



# International Consortium for Medical Abortion

*Promoting access to medical abortion in  
the context of safe abortion worldwide...*

## ***Annual Report 2008***



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# International Consortium on Medical Abortion

## 2008 Annual Report

2008 saw tremendous growth in the International Consortium on Medical Abortion (ICMA) project work to expand access to safe abortion. ICMA developed new resource materials on medical abortion and distributed them internationally in a range of languages. ICMA also supported the development of networks in four global regions to disseminate these resources and identify new strategies at the country and regional levels to reach women, public health officials and advocacy groups with accurate information about the use of medications to ensure safe abortion care.



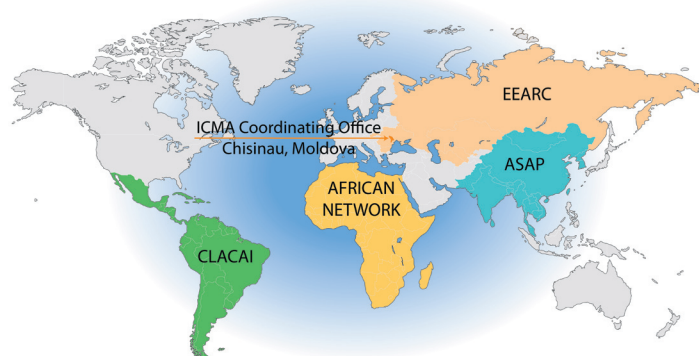
### Highlights of ICMA's 2008 accomplishments include:

- The inauguration of new regional networks in Eastern Europe and Asia
- The strengthening and growth of the regional network in Latin America/Caribbean
- Laying the groundwork for a regional network in Africa, launched in early 2009
- Wide dissemination of the ICMA Medical Abortion Information Package, now available in seven languages, through CDs, conference presentations, and the ICMA website
- Publication of the 2007 ICMA conference report on second-trimester abortion, and the publication of papers from that conference in *Reproductive Health Matters*, an internationally circulated peer-reviewed journal
- Participation in regional and international conferences across the globe to promote medical abortion
- Updating and expanding ICMA's website to establish it as a worldwide resource on medical abortion
- Internal capacity building, including restructuring and expanding ICMA's staffing



## Building Regional Networks

Following up on its groundbreaking international conference in Johannesburg in 2004, ICMA recognized the need for regional networks to enhance collaboration and the dissemination of information at the regional and country grassroots level. Goals of the regional networks are to license the drugs used in medical abortion in more countries, make them available at an affordable cost, disseminate accurate information on using the drugs, and to reorganize health services for better abortion access.



### Latin America and the Caribbean

In 2006, ICMA supported the formation of its first regional network, in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Consorcio Latinoamericano y del Caribe contra el Aborto Inseguro (CLACAI, the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium against Unsafe Abortion) is guided by the unique situation in that region, where abortion is almost universally restricted by law, but clandestine use of misoprostol-alone for medical abortion is widespread. The first meeting of CLACAI, held in Lima Peru in May 2006, was attended by 49 participants from 13 countries.

In 2008, CLACAI expanded to include an advisory committee of 28 members from 12 countries of the Region. Three Working Commissions were established (Research, Access to Services, and Medicine/Supplies Availability) to implement CLACAI's goals.

CLACAI has completed a regional mapping of access to misoprostol in the region and has published a regional directory. CLACAI has established a meeting structure and disseminates its work through regional and international meetings. In August 2008, in Lima, Peru, the first workshop "Misoprostol Use in Gynaecology and Obstetrics" was carried out by CLACAI and the Federación Latinoamericana de Obstetricia y Ginecología (FLASOG). In October, CLACAI co-sponsored the Third Meeting of Researchers on Abortion, held in Mexico City and organized by the Population Council. ICMA provided financial support for CLACAI members to attend, and CLACAI members presented the results of their Mapping study and the medical abortion information available at the ICMA website. Currently, CLACAI has 98 members, and expects to expand in 2009.

## Asia

In March 2008, 37 participants from 13 countries met in Kuala Lumpur and formed the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP). ASAP currently includes members from Turkey, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Mongolia, India, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia. The mission of ASAP is to promote, protect and advance women's sexual and reproductive rights and health in Asia by reducing unsafe abortion and its complications by promoting access to comprehensive safe abortion services, both in countries where abortion is legal but not accessible and in countries where abortion is legally restricted. ASAP has launched a research study to ascertain the knowledge, attitudes and understanding of abortion as a human rights issue among legal professionals as a foundation for advocacy work. A strategy to promote new technologies, including manual vacuum aspiration and medical abortion, is being developed. At the end of 2008, ASAP launched its web-site on abortion issues in Asia.



