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THIS REPORT

This is the seventh annual report of Reproductive Health Matters (RHM). It covers the calendar year 1 January - 31 December 1999, which is also the financial year of the project.

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

"To advance education for the public benefit concerning all aspects of the reproductive health and reproductive rights of women worldwide, in particular by the production of regular publications in this field."

In furtherance of these objects, in 1999 RHM produced and distributed two issues of the journal *Reproductive Health Matters* (Volume 7, Numbers 13 and 14); published and began to distribute its second special publication, entitled *Safe Motherhood Initiatives: Critical Issues*; continued to distribute the special publication *Beyond Acceptability: Users' Perspectives on Contraception*; wrote and edited the *Report of the NGO Forum on ICPD+5 (The Hague)* for the World Population Foundation; supported the production of two issues of the Chinese version of the journal by the National Research Institute for Family Planning in China and the production of the second Arabic edition of the journal by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies.

There were no major changes or additions to the policies of the charity.

ORGANISATION OF THE CHARITY

In 1999, the charity consisted of a staff (editor, two freelance co-editors, an editorial assistant, an administrator/promotion officer, a finance officer who is engaged on an hourly basis, a voluntary international Board of Trustees/Directors of seven people and a voluntary international Editorial Advisory Board of 38 people.
(See Appendix 1)

THE JOURNAL

Living without Children

Volume 7, Number 13, 1999

Previous issues of the journal, when they have been about having children, have mainly focused on aspects of controlling fertility or making pregnancy safer, both of which assume fertility is intact and childbearing is possible. The papers in this journal issue are about the experience of trying to have children for those to whom it does not come easily, about the value of children and the question of whether having children is desirable or not. They are about children never thought of, children never conceived, children conceived but miscarried or stillborn, and children who have died. They are about assisted conception as a means of fulfilling the desire for genetic and biological offspring, and about alternatives such as adoption and use of donor eggs and sperm. They raise issues of who is worthy to be a mother and what qualifies as motherhood in the first place. They are about women who long for children but have not had them, women who have had children and lost them, and women who do not want children and have not had to have them.

These papers are not about reproductive health per se but about reproduction itself and its social significance. Many of the papers address their subject in personal ways and more of them than usual for *RHM* come from developed countries. This was not surprising in that this topic gets much more research and media attention than in developing countries and there are comparatively good social and health services available to support those who seek to adopt or to get infertility treatment.

Infertility is the poor sister and the last frontier of reproductive health work in developing countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, infertility related to sexually transmitted disease is a substantial public health problem. Further, the papers from several African countries and India indicate that living without children is a problem so shrouded in silence in some cases that many people will not talk about it at all. Those who have good reasons not to have (more) children, including HIV positive women, dare not even consider this option openly, let alone act upon it in many cases. The punitive consequences for women who are publicly identified as childless are enormous in many societies. Hence, fertility problems are among the most common reasons why women attend primary care clinics, yet often they do not receive adequate care and are sent away with 'medications' which do not resolve the problems. Further, wherever infant mortality remains high, 'living without children' is about much more than infertility alone.

This journal issue aimed to contribute to the slowly growing attention to this problem in developing country settings where, in many forums, it is being identified as a serious problem for both women and men.

THE JOURNAL

Access to Reproductive Health: A Question of Distributive Justice Volume 7, Number 14, 1999

The papers in this issue of the journal address access to sexual and reproductive health analytically and conceptually as well as through empirical studies of specific aspects of health, health problems and health systems. They look at the interface of the individual's state of health and the social, economic, political, and public health circumstances in which they live, as well as the condition of the health and welfare services available to them. Globally, they show that access is first and foremost about political geography and the divide in access to wealth and resources between North and South. No country can consider itself autonomous or in isolation from others in the face of these issues.

Distributive justice is about equity of access to the means of health; it is about the differentials in health due to class, race, gender and other means of social exclusion and marginalisation. It is also to do with basic public health measures, the structure of health services, health sector reform (including project-based and sector-wide approaches), the content and practice of law and policy, the effectiveness of interventions and how much they cost, evidence-based clinical practice, the role of health professionals and the quality of their training, the quality of diagnosis and treatment, the quality of public health education and preventive health measures, and the availability and use of drugs and technology.

Not least it is about how public health measures, health education and health care services are financed and carried out. The decision whether to ration state-financed health services so that they are available: (i) to those most in need of care, or (ii) to those who cannot pay, or (iii) free to everyone, or (iv) free to everyone for some procedures and for a fee to everyone for others, are just a few examples of the choices which health policymakers are facing throughout the world today. Several papers and a number of publications in the Round-Up discuss these issues.

Some papers look at personal behaviour in relation to health and sexuality: whether people seek care when they need it and whether and how well they are treated when they do. Further, they discuss the stigma associated with certain diseases, not least HIV/AIDS, which makes many people hide the fact that they are infectious from those they are most intimate with, putting them at risk as a result.

