SHARE-NET NETHERLANDS' COP REFERENCE DOCUMENT 2021

CONTENTS

1. CROSS-CUTTING RECOMMENDATIONS

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

In line with the Share-Net International cross-cutting focus areas, we encourage all SN-NL CoPs to work towards establishing stronger linkages between SRHR and gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). At SN-NL, we aim to focus more on the intersection between SDG 3 (health and well-being) and SDG 5 (gender equality and women's empowerment).

- ✓ Consider in your planning how you can invest in integrating a gender lens in CoP activities of all five knowledge pathways.

MEANINGFUL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

In line with the Share-Net International cross-cutting focus areas, we encourage all SN-NL CoPs to consider how they can involve young people more meaningfully in their knowledge activities. Get inspired by this doodle video that SN-NL produced in 2020 that elaborates on what meaningful youth participation means, how our network can improve and what you personally can do to walk the talk.

- ✓ Consider in your planning how the participation of young people (as members, consultants, facilitators or speakers,…) in your CoP can become an enabling and effective learning and work experience.

INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN SRHR AND OTHER SDGS

In line with the Share-Net International cross-cutting focus areas, we encourage all SN-NL CoPs to continue exploring interlinkages between SRHR and other SDGs. Placing SDG17 as a starting point, we understand real partnerships and effective knowledge management as key to meet the SDGs. At SN-NL, we aim to explain linkages better and bring together knowledge and experience for better planning and policy development on the intersection of SRHR and other SDG themes, like Education (SDG4), Climate Change (SDG 13) and Peace and Justice (SDG16) and more.

- ✓ Consider in your planning how you can build synergies and collaborate effectively with other CoPs from SN-NL and/or other SNI hubs in Bangladesh, Burundi and Jordan working on distincs topics/toward meeting other SDGs.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

A generalised shift towards development that leaves no one behind requires the transformation of deeply rooted systems that are often based on unequal distributions of decision-making power. It is not enough to address inequality by focusing on those "left behind" at the bottom but at SN-NL we also encourage you to address the power of voices involved in the CoP's work.

- ✓ Consider in your planning how you can make your CoP composition and your partners in CoP activities (writers, facilitators, speakers, consultants,…) more equitable, inclusive and sustainable.

SRHR RESEARCH, POLICY AND PRACTICE IN THE NETHERLANDS

Many of our SN-NL members work internationally to improve SRHR in low and middle income countries. However, being a knowledge platform based in the Netherlands, we acknowledge that there is still a need and space to also

investigate, respond to, share and take up knowledge to improve SRHR research, policy and practice in the Dutch context. Therefore and with more Dutch-focused members joining, we encourage you to be open to also take the Dutch perspective into account in your 2021 planning.

✓ Consider in your planning to what extent you also want to integrate the Dutch context in CoP activities of all five knowledge pathways.

2. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Please find below the challenges (title) and suggestions for improvement (bullet points) that are based on the Mural collection "CoP brainstorming 2020/21" by SN-NL members during the Annual Business Meeting on the 20th of October and on observations of the CoP facilitator in 2020. **All recommendations underneath are optional and completely up to the discretion of each CoP.**

COVID-19 IMPACT, LACK OF SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE WITH MOVING WORK ONLINE

✓ Attend the SN-NL Breakfast Meeting in early 2021 to engage in
  o a mental health session about working from home and
  o a learning session where we will share best practises around the use of online co-creation tools– an invitation will follow!
✓ Consider meeting less frequently but for longer (e.g. if before you met every 4 weeks for 60min you could schedule CoP meetings every 6 weeks for 90min → same time-investment but more relaxed setting)
✓ Allow yourself the time to get used to this new working climate:
  o Be patient with yourself and others!
  o Share your knowledge and help each improve our digital skills
  o Reflect on the experiences within the group and find out what works best for this CoP.
  o Stay open and curious to experiment with new methodologies, meeting formats and enjoy the learning journey while the online world becomes more engaging!

LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SN-NL AND SNI, OVERLAP AND LIMITED COLLABORATION WITH OTHER HUBS

✓ Share-Net International is the regulatory body of the knowledge platform that provides the overall vision, mission and strategy. Each country hub, including Share-Net Netherlands, has the space to contextualise and implement knowledge activities to their specific members-needs.
✓ Share-Net Netherlands is one of the four currently active country hubs of Share-Net International (NL, Bangladesh, Burundi and Jordan; in 2021 the new hubs in Burkina Faso, Colombia and Ethiopia will be set up)
✓ Feel free to engage more actively in SNI activities like the international CoPs (e.g. on COVID-19, SRHR and gender equality), the Co-Creation Conference, SHIRIM or apply for small grants.

