



ANSER CONFERENCE 2024



'Catalysing Change: Enhancing Evidence-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policies in Challenging Times'

RECOMMENDATION REPORT



CONTENT

- 2024, A MILESTONE YEAR FOR SRHR..... 3
- PARTICIPANTS..... 4
- YOUTH ENGAGEMENT..... 5
- PROGRAMME..... 6
 - Scientific Day – Wedn. 7th of February..... 7
 - Scientific Day – Thur. 8th of February..... 9
 - Policy Impact Day – Fri. 9th of February..... 10
- KEYNOTE SPEECHES..... 11
- CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS CATEGORISED BY THEME..... 12
 - Innovating for Impact: Unlocking the Potential of Technology in Sexual and Reproductive Health..... 13
 - Sustainable Futures: Exploring the Intersections of Climate and Sexual and Reproductive Health..... 17
 - Breaking Barriers: Achieving Equitable Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and Medicines within Universal Health Coverage..... 22
 - Access to SRHR Services..... 23
 - Maternal Health..... 28
 - Safe Abortion..... 31
 - Gender-based Violence..... 33
 - Defending Dignity: Upholding Rights in Challenging Times for Sexual and Reproductive Health..... 35
 - Evidence to policy..... 41
- ANSER POSTER AWARD..... 44
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... 45

2024, A MILESTONE YEAR FOR SRHR

In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo marked a pivotal moment in global efforts to address sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Now, three decades later, we find ourselves at another critical juncture. The year 2024 holds significant importance for SRHR, with several key developments converging:

- **ICPD's 30th Anniversary:** Throughout the year UNFPA celebrates 30 years of ICPD achievements and facilitates a review process to take stock of progress and to reflect on the current status and the future of ICPD implementation.
- **Belgium's EU Presidency:** In the first half of 2024, Belgium assumes the presidency of the Council of the European Union, strongly emphasising SRHR within the EU and beyond.
- **European Elections:** Simultaneously, European elections are taking place in June, shaping the political landscape and influencing SRHR policies.

Capitalising on this momentum, the ANSER conference 'Catalysing Change: Enhancing Evidence-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policies in Challenging Times' brought together renowned researchers, policymakers, advocates, programmatic experts and health professionals from around the world to advance SRHR knowledge & interventions, shape SRHR policies and drive societal change.

The conference focused on four areas that are entering the political debate but lack sufficient data or topics that require more political attention:

- **Breaking Barriers:** Achieving Equitable Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and Medicines within Universal Health Coverage
- **Sustainable Futures:** Exploring the Intersections of Climate and Sexual and Reproductive Health
- **Innovating for Impact:** Unlocking the Potential of Technology in Sexual and Reproductive Health
- **Defending Dignity:** Upholding Rights in Challenging Times for Sexual and Reproductive Health

All the pictures of the event can be found [here](#).

PARTICIPANTS

The ANSER Conference brought together 198 participants from 129 institutions across 34 countries worldwide. This diverse assembly included academics, policymakers, civil society representatives, and health practitioners, encompassing a range of stakeholders from research, policy, and practice.

Special emphasis was placed on including young participants in the conference to acknowledge their roles as emerging professionals and experts in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Notably, 25 participants were under the age of 30.

Please find the full participants list [here](#).



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

During the conference, significant efforts were made to engage young researchers. Several sessions and workshops were tailored to the needs and interests of young people and junior speakers were included in the panels.

Additionally, **a lunch meeting was specifically arranged for researchers under 30 to connect with policymakers**, aiming to create a dynamic space for dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas. Junior experts voiced their policy recommendations to the policymakers present and discussed the ideas and feasibility.

To further support young professionals, the **ANSER Fellows mentoring scheme** was established during the conference. It aimed to cultivate stronger professional and interpersonal relationships between junior attendants and senior ANSER members. On the one hand, it empowered junior attendants in networking and providing frameworks and background information on the conference themes and the network's history. On the other hand, senior ANSER members were enlightened with valuable insights into the challenges faced by young people and the topics prioritized by young experts in SRHR.



PROGRAMME



The conference included two **Scientific Conference Days (7th and 8th of February 2024)**, focusing on new academic data on sexual and reproductive health, and one **Policy Impact Day (9th of February, 2024)** bringing together academics, policymakers and other SRHR stakeholders to formulate recommendations for future action.

During the Scientific Conference days insightful keynote speeches, presentations, and interactive panel discussions were organized to set the scene, share innovative ideas and provide insights for future research and policymaking. In addition, 8 workshops were given to teach new skills to the participants.

The Policy Impact Conference Day united academics, policymakers, and civil society to cultivate future collaborations. By facilitating dialogue and shared insights, the event aimed to foster dialogue, exchange knowledge and inspire collective action towards increased evidence-based policymaking in SRHR.

PROGRAMME SCIENTIFIC DAY
WEDN. 7TH OF FEB. 2024



Theme colour codes:

Breaking Barriers: Achieving Equitable Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and Medicines within Universal Health Coverage
Sustainable Futures: Exploring the Intersections of Climate and Sexual and Reproductive Health
Innovating for Impact: Unlocking the Potential of Technology in Sexual and Reproductive Health
Defending Dignity: Upholding Rights in Challenging Times for Sexual and Reproductive Health

