

RHM

REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH
MATTERS



Annual Report

2016

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What a year 2016 was! It was a year that brought both anxiety over lingering threats to women's reproductive rights as well as a few occasions for celebration over gained ground. We joined in solidarity with our Polish sisters when they succeeded in stopping a proposed law that if passed, would have made all abortions illegal in Poland. We celebrated when, in the middle of political turmoil in Brazil, the Supreme Court set a landmark precedent by ruling in favour of decriminalisation of abortion in the first trimester. And we rejoiced over the court ruling in *Whole Woman's Health v Hellerstedt* in the US that upheld women's constitutional right to safe and legal abortion. However, towards the end of the year, our anxiety grew with the outcome of the US presidential election, which has cast a dark shadow over many of the hard-won rights of women and minorities.

These events are reminders of the vital role and mission of RHM in such critical times. In the past year, RHM continued to support the generation and dissemination of evidence to strengthen the sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda and joined advocacy efforts to demand the implementation of evidence-informed and rights-based laws, policies and programmes. In 2016, we published the 100th edition of RHM in translation, celebrating dissemination of more than 800 translations of RHM articles in Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian. This effort, realised by our committed regional partners, is in line with our commitment to make knowledge inclusive and accessible to all.

Simultaneously, in light of the changing times, we took important measures to strengthen the RHM journal's foundation by preparing for and enabling its transition to being fully open access to further expand our reach. This model offers immediate free access to all our material and allows advocates, policymakers, community workers, healthcare providers, the civil society and those without institutional journal subscriptions to access our valuable publications more readily – free of charge and without the need to log-in.

The breadth and depth of our contributions through RHM journal as well as our advocacy events are illustrated in this annual report, as are the reach and impact of our efforts. In 2016, RHM articles were read by nearly 300,000 readers from 195 countries. This shows what a truly global organisation we are.

In my second year as the Director and Editor of RHM, I strove to ensure that the organisation remained true to its original mission, while supporting its growth and diversifying its activities. We are indebted to our donor, the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, for their generous support, as well as to other partners for their kind contributions. We are also appreciative of new partners and donors who have confirmed their commitment to supporting the organisation in 2017. Our 2016 achievements would not have been possible without the hard work of a dedicated team and the continuing support of our authors, peer reviewers, readers, global teams, the editorial board members and trustees.

Your support and contributions are all the more vital as we forge ahead during a time when sexual and reproductive health and rights are under constant threat. RHM is committed to remaining at the forefront of this quest for the preservation of such hard-won rights, and aims to exemplify best practices in producing consistently high-quality evidence-based research and policy recommendations, regardless of the volatile political circumstances. As we prepare to meet the challenges that an uncertain global political and economic climate may bring, I would like to thank you for your commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights and to RHM in the past year, and I look forward to fruitful partnerships and your continued contributions in 2017.



SHIRIN HEIDARI
Director and Editor-in-Chief



ABOUT RHM

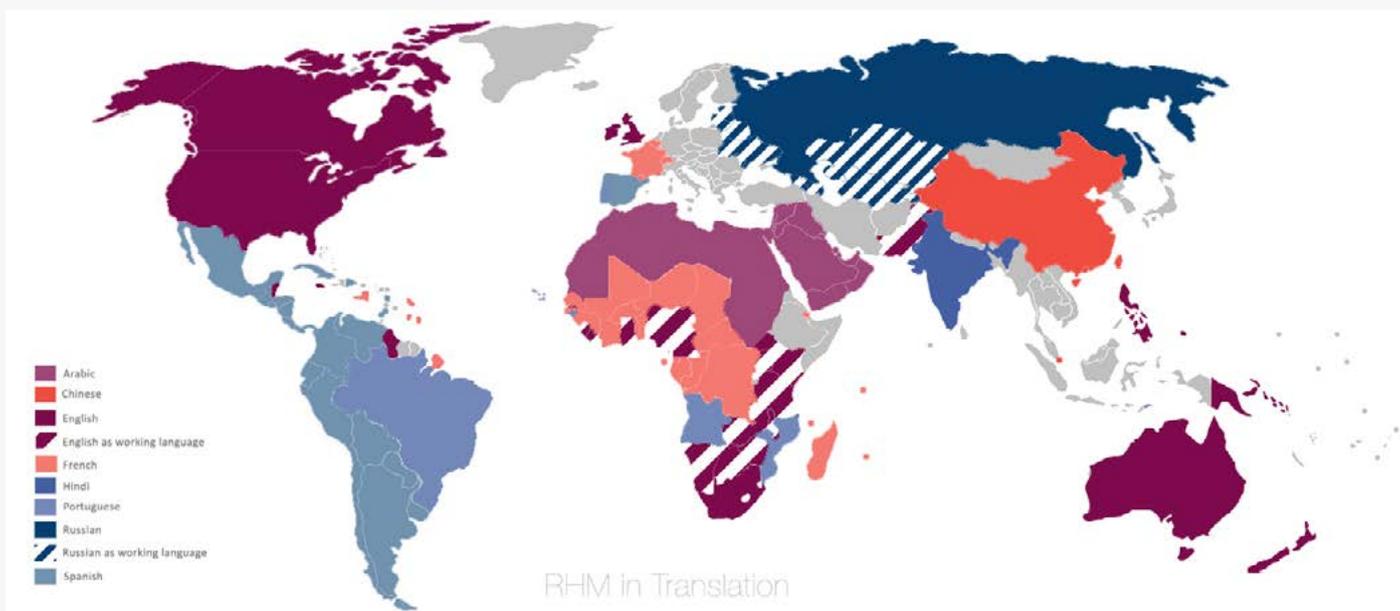
Reproductive Health Matters (RHM) is a non-profit organisation working to advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of people of all ages, regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation, as fundamental human rights and matters of social justice.

