contraception, as they would like to see increased numbers of constituents in their specific areas, where populations have declined due to for instance conflict, malnutrition or illness. In such cases, it is important to centre the discussions on the dignity of women and her freedom, so that she is not forced or bullied into having children. Referring to the General Comments to the Maputo Protocol, civil society members were able to build on agreed language that articulates women being able to have healthy spacing and timing of children for better quality of life.

Another example are the trainings for journalists and young people ahead of the CPD to ensure a clear understanding of how the negotiations at that level work; these well-timed trainings strengthened their confidence and knowledge to engage country level policy makers on the current priorities and agendas for the annual conference.

The broad alliance of the campaign's consortium offered a strong foundation to understand and engage with contestations and opposition around SRHR issues. The SoAW campaign made deliberate efforts to facilitate and stimulate interactions amongst groups that do not always have the opportunity to engage with each other: journalists, young people, parliamentarians, government and intergovernmental representatives, faith leaders and women's rights activists to interact and better understand each other's points of view. Faith leaders would engage with young people advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights, journalists would spend a few days with parliamentarians, not just in press conferences or media interviews, but in dialogue and informal chats to understand each other's contexts and perspectives better.

The creation of spaces for direct interaction and engagement of diverse groups of civil society voices and others stakeholders was helpful in providing an opportunity for these groups to dialogue and better understand each other's perspectives and jointly agree on seemingly opposing issues, for example, everyone agreeing that there should not be deaths due to unsafe abortion. Agreement on language entails alliances and partners to take into account the diverse backgrounds and values at individual and institutional levels. In these spaces, the different stakeholders would dialogue, argue and negotiate towards agreed joint recommendations and advocacy messages as well as minimum standards in advocacy and policy influencing spaces.

## Focus on implementation

There were several attempts to not ‘just’ review progress against the provisions of the AADPD, but also to review the actual text of the *Addis Ababa Declaration*. This posed a risk to safeguarding the gains made over more than two decades of continental and international advocacy, because reviewing the actual text would mean open up the possibility of watering down or completely removing some of the existing negotiated and agreed commitments that progressively supports SRHR for women in Africa. African CSOs therefore engaged with key decision makers at the African Union Commission and UN agencies to push for the review of the progress in implementation, instead of negotiation on the text of the AADPD. These key stakeholders indeed came along in the need to focus on implementation, with an agreement to improve any ‘weak’ provisions during implementation at country level, for more context specific improvements.

The deliberate push to focus on implementation of existing commitments also opened up further areas for advocacy and policy influencing. It put the spotlight on the operationalisation of African commitments in plans, which comes the need for allocations of resources and budgets, as well as the importance of monitoring frameworks. For example in Kenya and Uganda, IPPF member associations and Faith to Action Network worked with local governments to develop sub national costed work plans. They also contributed to further clarifying the roles of different stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of the plans, with clear indicators of improved quality of healthcare and increased access by women and girls to sexual and reproductive health information and services. In such processes of operationalisation, it remains important to be aware of potential points of contestation, to ensure that gains already made in the original AADPD are not watered down or reversed in the translation process towards implementation.

## Joint engagement

Strengthening civil society coordination and joint engagement was at the heart of the SoAW campaign. One of challenges was in the facilitation of very diverse groups of people across the continent, and in managing schedules to find regular and convenient meeting times, for example. Finding a common theme or entry point proved key in facilitating discussions and reaching agreement amongst CSOs. The AU sets a thematic area of focus each year: in 2019, the focus was on forced displacement in Africa, and there was some CSO consultation in setting the theme. In 2020, the world faced the COVID-19 pandemic and had to consider the SRHR implications, in particular increases in incidence of teenage pregnancy and violence against women. In the position papers, CSOs highlighted the links between their organisational priorities and the AU annual theme. For example, by articulating what SRHR issues refugees, returnees and IDPs face, or how interruptions due to conflict and crisis, including the COVID-19 pandemic, affect access to SRHR information and services.

The broad alliance of the SoAW campaign provided important opportunities, as each consortium members was embedded in and could leverage specific networks and partnerships. Working with OAFAD enabled stronger connections to the AU campaigns on ending FGM and child marriage, given the leadership of First Ladies at the continental and national levels; while at the same time working with YWCA ensured a stronger connection to the grassroots and that national and continental policy discussions reflected current and emerging realities on the ground. We identified which partners were strongest in which issues, including harmful practices, ending child marriage, HIV and AIDS, or protecting and expanding civil society spaces. The African-European collaboration in the consortium also offered opportunities for advocacy at European level, including roundtable dialogues with EU parliamentarians, gender focal points of the European Union Commission, parliamentarians in the EU-African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) as well as EU Delegations in Africa, including the EU Delegation to the AU.

