



UNFPA and Rehabilitation International Joint Initiative Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women and Young People with Disabilities

Newsletter

Issue 2, December 2021

About the UNFPA and RI Joint Initiative

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Rehabilitation International (RI) established the partnership in December 2019. The cooperation aims to contribute to strengthening sexual and reproductive health information and services for women and young people with disabilities in both China and developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region in support of the full realization of disability inclusive development.

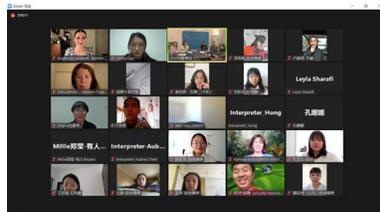
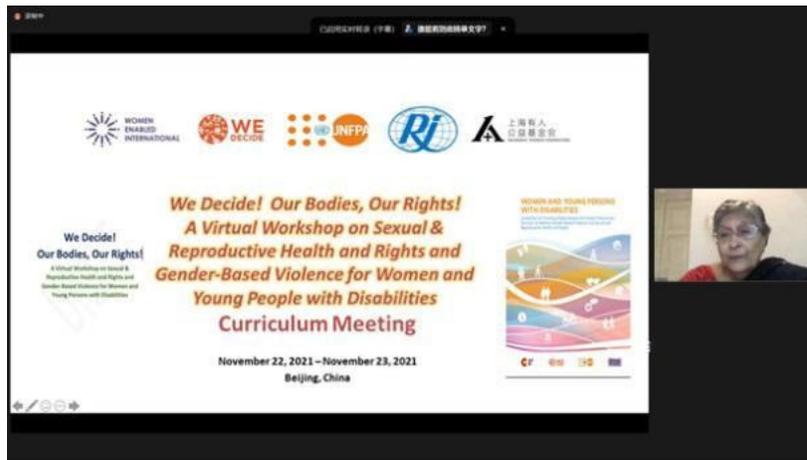
Development of the training package for in-country roll out of the UNFPA-WEI Guidelines addressing GBV and SRH needs and rights of women and young people with disabilities

We Decide! Our Bodies, Our Rights!

**A Virtual Workshop on Sexual &
Reproductive Health and Rights and
Gender-Based Violence for Adult and
Young Women with Disabilities**

In 2021, with the support of RI, UNFPA, WEI (Women Enabled International) and Chinese organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) developed a training package to raise awareness of key stakeholders on the rights of women and young persons with disabilities on SRHR and GBV. This training package is based on the first two chapters of the UNFPA/WEI guidelines, *Women and Young Persons with Disabilities: Guidelines for Providing Rights-Based and Gender-Responsive Services to Address Gender-Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*.

To ensure that the training package reflects the needs and interests of persons with disabilities (PWDs), the curriculum was developed through a participatory process with the involvement of Chinese OPDs, especially Shanghai Youren Foundation, that involved several rounds of virtual consultation, detailed review of the written content and collecting experiential feedback from the virtual workshop.



On 22-23 Nov. 2021, UNFPA, RI, WEI and Youren Foundation organized a workshop entitled “We decide! Our bodies, our rights! A virtual workshop on sexual & reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence for women and young people with disabilities”, in order to pilot the training package on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV) for PWDs and to collect additional feedback on the virtual workshop manual. Prof. Asha Hans, Vice Chair of RI Education Commission, delivered the opening remarks.

Around 45 PWDs and more than 20 OPDs proactively participated in the workshop. With the support of a zoom usage guide for PWDs, Chinese sign language and live captioning in Chinese, every participant experienced a truly barrier-free hybrid training.

More than 20 PWDs and 10 OPDs, representing different age groups, gender and types of disability from across China, provided their written feedback about the training manual and piloting workshop. The feedback on the training manual's structure, core concepts and the virtual activities was used for the further improvement of the training package.

Advocacy on GBV and SRH needs and rights of women and young people with disabilities



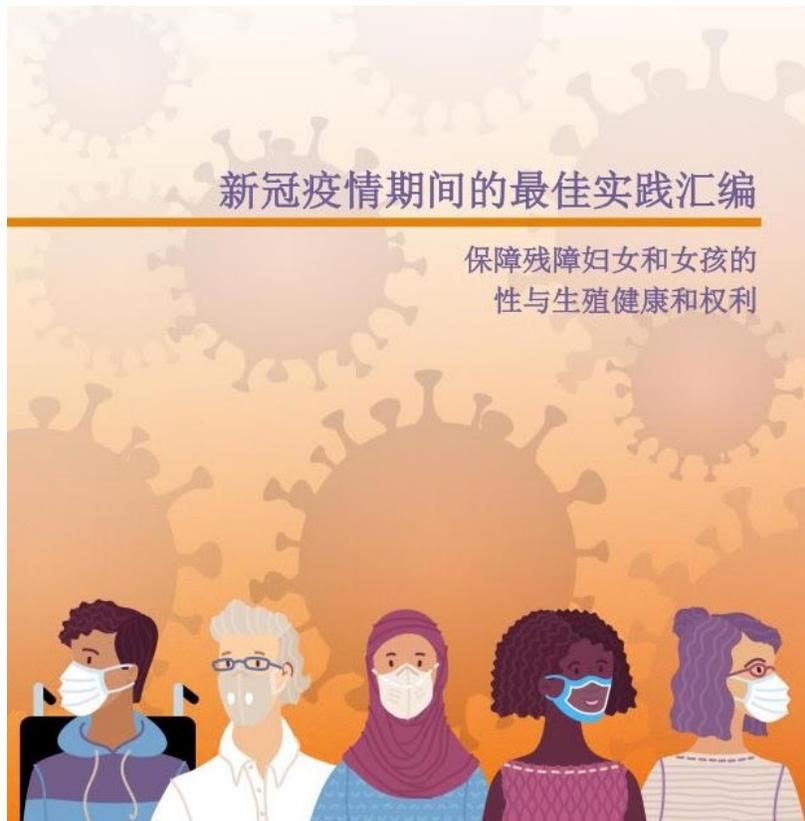
With UNFPA China support, Shanghai Youren Foundation held a "Disability Film Festival" with the theme "Disability & Sexuality" during the Month of Disability Voice (the whole of November every year) - a national online and offline disability advocacy campaign initiated by grassroots OPDs from 2014 - 2021. Ten OPDs were recruited to hold film screenings and advocacy events, and 220 people, the majority PWDs,

attended the events and watched films offline or online. The selected movies such as *Tout le Monde Debout* (Rolling to You) and *Hasta la Vista!* (See you again) were played and discussions were held from a rights-based perspective about disability and sexuality.

To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, UNFPA China also published the story of a Chinese advocate: “Cai Cong: An advocate to empower women and young people with disabilities” at UNFPA’s website.

[To learn more about the story.](#)

Translation and dissemination of resource pack on GBV and SRH needs and rights of women and young people with disabilities



The selected video, tools and compendium of good practices on SRHR, GBV, and COVID-19 were translated into Chinese. The resource pack aims to provide guidance for future programming to ensure PWDs’ rights and needs, especially in relation to SRHR and GBV, are fully included during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the recovery from COVID-19 and beyond. The Chinese knowledge and communication assets were shared with partners for awareness raising and advocacy of quality SRHR services to PWDs.

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