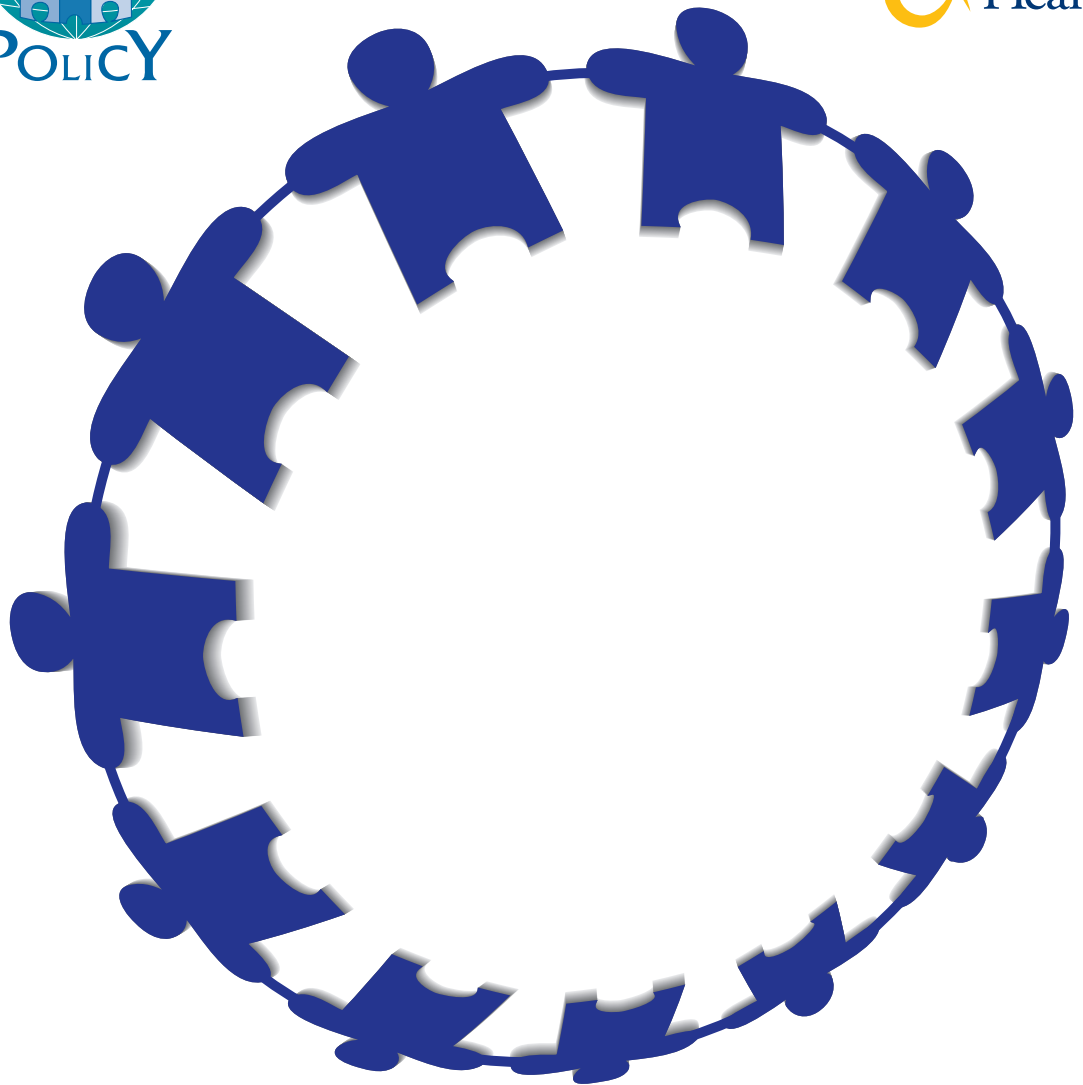


Networking for Policy Change: An Advocacy Training Manual Maternal Health Supplement



The POLICY Project

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Introduction

Purpose of the Advocacy Manual

This document serves as a supplement to *Networking for Policy Change: An Advocacy Training Manual*, a resource for trainers of family planning and reproductive health advocacy issues worldwide. The training manual includes information on networking, communications, and policy environments; exercises on conceptualizing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating advocacy campaigns; and relevant materials for advocates working in any area of reproductive health. Trainers can use the training techniques employed in the manual in various contexts, including when maternal health is the focus of advocacy.

Why a Supplement on Maternal Health?

In creating this series of supplements and training modules, the POLICY Project recognizes that certain reproductive health topics require specific information that goes beyond the examples and materials included in the original manual. Maternal health is one of those issues. Other topics in the supplement series include the Adolescent Reproductive Health Supplement, the HIV/AIDS Supplement, and the Human Rights Supplement. The training module series consist of the following: Reproductive Health Planning and Finance: Challenges, Approaches and the Advocate's Role, Sustainability: Ensuring the Advocacy Network's Future, and Building Effective NGO-Public Sector Partnerships. As with any area, there are special concerns that must be addressed when talking about advocacy for maternal health. The goal of maternal health is to ensure that every woman has access to a full range of high-quality, affordable sexual and reproductive health services—especially maternal care and treatment of obstetric emergencies to reduce deaths and disabilities.¹ Issues surrounding pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period are integrally related to the status of women, and their ability to seek health care. Maternal health is a human right and must be underpinned by laws and policies that support effective action to increase women's access to basic education, adequate nutrition, economic resources, as well as appropriate health services.

Who Should Use This Supplement?

This supplement is intended to reach essentially the same audiences as the original manual. It is not intended that the exercises be used only by advocacy networks concerned exclusively with maternal health issues (which are relatively few). It is also intended to serve those advocacy networks that advocate for family planning and reproductive health issues and have identified maternal health as a key focus area.

¹Based on commitments made at the World Summit for Children, International Conference on Population and Development, World Summit on Social Development, Fourth World Conference on Women, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Structure of the Supplement

Following a general overview of maternal health issues, the supplement follows the same structure as the manual and is divided into three main sections:

- *The Power of Numbers: Networking for Impact*
- *Actors, Issues, and Opportunities: Assessing the Policy Environment*
- *The Advocacy Strategy: Mobilizing for Action*

The three sections contain a total of 27 units. Each unit includes supplemental background notes, handouts, and suggestions to the trainer to tailor each activity to the subject of maternal health. Many of the manual's activities apply equally to maternal health as to other topic areas, while other activities are enhanced by a specific focus on maternal health.

General Guidance to the Trainer

- Use the materials flexibly. Many of the notes and handouts can be used in more than one activity.
- In many cases, where the manual uses an approach that is applicable to all audiences, the activities need not be changed.
- Encourage participants to give their own examples of maternal health issues and advocacy opportunities. The issues vary from country to country and community to community, and the voices of workshop participants will make the subject real and create and maintain the advocacy programs that are so critical to society.
- Many advocates are already fighting for greater attention to maternal health concerns and you can bring out these experiences to enrich the training dialogue.