	Room 'Sokoni'	Room 'Ubuntu'	Room 'Baobab'
08:30	Registration & Welcome Coffee		
09:00	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Olivier Degomme - ANSER & ICRH, Ghent University 		
09:30	Plenary Address 'Positive' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Laurence Hendrickx 		
09:45	Moderated Panel: 'Universal Access to SRH Services: How Far Have We Come and Where Do We Need To Go?' Moderator: Gilda Segh - Guttmacher Institute Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamar Khomasuridze - UNFPA Eastern Europe & Central Asia Regional Office Onikepe Owolabi - Guttmacher Institute Marleen Temmerman - Aga Khan University 	Oral Presentation Session 'Reimagining SRHR services: The Telemedicine Revolution' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lela Shengelia - UNFPA Georgia <i>Introduction of innovative Telemedicine approaches for SRH service delivery in Georgia</i> Simone Storey - World Health Organisation <i>Identifying Implementation Bottlenecks and Exploring Solutions for Medical Abortion Through Telemedicine in South Africa: A Qualitative Study</i> 	Workshop 'Decolonising SRHR: Going Beyond Language' Facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sara Salarkiya - Sensoa Marianne Nguena Kana - GAMS Xavier De Béthune - Because Health Céline Glorie - Médecins du Monde
10:45	Coffee Break		
11:15	Sofa Talk: 'Empowering Change: Navigating the Intersection Between Climate Change and SRHR' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviewer: Emilie Peeters - ICRH & ANSER, Ghent University Speaker: Sander Spanoghe - Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office 		
11:45	Moderated Panel 'SRHR in Migration Contexts' Moderator: Ines Keygnaert - ICRH, Ghent University Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Griet Vandeveldde - Artevelde Hogeschool Gent Jordanos Tewelde - Karolinska Institutet Leni Linthout - ICRH, Ghent University 	Oral Presentation Session 'Respectful Maternity care' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna Galle - ICRH, Ghent University <i>IMAGINE EURO: An opportunity to open the black box of respectful maternity care in Belgium.</i> Anteneh Asefa - Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp <i>A systems perspective to promote respectful maternity care in resource-limited settings</i> Nele Vaerewijck - ICRH, Ghent University <i>Connecting the Dots: Obstetric Care, Trauma, and Mental Health</i> 	Workshop 'Understanding Intersectionality in Guaranteeing Equitable SRHR Access for Women with Disabilities in Africa' Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Honders - Liliane Fonds
12:45	Networking Lunch		
13:45	Moderated Panel 'Climate, Gender, and Health: The SRHR Perspective' Moderator: Veronique Filippi - The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ana Mosiashvili - European Confederation of Youth Clubs & Lund University Malachi Ochieng Arunda - Karolinska Institutet Susannah Mayhew - London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine 	Oral Presentation Session 'Leaving No One Behind' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ketrin Zeno - Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Albania <i>Reducing Disparities in Access to Contraceptive Services Among Vulnerable Populations in Albania.</i> Sanne Thijssen - Stories To Action <i>The SRHR of young people living in urban cities beyond COVID-19</i> Sara Scharmanski - Federal Centre for Health Education, BZgA <i>Contraceptive behavior and socio-economic factors. Results of a repeated representative survey in Germany.</i> 	Workshop 'Playing for Prevention: Serious Games for Sexual Violence Prevention' Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danielle Fernandes - Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VUB
14:45	Poster Fair		
15:15	Coffee Break		
15:45	Moderated Panel 'Youth Voices, Youth Choices: A Conversation on Youth-Friendly SRH Services' Moderator: Gökçe Lara Bodurum - zmir University of Economics Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olena Ivanova - Ludwig Maximilian Universität Klinikum Sophie Lyon - University of Virginia Maria Suzana Bata - International Center for Reproductive Health Mozambique 	Oral Presentation Session 'SRHR Beyond the Health Facility' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernardo Vega - Universidad de Cuenca <i>Acceptability of Self-Sampling vs. Routine Clinician Sampling for Cervical Cancer Screening in Two Rural Settings of Cuenca, Ecuador.</i> Mariarosa Cuttillo - UNFPA <i>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at work: The new frontier for ESG</i> Susan Ontiri - ICRH Kenya <i>Community outreach to increase access to SRHR for vulnerable populations</i> 	Workshop 'Climate-Proofed: A Guide to Investing at the Intersection of Climate and Sexual & Reproductive Health' Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alyssa Beeman - Ylabs

11:15	Sofa Talk: 'Empowering Change: Navigating the Intersection Between Climate Change and SRHR' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewer: Emilie Peeters - ICRH & ANSER, Ghent University • Speaker: Sander Spanoghe - Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office 		
11:45	Moderated Panel 'SRHR in Migration Contexts' Moderator: Ines Keynaert - ICRH, Ghent University Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Griet Vandevelde - Artevelde Hogeschool Gent • Jordanos Tewelde - Karolinska Institutet • Leni Linthout - ICRH, Ghent University 	Oral Presentation Session 'Respectful Maternity care' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Galle - ICRH, Ghent University <i>IMAGINE EURO: An opportunity to open the black box of respectful maternity care in Belgium.</i> • Anteneh Asefa - Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp <i>A systems perspective to promote respectful maternity care in resource-limited settings</i> • Nele Vaerewijck - ICRH, Ghent University <i>Connecting the Dots: Obstetric Care, Trauma, and Mental Health</i> 	Workshop 'Understanding Intersectionality in Guaranteeing Equitable SRHR Access for Women with Disabilities in Africa' Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Honders - Liliane Fonds
12:45 Networking Lunch			
13:45	Moderated Panel 'Climate, Gender, and Health: The SRHR Perspective' Moderator: Veronique Filippi - The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Masiashvili - European Confederation of Youth Clubs & Lund University • Malachi Ochieng Arunda - Karolinska Institutet • Susannah Mayhew - London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine 	Oral Presentation Session 'Leaving No One Behind' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ketrin Zeno - Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Albania <i>Reducing Disparities in Access to Contraceptive Services Among Vulnerable Populations in Albania.</i> • Sanne Thijssen - Stories To Action <i>The SRHR of young people living in urban cities beyond COVID-19</i> • Sara Scharmanski - Federal Centre for Health Education, BZgA <i>Contraceptive behavior and socio-economic factors. Results of a repeated representative survey in Germany.</i> 	Workshop 'Playing for Prevention: Serious Games for Sexual Violence Prevention' Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Fernandes - Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VUB
14:45 Poster Fair			
15:15 Coffee Break			
15:45	Moderated Panel 'Youth Voices, Youth Choices: A Conversation on Youth-Friendly SRH Services' Moderator: Gökçe Lara Bodurum - zmir University of Economics Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olena Ivanova - Ludwig Maximilian Universiteit Klinikum • Sophie Lyon - University of Virginia • Maria Suzana Bata - International Center for Reproductive Health Mozambique 	Oral Presentation Session 'SRHR Beyond the Health Facility' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernardo Vega - Universidad de Cuenca <i>Acceptability of Self-Sampling vs. Routine Clinician Sampling for Cervical Cancer Screening in Two Rural Settings of Cuenca, Ecuador.</i> • Mariarosa Cutillo - UNFPA <i>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at work: The new frontier for ESG</i> • Susan Ontiri - ICRH Kenya <i>Community outreach to increase access to SRHR for vulnerable populations</i> 	Workshop 'Climate-Proofed: A Guide to Investing at the Intersection of Climate and Sexual & Reproductive Health' Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alyssa Beeman - Ylabs
16:45	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Olivier Degomme - ANSER & ICRH, Ghent University 		

