



***International Consortium
for Medical Abortion***

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

Annual Report

2007

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International Consortium for Medical Abortion

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International Consortium on Medical Abortion 2007 Annual Report

In 2007 the International Consortium on Medical Abortion made important progress towards its goal of promoting access to medical abortion worldwide. This year's accomplishments include:

- Convening an international conference on second trimester abortion
- Participation in regional and international conferences across the globe to promote medical abortion and share information about it
- Launching the first regional network supported by ICMA and laying the groundwork for launching three others
- Developing, translating, publishing and disseminating an Information Package on Medical Abortion
- Expanding ICMA's website to increase its value as a worldwide resource

I. Strengthening Global Advocacy For Safe Medical Abortion

In March 2007 ICMA convened its second global conference on medical abortion. Convened in London, England, the 2007 conference focused on second trimester abortion issues, and attracted 88 experts from 39 countries (27 developing countries and countries in transition, 12 developed countries), representing all world regions.

Africa	Asia	Eastern Europe	Western Europe	Latin America & Caribbean	Mediterranean & North Africa	North America
Ethiopia Ghana	Cambodia China	Georgia Moldova	Austria Belgium	Argentina Brazil	Egypt Tunisia	Canada United States
Kenya Nigeria South Africa Zambia	India Mongolia Nepal Tajikistan Thailand Uzbekistan Vietnam	Poland Russia Ukraine	Denmark France Netherlands Norway Sweden Switzerland United Kingdom	Colombia Guatemala Mexico Peru		

Evaluations by conference attendees were very positive. PowerPoint presentations at the conference have been published on the ICMA website. A comprehensive summary report was completed in September 2007 and print copies of the report have been disseminated at several international conferences, including *Global Safe Abortion Conference*, organized by Marie Stopes International (MSI) and Ipas (23-24 October 2007) in London, UK and the *Fourth Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights*, organized in India by the India Consortium on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights



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(29-31 October 2007) and to ICMA members. The report includes key recommendations generated at the conference and by subsequent meetings of the ICMA Steering Committee.

ICMA has contracted with *Reproductive Health Matters*, an internationally circulated peer-reviewed journal, to publish a supplement dedicated to the issues raised in the conference and based on the presentations from the conference. All conference participants have been invited to submit papers to the journal, and additional submissions are being solicited. The supplement will be published in 2008. In addition to ICMA's own conferences, ICMA has provided speakers and participated in a number of regional and international conferences in 2007. These included:



- ***ASTRA Meeting,***

Warsaw, Poland, 14-15 July, 2007. ASTRA, The Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, convened this meeting to launch the ASTRA Documentary: "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Central and Eastern Europe". More than 40 people from NGOs, EE countries, IPPF European region and CRR representatives participated. The ICMA Coordinator made a presentation on the importance of medical abortion and the access picture in EE countries and focused on the ICMA plan to support the establishment of a regional EE safe medical abortion network. ASTRA members expressed willingness to support this initiative.

- ***Training on the Prevention of Unsafe Abortion,***

Songkla province, Thailand, 5-7 September 2007. The event was organized by the Reproductive Health Division of the Ministry of Public Health, in cooperation with the Women's Health and Reproductive Rights Foundation of Thailand (WHRRF), the Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (RTCOCG), Songklanakarin University and Hatyai Hospital. Prof. Dr. Kamheang Chaturachinda, President of WHRRF and Nongluk Boonthai, Reproductive Health Division, DOH, MOPH were the coordinators of this event. 100 participants, including the leaders of the movements for safe abortion in Thailand, obstetricians/gynecologists, and nurses convened for 3 days to discuss the medical, counselling, legal, health, economic and social issues surrounding abortion.

- ***Global Safe Abortion Conference,***

organized by Marie Stopes International (MSI) and Ipas, 23-24 October, London, UK. At the conference ICMA conducted an International Breakout Session: Second-Trimester Abortion: Law, Policy, Service Delivery And Advocacy Issues and held a meeting to discuss a regional network in Asia and distributed the ICMA Conference report.

- ***Fourth Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights,***

organized in India by the India Consortium on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, 29-31 October 2007. ICMA staffed a booth and distributed informational packets on medical abortion, and held the second meeting to discuss a regional network in Asia.