OUR MISSION

RHM's mission is to serve as a global platform to motivate and support the development, sharing and use of knowledge, evidence, ideas and experiences that will inform, influence and inspire policy and programmes, and build a critical mass of support for SRHR.

RHM ensures overlooked SRHR issues are integrated into the research and policy agenda of the international community. RHM engages with international partners around the globe in advocating for investment in SRHR research and rights-based and evidence-based SRHR policies and programmes. RHM has a presence in London, Geneva and Cape Town, and engages with regional partners in Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Peru and Russia to ensure translation and dissemination of RHM publications in languages other than English.

THE PUBLICATION OF RHM ARTICLES IN EIGHT MAJOR WORLD LANGUAGES MAKES THE CONTENT GLOBALLY AVAILABLE



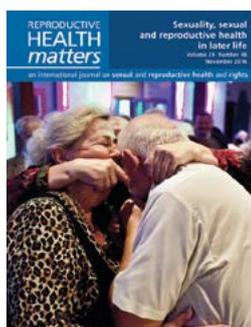
GENERATING EVIDENCE

RHM proactively invites articles about relevant and emerging issues in the global South written by or in collaboration with authors from affected countries. In 2016, with two journal issues per year in English and several translated editions, RHM continued to generate and disseminate SRHR evidence while strengthening the voices of advocates and women around the world.



VIOLENCE: A BARRIER TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS Volume 24 No. 47

This issue aims to deepen our knowledge about the different dimensions of gender-based violence, and expand our insights into effective responses. It sheds light on some of the many circumstances and forms of gender-based violence that impact negatively on people's sexual and reproductive health and their rights, with papers highlighting how the risk of such violence is heightened in conflict and during migration. The journal was co-edited with Claudia Garcia Moreno, Lead Specialist in Violence Against Women at WHO.



SEXUALITY, SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN LATER LIFE Volume 24, Number 48

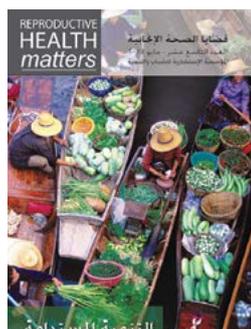
This issue seeks to address the very limited attention that is given to the sexual and reproductive health needs and rights of older adults, with attention to how these needs are affected by factors such as gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, race and other intersectional factors. While filling some gaps, it highlights the need for further research and advocacy to ensure that a life course perspective is incorporated in the global health and development agenda.

RHM IN TRANSLATION



RHM IN ARABIC, NUMBER 20

Title: Violence against women
Website: www.arabicrh.org



RHM IN ARABIC, NUMBER 19

Title: Development goals
Website: www.arabicrhm.org



RHM IN CHINESE, NUMBER 48

Title: Sexuality, sexual and reproductive health in later life
Website: www.jsw.e-health.org.cn/



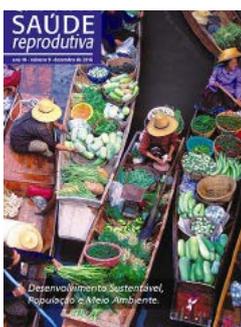
RHM IN CHINESE, NUMBER 47

Title: Violence: a barrier to sexual and reproductive health and rights
Website: www.jsw.e-health.org.cn/



