



# Right Here Right Now Annual Report 2023

Executive summary

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RIGHT HERE  
RIGHT NOW

The Right Here Right Now Partnership envisions a world where young people in all their diversity enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in gender-just societies. Young people are at the forefront of our partnership. We seek to unleash the power of young people, increase public support for SRHR, improve policies and laws, and strengthen civil society. The Right Here Right Now Partnership runs from 2021 to 2025. It is a collaboration of partners in ten countries - Bangladesh, Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Tunisia and Uganda - with a global consortium consisting of Rutgers (lead), Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF), Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality (CHOICE), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) and RNW Media. Dance4Life and International Planned Parenthood Africa Region (IPPFAR) are technical partners to the programme.

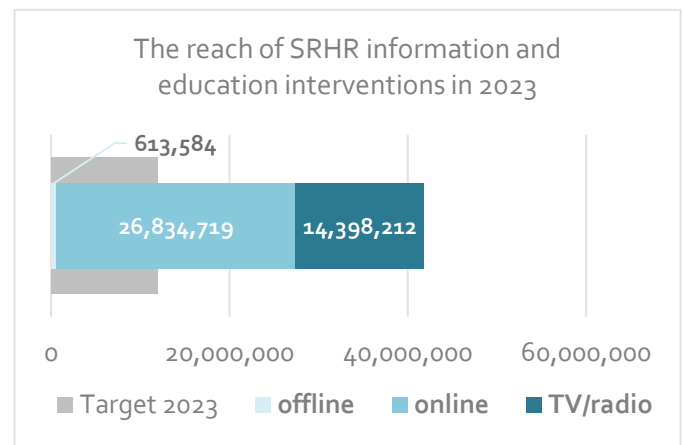
2023 marked the halfway point of the Right Here Right Now Partnership, in which partners were in full-fledged implementation at country, regional and international levels. With the mid-term review report in hand, we reflected on our successes and on what we need to focus on to maximise our impact on young people's SRHR in the remainder of the programme.

Overall, we are proud of the many results achieved in 2023, and that we stayed resilient in the face of growing opposition and continued to push for young people's SRHR. The Partnership identified six strategic priorities that guided our work in 2023, supported strategic discussions and informed the focus of dialogues and events throughout the year. The six priorities were: comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), youth at the forefront, inclusivity, digitalisation, strengthening the "mutual" in mutual capacity strengthening, and sustainability.

In this report, we examine the progress made by partners towards each of the four long-term outcomes (LTOs) of the theory of change (ToC) in 2023.

## Empowered young people make decisions about their sexuality, voice their needs and claim their rights (LTO1)

In 2023, the programme reached more than 41.8 million young people with SRHR information and education. Of these, 613,584 were reached through offline interventions. The country coalitions focused on innovative multimedia strategies to effectively disseminate SRHR information and education. Several country coalitions focused on hard-to-reach populations, tailoring SRHR content to their specific needs. The [Uganda](#) coalition worked with out-of-school youth, the [Morocco](#) team created materials in Darija (Morocco's common language) for rural young people, while in [Ethiopia](#) SRHR factsheets were translated into braille. The programme also focused on building a supportive environment for CSE. For example the [Indonesia](#) coalition engaged parents through the Whole School Approach to CSE for young people living with disabilities. Scaling CSE and embedding interventions in existing structures and systems is a key strategy to ensure sustainability. A highlight in 2023 was an in-person exchange visit to Indonesia between the [Ethiopian](#), [Tunisian](#) and [Indonesian](#) coalitions and government stakeholders to learn about CSO-government partnerships when scaling up CSE in the Indonesian context.



In 2023 the programme saw strong examples of young people strengthening their abilities to become active agents of change at multiple levels. The programme continued to train young people as peer educators to influence their peers e.g. in [Benin](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#), and [Nepal](#). Young people from Right Here Right Now [Uganda](#) held duty bearers to

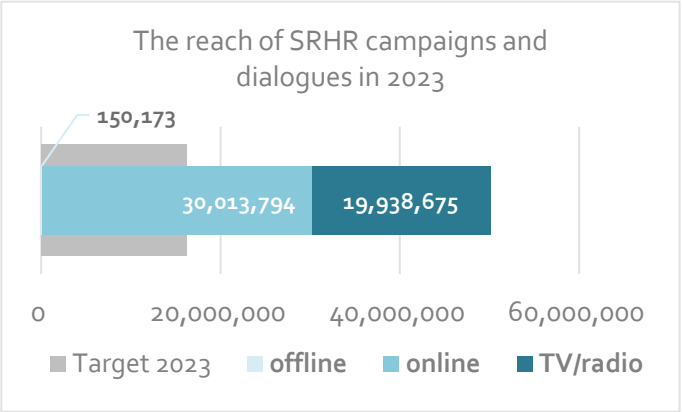


account by assessing and making recommendations on the quality of youth-friendly SRHR services at health facilities in Rwenzori and Sebei regions, an inspiring example of youth-led social accountability. Other country coalitions organised plays, drag shows, youth-led exhibitions, quiz contests and essay competitions to create safe spaces for young people to voice their rights.