	Room 'Sokoni'	Room 'Ubuntu'	Room 'Baobab'
08:30	Registration & Welcome Coffee		
09:00	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Olivier Degomme - ANSER & ICRH, Ghent University 		
09:20	Virtual Keynote address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Petra De Sutter - Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium 		
09:30	Moderated Panel 'Safeguarding Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Infants Against Extreme Heat and Climate Change' Moderator: Onikepe Owolabi - Gutmacher Institute Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veronique Filippi - The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Chloe Brimicombe - Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz Darshnika Lakhoo - Wits RHI 	Oral presentation Session 'The Role of Social and Cultural Norms in Shaping SRHR Realities' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elin Larsson - Karolinska Institutet <i>The community trusts us: Faith-based organisations' role in advancing SRHR globally</i> Jolien Inghels - University of Antwerp <i>The medicalization of female genital cutting: who decides to medicalize?</i> Gökçe Lara Bodur - Izmir University of Economics Medical Point Hospital <i>Norms and Values towards Gender Equality and SRHR in Türkiye - Providing a baseline using the World Values Survey</i> 	Workshop 'Sensoa Flag System: A Systematic Framework to Discuss Sexual Behaviour, Conduct Accurate Assessments and Respond Appropriately' Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizaveta Fomenko - ICRH, Ghent University
10:30	Coffee Break		
11:00	Moderated Panel 'SRHR in a Digital Environment' Moderator: Simone Storey - WHO Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis Meyo - Busara Dennis Ndwiga - KEMSA Louange Twahirwa Gutabarwa - Health Development Initiative 	Oral Presentation Session 'Ensuring SRHR Access for People with Disabilities' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farid Babayev - UNFPA <i>Empowering Vulnerable Voices: Ensuring Reproductive Health Services for Girls with Mental Disabilities: Every Dream Matters</i> Elisaveta Fomenko - ICRH, Ghent University <i>Disability and sexual violence</i> Màlica de Melo - International Center for Reproductive Health Mozambique <i>Barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive information and services among adolescents with disabilities: A qualitative study in Tete province Mozambique</i> 	Workshop 'The fall of Roe v Wade in the US: Potential Global Impacts and How to Mitigate Them' Facilitator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gilda Sedgh - Gutmacher Institute
12:00	Poster Fair		
12:30	Networking Lunch		
13:30	Moderated Panel 'SRHR within Universal Health Coverage' Moderator: Tamar Khomasuridze - UNFPA Eastern Europe Central Asia Regional Office Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chiara Cosentino - IPPF European Network Dorina Tocaj - UNFPA Albania Patricia Owira - International Centre for Reproductive Health Kenya 	Oral Presentation Session 'Safe Abortion, a Public Health Imperative' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alejandra Lopez Gomez - Universidad de la República <i>Abortion in Uruguay. Lessons and challenges to remove barriers to access.</i> Pascale Lissouba - Medecins Sans Frontière, MSF <i>Care pathways of women hospitalized with severe abortion complications in Bangui, a conflict-affected setting: qualitative study</i> Onikepe Owolabi - Gutmacher Institute <i>Exploring the factors underlying differential access to safe abortion care and post abortion care in two Sub-Saharan African settings</i> 	Workshop 'Ethical & Practical Considerations when Engaging in Migrant Populations SRHR research.' Facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helena Kilander - Karolinska Institutet & Jönköping University Anna Wängborg - Karolinska Institutet Elin Larsson - Karolinska Institutet
14:30	Sofa Talk 'The Intersection of SRHR Research, Service Delivery and Policy Leadership' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviewer: Emille Peeters - ICRH & ANSER, Ghent University Speaker: Prof. Marleen Temmerman - Aga Khan University 		
15:00	Coffee Break		
15:30	Moderated Panel 'Sexual and Gender-based Violence' Moderator: Leni Linthout - ICRH, Ghent University Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jekaterina Kozacenko - Rīga Stradiņš University Leona Morgan - Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion & Social Justice/University of the Western Cape Elizaveta Fomenko - ICRH, Ghent University 	Oral presentation session 'Strengthening Maternal Health Care' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anteneh Asefa - Institute of Tropical Medicine, ITM <i>Wealth-based inequality in the continuum of maternal health service utilisation in 16 sub-Saharan African countries</i> Jil Molenaar - University of Antwerp <i>Travelling numbers and broken loops: a qualitative systematic review on collecting and reporting maternal and neonatal health data in LMICs</i> Josephine Aikpitanyi - Institute of Health Research and Society, IRSS/ Université Catholique De Louvain <i>Utilization of skilled maternity care in Nigeria: How important are non-cognitive traits?</i> 	Workshop '#HeyGoogle: Add to the First Global Fake Abortion Map' Facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanne Thijssen - Shake The Dust Maria Codina - KIT
16:30	Closing & Announcement of ANSER Poster Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Olivier Degomme - ANSER & ICRH, Ghent University 		

9:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
9:30	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Olivier Degomme – Director ICRH & ANSER, Ghent University • Mr. Orry Van de Wauwer – Member of the Belgian Federal Parliament
9:40	<p>High-Level Panel ‘Global Commitments, Regional and National Action: Policy Priorities to Strengthen Sexual and Reproductive Health Worldwide’</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Olivier Degomme – Director ICRH & ANSER, Ghent University</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Caroline Gennez – Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation • Mrs. Florence Bauer – UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe & Central Asia • Mr. Martin Seychelle – Deputy Director General, DG International Partnerships (INTPA), European Commission
10:30	<p>Interactive session ‘Breaking Barriers: Achieving Equitable Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Medicines’</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Gunta Lazdane – Riga Stradins University</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Emma Shiffman – Access to Medicine Foundation • Mrs. Kathleen De Poorter – Belgian Federal Parliament • Mrs. Sarah Hulsmans – Sensoa • Mrs. Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield – European Parliament
11:30	Coffee Break & Group Picture
11:50	<p>Interactive Session ‘Defending Dignity: Upholding Rights in Challenging Times for Sexual and Reproductive Health’</p> <p>Moderator: Micah Grzywnowicz – IPPF EN</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Fourat Ben Chikha – Belgian Senate & Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe • Dr. Patricia Owira – International Centre for Reproductive Health Kenya • Mr. Roméo Matsas – Director Plan International Belgium & Chair Belgian Advisory Group on Gender and Development ARGO CCGD
12:40	<p>Networking lunch</p> <p>For invitees only - Meeting between young attendees and policymakers</p>
13:40	<p>Interactive Session ‘Innovating for Impact: Unlocking the Potential of Technology in Sexual and Reproductive Health’</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Bernardo Vega – Cuenca University</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Frederic Seghers – Clinton Health Initiative • Dr. Frank Strelow – Bayer • Mrs. Karen Melchior – European Parliament
14:30	Coffee Break
15:00	<p>Interactive Session: ‘Sustainable Futures: Exploring the Intersections of Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health’</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Elin Larsson – Karolinska Institutet</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chiagozie Udeh – UNFPA • Mrs. Aly Beeman – Ylabs • Mrs. Severine de Laveleye – Belgian Parliament
15:50	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Olivier Degomme – Director ICRH & ANSER, Ghent University • Mr. Orry Van de Wauwer – Member of the Belgian Federal Parliament

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

- **Welcoming video by the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister**
You can watch the video [here](#).
- **Keynote speech Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation and Urban Policy**
Please read the full speech [here](#).
- **Keynote speech Florence Bauer (UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe & Central Asia)**
Please read the full speech [here](#).
- **Keynote speech Martin Seychelle (Deputy Director General, DG International Partnerships (INTPA), European Commission)**



CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS CATEGORIZED BY THEME

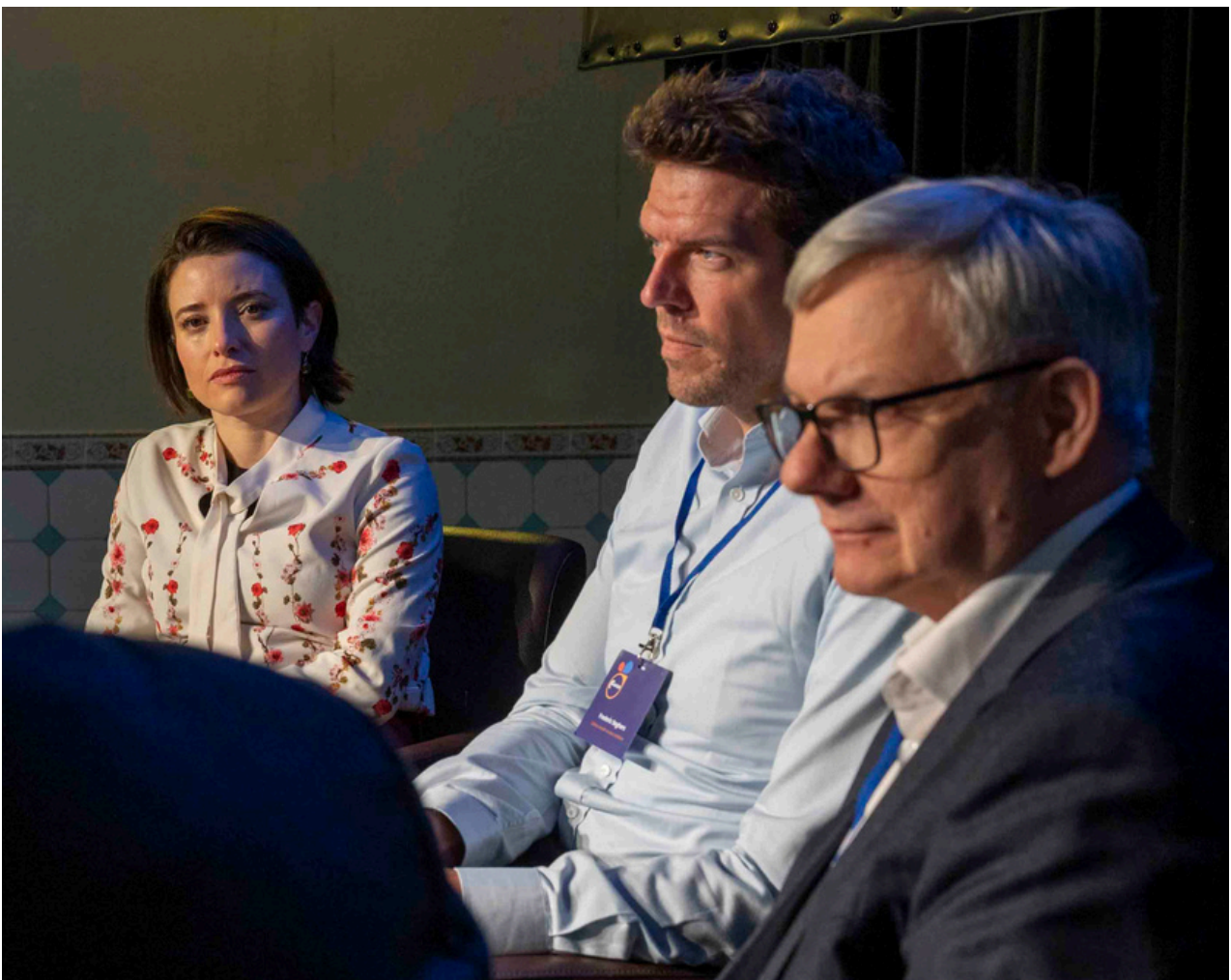


**INNOVATING FOR IMPACT:
UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF
TECHNOLOGY IN SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

INTRODUCTION

In today's digital era, technology has the potential to revolutionize SRH by overcoming barriers such as geographical distance, social stigma, and limited resources. From mobile applications that inform on contraception and pregnancy tracking to telemedicine platforms that enable remote consultations with healthcare professionals, technology offers innovative solutions to expand the reach of SRH services. Advancements in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and digital health systems can also enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of SRH programs.

