7th APPC – Side Event
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Organized by ARROW and Equal Asia Foundation

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Focus of ICPD+30 research & monitoring report

- Realization of SRHR of marginalized and vulnerable groups:
  - Current SRH issues
  - Access to information and services
  - Laws and policies

- Target group: Older people, LGBTQI+, People with Disabilities, Adolescent and young people, Ethnic minority youth, People with HIV.

- Context: socio-economic development, crisis (epidemic, climate changes, natural disasters)
Key findings: SRHR of older people

**SRHR problems:**
- Domestic violence: 50.3% of household with elderly people.
- Mental health issues: loneliness, anxiety, depression especially women.
- 78% chronic diseases.
- Silent, neglected sexual health problems: Forced, painful, unpleasurable sex, gynaecological infection, STI, child sexual abuse
- Not seek for services: taboo, SRH is not included in essential health check-up package for older people and not covered by health insurance.

**Challenges**
- Elderly women are less financially protected: less retired (32.5% women vs 62.5% men). More women work as farmer, thus no pension when retired.
- Intersectionality: older people with disabilities, older LGBTQI
- Lack of data and research on older people SRHR
- Restriction of CSO works: regulation on receiving international fundings, convening workshops and public gathering. Not clear role of CSO in monitoring process
Key findings: SRHR of older people

Law and policies

- 2009: Law on elderly people
- 2015: PM's decision to assign October “Action month for Older people”
- 2021: National Action Plan on Older People: recognize rights to health, care, shelter, labor, etc; recognize older people with disabilities and older people with mental health disorders (severe cases). Not gender-responsive.
- 2022: Amended Law on Domestic violence Prevention and Control: priority for older people, PWD
- 2021: Guideline on providing health services for sexual violence survivors (MOH) including older people, LGBTQI, PWD, …
- 2022: SOP on providing support for survivors of GBV and trafficking (MOFA) including older people, LGBTQI, PWD
- 2023 (in development): Guideline on providing sexual and reproductive health services for PWD (MOH) including older people and mental health.
Key recommendations

- Policies and programs on older people should be gender-responsive and inclusive.
- Issue policies and programs with positive and healthy sexuality message of older people sexuality prevent ageism and age-related discrimination at the workplace, in family and in community.
- Ensure mental health, screening of violence and SRH are included in essential health care package for older people and are covered by health insurance or relevant financial aid scheme.
- Enable environment for CSOs as an equal partner in policies development and monitoring and service provision for older people.
- Promote leadership, meaningful participation and voices of older women in all their diversities in planning, implementation and monitoring.
- Prioritise comprehensive large scale quantitative and qualitative research on SRHR among older persons and women, and elderly care.
Thank you!

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