

Asia and Pacific Parliamentarians' Consultation on RMNCH and the Global Financing Facility(GFF)  
November 19, 2014 | Bangkok, Thailand

A second consultation on the Global Financing Facility (GFF) in Asia was held during the Asia and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, co-organized by The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), International Planned Parenthood Federation, East & South East Asia and Oceania Region (IPPF-ESEAOR) and The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH).

This session brought together women parliamentarians from Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines with participants from civil society organizations (CSOs). In the keynote message, Hon. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, MP from Pakistan emphasized the importance of partnership in reaching out to every woman and every child on RMNCAH issues.

The participants were keen to learn about the new funding mechanism and very supportive of the involvement of both parliamentarians and CSOs in overseeing the mechanism in order to make the program more accountable to stakeholders. The discussion was mainly focused on how parliamentarians could be involved to ensure the accountability of the GFF and governmental RMNCAH programs in each country.

Some of the key recommendations from this consultation include:

- countries to match GFF support with increased domestic resources is key;
- strong monitoring for results in transparent and high accountability - CSOs to take leading monitoring role;
- Parliamentary involvement and review / oversight of GFF country plans important;
- Need for harmonization with other international health financing instruments at national level; and
- Utilizing existing partnerships such as the IPPF-AFPPD partnership in the region in order to fully involve parliamentarians and NGOs in carrying out these recommendations.

A joint consultation with AFPPD and IPPF-ESEAOR was proposed as a next step, to help sensitize parliamentarians in targeted countries and raise awareness on RMNCAH issues. This will also help create countries' permanent platform on accountability with respect to the GFF and other international health financing instruments.



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Hon. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, MP from Pakistan



Stefan Germann, Board, PMNCH