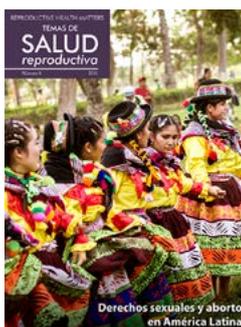
RHM IN FRENCH, NUMBER 4

Title: Maternal mortality or women's health: time for action
Website: www.rhmjournal.org.uk



RHM IN PORTUGUESE, NUMBER 9

Title: Population, environment and sustainable development
Website: www.grupocurumum.org.br



RHM IN SPANISH, NUMBER 9

Title: Sexual and abortion rights in Latin America
Website: www.diassere.org.pe

EXPANDING OUR REACH

RHM co-organised and participated in three events to promote RHM, disseminate relevant SRHR evidence and support its partners in advocating for evidence-informed and rights-based SRHR policies and approaches.

SEXUAL RIGHTS, GENDER AND DIVERSITY

In May 2016, RHM joined CREA and other partners to organise six concurrent sessions on sexual rights, gender and diversity at the Women Deliver conference in Copenhagen.

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AS A BARRIER TO SRHR

RHM participated in and co-sponsored a panel discussion (alongside UNFPA, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and member states Canada, Sweden, and Uruguay), organised by the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research, during the 32nd Human Rights Council in Geneva in June. RHM's Director presented key findings from RHM's latest journal issue, *Violence: a barrier to SRHR*, highlighting the concern over the prevalence of gender-based violence including sexual violence among refugee and migrant women, as well as abusive and disrespectful treatment of women in childbirth in healthcare systems.

SRHR IN CRISIS: PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS MIGRATING TO EUROPE

RHM co-organised an event with Médecins du Monde on the vulnerability of refugee and migrant women arriving in Europe. The panel discussion, which was held at EuroNGOs' conference in Paris, included experts from the Women's Refugee Commission, Women's Links Worldwide and a powerful personal testimony from a refugee woman currently working with refugees at Médecins du Monde. Interviews with some of the panellists are available on the RHM YouTube channel. A full session report is available [online](#).

"There is a need to advocate for gender-sensitive indicators, collection of data disaggregated by sex as well as generation of evidence that can inform policy and practice."

*Shirin Heidari
Reproductive Health Matters*

"60% of maternal mortality and 53% of under-five mortality occur in conflict affected settings. Those settings receive 57% less funding than non-conflict affected settings."

*Sandra Krause
Women's Refugee Commission*

"A paradigm shift is necessary for recognising that not only EU member states are responsible for these violations but also the EU institutions for failing to fulfil their duty of care by not carrying out a human rights impact assessment with a gender perspective."

*Carmen Miguel Juan
Women's Link Worldwide*

Furthermore, RHM lent its support to various advocacy efforts on issues across the field of SRHR. In 2016 RHM:

- endorsed a letter calling on President Bachelet of Chile to give a strong political signal to reform the law on abortion;
- participated in the online campaign to show solidarity with Polish women struggling to regain the abortion choice right they were deprived of 23 years ago;
- endorsed a letter calling on UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to officially recognise 11 April as the International Day for Maternal Health;
- signed the letter presented to the newly elected UN Secretary-General António Guterres to meet up with NGOs for an open dialogue to strengthen support and commitment to the women’s movement, and to ensure they have a strong voice at the UN.

REACHING NEW HORIZONS WITH SRHR EVIDENCE

Throughout 2016, RHM reviewed and revised its communications strategy to strengthen its online presence and continue enhancing RHM’s reputation as a trusted source of SRHR knowledge and evidence. A social media strategy was devised to engage regional partners and RHM authors to assist in the promotion and circulation of newly published articles.

RHM also created a YouTube channel, a LinkedIn account and a Google+ profile to optimise and enhance exposure in organic search results. In

addition, RHM subscribed to key SRHR-related list-serves, published RHM news on partner organisations’ newsletters and websites, and created global institutional mailing lists of academics and NGOs. These efforts are reflected in the overall numbers of downloads of RHM articles in 2016. The most extraordinary results were observed in the RHM journal website with a total of 128,800 downloads in 2016 compared to 42,846 in 2015.