## Eastern Europe

The Eastern European Alliance for Reproductive Choice (EEARC) was launched in June 2008 with a coordinator and office in Kiev. A Memorandum of Cooperation with ICMA, membership criteria and key statements regarding safe abortion in Eastern Europe have been established. Initial activities in 2008 included the development of a website with regionally relevant information and the collecting and analyzing of medical abortion access data in seven member countries (Armenia, Georgia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). Members of EEARC participated in the October meeting of FIAPAC in Berlin and the AWID Forum in November in Cape Town. EEARC was also represented at the Lithuanian Family Planning Association annual meeting in November in Vilnius.

The EEARC website will be formally promoted at the international conference "Early Terms of Pregnancy: Problems, Management, Outlook" in May 2009 in Moscow.



## Africa

In 2008 ICMA continued to build a base for a Network in Africa, which formally launched in March 2009 with 55 participants in Johannesburg. Key supportive Ministers of Health, public health officials, and NGOs have been identified. At the November 2008 AWID forum in Cape Town, ICMA organized a Caucus with the title: "Forming an African Network to Promote Medical Abortion in the Context of Safe Abortion" to lay the foundation for the Network to launch in 2009.

To support this new Network, ICMA will provide financial support for African members to attend the 2010 International conference, provide connections to the leadership of other Networks, and provide technical assistance in organizing initial regional conferences.

## Western Europe & North America

In 2008 ICMA began initial strategy sessions with key advocates in Western Europe and in North America to launch a new network in each of these regions. It is projected that these networks will be formally established in 2010.

## Expanding ICMA's Capacity as an International Resource on Medical Abortion

### The Package on Medical Abortion

In 2007, ICMA developed the Information Package on Medical Abortion, which is a major resource on medical abortion for clinicians, advocates, and women. The Package has been translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Hindi and Russian. Additional translations of the CD into Malay, Vietnamese, and Indonesian are planned.

In 2008, the Package was published on CDs for dissemination at conferences and professional meetings. The Package includes five content areas: Information for women, for women's organizations and NGOs, for health care providers, for policymakers and selected resources on medical abortion.

During 2008, 1433 CDs with the Information Package were distributed. Additionally, over 4,700 ICMA leaflets describing the Information Package and directing readers to the information on the ICMA website were disseminated.



### Developing and Disseminating Information on Second-Trimester Medical Abortion

In 2008 ICMA undertook activities to follow up on the 2007 ICMA International Conference on Second-Trimester Abortion and increase the availability of information on second-trimester issues.

- A report from the 2007 conference was written and circulated to participants, donors and international advocates. The report included an overview of the conference and conference recommendations. The full report was posted on the ICMA website with links to many of the presentations featured at the conference.
- ICMA contributed financial support and content to the publication of a special supplement of Reproductive Health Matters, an internationally circulated peer-reviewed journal.





RHM offers in-depth analysis of reproductive health issues from a women-centered perspective, written by and for women's health advocates, researchers, service providers, policy makers and those in related fields with an interest in women's health. The special issue on second-trimester abortion includes papers presented at the conference as well as other articles solicited for the volume. The articles of the RHM special supplement were published on CD for dissemination. In 2009 ICMA will translate the abstracts of all articles in the supplement into French, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Hindi and Arabic and will make them available on the ICMA website.

- A comprehensive review and compilation of international laws and policies impacting second-trimester abortion care was completed by Reed Boland. The compilation will be placed on the ICMA website in early 2009.

## Expanding ICMA's Website

The ICMA website has been continually updated throughout 2008 to expand its capacity to be a worldwide resource on medical abortion. The site has updated information on developments at the country and regional level and provides space for the regional networks as they form. A section with major research findings on Medical Abortion has also been added. The ICMA web manager ensures that the website is up-to-date and serving the needs of its users.

Traffic to the ICMA website increased substantially in 2008, both in number of visitors and number of pages viewed.