However, it is crucial to ensure that these technological innovations are accessible, inclusive, and privacy-sensitive, addressing the specific needs and concerns of diverse populations. How can we leverage technology effectively and ethically to unlock its full potential in improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes for individuals worldwide?



SESSION DETAILS

On the topic of technological solutions for SRHR, the conference organized three sessions with nine different speakers, representing universities, UN institutions, private companies, civil society organizations, and political institutions.

Session 1: Reimagining SRHR services: The Telemedicine revolution

- Lela Shengelia (UNFPA Georgia)
- Simone Storey (WHO)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 2: SRHR in a digital environment

- Moderator: Simone Storey (WHO)
- Francis Meyo (Busara)
- Dennis Ndwiga (KEMSA)
- Louange Twahirwa Gutabarwa (Health Development Initiative)

The presentations of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 3: Innovation for Impact: Unlocking the Potential of Technology in SRH

- Moderator: Bernardo Vega (Cuenca University)
- Frank Strelow (Bayer)
- Frederic Segers (Clinton Health Access Initiative)
- Karen Melchior (Renew Europe Group, European Parliament)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Advocate for **regulatory frameworks and guidelines** prioritizing access to accurate SRH information and responsible use of digital technologies.
- **Empower marginalized communities** with digital literacy programs and expand telemedicine, including AI-driven chatbots, to reach underserved populations.
- Utilize telemedicine and digital platforms to decentralize certain SRH tasks and services, making them **more accessible**, especially to hard-to-reach communities
- Explore the use of e-commerce platforms to increase the **availability of SRH products**, such as contraceptives, in communities where access to pharmacies is limited.
- Advocate for regulations **combatting SRHR misinformation** on social media and ensuring the prioritization of cultural sensitivity in digital platforms
- Develop guidelines to ensure that **AI technologies are used ethically and responsibly**, with a focus on protecting user privacy and avoiding biases.
- **Encourage collaboration** between technology companies, governments, academics and civil society organizations and between countries to promote equity and accountability in the development and use of digital technologies for SRHR.
- **Support local talent** in countries to develop innovative solutions and maintenance of software, that are tailored to the specific needs of communities.
- **Secure funding** for design and development, emphasize long-term benefits of telemedicine, and facilitate knowledge exchange between countries.
- Conduct long-term **cost-benefit analysis** for digital solutions, to justify the often high initial development costs.
- **Clarify job descriptions and delineate roles for healthcare professionals** involved in digital SRHR, as well as new positions to support the telemedicine effectively
- Invest in **further implementation research** to rectify successful implementation, identify barriers to adoption and develop strategies to overcome them
- Leverage telemedicine **during public health emergencies**, to avoid individuals from being left without proper SRH care.

**SUSTAINABLE FUTURES:
EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS
OF CLIMATE AND SEXUAL AND
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

INTRODUCTION



There is a growing need to address the interrelation between climate change and sexual and reproductive health if we want to promote sustainable development and improve overall human health and well-being. Climate change can have detrimental effects on sexual and reproductive health and rights: extreme weather events disrupt health facilities, limit access to reproductive health services and supplies, and increase the vulnerability of forcibly displaced people to sexual violence and harmful practices.

A crucial task involves developing policies and programmes that anticipate the consequences of recurring climate change-induced emergencies, while also recognizing that sexual and reproductive health services and commodities can serve to enhance people's resilience in the face of environmental changes impacting their livelihoods.

How can we develop comprehensive and effective strategies that address both the challenges of climate change and advance sexual and reproductive health and rights? And what is the place of family planning within our responses?

SESSION DETAILS

On this topic, the conference organized three sessions with eleven different speakers, representing universities, UN institutions, civil society organizations, and political institutions.



Session 1: Climate, Gender, and Health: The SRHR Perspective

- Moderator: Veronique Filippi (The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine)
- Ana Mosiashvili (European Confederation of Youth Clubs & Lund University)
- Malachi Ochieng Arunda (Karolinska Institutet)
- Susannah Mayhew (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 2: Safeguarding Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Infants Against Extreme Heat and Climate Change

- Moderator: Onikepe Owolabi (Guttmacher Institute)
- Veronique Filippi (The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine)
- Chloe Brimicombe (Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz)
- Darshnika Lakhoo (Wits RHI)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 3: Sustainable Futures: Exploring the Intersections of Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health

- Moderator: Prof. Elin Larsson (Karolinska Institutet)
- Mr. Chiagozie Udeh (UNFPA)
- Mrs. Aly Beeman (Ylabs)
- Mrs. Severine de Laveleye (Ecolo, Belgian Federal Parliament)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Advocating for **increased investments** on two fronts: 1) investments in adaptation and resilience-building efforts to ensure that communities can effectively respond to the climate change challenges in the long run 2) funding for research to understand the impacts of climate change on SRHR programs.
- Promote holistic family planning programs **integrating sectors beyond healthcare**, such as education, economic development, and environmental sustainability, while fostering stakeholder coordination for comprehensive initiatives.
- Emphasize the urgency of addressing **climate change as a continuous crisis**, particularly its impacts on both low- and high-income countries.
- **Increase the awareness** of policymakers, healthcare providers, community leaders and the general public about the interconnectedness of SRHR and climate change issues.
- **Foster partnerships** among policymakers, healthcare providers, researchers, local organizations and private companies, recognizing each of their contribution to environmental issues and the disproportionate impact on poorer nations.
- Ensure meaningful **representation of affected communities and empowerment of women** in discussions and policy development on SRHR and climate change.
- **Highlight positive health outcomes of environmental initiatives** to demonstrate the tangible benefits and drive further action.
- **Develop training programs** to equip health workers with the knowledge and skills needed to protect against climate-related health risks and develop support mechanisms and resources to help them cope with their demands when providing SRHR services in climate-affected areas.
- Develop a **monitoring framework to track progress** and hold stakeholders accountable for implementing climate mitigation measures, regularly assessing the effectiveness of interventions and adjusting strategies as needed.
- Test and implement **early warning systems** to alert communities and health facilities about impending heatwaves, providing guidance on protective actions.