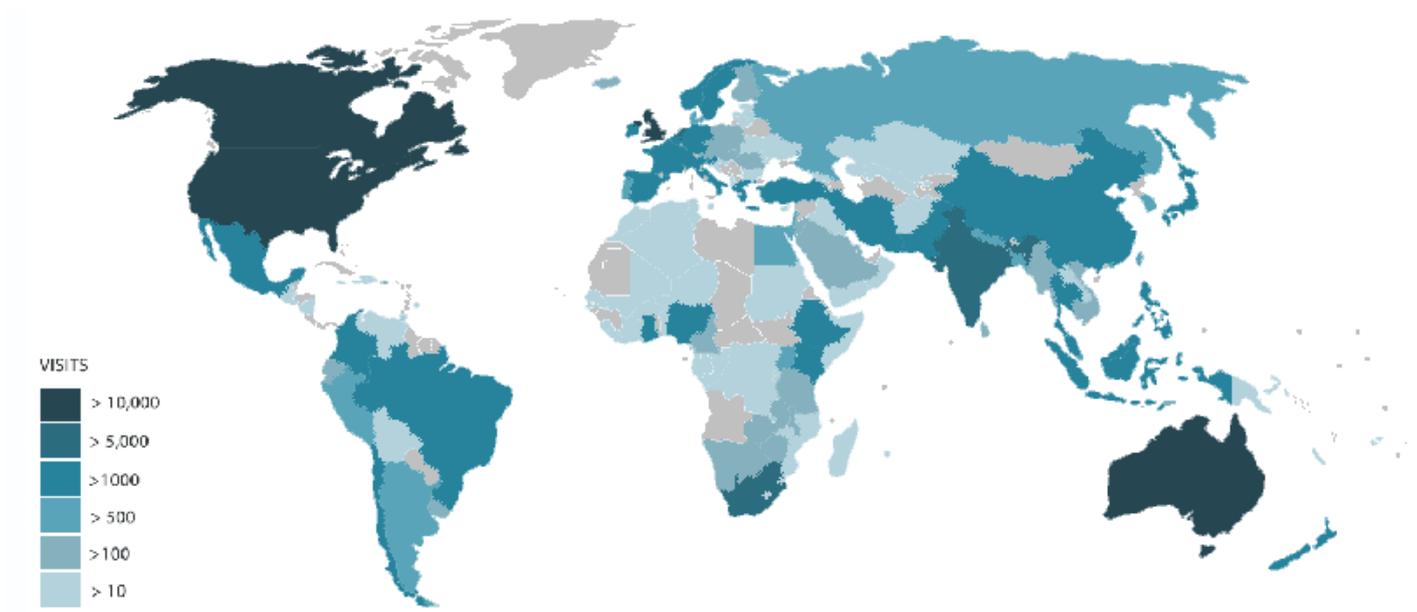
The following boxes list the key websites where RHM articles can be found. In total, 292,563 RHM articles were downloaded in 2016.

Freely available papers in 2015:

- **RHM46** - Open Access
- **RHM47** - Open Access for two months after publication
- **RHM47** - Ten Open Access papers at the discretion of the Editor

SCIENCE DIRECT	RHM JOURNAL	JSTOR	TOTAL
The full text of each issue of the journal and supplement is carried on ScienceDirect, the Elsevier journal platform.	RHM journal’s website hosted by the publisher Elsevier. All visitors can access articles published in and prior to 2015 without a subscription.	This digital archive, open to participating libraries and other institutions, contains back issues of RHM up to three years prior to the current issue.	RHM article usage for 2016 was:
Article downloads: 132,191	Article downloads: 128,800	Article downloads: 31,572	292,563

