

Board of Trustees
2-3 December 2021

Refers to
agenda item 2.1

Agenda Item: Chair's and DG's report

Trustee Update – November

We are writing this brief update at the end of what had been billed as a historic week but failed to deliver for people or planet:

- The UK 3-year budget was a disappointment. The amount allocated to ODA now includes [Special Drawing Rights](#) and spare vaccine donations... of no cost to the UK. Means additional cuts in the short-term.
- At the 2021 G20 Rome Summit – G20 leaders endorsed global corporate minimum tax but wrangled over climate and vaccine equity.
- And at the COP26 summit in Glasgow are coming short on financial commitments – \$100b in climate finance promised in 2009 by 2020; that now won't come until 2023 – and on the promises that would allow us to halve emissions by 2030. And our own key event in Parliament on SRHR and the climate crisis unfortunately got cancelled last minute because of a surge in covid cases.

On the policy front we have continued to see some significant wins. On the back of decriminalisation in Mexico came the extraordinary news from Benin, where parliament voted to legalise abortion in most circumstances, becoming one of only a handful of African countries to do so. In Benin, abortion was legal only in cases of rape or incest, if the mother's life was at risk, or if the unborn child had a serious medical condition. The new law allows abortion if the pregnancy is "likely to aggravate or cause a situation of material, educational, professional or moral distress incompatible with the interests of the woman and/or the unborn child".

The fight for a permanent repeal of the Global Gag Rule (GGR) came one step closer – but not passed yet at the time of writing this report. Namibia's Parliament is debating abortion for the first time since independence (thank you Bience!) and Poland's Women's Strike (whom we support) took their fight to the European Parliament, achieving the inclusion of two amendments within a new resolution on the rule of law in Poland which refer to de facto abortion ban in Poland as an unlawful attack against women's rights. The death of 30 year old Izabel in a hospital in southern Poland is the first to be publicly linked to the ban and may mean a turning point, as it was the case of Savita Halappanavar, who died in 2012 in Ireland following a miscarriage after being denied an abortion. More details [here](#).

IPPF ARO continues engaging with the Ghana movement to counteract the draconian law being prepared by the Ghanaian parliament to restrict LGBTI rights. We have a fight ahead of us but are committed to doing more in this area. The ARO will continue to coordinate advocacy efforts out of Nairobi and as part of reducing costs to meet next year's budget realities will need to close the small Addis Liaison Office.

On the programmes front it is worth highlighting that the services of AFGA (Afghan Family Guidance Association) remain operational, and a number of donors have stepped into support our humanitarian efforts both in country, and in neighbouring countries where refugees have fled. This is a live situation, and we continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure our service and advocacy response is relevant and adequate. Overall, AFGA had provided just over 160,000 services each in August and Sept 2021 and 96,000 in October, slightly higher than corresponding months of 2020 even having to operate through the disruption in the health care system and changing security situation. We have, however, seen a decline of 30% in CYP due to lower uptake of long-term methods (IUD).

With the improving security situation on ground monitoring visits have restarted and AFGA has completed the procurement of new clean delivery kits. As far as banking is concerned all transfers are open including international except cash exchange of international currency. With support from IPPF Secretariat, AFGA has been able to function almost normally.

In this quarter WISH delivered 17% above target at over 2.2 million CYPs to couples. They also reached 244,000 new users of contraception: 13% above goal. Despite the challenging environment the project has continued to deliver above and beyond expectations. Since project start WISH has now reached over 2.6m new users and provided over 22m CYPs across the 15 countries.

Some good news on the membership front too: In addition to the three new collaborative partners we announced in September¹, we are pleased that Antigua and Dominica are being recommended by the Membership Committee to become Associate Members. Further work with Aruba, Martinique and Guadalupe is needed. [Gestos](#) (Brazil), and NGO set up in 1993 to defend the human rights of HIV-positive people and populations vulnerable to STIs joined as collaborative partner.

On the donor relation's side: We are gearing up for the oral renewal for the court to decide whether it allows the judicial review of the FCDO's decision to terminate our ACCESS programme to proceed. At the time of writing, we are still waiting to hear whether funding for WISH will continue beyond April 2022.

Canada confirmed a further five years of funding for CAD18m (approx. USD 14.5m) + CAD2.5m for the Safe Abortion Action Fund, which we host. Together with the Government of the Netherlands, Canada is now the second donor to support IPPF with a 5-year commitment *and* through the new Strategic Framework period. Their support takes us through 2026, demonstrating early trust on a strategy they feel comfortable endorsing. We will also receive USD500K from the Gates Foundation to support the strategy development process in 2022.

We also confirmed €1.5million from the German government to continue SRH programming in Afghanistan as well as for Afghan refugee populations in the border of Pakistan.

ICA Foundation has approached us to host their Caribbean hub, to support the donation of levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine device (LNG IUD).

The governance and operational transformation continues to progress: A huge effort has gone into supporting MAs on their business plans for TRT review and producing the unified secretariat consolidated 2022 Plan & Budget that is being presented for approval. This is a major milestone. For the first-time governance and senior managers can get to grips with the shape and value of the global

¹ The [Institute for Family Health \(IFH\)](#) The [Institute for Family Health \(IFH\)](#) (Jordan), [CEMOPLAF](#) (Ecuador) and [LLAVES](#) Foundation (Fundación Llanto, Valor y Esfuerzo, Honduras).

IPPF portfolio. It is a budget that has been profoundly affected by FCDO cuts but still sees a 10% increase in the unrestricted resources going to MAs (as compared to the 2021 approved budget). The 2021 end of year forecast is also looking positive.

Progress continues on the strategy front, with the [roundtables](#) well advanced, the commissioned research, the MA and donors surveys completed, and two donor consultation sessions completed. Youth and regional forums continue to inform the Strategy.

The MA governance initiative is progressing well with the Round 1 MAs expected to complete their engagement by end of year; constitutional amendments are due to be approved by this time. Round 2 MAs are completing their analysis. Unfortunately, in Afghanistan the humanitarian crisis in the country has created delays. Round 3 MAs completed the recruitment for the consultants for governance analysis.

In October, Alvaro began travelling again for IPPF for the first time since the start of the pandemic. He has visited key partners from the governments of Denmark, Netherlands, France and Norway as well as our Member Associations and Mina is in NY/DC visiting our US based partners. The visits allow us to demonstrate IPPF's role in delivering on our shared development objectives and to update them on key organisational and programmatic priorities.

Turning to the Secretariat, we are concluding the first part of the project to bring equity to pay-scales across the Secretariat. The first phase is to uplift those under to the benchmarked pay-scales to the minimum (subject to performance) through 2022; the resources to accommodate this have been included in the 2022 budget. Communication with Secretariat colleagues sharing outputs from the review and engaging them in plans to move forward will start by early December.

We are also starting to open up conversations about hybrid working and what it could look like for us. SARO has returned to the office in full, other offices are taking mixed approaches depending on local context. This is an important moment to reflect on opportunities for different ways of working to be productive and recognise individual and collective preferences.

In the eight months to 31st August 2021, we are carrying a significant surplus, well ahead of budget. This is primarily due to new restricted grant income of US\$15.1m from the Government of Australia (for Covid support and gender based violence), an underspend of US\$15.3m on the WISH2Action project (as costs are spread out over the longer no cost extension period), and core grant payments to MA's being US\$10.6m behind budget.

Taking the actual numbers for eight months ending 31st August 2021 and the forecast numbers for the subsequent four months, the position at the end of 2021 is a consolidated surplus of US\$14.2m n core and restricted funding.