BREAKING BARRIERS:

**ACHIEVING EQUITABLE ACCESS
TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH SERVICES AND
MEDICINES WITHIN UNIVERSAL
HEALTH COVERAGE**

SESSION DETAILS

On this topic, the conference organized four sessions with fourteen different speakers, representing universities, UN institutions, civil society organizations, and political institutions.



Session 1: Universal Access to SRH Services: How Far Have We Come and Where Do We Need To Go?

- Moderator: Gilda Sedgh (Guttmacher Institute)
- Onikepe Owolabi (Guttmacher Institute)
- Tamar Khomasuridze (UNFPA)
- Marleen Temmerman (Aga Khan University)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 2: SRHR Beyond the Health Facility

- Bernardo Vega (Universidad de Cuenca)
- Mariarosa Cutillo (UNFPA)
- Susan Ontiri (ICRH Kenya)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 3: SRHR within UHC

- Moderator: Tamar Khomasuridze (UNFPA)
- Chiara Cosentino (IPPF European Network)
- Dorina Tocaj (UNFPA Albania)
- Patricia Owira (International Centre for Reproductive Health Kenya)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 4: Breaking Barriers: Achieving Equitable Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Medicines

- Moderator: Prof. Gunta Lazdane (Riga Stradins University)
- Emma Shiffman (Access to Medicine Foundation)
- Sarah Hulsmans (Sensoa)
- Kathleen Depoorter (N-VA, Belgian Federal Parliament)
- Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield (European Parliament)



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prioritize efforts to **combat patriarchy, norms, and gender stereotypes** that hinder progress in SRHR, while also raising awareness about the importance of SRHR and overcoming ideological debates hindering progress.
- Advocate for the **integration of SRHR services into universal health coverage** and strengthen primary care systems and infrastructure to address a wide range of SRHR needs, such as family planning, maternal and child health, and sexual health services.
- Provide **training for healthcare workers** and facilities to strengthen health systems, particularly in areas with limited access to SRHR services.
- **Address emerging trends** like ageing populations, digitalization of services, climate change, technology, and self-care, while prioritizing neglected components such as infertility, sexual and gender-based violence and young people's SRHR.
- **Prioritize evidence generation** in SRHR to enhance health systems' capacity and underscore the importance of SRHR investments to governments.
- **Encourage political commitments** and hold governments accountable to advance SRHR agendas, advocating for improved policies like free contraception for individuals under 25 to ensure comprehensive access to SRH services.
- **Promote partnerships and cooperation** among stakeholders such as decision-makers, academics, schools, religious groups, youth and community organizations, health providers, pharmacists and parents to advocate for tailored SRHR services and policies.
- Healthcare organizations, particularly those serving rural communities, should consider **implementing self-care programs** to improve access to SRHR services.
- Businesses should prioritize understanding and **addressing the sexual reproductive health needs of their female workforce** and communities, adopting gender-sensitive approaches, and investing in programs for women's health and equality in the workplace.
- **Measure companies' performance** in creating environments where employees can exercise their sexual reproductive rights.
- Establishing **trust with and mutual peer support within key populations** is crucial for successful outreach interventions
- Outreach programs should prioritize effective **interventions that mitigate risks and vulnerabilities**, and clearly define the scope of SRHR and HIV services that can be offered during outreach activities.

- Advocate for sustained and increased **domestic & international investments** in sexual and reproductive health and rights for research and development on innovative approaches (such as outreach services) and innovative methods (such as male contraception).
- Foster **youth empowerment** in sexual and reproductive health and rights by providing opportunities for capacity-building, involving them in decision-making processes, and supporting initiatives focused on SRHR education, advocacy, and service delivery.
- Pharmaceutical companies should invest in **diverse contraceptive options**, including (male) contraceptive pills, alongside long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), to cater to varying preferences and needs, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.
- Develop **comprehensive access strategies** for SRH medicines and services, considering factors such as supply chains, acceptability, and tailored approaches to meet the specific needs of different regions and communities.

2. MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES

INTRODUCTION



Maternal health remains a critical aspect of public health, with the provision of quality care being pivotal to ensuring the well-being of both mothers and their infants. There is a pressing need for action to tackle the complex challenges within maternal health services, emphasizing the crucial role of respectful care, systemic reforms, and inclusive interventions in guaranteeing equitable access to high-quality maternal healthcare services.

SESSION DETAILS

During the conference two sessions with six different speakers were organised, representing five Belgian research institutions:



Session 1: Strengthening maternal health care

- Anteneh Asefa (Institute of Tropical Medicine, ITM)
- Jil Molenaar (University of Antwerp)
- Josephine Aikpitanyi (Université Catholique de Louvain)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 2: Respectful Maternity care

- Anna Galle (ICRH, Ghent University)
- Anteneh Asefa (Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp)
- Nele Vaerewijck (ICRH, Ghent University)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Address inequalities** in the primary maternal continuum of care and develop targeted interventions and policies to improve access to services for economically disadvantaged populations.
- Prioritize **data collection strategies** that are culturally sensitive, contextually appropriate, and feasible for implementation in diverse settings.
- Set **psycho-counseling units** staffed with trained counsellors to address psychosocial needs and mental health challenges among pregnant women and new mothers.
- Encourage **community involvement and peer support initiatives** to strengthen social networks and resilience among women throughout the maternal care continuum.
- train **healthcare providers to effectively communicate with patients** and involve them in decision-making regarding their care, also during the delivery.
- Address the underlying causes of **overworked health providers**, which may contribute to lapses in communication and disrespectful care.
- Invest in further research on maternity care interventions, such as fundal pressure and C-sections, to provide valuable **insights into the appropriateness and effectiveness of these interventions**, potentially reducing unnecessary procedures
- Promote respectful maternity care at the systemic level, recognizing that it starts with women's and health providers' rights and adapting the health system and thus **extends beyond interpersonal interactions**.
- Conduct in-depth research to understand the complex **interplay between mental health, experiences of sexual violence, and the quality of obstetric care**.
- Identify and **address the needs of sexual violence survivors** regarding obstetric care, ensuring sensitive and trauma-informed approaches to support their well-being.
- **Address privacy** in healthcare settings, focusing not only on physical spaces but also on the interaction between health care providers and patients.