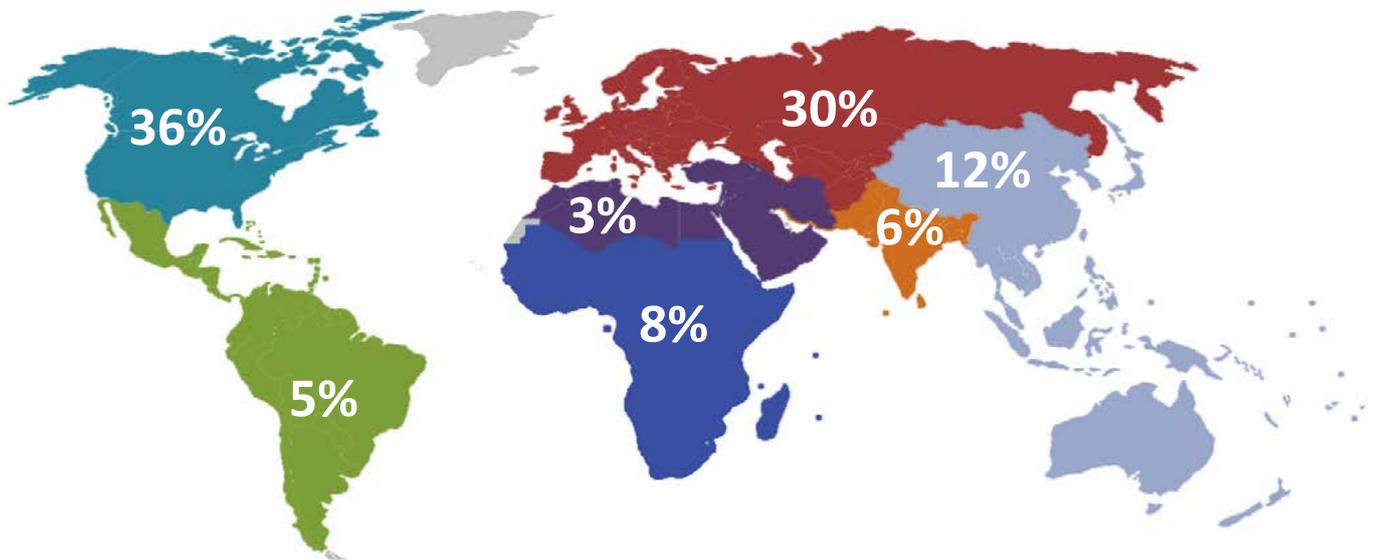
MAPPING RHM JOURNAL'S OVERALL ACCESS IN 2016



* Usage of English articles only

** Figures include pageviews and downloads though RHM journal website and ScienceDirect. Source: Elsevier

ACCESS TO RHM JOURNAL BY REGIONS*



*Usage of English articles only

** Regions are based on the World Health Organization's regional divisions, except that Eastern Mediterranean is referred to as Middle East & North Africa, and the Americas have been divided between North America and Latin American and Caribbean. Data include RHM journal website page views and ScienceDirect downloads.

Source: Elsevier

TOP 10 ARTICLES DOWNLOADED FROM SCIENCE DIRECT

The below table reflects the high relevance of the RHM issue 47, [Violence: a barrier to SRHR](#), making up 50% of the most-read articles in 2016.

ARTICLE TITLE	ISSUE
Invisible wounds: obstetric violence in the United States	May 2016
Moving beyond disrespect and abuse: addressing the structural dimensions of obstetric violence	May 2016
What the eye does not see: a critical interpretive synthesis of European Union policies addressing sexual violence in vulnerable migrants	Nov 2015
Understanding women's experience of violence and the political economy of gender in conflict: the case of Syria	May 2016
Criminalization, legalization or decriminalization of sex work: what female sex workers say in San Francisco, USA	Nov 2009
Sexual and gender-based violence against refugee women: a hidden aspect of the refugee crisis	May 2016
Losing an only child: the one-child policy and elderly care in China	May 2014
The Sexuality Education Initiative: a programme involving teenagers, schools, parents and sexual health services in Los Angeles, CA, USA	May 2013
Systemic violence against Syrian refugee women and the myth of effective intrapersonal interventions	May 2016
The history and role of the criminal law in anti-FGM campaigns: Is the criminal law what is needed, at least in countries like Great Britain?	Nov 2015

*Source: Elsevier

JOURNAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

The Impact Factor measures the frequency with which the average article in the journal has been cited within the designated year. The 2016 Impact Factor for RHM journal is 0.940.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media channels serve as the main communications channels through which RHM promotes the journal and organisation and reaches new audiences while highlighting important issues in SRHR.

Facebook has proved to be the most effective and engaging social media tool, following close monitoring activity during our new issue campaigns. A Facebook post dated 28 June 2016 promoting Carlos Herrera's article, [Obstetric violence: a new framework for identifying challenges to maternal healthcare in Argentina](#), reached more than 2,000 people, was shared 17 times and generated more than 200 post clicks during a three-day period following publicising it.

FACEBOOK

1,111 page Likes across **88** countries:

25% from the US and the UK, followed by India (10%), Peru (8%) and Brazil (8%).

YOUTUBE

During 2016, RHM produced two videos released on the newly created RHM YouTube channel:



THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG – INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

In this video, RHM Associate Editor Heidi Stöckl discusses her research examining the gendered patterns of violence in intimate partner homicide.



TRAPPED IN EUROPE – DIGNITY DENIED

In this video, RHM interviews Women's Link Worldwide on their most recent work regarding human rights violations against migrant women and girls in Europe, bringing a gendered perspective and an intersectional analysis on human rights law.

TWITTER

2,606 followers
across **90** countries

4,993 profile visits

75% of the top
tweets were RHM
-activity related

25% of top tweets
addressed pressing
SRHR news globally

IMPACT

While citations of RHM articles in other academic journals and articles are easy to track, and are captured by the Impact Factor, citation by policy documents and the use of RHM articles as a source of evidence in policy and programme discussions are very hard to obtain.