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II. Supporting The Development Of Regional Networks

Currently, mifepristone is available in 37 countries, while misoprostol is available in a great many more countries, in almost all cases for indications other than pregnancy termination. There is a clear need for regional and country-level work to license the drugs in more countries, make them available at an affordable cost, disseminate accurate information on using them and re-organize health services for better abortion access. To develop new strategies at the regional level and disseminate resources and information at the country level, ICMA is committed to developing regional networks in four under-served areas of the globe: Latin America/Caribbean region, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa.

In 2007 ICMA actively supported its first regional network, the Latin American Consortium against Unsafe Abortion (CLACAI), which was launched in Peru in May 2006. CLACAI is a regional network and works in partnership with the ICMA Steering Committee. To build CLACAI, ICMA helped to raise funds from Ford Foundation to support the development of a regional website, to adapt and print materials in Spanish and Portuguese, and to support their representation in regional and international conferences. CLACAI Coordinator, Susana Chavez participated in the Extended ICMA Steering Committee meeting, 26 June, 2007, Geneva, to discuss further avenues of collaboration.

ICMA has laid the groundwork for the establishment of the similar regional networks in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Preliminary discussions with local stakeholders were held at conferences in Eastern Europe and Asia in 2007, and through intensive organizing, leadership and key organizational support for networks in Eastern Europe and Asia have been identified. A new regional network in Asia is expected to form in 2008, with ongoing work to launch networks in Eastern Europe (2009) and in Africa (2010).

Preliminary meetings on the establishment of the Asian network were held at the Global Safe Abortion Conference in London and at the 4th Asia Pacific Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Hyderabad, India, in October 2007. Attendees supported the formation of the network. Key NGOs and stakeholders, such as the Family Planning Association of India, Ipas; Indian office, the Packard Foundation India, CREHPA, Nepal (Center for Research on Environment health and Population Activities), Marie Stopes International from the Philippines, the Women's Health and Reproductive Rights Foundation of Thailand, the Southeast Consortium on Gender, Sexuality and Health and other relevant organizations expressed willingness to join the network and agreed to convene the first planning meeting in March 2008. A potential leader of the Asian network has been identified, and regional work, including translation of ICMA materials and further outreach for the Asian network, have begun.

Initial work to launch the Eastern European network has also started. During the July 2007 ASTRA (The Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights meeting) in Warsaw, Poland, the ICMA Coordinator presented the concept of an EE safe/medical abortion network to over 30 participants from Eastern European NGOs. The participants agreed on the importance of this initiative. An initial meeting with the potential coordinating NGO, Women Health and Family Planning, based in Kiev, Ukraine was held, and the NGO agreed to act as a coordinating organization of the EE network. The first convening meeting is scheduled for May 2008. ICMA and its Kiev partner have started work on the identification of the potential participants and the agenda for this first meeting.

III. Strengthening ICMA's Role As A Source Of Information About Medical Abortion Of Relevance To Developing Countries And Countries In Transition

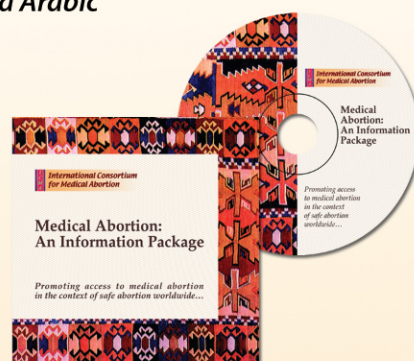
ICMA has developed the Information Package on Medical Abortion, which is a major resource on medical abortion for clinicians, advocates, and women. The Package was prepared by an independent researcher on gender, women's health and rights, and was peer reviewed by members of ICMA's advisory group and other experts, with a final review by the Steering Committee and two Advisory Group members and editing by the ICMA chair. The Package was completed in English in 2007 and is currently being translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Hindi and Russian. Approximately 95% of the Package translation project has been completed this year.

The Package is divided into five content areas:

- Information for women
- Information for women's organizations and NGOs
- Information for health care providers
- Information for policymakers
- Selected resources on medical abortion

Each section is organized in an accessible Question/Answer format and includes references. Each section can be easily downloaded.

The English - language Package has been placed on the ICMA website this year, and versions of the Package *in Russian, Spanish, French, Hindi, Portuguese and Arabic* have also been posted. www.medicalabortionconsortium.org



To facilitate broad distribution of the Package to areas with less Internet access, a CD has been planned. Initial work on the CD was completed in Fall 2007 meeting and has been pre-tested in Hyderabad at Fourth Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights. Once completed, the CD will be disseminated at conferences and meetings by the Steering Committee and ICMA members, and its availability will be publicized through a brochure and electronic newsletters. Additional translations of the CD into Malay, Vietnamese, and Indonesian are planned.