Engaging and activating young people through digital channels is a key strategy of the programme, with the aim of reaching more young people with information when and where they need it. Country coalitions worked with diverse young people to co-create interactive and engaging SRHR content in different formats including articles, infographics, videos, vlogs, comics and more. In 2023, these online activities had a reach of more than 26.8 million, and elicited over 8.3 million engagements (including likes, shares and comments). The **Tunisian** coalition found that Instagram content fared particularly well, whereas in **Nepal**, the TikTok ban hindered the coalition’s work on the platform so their content had to be shared on Instagram, which had fewer followers. Examples of digital interventions in 2023 included: the launch of the Vobodo media app disseminating SRHR information in **Benin**, a toll-free number for young people to reach SRHR information in **Burundi** and an online course on CSE in **Tunisia**.

**A critical mass reinforces positive norms and values regarding young people's SRHR and gender justice (LT02)**

During the second year of implementation, campaigns and dialogues on young people’s SRHR and gender justice had a reach of 50.1 million: an offline reach of 150,173, an online reach of 30.0 million and 19.9 million through TV and radio. Online campaigns garnered a total of 2.6 million engagements in 2023, with the **Morocco** coalition’s SEXeducate camping aimed at promoting gender equality and inclusion recording over 350,000 views on a series of Instagram videos. At global level, three partners from the **Benin, Kenya and Nepal** coalitions joined the 16 Days of Activism campaign #LearnTheTruth, a joint effort between the Right Here Right Now and Masarouna programmes and RNW Media network partners.



Country coalitions worked with key influencers to carry out campaigns aiming to build public support for young people’s SRHR and supported advocacy efforts. Influencers’ work included speaking out in radio shows, roundtable discussions, and other campaign events. Several coalitions organised dialogues with faith leaders and religious institutions, as they are gatekeepers who strongly influence community values and norms. For example, in **Benin**, following a two-day workshop with religious leaders organised by the coalition, religious leaders pledged for better SRHR and launched appeals to the government.

Our ToC sees the media as a key player in building a critical mass supporting SRHR and gender justice. In 2023 our work with the media resulted in a wide range of positive coverage of SRHR themes, with 798 positive media articles published by 311 media agencies following RHRN interventions. For example, the **Tunisian** coalition trained journalists on SRHR and CSE, which coalition partners observed as contributing to a more informed and inclusive public dialogue. Building on this success, the Tunisian coalition developed a media guide has been developed, which serves as a reference for journalists on covering SRHR topics appropriately and effectively. The value of media partnerships was highlighted by the mid-term review which identified such collaborations as a best practice and recommended continued investment.

Building support among the Dutch audience included a **Rutgers’** statement calling on the Dutch public and politicians to stop the spread of dis- and misinformation. The opinion piece was published in the Dutch newspaper Algemeen



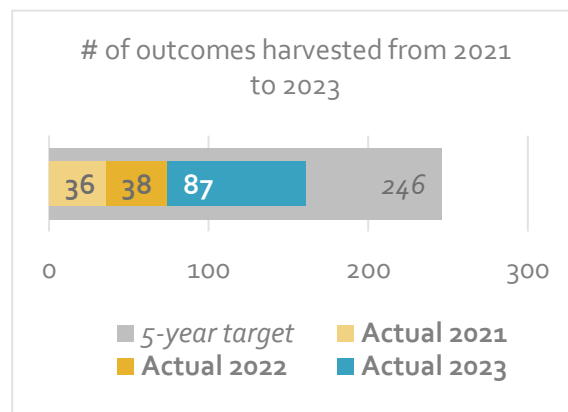
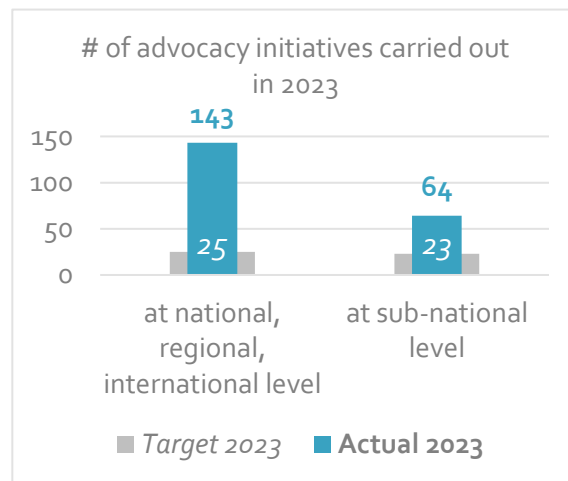
Dagblad and on Rutgers' online channels. Outside of the Netherlands, **ARROW** relaunched the #CSE4All campaign with key messages on access to CSE in the technology discourse. The campaign was activated at multiple events such as the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Youth Forum.