The below list highlights examples (to our knowledge) of how RHM articles were referenced and used by various UN-funded briefs, university programmes, regional advocacy activities and regional news outlets in 2016:

Two RHM-published articles are listed as key reference texts in the All Survivors Project based in Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law: Weishut, D. [Sexual torture of Palestinian men by Israeli authorities](#) [23(46):2015] and Touquet, H. & Gorris, E. [Out of the shadows? The inclusion of men and boys in conceptualisations of wartime sexual violence](#) [24(47):2016].

The World Bank-funded a resource guide *on violence against older women*, published in May 2016, which cites Bergen Cooper's and Cailin Crockett's article, [Gender based violence & HIV across the life course: adopting a sexual framework to include older women](#) [23(46):2015].

The Maternal Health Task Force, a project of the Women and Health Initiative at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, cites [Moving beyond disrespect and abuse: addressing the structural dimensions of obstetric violence](#) by Michelle Sadler et al. [24(47):2016] as a principal paper in its resource section.

The article, [Gendered pattern of burn injuries in India: a neglected health issue](#) by Padma Bhate-Deosthali and Laxmi Lingam [24(47):2016] was used as the primary source in the feature newspaper article "These figures aren't cooked up", *The Hindu*, 17 July 2016.

Morgan Carpenter's paper, [The human rights of intersex people: addressing harmful practices and rhetoric of change](#) [24(47):2016] was cited in the Submission on the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill presented to the Australian Parliament by OII Australia, Intersex International Australia Limited.

BEING GLOBAL

With a view to making evidence more accessible and overcoming language barriers in global SRHR debates, RHM translates and disseminates selected articles into other languages in collaboration with its regional teams in Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Peru and Russia.



By 2016, 100 RHM translated editions, including more than 800 articles, had been published by RHM's regional teams.

RHM IN ARABIC (CAIRO, EGYPT)

In 2016, the Arabic team published the 19th and 20th issues of RHM in Arabic, [Development Goals](#) and [Violence against Women](#). Both themes were chosen in the wake of the Egyptian government's commitment to meet SDG goals, and particularly, to develop new strategies to combat violence against women. The Arabic team engaged in policy discussions with national policy makers at the Ministry of Health and Population, sharing evidence provided by the journal.

A total of 1,200 copies were printed and distributed in Egypt and elsewhere in the region and displayed at 23 conferences and workshops in Egypt. The dedicated journal site is slowly gaining popularity, receiving more than 200 page views a month with visitors from Iraq, Egypt and Syria. Facebook has proven to be a most effective social media tool as the number of followers doubled in the last year, reaching over 1,104 fans.

EDITOR: Hala El-Damanhoury

PARTNER INSTITUTION: Etijah Foundation, Egypt

WEBSITE: www.arabicrhm.org | FACEBOOK: rhmarabic | TWITTER: @arabicrhm

Print run: 600 copies per issue

RHM IN CHINESE (BEIJING, CHINA)

In China, socio-economic development is bringing about changes in attitude towards SRHR, particularly among the younger generations. The journal editions 46 and 47 focusing on [Sexuality, sexual and reproductive health in later life](#) and [Violence: a barrier to SRHR](#) have proved instrumental to key policy makers and stakeholders as they examine the structural determinants related to SRHR behaviour in young people, including abortion, sexual rights, violence, gendered norms and sexuality education. RHM in Chinese editions are available on two key websites and can now be accessed through mainstreaming channels, such as WeChat and www.pan.baidu.com, that are very popular among younger generations in the region.

EDITORS: Bilian Xiao and Mengchun Jia

PARTNER INSTITUTION: National Research Institute for Family Planning, China

WEBSITE: jsw.e-health.org.cn/jsw/firstpage/dzpk/rhm-1.htm

Online only

RHM IN FRENCH (LONDON, UK)

A further edition of RHM in French was published by the RHM secretariat after a four-year hiatus. The PDF was accessed and downloaded 106 times. In the meantime, RHM is actively seeking partners in francophone Africa to undertake the publication and dissemination of RHM in French in line with its policy of building capacity of regional organisations and networks.

Reproductive Health Matters

WEBSITE: www.rhmjournal.org.uk

Online only

RHM IN HINDI (NEW DELHI, INDIA)

RHM in Hindi began development and publication of the 10th edition of the journal based on the 2015 English language edition, [Sexuality, sexual rights and sexual politics](#). The new Hindi edition will fill gaps, especially for Hindi-speaking activists who are working with women, men and young people on health, gender and sexuality. The edition is particularly useful for activists who are part of social movements and working for sexuality education, young people's health and SRHR issues but affected by the paucity of Hindi reading material. A total of 2,777 journal editions were downloaded for 2016.

