

JANUARY 2023

# ANSER NEWS



## Dear SRHR stakeholder,

The Academic Network for Reproductive Health and Rights Policy (ANSER) wishes all of you a Happy New Year! We are pleased to share the first ANSER newsletter of 2023. With three new member institutions and several important meetings & projects happening over the last months, we have a lot to inform you about. Enjoy your read!

## Three new members joined the network

During the ANSER Members Meeting from 22 until 24 of November 2022 in Ghent, three institutions got their membership application approved:

- AMREF International University (Kenya)
- Bern University of Applied Sciences (Switzerland)
- WZB Berlin Social Science Centre (Germany)

We are proud to say that ANSER now exists of 42 member institutions covering 24 countries all over the world. More details on our members can be found [here](#).



## ANSER Stakeholder Meeting 2022 report is out

Over 50 participants joined the annual online ANSER Stakeholder Meeting on the 9th of November. Practitioners, policy makers and civil society representatives were updated about the ANSER work but they also pitched what data gaps they experienced in their work as non-academics in the SRHR field. This input was used by the ANSER members to guide the priorities for 2023 as a network. The report can be found [here](#).

## 11 policymakers & 15 PhD students trained to link SRHR evidence, practice & policy

ANSER organised two important trainings over the last months. A one week online course in collaboration with UNFPA Eastern Europe Central Asia to train young policy makers in the region and a two weeks ANSER Doctoral Course. The next ANSER Doctoral Course will take place in 2024.



## Updates from our members...

International Reproduction Policy Database (IRPD): **WZB Berlin Social Science Center** is developing in collaboration with the **Universidade NOVA De Lisboa**, the **University of Antwerp**, **Rutgers** and other partners the first harmonized international database on reproduction policies between 1980 and 2020 in 31 high-income countries: <https://irpd.wzb.eu/>

Reproductive geopolitics: **The Bern University of Applied Sciences** is researching the linkages between asylum and integration policy within the migration regime and how it is entangled with discourses on reproduction and population, imaginaries of a (un)desired integration and the specific politics of care and reproduction in Switzerland: <https://reproductivegeopolitics.ch/governing-and-contesting-in-fertility-in-swiss-asylum/>

Social and Behavior change communication strategy on Child, Early & Forced Marriage (CEFM) in Sudan: **GRACe** worked with UNICEF & the National Council of Child Welfare to analyze existing studies and target a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, with the outcomes of suggested approaches and tools.

Heat Indicators for Global Health (High Horizon): **Ghent University** together with **Karolinska Institutet** and other partners have started a Horizon Europe project to address the impact of extreme heat on key vulnerable groups, namely pregnant and postpartum women, newborns and children and health workers, both in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa: <https://www.high-horizons.eu/>

Study on drivers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) & CEFM in Western Sudan: **GRACe** did this study and disseminated results with national stakeholders to support them in developing action plans, programs and policies for ending these two practices.

REFPER - Reproductive Health: The **Bern University of Applied Sciences** is conducting a participatory research study to understand the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs of refugee women in Switzerland and their experiences in accessing SRH services: <https://www.bfh.ch/en/research/reference-projects/reproduktive-gesundheit/>

*We were able to dialogue and discuss opportunities from the most diverse experiences of the participants, which has been a source of inspiration for future collaborations between institutions, countries and even regions in the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights.*

**Prof. Elena Monserrath Jerves**  
Universidad de Cuenca (Ecuador)

### Reflections on the ANSER Members Meeting 22-24 Nov. 2022

*I look forward to interacting more with the other network members and to have cultivated new academic contacts and partners. Already this first meeting resulted in a joint application for coming activities.*

**Prof. Mats Målvist**  
Uppsala University (Sweden)



## Upcoming events where ANSER is involved

LEUROGIN 2023 (Spain, Feb. 7-11, 2023): **Cuenca University** will present - <https://www.eurogin.com/en/home.html>

Be-Cause Health International Conference (Belgium, March 23-24, 2023): **Ghent University** has submitted abstracts - <https://www.be-causehealth.be/en/bch-news/call-for-abstracts-and-organised-sessions-breaking-taboos-in-global-health-2/>

**Riga Stradins University** Research Week (Latvia, March 27-31, 2023) - <https://rw2023.rsu.lv/>

Human Rights Research Network Conference (Belgium, Dec. 6-8, 2023): **ANSER** is leading SRHR challenges stream - <https://hrrn.ugent.be/>

**Listen to what our  
members have to  
say about being  
a member of  
ANSER...**

[CLICK HERE](#)



# Recent joint publications

**Vega Crespo B**, Neira VA, Ortiz Segarra J, Andrade A, Guerra G, Ortiz S, Flores A, Mora L, Verhoeven V, **Gama A, Dias S, Verberckmoes B, Vermandere H, Michelsen K, Degomme O**. Barriers and facilitators to cervical cancer screening among under-screened women in Cuenca, Ecuador: the perspectives of women and health professionals. BMC Public Health. 2022 Nov 22;22(1):2144. doi: 10.1186/s12889-022-14601-y. PMID: 36414955; PMCID: PMC9682802.

Song C., **Buyse A, Zhang WH**, Lu CY., Zhao MJ, **Dewaele, A**. The factor structure and measurement invariance of the coping inventory for stressful situations in a sexual minority population. Journal of Homosexuality. 2022. doi:10.1080/00918369.2022.2122366.

**Orwa J**, Gatimu SM, Ngugi A, Agwanda A, **Temmerman M**. Factors associated with use of long-acting reversible and permanent contraceptives among married women in rural Kenya: A community-based cross-sectional study in Kisii and Kilifi counties. PLoS One. 2022 Oct 6;17(10):e0275575. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0275575. eCollection 2022. PMID: 36201509



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