



Assessing health rights of women



Women's Human Rights

Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument

Across the world, NGOs are advocating health rights of women. *Aim for human rights* has developed a practical tool to assist organisations in analysing what really happens with the international obligations that States have on women's health rights: the Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument (HeRWAI). Through a HeRWAI analysis, NGOs can formulate powerful rights based arguments that can be used to lobby for concrete actions to improve the situation of women.

Comparing actual policy with human rights obligations

HeRWAI is a practical tool for organisations that want to bring a human rights approach into practice. Through a HeRWAI analysis, organisations can link what actually happens with what should happen according to the human rights obligations of a country.

Basis and application

HeRWAI can be used to analyse a wide variety of subjects related to women's health rights, such as violence against women, maternal mortality and access to mental health care. The analysis includes local, national and international influences and is based on the norms set by the UN-women's convention (CEDAW) and the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).



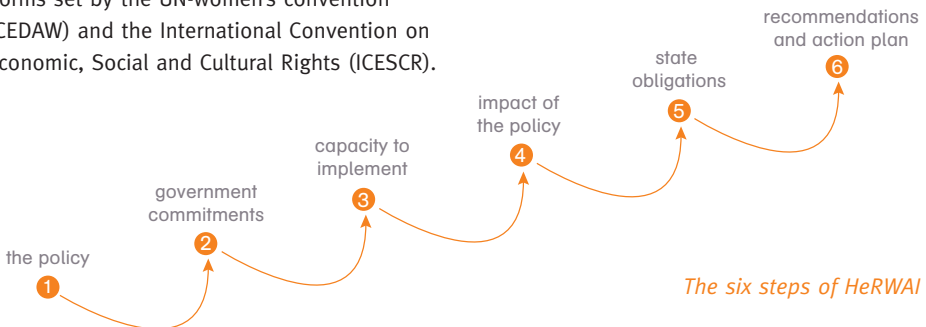
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How does it work?

The HeRWAI analysis is divided into six steps. Each of these steps consists of a brief explanation of the main human rights issues related, followed by a number of questions to guide the data collection and analysis. Explanations, examples and checklists help to answer the questions. A full HeRWAI analysis may take several months. You can limit the amount of time needed by strategically selecting the questions. Another option is to use the HeRWAI discussion guide, for a quick analysis of the main human rights issues, in up to two days.

The result

The HeRWAI analysis results in a concrete set of recommendations to improve the impact of policy on women's health. This is combined with an action plan to lobby for acceptance of the recommendations and raise awareness about the findings.



The six steps of HeRWAI

Using HeRWAI in your work

HeRWAI is developed by NGOs, for NGOs; in particular women's organisations, health organisations and human rights organisations. It supports their advocacy to make governments accountable for the implementation of women's health rights. Since the end of 2006, dozens of local and international NGOs have successfully applied HeRWAI in their work.



Why use HeRWAI?

Using HeRWAI to analyse a policy helps to:

- gain a better understanding of the current situation;
- make a direct link between policy and relevant human rights issues;
- make an assessment of the human rights impact of the policies, both now and in the future;
- form a conclusion about what the government should do and what your organisation can do to press the government into action.

HeRWAI is a practical instrument

- It provides a useful tool for rights based analysis;
- It integrates women's rights (CEDAW) and health rights (ICESCR);
- It enables NGOs to analyse national as well as international human rights responsibilities;
- It creates an additional way for NGOs to make use of human rights treaties;
- It empowers NGOs to demand accountability from governments.

HeRWAI in practice

HeRWAI has been used by organisations from different parts of the world: among others Bangladesh, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, the Netherlands and Pakistan. Reports of organisations that have worked with HeRWAI can be found at www.humanrightsimpact.org.

Download HeRWAI or request a free copy

HeRWAI can be downloaded at www.aimforhumanrights.org/herwai. The tool is available in English, Spanish and Indonesian. For a hard copy, please contact the Women's Human Rights team of *Aim for human rights* via s.bakker@aimforhumanrights.org or tel. +31 (0)30 233 40 27.

Support to users

The HeRWAI manual is self-explanatory. However, for most NGOs applying human rights principles in practice is rather new. Therefore, *Aim for human rights* can provide advice and training to organisations that start using HeRWAI. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss the possibilities.



Aim for human rights

Aim for human rights, formerly HOM, is a Dutch organisation which has been working for human rights worldwide since 1981. About 25 employees strive to realise this objective at our office in Utrecht (the Netherlands). *Aim for human rights* has a humanist background, and thus values such as freedom, equality and human dignity are at the foundation of our work.

“We think HeRWAI is a very useful tool. It will assist us to focus our information, to call the government into account and it will also inform our shadow report. HeRWAI sets a framework for what the government is supposed to do and has in fact been doing: it helps to identify gaps.”

Phildah Muzofa, Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association

“HeRWAI works on two levels: first, it helps to empower community women, because the information you get gives women knowledge on issues of women’s health rights. Secondly, it strengthens our advocacy: if we follow the process, we have evidence based on research and the law.”

Babu Ram Gautam, Nepal Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC)

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