Contact Us
If you would like more information about PRHN or are interested in becoming a member, please contact your nearest PRHN Chapter or the National Secretariat for further information.

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www.prhn.com

What is PRHN?
The Pakistan Reproductive Health Network (PRHN) is a national network of organisations and individuals committed to promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights of Pakistani people. PRHN operates as a network without formal registration with any authority.

It was established in 1995 after the 2nd Asia Pacific Social Science and Medicine Conference where a need was felt to integrate gender, sexuality and health issues to promote reproductive health. In response to this, PRHN was initiated by the Department of Community Health Sciences, Aga Khan University.

Vision
"Sexual and reproductive health and rights ensured for all in Pakistan"

Objectives and Strategies
Network members are aligned through PRHN to achieve the following objectives:

i. Enhance the capacity of its members to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights
ii. Advocate and promote effective policies and programs for sexual and reproductive health and rights

In order to achieve these objectives PRHN undertakes the following strategies:

i. It promotes the exchange of information and experience between members as well as better practices for sexual and reproductive health and rights
ii. It provides opportunities for training and exposure to improve capacity of its members
iii. It promotes linkages and partnerships amongst members as well as with other stakeholders working in sexual and reproductive health and rights, nationally and internationally
iv. It monitors and evaluates programs and policies of the government, and bi-lateral and multi-lateral development agencies on sexual and reproductive health and rights with the objective of lobbying for appropriate change
v. It serves as a resource on sexual and reproductive health and rights for all
vi. It promotes the concept of sexual and reproductive health and rights at multiple levels
What has PRHN achieved so far?

Due to the diversity of PRHN, it has successfully responded to a range of local and national issues related to reproductive health in Pakistan. Some of the highlights from PRHN's past years are as follows:

In 2004, ten years after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), PRHN members came together to report and review Pakistan's progress on the ICPD plan of action.

In 2005, PRHN members successfully advocated for inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and rights related indicators into Pakistan monitoring framework for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This resulted in the inclusion of proposed indicators.

PRHN members actively responded to reproductive health needs of women affected by the 2005 earthquake in the Northern Areas as well as those women internally displaced in 2009 during military action.

PRHN members actively came together to review, comment and provide feedback to the government on proposed policies relevant to reproductive health. Over the years PRHN members have responded to the proposed Youth Policy (2009), Health Policy (2009) and revision of the Population Policy (2010).

PRHN provides its members ongoing opportunities for capacity building. PRHN has provided learning opportunities through:

- Advocacy Workshops
- Exchange Visits
- Round Table Sessions on Policy
- Training Courses on Reproductive Health and Rights
- Training on Theatre for Development
- Session on HIV/AIDS
- Workshop on Conflict Resolution
- Workshop on Gender and RH
- Workshop on Abortion

Members of PRHN are also linked through an active electronic listserv, where members regularly exchange information, provide updates, share opportunities and ideas.

Who are the members of PRHN?

Currently PRHN has 300 members, and this number is continuously expanding. PRHN members come from all over Pakistan, representing the public and non-profit sectors, from different organizations and diverse sectors including civil society, service delivery, media, researchers, policy makers and advocates.

They are heads of organizations, community change agents and health practitioners. They come together in a vibrant network to exchange ideas, share experiences and knowledge, and collaborate with each other in their work. All members are either individuals or organizations that are committed to the vision and purpose of PRHN, and bring with them a desire to work together for improved RH outcomes.

How is PRHN organized?

All PRHN members are associated with PRHN Chapters. Currently PRHN has 8 chapters in Pakistan. These are located in Haripur, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Naushero Feroze, Peshawar, Multan and Quetta.

Chapters are coordinated by Chapter Focal Persons, who regularly call meetings of members to jointly implement PRHN strategies. Chapter Focal Persons are elected by PRHN members with elections every two years.

All the Chapter Focal Persons come together at least twice a year to form the National Working Group (NWG) of PRHN. NWG is the policy making body of PRHN. PRHN Policy, Procedures and Guidelines can be read on its website, or through a request to the PRHN Secretariat.

Pakistan Reproductive Health Network is supported by the PRHN National Secretariat. The Secretariat coordinates and provides a leadership role towards meeting PRHN objectives. Currently the PRHN National Secretariat is based with Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre, Lahore.

How can I become a member of PRHN?

If you or your organization would like to become an active member of PRHN, please contact your local PRHN Chapter or the National Secretariat for membership forms. Once these forms are processed you will be invited to the local PRHN Chapter Meeting, after which the Chapter will confirm your membership based on set criteria and majority agreement. We welcome new members in PRHN and aim to build a strong community working for improved reproductive health and rights outcomes.

There is no local chapter in my area, but I want to get involved.

If there is no local chapter of PRHN in your vicinity, you should join the nearest PRHN Chapter. You can ask the PRHN Secretariat for information as to which PRHN Chapter is closest to you.

Once there are 5 members from a location they can come together to form a new PRHN Chapter. Please contact the PRHN National Secretariat if you are interested to learn further about how to form a PRHN Chapter.

NOTE: Detailed information on PRHN policy, procedures and guidelines is available at www.prhn.com