This journal issue shows that the locus of control in order to make significant improvements in access to sexual and reproductive health is not easy to determine. These issues are of concern in very different ways in developed versus developing countries, because of the enormous differential in the kinds of problems that exist. In the developed world, equity and access have become burning issues because cutbacks in and rationing of health care are on the agenda, and services are being reduced and restructured in order to contain the ever-increasing costs of providing health care. Health care is being pushed towards market behaviour, in which privatisation and commercial considerations and priorities often dominate the policy

and service agenda. A whole way of thinking about the right to health and health care, and to quality health service provision, is being threatened.

In developing countries, in contrast, lack of resources and the relative absence of services and technology are and have long been *the* problem, where the means to health are lacking from so many points of view. In some developing countries, however, evidence suggests a widening gap in health status between urban and rural residents, correlated with increasing gaps in income and health care utilisation. These trends have been associated with market economy principles and changes in health care financing and organisation.

From the role of depression in the experience of gynaecological symptoms to the development of cheaper means of detecting and treating cervical abnormalities and cancer in developing countries, from the role of DALYs in understanding reproductive health problems to the problems of adolescent girls in countries with high HIV prevalence, from the training of obstetrician-gynaecologists to the role of gender in community-based projects, this issue of *RHM* attempts to explore the complex issues of access, equity and distributive justice in sexual and reproductive health as we move into a new century and millennium.

THE JOURNAL IN OTHER LANGUAGES

Chinese

Since 1997, the National Research Institute for Family Planning in Beijing, China, have published a Chinese version of the journal twice a year that includes the introduction, selected papers in full, the abstracts of all other full-length papers and selected Round-Up items from each English language issue of *RHM*. In 1998, their translation and editorial committee was expanded. To date they have published and distributed 2000 copies each of *RHM* 7 and 8, 1996, *RHM* 8 and 9, 1997 and *RHM* 10 and 11, 1998, and *RHM* 12 and 13, 1999, mainly in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Each number comes out approximately six months after the English version. In 1999, it was agreed that the Institute would send a questionnaire to its readers as to whether they wished to continue receiving this edition. As the overall response was very favourable, it was agreed at the end of 1999 to continue the Chinese edition for a further three years.

Arabic

In 1998, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies in Egypt began work to produce an Arabic version of the journal, containing a selection of full-length papers from previous journal issues. The first issue was completed at the end of 1998, the second in mid-1999 and a third issue begun in the second half of 1999 which will be published in 2000. In late 1999, it was agreed to fund a further three issues of the Arabic version of the journal for the following three years.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Safe Motherhood Initiatives: Critical Issues

This book represents RHM's largest single effort to produce a publication to date, involving 44 authors, 36 peer reviewers, RHM's two editors, an editorial consultant and three other longstanding experts in the field who gave ongoing technical and editorial advice and support for the book for over a year.

The November 1997 Technical Consultation on Safe Motherhood in Sri Lanka made it clear that in spite of everything that has been learned in the past decade about the prevention of maternal mortality and morbidity, rates have decreased in some countries but not others. Arising from this Consultation, RHM decided in 1997 to produce a special publication on this subject, one which offered a critique of safe motherhood initiatives and a broad range of perspectives on what has been achieved and what remains to be done for change to be achieved. Hence, a comprehensive collection of papers was needed to cover the subject thoroughly.

Throughout 1998 and the first five months of 1999 submissions were sought for this publication. If the number of papers being published at the time was any measure, it was clear that attention to maternal mortality had been waning prior to the 1997 Consultation. This then began to change during 1998. By May 1999 over 50 papers had been submitted for the book, of which some 24 papers have been included. Of those who were involved in peer reviewing the papers, 13 reviewed three or more papers each and many provided advice which was invaluable.

The introduction summarises the lessons learned on how to prevent maternal deaths in the first decade of the Safe Motherhood Initiative and perspectives for the future. The papers are divided into four main sections which cover: measurement and its values and limitations; national policies and programmes; case studies of causes of maternal deaths and morbidity; and effective policies and programmes for preventing these deaths. The book ends with a section of practical resources for implementing programmes. Mortality and morbidity related to pregnancy and childbirth as well as abortion are covered, since illegal and dangerous abortion requires different solutions from taking care of obstetric complications through emergency obstetric care.

244 pages
Published and distributed by Blackwell Science

(See Appendix 2 for Table of Contents)

***Report of the NGO Forum, ICPD+5
The Hague, Netherlands, 6-7 February 1999***

This publication was commissioned by the World Population Foundation (WPF) under the direction of Marianne Haslegrave from the Commonwealth Medical Association, and was written and edited in coordination with representatives of DAWN, Family Care International, HERA, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and Population Action International, who summarised papers from national and international NGOs on the focal issues of the meeting. These were also the focus of the publication and the booklet was based both on these and on presentations, discussions and recommendations during the Forum itself.