✓ Consult the knowledge activities for 2021 from all SNI hubs that will be shared by the SN-NL secretariat early in 2021 and consider contributing to and linking with planned activities.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE AGENDA OF OTHER SN-NL COPS, AND LIMITED COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COPS

✓ Consult the finalised work plans of other CoPs that the secretariat will share and consider contributing to and linking with planned activities
✓ Make your first CoP meeting in 2021 open to all SN-NL members to join
✓ Sign up to and actively inform the new SN-NL CoP newsletter that the secretariat will produce and send out quartely starting in 2021
✓ Consider the timing of potential collaborations and make sure the timeline proposed in the work plan is feasible for all members involved

INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY OF COP MEMBERS

✓ Consider your personal/organisation annual planning and its implication on your work load/availability
✓ Be realistic instead of too ambitious with your work plan proposal
✓ Discuss with your CoP how frequent you aim to meet throughout the year
✓ Schedule several upcoming meetings at the beginning of the year instead of constant Doodle/availability checks
✓ Out-source tasks and responsibilities more effectively to students and consultants (consider guidance and budget implications)

UNMET NEED FOR MORE COP MEMBERS

✓ Raise awareness for the possibility to join this CoP during your CoP activities (e.g. at the end of virtual meetings, when sharing knowledge via the website or social media, in conversation with your individual professional network,…)
✓ Consider carrying out a mapping exerecise of relevant actors working on your CoP topic in the Netherlands and reach out to them in a targetted manner
✓ Consider posting a call for new members openly in the bi-weekly SN-NL newsletter or quarterly CoP newsletter
  o formulate a short paragraph about the CoP/why you are looking for new members/whom you are looking for
  o interested members will be connected via the CoP facilitator
✓ Small but powerful!
  o Every CoP is different and be reaffirmed that some very effective and impactful CoPs have a small number of members!
  o However, be realistic what the CoP can and wants to do with limited human effort!

UNCLEAR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN COP

✓ Consult the CoP concept note for a better theoretical underpinning of best practices for CoP roles (member, chair, facilitator)
✓ CoPs with a chair and CoP activities with a member in lead often function more independently and are more sustainable

- o Discuss with your CoP whether you appoint a CoP chair for 2021 or whether you apply a rotation scheme
- o Consider appointing a lead for each knowledge activity in the CoP work plan 2021
- o A well-established rotation scheme for CoP meetings includes rotating the chairing and minute-taking role each CoP meeting (minute-taker sends agenda and chairs the next meeting)

UNCLEAR COP-INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND STORAGE OF RESOURCES

- ✓ Discuss with your CoP which communication tools you want to use or try in 2021, for instance:
  - o Some CoPs are working on google drive folders but do not use them coherently
  - o Others are currently testing the use of Microsoft teams or LinkedIn groups
- ✓ Let the secretariat know if you want
  - o to (temporarily) resign from a CoP mailing list
  - o to be added to or removed from the SN-NL mailing list to receive all SN-NL communications from the secretariat (in larger organisations, often only the contact person is added to this list and it's up to you how you prefer to handle this).
- ✓ SNI is working on improving all hubs' online spaces through the development of a digital hub. The digital platform aims to ensure that knowledge sharing, knowledge exchange and match-making can happen more effectively on a national and international level.

OUT OF THEMATIC FOCUS, LACK OF CONSENSUS BETWEEN COP MEMBERS

- ✓ CoP activities that are of relevance to the personal/organisational work context of the majority of CoP members often create more ownership and commitment.
- ✓ The pathway of knowledge sharing focuses on exchange, discussion and learning as much between CoP members as for the wider SRHR community. It can thus also be fruitful to use the CoP as a safe space for sharing views, findings or experiences from a different perspective instead of taking exactly the same line.
- ✓ Not all CoP members have to be engaged in every CoP activity. As long as you clarify the roles and responsibilities and expectations beforehand, a CoP can carry out several CoPs with a different focus or positioning

ONLINE MEETING/WEBINAR FATIGUE

- ✓ Experiment with new virtual methodologies and formats (e.g. using polls/live-surveys and co-creation tools, debates, live-interviews, story-telling, videos, breakout rooms, quizzes, games,…)
- ✓ Consider the timing implications of your online meeting/webinar and avoid crowded periods
- ✓ Think of effective meeting/webinar follow ups for registrants who did not show up to increase your reach nevertheless
- ✓ Consider resuming maybe one face-to-face CoPs meeting when the COVID-19 measures allow to strengthen the CoP relationships
- ✓ Consider partly face-to-face meetings and streaming options (and the hightened organisational effort and budget needed)

LACK OF PLANNING FOR KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AND USE AFTER COP ACTIVITIES THAT FOCUSED ON KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND SHARING

- ✓ Consider for follow up activities in your planning:
    - o the roles (who will do it?)
    - o the timeline (until when can it be done?)
    - o the budget implication (do we need additional budget for this?)
    - o and a creative knowledge translation format e.g. visualisations, infographics or choose the most suitable traditional knowledge translation products like reports, fact sheets, policy briefs,…