3. SAFE ABORTION

INTRODUCTION

Unsafe abortion is still a leading cause of global pregnancy-related illness and mortality. The risks are exacerbated by barriers to accessing safe abortion services, including conscientious objection among healthcare professionals, reliance solely on pharmacological methods, legal constraints, and enduring stigma.

Urgent action is needed to dismantle structural barriers, provide accurate information and abortion services at the community level, advocate for supportive legal frameworks, and prioritize safe abortion care within comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services.



SESSION DETAILS

Session 1: Safe Abortion, a Public Health Imperative

- Alejandra Lopez Gomez (Universidad de la República)
- Pascale Lissouba (Medecins Sans Frontière, MSF)
- Onikepe Owolabi (Gutmacher Institute)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Collaborate with legal experts, human rights organizations, and policymakers** to advance legal reforms that ensure access to safe abortion care and protect the rights of individuals seeking abortion services.
- Advocate for the **removal of all structural barriers** that hinder access to high-quality post-abortion care, such as legal restrictions, financial barriers, provider bias, and lack of trained personnel.
- Advocate for a more supportive **legal environment that upholds the rights** of individuals to access safe and legal abortion services, including the decriminalization of abortion and the enactment of laws and policies that protect and promote reproductive rights.
- Provide **culturally sensitive, non-judgmental, reliable and accurate information** about abortion and post-abortion care, that is accessible to diverse populations, including marginalised groups and those in remote areas.
- **Train community health workers and peer educators** to deliver comprehensive abortion education and counselling
- Advocate for the **integration of safe abortion services into humanitarian response** efforts and support the training of healthcare providers to deliver quality care in emergency settings.
- **Address abortion stigma** through measures such as understanding patterns of underreporting, developing interventions to reduce stigma and collaborate with community leaders and religious institutions to challenge stigmatizing attitudes.
- Engage in discussions about the **safety classification of abortion methods**, considering their relation to stigma, safety, and self-reported outcomes, with the aim of improving women's access to safe abortion services.

4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence has a profound impact on individuals and communities. Gender-based violence perpetuates cycles of trauma, fear, and injustice, particularly within vulnerable populations, and therefore asks for tailored interventions addressing access barriers, stigma, and cultural sensitivities.

Safe environments need to be created where individuals feel empowered to seek support and justice and where dignity, autonomy and wellbeing of individuals is promoted

SESSION DETAILS



Session 1: Sexual and Gender-based Violence

- Leni Linthout (ICRH, Ghent University)
- Jekaterina Kozacenko (Rīga Stradiņš University)
- Leona Morgan (Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion & Social Justice/University of the Western Cape)
- Elizaveta Fomenko (ICRH, Ghent University)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase the level of **credibility of law enforcement agencies** among sexual minorities
- Set up tailored GBV support services for the LGBTQAI community
- Embrace a **holistic approach to sexual trauma care** that combines comprehensive mental healthcare with community-based trauma care approaches and is accessible to everyone, regardless of their resources.
- Ensure inclusivity in feminist discussions by **actively listening to the voices** of individuals affected by violence, particularly those from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- To better understand survivors' experiences of childhood sexual trauma, **consider the economic context and challenge expert-driven individualism in research** by exploring alternative discourses acknowledging social justice complexities.
- Acknowledge and address the **ongoing impact of past injustices**, such as apartheid, in therapy and social programs, while promoting self-reflection among researchers and supporting movements like #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo for healing and awareness of historical trauma.
- **Provide holistic care** to victims of sexual violence, combining medical care, forensic care and psychological care
- Ensure referrals to specialised care for victims of sexual violence with socioeconomic vulnerabilities and mental health issues, to **reduce the risk of revictimization**

**DEFENDING DIGNITY:
UPHOLDING RIGHTS IN
CHALLENGING TIMES FOR
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH**

INTRODUCTION



There is a concerning trend of backlash against rights in the context of SRHR. Individuals, particularly women and gender minority groups, face various challenges and opposition in accessing and exercising their sexual and reproductive health rights. There is a critical need to protect and defend the dignity of individuals by combating regressive attitudes, discriminatory practices, and restrictive policies that impede autonomy and agency in matters of their own bodies and reproductive choices.

How can we collectively work to confront and overcome the backlash on sexual and reproductive health and rights, ensuring that every individual can exercise their rights, make informed choices, and lead lives with dignity and autonomy?

SESSION DETAILS

On this topic, the conference organized six sessions with twenty one different speakers, representing universities, UN institutions, civil society organizations, and political institutions.



Session 1: Leaving no one behind

- Ketrin Zeno (Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Albania)
- Sanne Thijssen (Stories To Action)
- Sara Scharmanski (Federal Centre for Health Education, BZgA)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 2: Ensuring SRHR access for people with disabilities

- Farid Babayev (UNFPA)
- Elizaveta Fomenko (ICRH, Ghent University)
- Màlica de Melo (International Center for Reproductive Health Mozambique)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 3: SRHR in migration context

- Moderator: Ines Keygnaert (ICRH, Ghent University)
- Griet Van de Velde (Artevelde University of Applied Sciences)
- Jordanos Tewelde McDonald (Karolinska Institutet)
- Leni Linthout (ICRH, Ghent University)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 4: Youth voices, Youth choices: A conversation on youth-friendly services

- Moderator: Gökçe Lara Bodur (Izmir University of Economics)
- Olena Ivanova (Ludwig Maximilian Universiteit Klinikum)
- Sophie Lyon (University of Virginia)
- Maria Suzana Bata (International Center for Reproductive Health Mozambique)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 5: The role of social and cultural norm in shaping SRHR realities

- Elin Larsson (Karolinska Institutet)
- Jolien Inghels (University of Antwerp)
- Gökçe Lara Bodur (Izmir University of Economics Medical Point Hospital)

The presentation of this session can be found [here](#).