## Governments adopt, implement and account for human rights-based policies and laws that enable young people's SRHR and gender justice (LTO3)

The realisation of the SRHR of young people in all their diversity depends on policies and laws that ensure their rights and access to SRHR information, education and services. Right Here Right Now partners carried out a total of 207 advocacy initiatives in 2023. These contributed to advocacy successes at national level, recording 85 harvested outcomes by country coalitions in 2023, achieved despite the context of increasing opposition and shrinking civil society. Stand-out successes at country level included, but were not limited to, a commitment to a policy change reinstating schooling for young girls expelled for pregnancies in **Burundi**, the integration of a gender-responsive budgeting framework in **Ethiopia**, an interim order issued by the Supreme Court in **Nepal** to legalise same-sex marriage and a call for the revision of the Family Code in **Morocco** specifically regarding the prohibition of forced child marriage.

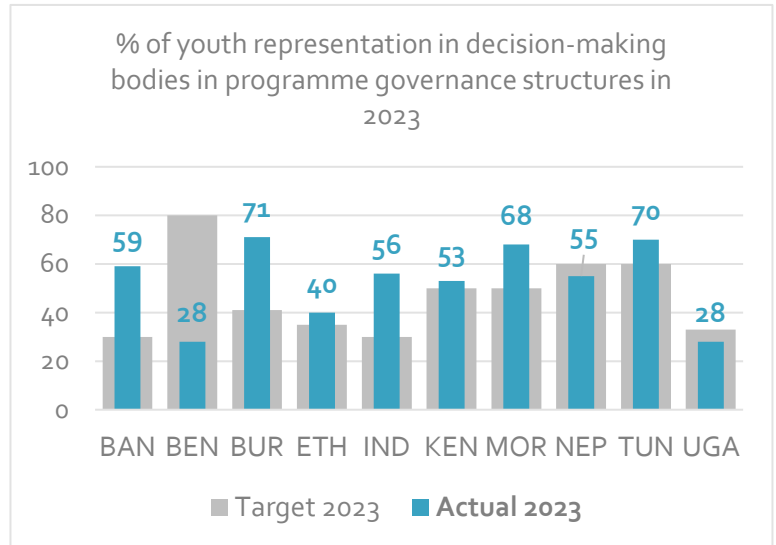
Right Here Right Now also achieved notable successes in **regional and international advocacy**, with twelve outcomes harvested in 2023.

Despite the growing opposition to SRHR worldwide, Right Here Right Now partners continued to show resilience and advocate in regional and international spaces. At the Commission of Population and Development (CPD) in New York, five advocates from Right Here Right Now joined at least 45 advocates from other SRHR organisations worldwide presenting a loud and clear progressive voice and expertise on CSE during statements, side events and plenary sessions. More than 58 states signed a progressive statement on SRHR, though there was a lack of consensus on sexuality education. At the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Right Here Right Now partners' advocacy contributed to a consensus on new references to gender justice and technology-facilitated gender-based violence. At regional level, the first West and Central Africa (WCA) Commitment included references to CSE and the SRHR of adolescents and young people was endorsed by 25 countries, many of whom were lobbied by Right Here Right Now partners. Several coalitions (e.g. **Bangladesh**, **Benin**, **Burundi**, and **Morocco**) advocated their governments to adopt Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations on SRHR, all of which were accepted.



## Strengthened civil society for young people's SRHR and gender justice (LT04)

Right Here Right Now is a large and diverse partnership with 62 civil society organisations (CSOs) in country coalitions, including youth-led, women-led, and CSOs led by marginalised groups. In 2023, seven out of ten country coalitions had more than 50% youth representation in their country's decision-making structures. Besides governance structures within the programme, we also made strong progress in putting young people at the forefront of international, regional and local advocacy. Two youth advocates from the [Nepal](#) coalition participated in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. To strengthen the youth movement for advocacy, the [Global Advocacy Group](#) prioritised efforts to orient young people on global advocacy spaces such as the Human Rights Council. Capacity strengthening and mutual learning on meaningful and inclusive youth participation (MIYP) took place in the Community of Practice on MIYP.



For CSOs to become increasingly resilient and united, we continued to invest in technical support for safety and security in various countries particularly in light of growing opposition. At global level, research was conducted on anti-rights actors, tactics and messages in East Africa. The [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#) and [Uganda](#) country coalitions then conducted follow-up research to gain more in-depth insights into their own context.