The ICMA website has been completely redesigned in 2007 to expand its capacity to be a worldwide resource on medical abortion. In addition to providing access to the Information Package on Medical Abortion, the site will have updated information on developments at the country and regional level and provide space for the regional networks as they form.



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ICMA Steering Committee 2007

- **Marge Berer**, ICMA Chair *Reproductive Health Matters, London UK*
- **Bela Ganatra** *Ipas, India*
- **Wanda Nowicka** *Federation for Women and Family Planning and ASTRA Network, Poland*
- **Nana Oye Lithur** *Regional Coordinator – Africa, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative*
- **Hala El Damanhoury** *New Woman Foundation, Egypt*
- **Mariana Romero** *Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES), Argentina*
- **Beverly Winikoff** *Gynuity Health Projects, USA*

Observers:

- **Peter Fajans** *World Health Organization, Switzerland*
- **Susana Chávez** *Centro de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Sexuales Reproductivos, Perú, Coordinator, Consorcio Latino-americano y del Caribe contra el Aborto Inseguro (CLACAI) (Latin American and Caribbean Consortium against Unsafe Abortion)*

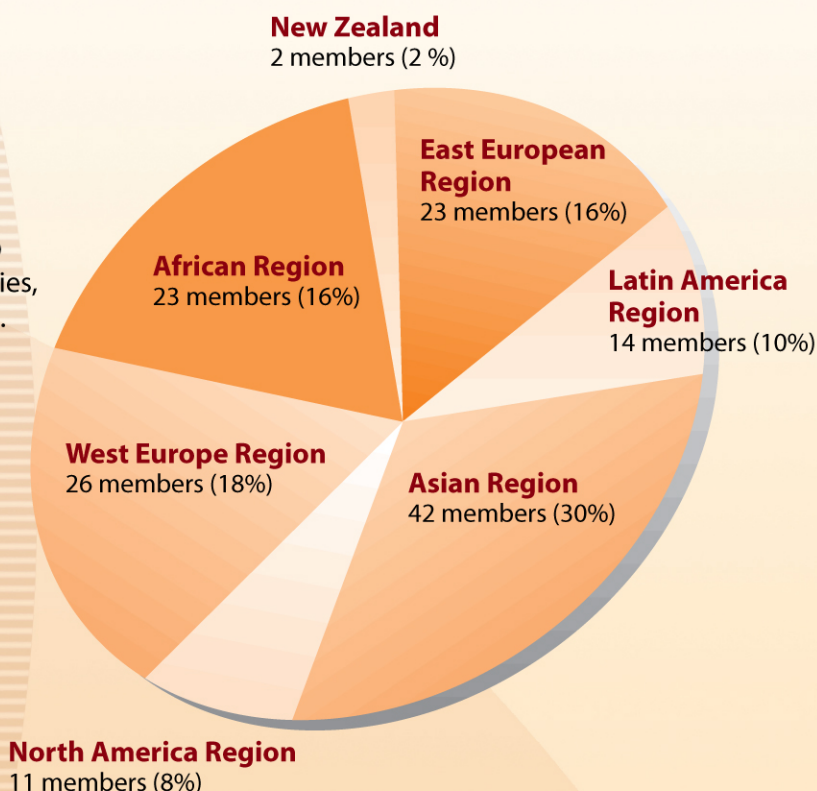
ICMA Staff 2007

Rodica Comendant, ICMA Coordinator
Ludmila Tulus, Assistant
Lidia Postolache, Finance Manager

ICMA Membership

In 2007 ICMA expanded its membership to include 140 members from 50 countries, 70% of them from developing countries. During 2007 39 new members joined the ICMA Members Network.

ICMA Membership currently includes 61 organizations and 79 individual members, representing countries from all regions of the world, as follows:





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Financial Supporters 2007

Department for International Development UK
Swedish International Development Authority

Support for the Global Conference on Second Trimester Abortion

Canadian International Development Agency
Concept Foundation
Department for International Development, UK
Gynuity Health Projects
Ibis International Health
International Women's Health Coalition
Ipas
IPPF Western Hemisphere
PATH
Packard Foundation, India
Swedish International Development Authority

2007 Total Income: 348,322 Euros

2007 Total Expenditures: 322,322 Euros

Audited Financial Statement Available after February 2008 upon request.

For more information contact:

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