EDITOR: Shalini Singh

PARTNER INSTITUTION: CREA, India

WEBSITE: creaworld.org/publications/reproductive-health-matters

Online only

RHM IN PORTUGUESE (RECIFE, BRAZIL)

The ninth issue of RHM in Portuguese focuses on [Population, environment and sustainable development](#), with articles charting the complex interconnections between population and sexual and reproductive rights in the post-2015 development agenda. In the current Brazilian context, a regression in social policies and an increased threat of food insecurity constitute important obstacles to universal access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health. The articles in this edition help to illustrate the perverse effects of neoliberal economic policies and the challenges posed to the financing of public policies and civil society organisations in developing countries.

Since 2015, the RHM in Portuguese team have been working hard at reaching new followers as they fully transitioned to an online only journal. The journal can be found on our partner website, Grupo Curumim, as well as on Issuu (a free electronic publishing platform) for the promotion of individual articles and to facilitate dissemination and access. Although no data is being provided by our regional website master, RHM-posted articles on Issuu receive on average 100 visits per month.

EDITORS: Ana Paula Portella and Simone Diniz
Partner Institution: Grupo Curumim, Brazil

Website: www.grupocurumim.org.br/site/revista | FACEBOOK [questoesaudereprodutiva](#) TWITTER: @RHMBrazil
Online only

RHM IN RUSSIAN (MOSCOW, RUSSIA)

The seventh Russian edition of the RHM journal on [Cosmetic surgery, body image and sexuality](#) can now be found on our partner's website www.ranir.ru/prz for which a specific page for RHM in Russian has been created. Cosmetic surgery, and in particular genital cosmetic surgery, represents a growing trend in the region, particularly in Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The total number of downloaded issues was 4,267 for 2016, with most readers accessing the journal outside Russia coming from Moldova, Georgia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

EDITOR: Lyubov Erofeeva
PARTNER INSTITUTION: Russian Association for Population & Development, Russia
WEBSITE: www.ranir.ru/prz
PRINT RUN: 1,500 copies

RHM IN SPANISH (LIMA, PERU)

The ninth edition of RHM in Spanish focuses in part on the political aspect of sexual rights and reports on the consequences of violations, providing much-needed evidence and support to inform debates and SRHR advocacy efforts in the region. This edition also addresses another key issue relevant to the entire region: women's access to safe abortion practices.

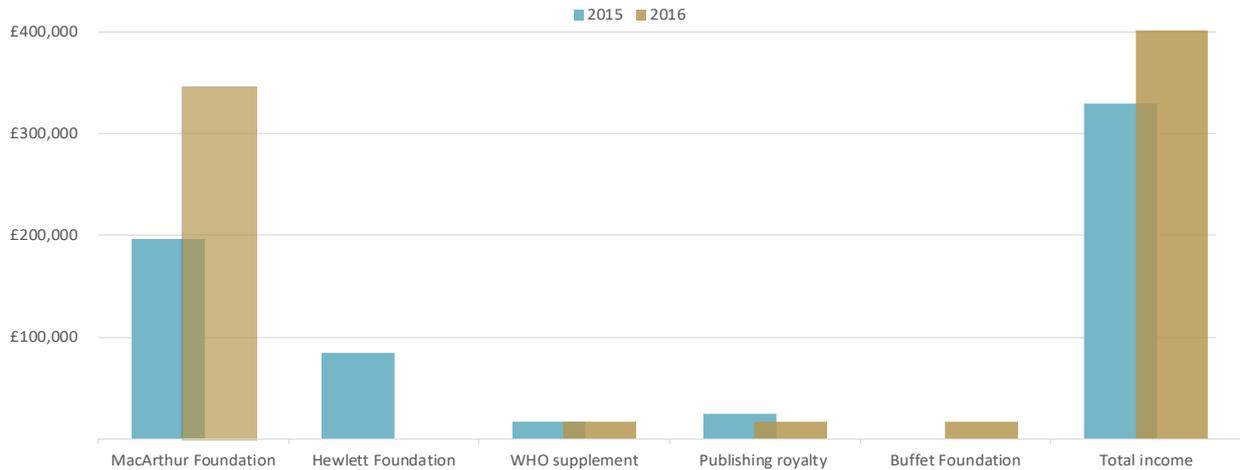
RHM in Spanish monitored a total of 9,597 article downloads for 2016. Readers are based mainly in Mexico (24%), Peru (17%), Argentina (14.6%) and Colombia (9%). The Temas de Salud Facebook fan page has recorded a 107% rise in followers since 2015, reaching a total of 648 by the end of 2016.