### 2008 Website Visitors Overview

	2007	2008	% Increase
Number of visits	12,952	19,867	53.39 %
Number of page views	30,792	44,464	44.40 %



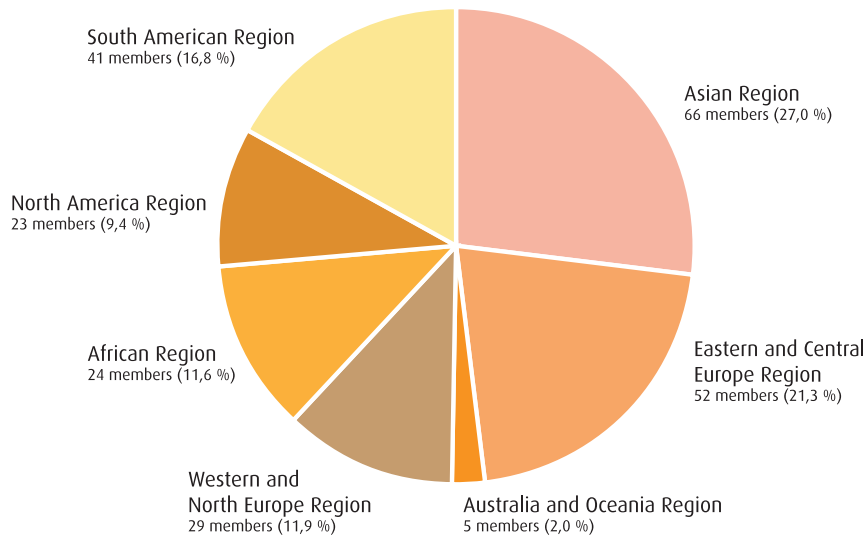
## Providing Experts at International Forums

ICMA participated in two major international conferences in 2008. At the October FIAPAC Conference in Berlin, Germany, ICMA staff presented at two plenary sessions: "Consequences of the laws for women and political challenges in Europe", and "Eastern Europe: Turning back the wheel". At the November AWID Forum in Cape Town, South Africa, ICMA organized a session, "Building national and international movements for abortion rights: Then and now", and convened a caucus to launch the Africa Network.



## Increasing ICMA Membership

In 2008 ICMA expanded its membership to include 240 members from 63 countries, 70% of them from developing countries. During 2008 100 new members joined the ICMA Members Network. 2008 ICMA Membership included 76 organizations and 164 individual members, representing countries from all regions of the world:



As the regional networks have expanded and not all regional members are considered formal ICMA members, the actual growth of country level participants in ICMA activities is even higher.

To further promote awareness of and collaboration with ICMA, a new descriptive brochure was developed. It will be published and circulated in 2009.

## Increasing Internal Capacity

In 2008 ICMA staff worked with an organizational capacity consultant to assess what skills and internal changes were needed to expand ICMA's capacity to take on new projects. Staff received technical assistance in developing a reporting system for donors, monitoring outcomes on strategic planning, and crafting an organizational communications plan. A financial consultant provided technical assistance to the staff to increase their skills in budget creation and financial management. A development consultant was hired, and a job description for a program manager was created, to be hired when funding is secured (projected date is March 2009). As a result, ICMA ended 2008 with increased organizational strength and financial stability, and is well positioned to expand its work in the years ahead.

## ICMA Steering Committee 2008

**Marge Berer**

ICMA Chair; Reproductive Health Matters, London UK

**Mariana Romero**

ICMA Co-Chair; Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES), Argentina

**Bela Ganatra**

Ipas, India

**Hala El Damanhoury**

New Woman Foundation, Egypt

**Nana Oye Lithur**

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Ghana

**Wanda Nowicka**

Federation for Women and Family Planning and ASTRA Network, Poland

**Beverly Winikoff**

Gynuity Health Projects, USA

## Observer

**Peter Fajans**

World Health Organization, Switzerland

## International Advisory Committee 2008

**Ayse Akin**

Hacettepe University Research and Implementation Center on Women's Issues, Turkey

**Kristina Gemzell**

Karolinska Institute, Sweden

**Selma Hajri**

Clinician, Tunisia

**Danielle Hassoun**

Centre for Training in Reproductive Health Technologies, France

**Ann Leonard**

Ipas, USA

**Cheng Linan**

Shanghai Institute of Family Planning, China

**Frederick Nunes**

Consultant, Jamaica



## ICMA Staff 2008

Rodica Comendant, Coordinator

Ludmila Tulus, Program & Administrative Assistant

Angela Malaniuc, Website Manager

Lidia Postolache, Bookkeeper

## ICMA Regional Networks Coordinators 2008

Susana Chavez

Coordinator of Latin America and the Caribbean Network - Latin American and Caribbean Consortium against Unsafe Abortion (CLACAI)

Suchitra Dalvie

Coordinator of Asian Network - Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)

Galina Maistruk

Coordinator of Eastern European Network - Eastern European Alliance for Reproductive Choice (EEARC)

## Financial Supporters 2008

Department for International Development UK

Swedish International Development Authority

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

**2008 Total Income: 308,510 Euros**

**2008 Total Expenditures: 308,510 Euros**

*Audited Financial Statement Available upon request.*

## **International Consortium for Medical Abortion**

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