Usually only a small number of CSO can access formal decision making spaces at a time, both due to resource constraints, and because of the formal registration and approval that is required for access. The SoAW campaign leveraged the observer status of IPPF to the UN and AU, as well as the membership of Faith to Action Network to the All African Conference of Churches, which also has observer status. In situations like this, it is even more important to have a CSO position paper that outlines the joint priorities and recommendations from civil society, as it is key to ensuring that the representative CSO brings the priorities and recommendations of other CSOs to the decision-making processes. The consortium partners used a combination of both formal and informal channels to remain updated and identify opportunities for influencing decision making processes. Whereas some consortium members did not have formal access to decision-making spaces, they were able to leverage the informal relations and channels as part of the joint and holistic advocacy strategy.

## Lessons learned

### Co-formulate clear, longer term objectives

A first take-away from our campaign is the importance of being focused and specific about what CSOs want to achieve, while allowing ample time for change to happen. Where change happens too quickly, there may not be enough buy in or proper institutionalisation of that change. This can make it easy for groups opposed to progress in SRHR to reverse the gains, including by claiming that not enough consultations were held in the decision making process. For a successful advocacy campaign, it is critical to be flexible in planning and budgeting, because the advocacy environment is dynamic with constant changes, delays and unforeseen opportunities.

### Tailor joint messages

Having an agreed set of messages and recommendations is useful especially when availability to participate in decision making spaces changes for some partners. However, these need to be tailored to different audiences, while the core and spirit of the message remains the same. Tailoring recommendations is important in ensuring that civil society advocates not say what they think is important, but that key decision makers can hear and understand their message in a way that makes sense to them, in their own context and position. Investing in research and having dialogue sessions to understand the concerns, opposition and resistance to recommendations made by CSOs is valuable in understanding how to clarify, support, share evidence, structure and articulate recommendations for a clearer understanding, more buy-in and broader support to progressive recommendations.

### Be open-minded

It is important to remain open minded and adopt an iterative learning approach when working with government. Instead of focusing on differences between government and civil society, successful advocacy benefits from exploring ways to better align CSO priorities with government processes. Incorporating capacity strengthening and targeted technical support to policy and decision-makers, alongside advocacy efforts, also proved beneficial, as in some cases, resistance to change is due to limited capacity and a need for more confidence building.

### Strengthen operationalisation of commitments

Realise that although having policies passed is a significant milestone, even more needs to be done to ensure that policies are operationalised with resources, budgets, plans as well as monitoring frameworks. Indicators and reporting commitments are also important and help in holding policy makers and governments accountable for their decisions. For implementation to be successful, it needs to be accompanied by social norm change – to continuously strengthen how advocacy processes and policy commitments link to change on the ground. There are numerous cases where for example, strong laws and mechanisms on FGM exist in a country, but people still undertake the practice in a clandestine manner, and even travel to neighbouring countries where laws are less strict to undergo FGM and then come back to their country. Putting more effort to understand the norms and values that support these practices is also important in eliminating the practice.

### Take a holistic perspective

Engaging other civil society representatives from both formal and informal organisations, networks and movements is of pivotal importance in getting a more holistic picture of realities in the ground, as well as understanding the most urgent and emerging issues. For example, a civil society representative with observer status at an AU level meeting may recommend that country budgets should have higher allocations to contribute to ending violence against women. To strengthen the validity of this recommendation, it is important to have evidence of incidences of violence against women at the national level, as well as real examples of people who have experienced violence and what the impact has been directly to them and indirectly to their families and communities for example. As part of building a holistic approach, we found that investing time and effort to build both the capacity and confidence of partners and representatives we work with resulted in more meaningful and grounded contributions in policy making processes. The broad-based alliance and the multilevel strategies of the State of African Women campaign were core to the meaningful and grounded contributions we sought to make.

## References

- i. [Maputo Protocol](#)
- ii. [State of the African Women Report](#)
- iii. [Experts and Ministers submission to the AU on AADPD+5 Review](#)
- iv. [2019 CPD Political Statement](#)
- v. [Nairobi Summit Commitments](#)
- vi. [Ghana National Commitments on Population and Development](#)

## Acronyms and Abbreviations Used

AADPD	Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development
AU	African Union
AU STC	African Union Specialised Technical Committee
CAP	Common African Position
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
Heads of State Summit	Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
Maputo Protocol	The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
MNCH	Maternal, New-born and Child Health
Nairobi Summit	The 2019 Nairobi Summit on ICPD25
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SoAW	State of the African Woman
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAW	Violence Against Women



### COLOPHON

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