EDITORS: Nancy Palomino Ramírez and Mariella Sala
PARTNER INSTITUTION: Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru
WEBSITE: www.diassere.org.pe/temas-de-salud-reproductiva | FACEBOOK: Temas-de-SALUD-reproductiva
Online only

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RHM's overall financial performance improved significantly in 2016. Total income increased by 22% from £329k in 2015 to £402k in 2016.

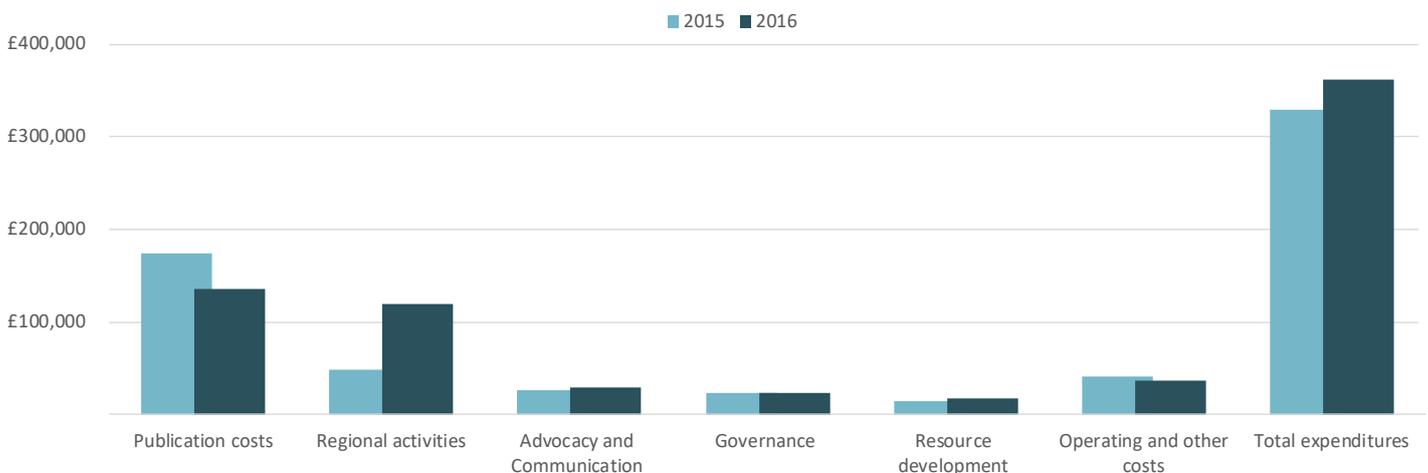
RHM REVENUES



A surplus of £13k this year was contributed towards the reserves position.

The increase in total expenditure is a result of the increased level of project activities on the MacArthur Foundation multi-year grant carried out in 2016. Of the total expenditure, 37% was applied to publications and a further 33% to regional activities to support the work of RHM's regional partners.

RHM EXPENDITURES



RHM's achievements in 2016 would not have been possible without the generous support of our donor, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

GOVERNANCE

RHM's staff members and consultants are operating from London, Geneva and Cape Town. RHM's Board of Trustees and Editorial Board are comprised of 35 members from 23 countries chosen to bring diverse expertise on sexual and reproductive health and rights.



RHM SECRETARIAT

Shirin Heidari - Director and Editor-in-Chief, Geneva, Switzerland

Pathika Martin - Administration Manager and Monitoring Editor, London, UK

Sarah Pugh - Managing Editor and Advocacy Officer, Cape Town, South Africa

Maria Halkias - Communications Manager, Geneva, Switzerland

Matt Kadel - Finance Officer, London, UK

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Angela Davies - Treasurer, Director, Partridge Consultancy Ltd, UK (until June)

Stephanie Schlitt - Treasurer, Independent consultant, UK (from October)

Jocelyn DeJong - Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Simone Diniz - Professor, Department of Maternal and Infant Health, Faculty of Public Health, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Monique Middelhoff - Senior HIV and Health Advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands (from October)

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Sapna Desai - Associate, Population Council, India

Laura Ferguson - Associate Director, Program on Global Health & Human Rights; Assistant Professor at the Institute for Global Health at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, USA

Heidi Stöckl - Associate Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

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- Viroj Tangcharoensathien** - Senior Expert, Health Economics and Advisor to International Health Policy Programme, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
- Paul Van Look** - Independent consultant; Honorary Professor, University of Szeged, Hungary
- Dilys Walker** - Managing Director, President and Chair of the Board of Directors PRONTO; Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health at the University of California, USA



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