



International Consortium for Medical Abortion

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

Annual Report

2009

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International Consortium for Medical Abortion 2009 Annual Report

Medical abortion has the potential to dramatically reduce maternal mortality and morbidity by expanding access to safe abortion to women worldwide. In 2009 the International Consortium on Medical Abortion (ICMA) continued its global leadership in advancing medical abortion by building its regional networks, developing and distributing new resources and information globally, laying the groundwork for its third international conference in 2010, and increasing internal capacity to support its ambitious goals to expand access to medical abortion.

Highlights of ICMA's 2009 accomplishments include:

- The launch of the African Network for Medical Abortion (ANMA)
- Expanded activities in the regional networks in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia, including the launch of websites with information relevant to each region and locally appropriate translations of ICMA materials.
- Continued organizational growth, including hiring a Network Liaison Officer to increase support of the developing regional networks.
- The redesign the ICMA website and positioning it as a global resource on medical abortion, with new navigation tools, expanded sections linking to each Regional Network, and a new section on abortion laws. Over 2500 organizations now link to the ICMA website, and it has received over 33,000 visitors.
- Completion of a full Information Package on medical abortion in the second trimester, with distribution of over 2,000 copies of the Package on CDs.
- Participation in panels at global forums around the world to disseminate information about new developments and issues impacting access to medical abortion.
- Laying the groundwork for the 2010 International Conference, Expanding Access to Medical Abortion: Building on Two Decades of Experience, inviting over 170 international speakers and participants to a three-day conference in March 2010 in Lisbon, Portugal.



Expanding and Developing Regional Networks

In 2009 ICMA prioritised the development of regional networks as a primary strategy to increase the dissemination of information on medical abortion at the regional and country levels. In June 2009 a Regional Network Liaison Officer was hired. She conducted a full Needs Assessment of the four Regional Networks and is supporting each Network to identify appropriate strategies for promoting medical abortion within the context of safe abortion in their region. There was significant activity in 2009 in each of the Regional Networks:

Latin America and the Caribbean

The *Consortio Latinoamericano y del Caribe contra el Aborto Inseguro* (CLACAI, the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium against Unsafe Abortion) was developed by participants in the first ICMA international conference, and formally organized in 2006. CLACAI works in collaboration with ICMA to promote its objectives. In 2009, CLACAI created a web-based database of research so that information could be widely shared throughout the region, including information that was unpublished. As part of this database, CLACAI compiled 14 studies that analysed women's perceptions about the use of misoprostol and its availability. The new website averages 62 visits daily from members, and is expanded regularly with new information.

CLACAI convened its first Regional Conference on Unsafe Abortion Prevention and Attention in Lima, Peru in June 2009. Although originally planned for 100 participants, demand was so great that ultimately there were 200 participants and experts from 16 Latin American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela), and from the United States and United Kingdom. All presentations from the conference were shared with a wider audience via the CLACAI website.

CLACAI also issued a request for proposals at the national level to expand access to medical abortion. Projects in Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay will be funded to strengthen services in those countries.

Asia

The Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) was formed in March 2008. In 2009, ASAP launched their website, www.asap-asia.org, with links to country profiles of members which give an overview of the abortion law, policy and data from



those countries. In addition to country profiles, the website provides technical information on medical abortion and information for NGOs and policymakers. The website also includes an e-discussion forum which provides regular messages and updates.

A primary activity for ASAP in 2009 was building the Network through conferences held in the region. An advocacy capacity building workshop “Understanding Safe Abortion as a Right” was conducted in March 2009 to better understand the human rights framework for advocacy activities and to develop advocacy messages placing safe abortion in the context of those rights. ASAP collaborated on the Asia Pacific NGO Forum on ICPD +15 in September in Bangkok, Thailand, and participated in a panel at the 5th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health and Sexual Rights, held in Beijing in October 2009. The ASAP Coordinator was also invited to speak on Gender, Rights and Safe Abortion at the 7th Asia-Pacific Women Parliamentarians’ and Ministers’ Conference in Kuala Lumpur in November 2009, at the workshop on Alliances and Networking to Improve Access to Safe Abortion in December in Kuala Lumpur and at the Medical Parliamentarians’ Forum in Bangkok in December 2009.

ASAP has also launched a qualitative research study on the knowledge, attitudes and understanding of legal professionals with regard to safe abortion as a women’s right. The comparison of the professional community views in liberalized and restrictive legal contexts will lead to a better shaping of the advocacy strategies for liberalizing the law and improving access.