Session 6: Defending Dignity: Upholding Rights in Challenging Times for SRH

- Moderator: Micah Grzywnowicz (IPPF EN)
- Fourat Ben Chikha (Belgian Senate & Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Groen)
- Patricia Owira (International Centre for Reproductive Health Kenya)
- Roméo Matsas (Advisory Council on gender and development, ARGO CCGD)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Implement **targeted interventions** to increase access to family planning, especially for vulnerable groups, such as setting up walk-in clinics and reimbursing contraception
- Empower and **educate parents** on how to provide their children with sexual and reproductive health information.
- Address the limited knowledge about SRH among people with disabilities by **initiating open and inclusive conversations** with people with disabilities, peers, parents, and caregivers and awareness-raising campaigns to overcome taboos.
- **Engage communities directly in the policy-making process** to ensure community voices and perspectives are integrated into SRHR program development and execution.
- **Foster platforms for open dialogue** among stakeholders, including policymakers, community leaders, young people and affected populations, and support networks and coalitions advocating for SRHR and human rights.
- Actively **involve key community figures and change makers**, such as men and religious leaders, to address barriers to sexual and reproductive health and build solutions collaboratively
- Ensure all policies and programs are grounded in **robust scientific evidence** by engaging researchers and academics in continuous gender and SRHR studies
- Create awareness and increase research about **sexual-based violence against men**.
- Implement peer-to-peer education programs and provide training in skills and capacity-building **activities to facilitate change in traditional gender roles and promote gender equality**.
- Develop **coordinated strategies to counter anti-human rights movements** by building alliances across human rights, gender equality, and migrant rights organizations.
- Leverage the global momentum of Feminist Foreign Policy to embed bodily autonomy and reproductive rights, setting **global minimum standards for SRHR**.
- Address the gap between rhetorical commitments and meaningful implementation around SRHR by setting **clear targets, accountability frameworks, and transparent reporting mechanisms**.
- Implement robust **security measures and develop contingency plans** to ensure the continuity of services for key populations, even in hostile environments.

- Provide comprehensive **training to public health professionals** on addressing the sexual and mental health needs of young refugees.
- Ensure **relational and sex education** is given in schools & professionals are trained on SRHR and young people
- Promote **sustainable and accessible menstrual products**.
- Promote **positive gender norms and gender-focused attention** for sexual and reproductive care and gender-based violence support.

EVIDENCE TO POLICY TRANSLATION

INTRODUCTION

During the conference two 'sofa talks' were organised which were interviews with experts who gave their advise on how researchers can engage effectively with policymakers.

SESSION DETAILS



Session 1: Sofa Talk I with Sander Spanoghe

- Interviewer: Emilie Peeters (ICRH & ANSER, Ghent University)
- Sander Spanoghe (Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Affairs Office)



Session 2: Sofa Talk II with Marleen Temmerman

- Interviewer: Emilie Peeters (ICRH & ANSER, Ghent University)
- Marleen Temmerman (Aga Khan University)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Encourage collaboration among diverse fields such as nutrition, climate science, and social sciences to generate comprehensive evidence that addresses the multifaceted nature of SRHR challenges.
- Present research findings in clear, binary terms to facilitate understanding and decision-making among policymakers.
- Support practical, actionable research by complementing quantitative data with individual cases, testimonies, and narratives to provide a compelling human context.
- Advocate for the inclusion of SRHR in funding priorities alongside climate change and One Health initiatives.
- Develop strategies to uphold the integrity of evidence-based policies by emphasizing the importance of basing policies on robust scientific evidence rather than cultural or political agendas.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with parliamentarians and parliamentary networks as they can be crucial allies and advocates for SRHR issues.
- Highlight the electoral advantages of supporting SRHR
- Although evidence is critical, it must be coupled with negotiation and advocacy to influence policy changes
- Stay connected with local communities and remain committed to their policy needs.
- Leverage media opportunities and publish influential works, like books and articles, to raise awareness and support for SRHR issues

ANSER POSTER AWARD

During the Conference, the 'ANSER 2024 Best Poster Award' was granted. Out of the 40 submitted poster abstracts, the conference review committee accepted 13 outstanding posters to be presented during the two Scientific Days.

Throughout these days, two dedicated poster fair sessions allowed authors to present their research. Conference participants actively engaged with the posters, asking questions and exploring the innovative work.

Via an online voting process, each participant could subsequently cast their vote for the poster that they believed was the best one, based on criteria such as creativity, relevance and impact.

Francis Meyo's (Busara) poster on the **'Effect of a calendar intervention on PrEP continuation among adolescent girls and young women in Kenya'** was voted as the best poster of the conference.

You can have a look at the winning poster [here](#).



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to our donors for their support, which has been crucial in organizing this conference. Your contributions have helped us bring together participants from various fields to share knowledge and ideas.

- International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH), Ghent University
- Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp
- Be-cause Health
- UNFPA
- Visit Flanders
- VLIR/UOS Global Minds

We also appreciate the efforts of our abstract review committee members. Your thorough and thoughtful evaluations have ensured the quality of the presentations at this conference.

- Prof Wei Hong Zhang (Ghent University, Belgium)
- Dr Anna Galle (Ghent University, Belgium)
- James Munayo (Technical University of Kenya)
- Dr Ana Gama (Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal)
- Dr Dorina Toci (Institute of Public Health of Albania)
- Emilie Peeters (Ghent University, Belgium)
- Prof Elin Larsson (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden)
- Dr Malachi Ochieng (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden)
- Prof. Tammay Esho (Amref International University, Kenya)
- Dr Dinah Amongin (Makerere University, Uganda)
- Prof. Bernardo Vega (Cuenca University, Ecuador)
- Prof. Kaiyan Pei (National Research Institute for Family Planning, China)
- Dr Giulia Scarpa (ITM, Belgium)
- Prof. Simukai Shamu (Foundation for Professional Development, South Africa)
- Gunta Lazdane (RSU, Latvia)
- Dr Richelle Duque Bjorvang (Uppsala University, Sweden)
- Prof Lenka Benova (ITM)

We would like to thank the two photographers, Gunther Ruyssinck and Jo Schelstraete, for their fantastic work in beautifully capturing this conference on camera. Please find an overview of all the pictures [here](#).

And last but not least a special thanks to the ANSER team for their hard work and dedication in organizing this event. Your commitment and organizational skills have made this conference possible and successful.

- Emilie Peeters
- Fiorella Farje De la Torre
- Ana Lucia Martinez Abarca
- Lenzo Robijn
- Cindy De Muynck
- Chris Moreel
- Eloise Van Wallegem
- Lien Van Rechem
- Judith Brusselmans
- Margot Kint



 **ANSER**


GHENT
UNIVERSITY