

PREVIEW:

Landscape Study on Equity & Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHR) INGOs

TIM  Transforming INGO Models for Equity

Transforming INGO Models for Equity (TIME) is a collaboration-based initiative that seeks to explore how SRHR INGOs can and should rethink how they operate to contribute to equitable development

International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) increasingly recognize that to contribute to equitable development in the future, they need to rethink how they operate today. At the same time, moving from talk to action is easier said than done, for any goal and in any industry. While INGOs can hold positions with significant power in the global SRHR ecosystem, they also operate with external constraints and longstanding traditions. This complex and heavily layered environment can make it hard for the leadership of any given INGO to know what changes would make a meaningful difference, and how to affect that change.

TIME acknowledges the fundamental truth that such work cannot be done in a vacuum. It must be done in collaboration with the many different stakeholders involved. In fact, the story of TIME began with collaboration. For this reason, in 2021, when the leaders of four SRHR INGOs¹ were all independently thinking about how to transform their organizations to contribute to equitable development, they decided to work together. That initial group of leaders spurred the creation of the TIME Initiative, based on the belief that SRHR INGOs need to acknowledge and learn from their history, use their place of power to amplify progress in the present, and co-create a more equitable future. The design phase of the TIME Initiative is supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

SRHR is a continually evolving field. So, in its first year TIME asked the question “what is happening now?”

This is what we did:

40+ resources referenced in a literature review on the evolution of the SRHR sector



>150 organizations working in SRHR in sub-Saharan Africa identified as part of stakeholder mapping exercise



8 Key Informant Interviews with INGOs and locally led NGOs



Landscape Analysis Report

- History of INGOs role in SRHR
- Power dynamics between INGOs and locally led NGOs
- Barriers and opportunities for equitable partnerships



55 total responses to online survey (English and French) targeting locally led NGO and networks based sub-Saharan Africa



4 In-depth interviews with community-based organizations, regional organizations, and networks

¹EngenderHealth, PRB, Population Council, Ipas

This is what we found:



How INGOs Operate

- Funders have strong influence on INGO models
- Some INGOs are acquiring local status



Partnerships

- INGOs remain relevant in advancing SRHR in sub-Saharan Africa
- National NGOs (NNGOs) depend on INGO support
- Short-term partnerships can have negative impact on NNGO sustainability



Risk

- Lack of trust is a barrier to meaningful partnerships
- Eligibility criteria disqualifies many NNGOs at the start



Funding

- NNGOs have less power in deciding and shaping program and funding priorities than INGOs
- Youth-led and small NNGOs have poor access to direct funding

SRHR INGOs need to address how they operate, partner, manage risk, and shift funding if they want to be equitable, resilient, and accountable.

In the next phase, we will ask “how do we do it?”



What does transformation look like for the SRHR field?
What does it look like for my organization?



What practical, transformative steps can INGOs take? What is the role of the rest of the ecosystem (including funders and NNGOs)?



How do we build a coalition of INGOs ready to transform?

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Hear our ideas for the next phase of TIME and add your own!



**IN-PERSON
TIME SIDE EVENT**
ICFP in Pattaya, Thailand
Tues, Nov 15
7-9pm local time

VIRTUAL WEBINAR
(English/French)
Tues, Nov 29

Sign up to receive periodic email updates and invitations, including the final landscape analysis report. <https://www.engenderhealth.org/program/time-for-srhr>

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