Eastern Europe

The Eastern European Alliance for Reproductive Choice (EEARC) was founded in 2008, and by December 2009 included 13 organisations and 93 individuals from 14 countries including Belarus, Turkmenistan and Israel. To build the network, EEARC created a leaflet and application form in English and Russian, and distributed it at conferences where EEARC members were presenters. These conferences included Early Terms Of Pregnancy: Problems, Decisions, Outlook in Moscow in May 2009, and Medical Abortion In Former Soviet Countries. Problems And Outlook in Tbilisi, Georgia in September 2009.

The EEARC website, www.reprochoice.org, was launched in June 2009. It is available in English and Russian, and includes country profiles of 10 countries, as well as information about medical abortion that is regionally appropriate.

As much of the EEARC region has access to legal abortion but poor services, EEARC has a focus on training. Training materials that have been developed include a Training Package on Safe Abortion for Russian speaking countries, with modules



for 6-day trainings that can be used by medical students and for the post-graduate education of doctors. The materials are available on the EEARC website and on CDs. Additional training was provided at key regional conferences, including the Meeting of the Association of Ob/Gyn specialists in Chernovtsy Ukraine in June, the National Congress of Ob/Gyn specialists of Russian Federation in September in Sochi, Russia and the National Medical Abortion Conference in Ukraine in December 2009.

Africa

In March 2009, in Johannesburg, South Africa, ICMA and Ipas Africa Alliance convened a meeting attended by 54 participants from 20 African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopian, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigerian, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to develop the African Network for Medical Abortion (ANMA). ANMA's founding goals are to share information, experiences and ideas for advocacy, and to promote access to medical abortion within the context of safe abortion across Africa.

While organizing internally, ANMA's first activity was to convene a sub-regional workshop on medical abortion in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in December 2009. The 17 participants were drawn from three countries of the sub-region - DRC, Central Africa Republic and Cameroon. ANMA has developed plans for a website and once stabilized as an organization will replicate sub-regional workshops in other parts of Africa and launch informational activities throughout the region.



Putting Medical Abortion on the Global Agenda

ICMA is uniquely positioned to work simultaneously at the country level via its regional networks and at the global level. Global level activities in 2009 included developing new resources on medical abortion, building stronger relationships with global NGOs, presenting at international conferences to disseminate evidence-based information on medical abortion, and laying the foundation for the third International Conference, to be convened in March 2010.

New Resources

In 2009 ICMA created and distributed a supplement to the Information Package on Medical Abortion. The supplement contained articles on second trimester abortion, based on the Reproductive Health Matters (RHM) journal supplement. 2000 CDs with the articles from this supplement were produced. ICMA also developed materials on second trimester law and policy has which will be published by RHM and are available on the ICMA website.

The Information Package on Medical Abortion, translated into Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Hindi and Russian, continues to be in high demand. 2,000 copies of the Information Package on CDs were distributed in 2009. To increase dissemination, the Information Package link and Laws on Abortion in the First and Second Trimesters link have been posted on www.wikipedia.com in English, French, Russian, Portuguese, Hindi and Spanish.

ICMA has launched a newsletter which includes updates on research, events from the field, and new legal and regulatory developments. The newsletter is disseminated via the ICMA website and through the Regional Networks

In 2009 ICMA completely redesigned and expanded its website to facilitate information sharing, networking and advocacy among ICMA's members and other groups working to expand access to safe abortion worldwide. New materials on the website include:

- Information on abortion law and policy worldwide.
- A database on second-trimester law and policy worldwide.
- News updates from countries and links to other groups and materials.
- New parts of the Information Package on Medical Abortion in downloadable format.
- Video from ICMA activities and from other organizations.

The new website includes easy to follow links to all materials, including special sections for the Regional Networks, news updates, and links so that materials from the website can easily be shared via social networks including Facebook, Twitter, and Live. These innovations have resulted in a nearly 70% increase over 2008 in visitors to the ICMA website.



2009 Website Visitors Overview

	2007	2008	2009	% Increase 2008 to 2009
Number of visits	12,952	19,867	33,640	69.45%
Number of page views	30,792	44,464	63,553	43 %

Raising Global Awareness about Medical Abortion

ICMA participated in international conferences around the world in 2009. In September ICMA staff attended the XXI International Conference of Population, organized by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) in Marrakech, Morocco, presented on two panels "Knowledge, opinions and attitudes of ob-gyns on abortion in Latin America " and "Roles of family members and health providers in abortion in southern countries". In October, ICMA staff attended the FIGO Congress in Cape town, South Africa and presented on a panel "Reaching Women with Medical Abortion Services". Also in October, ICMA staff participated in the 5th Asia and Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, organized by China Family Planning Association (CFPA), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), IPPF East & South East Asia and Oceania Region (ESEAOR), and China Population Association (CPA) in Beijing.