In 2023, we saw more progress in movement building. This was put into action on the country level through involvement with existing platforms and movements, and at global level, for example, [CHOICE's](#) Connector Week strengthened a growing youth movement, building meaningful connections with peers across the Right Here Right Now and Power to You(th) partnerships. In [Kenya](#), youth-led community-based organisations trained by Right Here Right Now formed a collaborative advocacy platform to organise town halls and conduct advocacy campaigns.

## Review of the Partnership

The Mid Term Review reported positively on [internal collaboration within the Partnership](#). However, there was scope to strengthen a shared understanding of what an inclusive partnership entails and opportunities to continue to address power dynamics. In 2023, national coordinators attended a face-to-face training on inclusive leadership to better manage power dynamics within coalitions and promote inclusivity at the country level. The Ways of Working group kicked off in 2023, where members were trained on intersectionality and used this lens to monitor power dynamics within the partnership. Strides were made on language inclusivity through organising the global meeting in Benin, a Francophone country.

In 2023, we saw [improved linkages with country partners within our global working groups](#). For example, the Global Advocacy Group (GAG) expanded membership to three country partners, while the planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning (PMEL) working groups merged to include all consortium and country PMEL focal points in one group.

The [Communities of Practice \(CoPs\)](#) continued to be an important space for [mutual learning](#). In addition to the CoPs on MIYP, dealing with opposition, and digitalisation, one new CoP on CSE was established in 2023. All global and regional [linking and learning events](#) in 2023 were co-created by and encouraged exchange among Right Here Right Now coalitions and partners. With a view to understanding which strategies work best to support mutual learning, in



the final phase of the programme, we will gather data and insights on the benefits and challenges of different mutual learning approaches and methodologies.

Our partnership actively engaged and carried out joint activities with other SRHR partnerships funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, where possible, aligned with Embassies as well as networks and movements at (sub)national, regional and global levels. For example, 'The Heart of the Matter' report jointly published by Power to You(th), Generation G and Right Here Right Now echoed the voices of young people from sixteen countries and four regions shedding light on the reality of young people's SRHR and how well governments are implementing their commitments made in 2019. It was used during the regional review conferences on ICPD+30 in 2023 and continues to inform campaigns in the run-up to the review of ICPD in 2024.

During the third year of implementation, we monitored nine priority risks based on probability and impact, which were identified as part of the 2023 annual planning process. In addition, as part of the MTR, dialogues were held with Right Here Right Now partners to update findings from the organisational capacity assessments conducted at the start of the programme. These conversations focused on preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PRSEAH) policy implementation. In November 2023, a PRSEAH Manifesto was co-developed by Right Here Right Now global and country partners, outlining a common approach to PRSEAH for all partners involved in the programme.

## Sustainability

Sustainability was one of the 2023 strategic priorities, and conversations about integrating sustainability were moved into action. Sessions on sustainability were held in all three regional linking and learning meetings, where partners exchanged ideas and reflected on how to activate their plans. The global Programme Team will create spaces for follow-up among countries at the regional and global linking and learning events in 2024 to further discuss plans and progress on implementation.

The Partnership approaches sustainability in a comprehensive manner: focusing on sustainability of outcomes, of capacity strengthened coalitions / organisations / individuals, of movement building and on financial sustainability. Regarding the sustainability of outcomes, our partners' establishment of good working relations with government stakeholders was key for policy wins regarding CSE scale-up and delivery. In fact, our LTO3 results are sustainable in and of themselves, as changes to laws and policies will have an impact beyond the programme's lifetime. The MTR recommended continuing to prioritise local ownership as a foundation for sustainable interventions and outcomes. Our progress in prioritising the training of trainers ensured the sustainability of capacity strengthening efforts such as [Rutgers'](#) master training trajectory on the gender-transformative approach and the [Ethiopian](#) coalition's Peer Educators Academy. Our programme has made concerted efforts to move the discussion on MIYP to sustainability: creating structural youth spaces and linking to existing youth movements and networks to ensure young people are at the forefront beyond the lifecycle of the programme. In terms of financial sustainability, many country partners such as in [Kenya](#) and [Benin](#) are actively seeking diverse funding sources and partnerships to support specific interventions. As we move towards the end of the programme, sustainability remains a priority for 2024 and 2025.





Right Here Right Now is an advocacy partnership in ten countries. Together we enable young people in all their diversity to enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights in societies where there is equity and equality between genders. We see young people, especially girls, young women and young marginalised people as the drivers of their own empowerment, able to make decisions about their sexuality, voice their needs and claim their rights. We advocate and campaign for inclusive human rights-based policies and laws that enable young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender justice. Read more on [rutgers.international/RHRN](https://rutgers.international/RHRN)

