

International Participation

Making Our Presence Impactful in Global Spaces

We are proud of our national presence, but not contented. In pursuit of partnership and networking efforts to have impact, we have to engage in the global advocacy spaces that matter. That's the reason why to us investing in being part of the UN forums such as CSW, CPD, COP, HLPF, etc., and other networking and partnership spaces, is not a luxury. And this year, RHU has been at the centre of a couple of regional and global spaces.

RHU PARTICIPATED in United Nations Foundation conference for actors in business and human rights of women at workplace in New York. The conference brought together business, government, donors, labour movements, researchers and NGOs to determine strategies to drive systematic changes in global and workplace practices, policies and programmes for women workers' rights. We collaborated and built collective actions to support the health and wellbeing of women workers in supply chains, showcased the existing research and evidence on the business case related to women's health and worker wellbeing, identify gaps in its current business case especially concerns on environmental, social and governance (ESG) engagement and advocacy.

IN ADDITION, RHU was part of the conference in India intended to provide input for the future IPPF direction related to corporate sector engagement. During this workshop, RHU shared experience and lessons learnt implementing interventions to improve health and gender equality in the world of work. RHU also utilised learnings from this conference to improve SRHR and inclusion in employment programming in Uganda where discussions with private companies on prioritising ESG compliance is underway hence strengthening peer driven north-south learnings as part of highly needed capacity development.

WE WERE PART of Government of Uganda delegation to the UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD56) at the UN Headquarters- New York. We were part of the organising team for the Ugandan side event at the UN Uganda Mission on giving the girl child another chance to enroll back to school after giving birth, convened by National Population Council with support from UNPFA Uganda country office.

WE HELD several meetings that included a meeting with the Danish secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to update her on developments in Uganda; together with IPPF affiliates of Tunisia and Zambia had a meeting with the Norwegian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss affairs of SRHR in our countries.

WE WERE PART of the CSO meetings to strategise on how to influence the discussions on population and education, and discussed challenges and opportunities related to CSO-government engagement on UN engagements, among others.

HELLO BENINI When called, RHU is right there in the exact moment. As a partner under the Right Here Right Now 2 (RHRNII) consortium, RHU participated in the annual project global meeting, this time round held in the west African Francophone country- Benin. The focus of this particular convening was on the mid-term review of the programme, after three years of implementation.

The meeting had participants from a dozen partner countries in Africa and Asia. The Rutgers executive director, Marieke van der Plas, who also doubles as a member of the

steering committee was among the high-profile figures in attendance. The Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands was also represented, so was the Government of Benin.

During the meeting, we exchanged views, discovered more about different countries implementing the programme and appreciated initiatives taken by different countries to ensure that the programme is a success.

We are constantly learning and some of the best practices picked from Benin will be evident in our work.

FROM WEST AFRICA, we landed in the city of a thousand hills, Kigali Rwanda to participate in the Women Deliver Conference 2023. RHU was part of enriching sessions at the conference. These included: the importance of amplifying diverse voices and perspectives through digital media; influencing positive public discourse through the use of digital media; digital discrimination and censorship toward female health; partnerships and political will; among others. We also interacted with some of our donors to further strengthen our partnerships; in a number of spaces, we shared our experiences and lessons especially on how to advance gender equality, address various issues affecting women and girls while identifying evidence-based solutions to addressing the challenges.

ABYSSINIA! RHU was fully represented at the Power to Youth Annual Partnership Meeting 2023, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to empower young people and creating lasting change.

The annual meeting served as a platform for exchanging ideas, showcasing achievements, and charting future plans. At the heart of the meeting was the recognition that working with like-minded organisations is crucial in addressing the pressing issues faced by young people.

Representatives from different countries shared their experiences and challenges, highlighting the remarkable work being done.

The Uganda team shared their success with intergenerational dialogues and recommended digitising these dialogues to cater for young people's preferences. They also emphasised the involvement of cultural leaders in advancing the programme's agenda.

The Power to You(th) project consists of seven country management teams [Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Ghana, Senegal and Indonesia], four global partners [Amref Flying Doctors, Rutgers, Sonke Gender Justice and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs], and two technical partners [Choice for Youth and Sexuality and KIT Royal Tropical Institute].

This is what transpired in the City of Street Coffee- Ethiopia aka Abyssinia, where we rubbed shoulders with our fellow change makers from Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Ghana, Senegal and Indonesia.

LIFE ON THE WEB finally came to a pause when young people from all over the globe jetted in the Pearl of Africa to spur invaluable learning experiences, strengthen networking opportunities, and build excellent collaborations amongst young people

in cementing efforts towards crafting solutions to SRHR challenges affecting young people.

At the shores of the largest lake in Africa and chief reservoir of the Nile, Lake Victoria, Munyonyo Commonwealth, we embraced young people from diverse cultural backgrounds which provided them an opportunity to collaborate and unite around common themes surrounding SRHR.

The Global Youth Connect Meet Up Week was the reason for this union under the Global Youth Connect project (GYC). GYC is an innovative digital platform developed to provide young people across diverse backgrounds with the means to access accurate, age-appropriate information on all aspects of SRHR with support from the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

During this meet up week, young people created a Youth Declaration 2023, pledging to drive change for sexual reproductive health rights, enabling access to accurate and age-appropriate SRH information. Reproductive Health Uganda, that hosts the project was the convener of event, that provided a conducive platform for young people to connect and explore ways of working collaboratively.