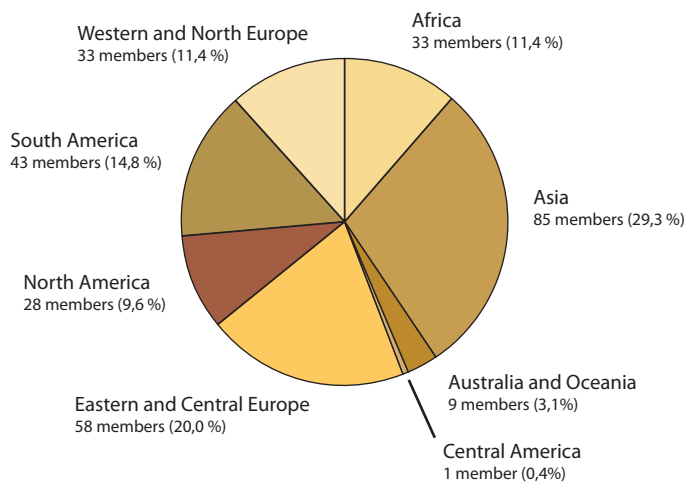
These international forums, along with numerous regional conferences, provided the opportunity to highlight the potential of medical abortion to increase access to safe abortion, new developments in medical abortion, to identify new regional and national allies, and to disseminate ICMA materials and resources.

Throughout 2009, ICMA developed plans for a third international conference on Medical Abortion, Expanding Access to Medical Abortion: Building on Two Decades of Experience. To build for the March 2010 conference, the ICMA staff and Steering Committee created a three-day agenda for the conference, incorporating expert speakers who could cover new developments, highlight political and strategic barriers to medical abortion, and develop strategies to expand access. Planning for the conference included the development of a participant list, identifying a venue and conference sponsors, securing funding to bring participants from developing countries, and supporting participants to secure visas, flights, and accommodations. Significant attention was paid to how the conference could strengthen the regional networks, develop follow up activities and disseminate key materials from the conference, to ensure that the conference was integrated into ICMA's overall strategies.

Strengthening ICMA as an Organization

To prioritise work at the regional level, in June 2009 ICMA identified sufficient resources to expand its staff to include a Network Liaison Officer, to support and coordinate the four Regional Networks. ICMA continued to work with a Development and an Organizational consultant, to ensure its financial and organizational stability to support its expanded programmatic agenda.

ICMA is a Consortium of organizations and individuals. 2009 ICMA Membership includes 79 organizations and 211 individual members, representing countries from all regions of the world. In 2009 ICMA added 50 new members and now includes physicians, nurses, lawyers, advocates, journalists, health officials, public health experts and activists, among others. The 290 members represent the following world regions:



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.

ICMA will continue to build both its membership and its internal capacity in the coming years to reach its goal to realize the potential of medical abortion to save and improve women's lives.

ICMA Steering Committee 2009

Marge Berer (Co-Chair);
Reproductive Health Matters, London UK

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

Bela Ganatra
Ipas, India

Hala Eldamanhoury
New Woman Foundation, Egypt

Wanda Nowicka
Federation for Women and Family Planning
and ASTRA Network, Poland

Beverly Winikoff
Gynuity Health Projects, USA

Peter Fajans (Observer)
World Health Organization, Switzerland

ICMA Staff 2009

Rodica Comendant, Coordinator

Silvina Ramos, Network Liaison Officer

Ludmila Tulus, Program & Administrative Assistant

Angela Malaniuc, Website Manager

Lidia Postolache, Bookkeeper

Regional Network Coordinators

Susana Chavez; Latin American Consortium against Unsafe Abortion (CLACAI)

Suchitra Dalvie; Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)

Djingarey Maiga; African Network on Medical Abortion (ANMA)

Galina Maistruk; Eastern European Alliance for Reproductive Choice (EEARC)

Consultants:

Herbert de Graaf, Development

Susan Yanow, Organizational Capacity Building

Financial Supporters 2009

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

David & Lucille Packard Foundation

Safe Abortion Action Fund

Tides Foundation

Third Global Conference, 2-4 March 2010, Lisbon Donors' contribution in 2009

Tides Foundation

Ipas

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Safe Abortion Action Fund

2009 Total Income: 610,000 Euros

2009 Total Expenditures: 590,000 Euros

*Audited Financial Statement Available upon request after
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