This task was a new departure for RHM, one which is worth seeking to repeat. It involved drafting this report in the short space of a week, in the days prior to and during the course of the Forum, and completing it in time for it to be printed by the WPF and handed out to all participants. The editorial team consisted of RHM's editor and editorial assistant, two RHM editorial advisory board members and a representative of FCI. They worked with representatives of the five NGO focal points mentioned above, who critiqued and helped to finalise the text.

The booklet is 32 pages and consists of five chapters: (1) Resources and advocacy, (2) Policy and services, (3) Rights: rhetoric to reality, (4) Links between reproductive health, population, environment and development, (5) Partnerships for implementing the Programme of Action. Each chapter contains an overview and describes obstacles to resource mobilisation and effective advocacy, critical steps forward and recommendations for action. It was revised by the RHM editor and reprinted and distributed by the WPF at the Special Session on ICPD+5 in New York afterwards.

***Beyond Acceptability: Users' Perspectives on
Contraception, 1997***

This book was published in 1997 for the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) at WHO in Geneva. It is a multi-authored collection of eleven papers on the meaning of contraceptive acceptability, the perspectives of contraceptive users, and the problems of acceptability of dual protection against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Half of the papers were presented at a workshop at WHO in November 1995 and the rest were submitted to RHM specifically for this publication. Copies are for sale at a subsidised, two-tiered price for developed and developing countries. Approximately half are being distributed free of charge to those who are unable to pay or have no access to international currencies. Now two years old, the book continues to be relevant and up-to-date in the issues it raises. It has continued to be promoted and distributed by both RHM and HRP but sales and requests for free copies fell in 1998 due to the problems previously described with RHM's publisher. In the autumn of 1999, we decided to renew our promotion efforts and to distribute the remaining copies of the book in the following eight months.

AUDIENCES AND AUTHORS

The journal's audience and authors continue to come from among the following in both developing and developed countries:

- health ministries, health departments, heads of women's health and maternal and child health, family planning services, policymakers, agencies and donors
- clinicians, family planning providers and associations, and other reproductive health service providers
- researchers in a broad range of biomedical and social sciences
- women's health advocates, groups and organisations, and the leadership of a broad range of other women's organisations
- non-government organisations focusing on health, population and related fields such as development and human rights
- university, medical and other libraries, resource and information centres, national and international professional associations, training courses and institutions in: law, medicine, sexology, demography, public health, women's studies, social sciences, anthropology, ethics, development and midwifery.
- journals, journalists and authors in the field and in health-related fields.

EDITORIAL SUPPORT TO AUTHORS AND EDITORS

It has been an important part of RHM's editorial policy from the beginning of the project to provide editorial support to authors whose papers would not be recommended for publication in a standard peer review. Hence, RHM's peer review guidelines ask reviewers to make detailed suggestions as to how a paper might be improved to aid the author to bring it up to a high standard. The editors also offer detailed comments alongside the peer reviews and often give substantial help with copyediting in order to achieve this goal. For RHM 13, this occurred with 10 of the 20 papers and for RHM 14, this occurred with 11 of the 16 papers.

The open review process, in which both reviewers' and authors' names are made known to each other, supports this process, in that more constructive and detailed suggestions are made than in many other peer reviews, the opportunity for exchange between authors and reviewers is created (and not uncommonly takes place) and the tone of reviews is almost always helpful rather than negative, even when critical.

"I am very impressed and pleased with your involvement in the final editing and polishing of both the form and the content of our paper. I... found the review process extremely positive and for once (compared to what happens with other journals), constructive and even rewarding. Some of the positive comments gave me a tremendous amount of self confidence and meant a lot to me.... working with you has been extremely refreshing and encouraging. Thanks!" (D. Belanger, RHM14)

RHM supports the membership in the European Association of Science Editors of the editor of the *Croatian Medical Journal*.

PAPERS, AUTHORS AND PEER REVIEWERS BY REGION

Well over 50 per cent of the papers in the journal in 1999 and all the papers in the Safe Motherhood book addressed sexual and reproductive health and rights issues in developing countries or from an international perspective. Authors on papers about developed countries were almost always from developed countries, whereas authors on papers about developing countries tended to include developed country authors. The regional breakdown of peer reviewers was variable.

<i>PAPERS</i>	<i>RHM 13</i>	<i>RHM 14</i>	<i>Safe Motherhood</i>
Developed countries	8	2	0
Developing countries	12	10	15
International	2	4	9
<i>Total</i>	22	16	24

<i>AUTHORS</i>	<i>RHM 13</i>	<i>RHM 14</i>	<i>Safe Motherhood</i>
Developed countries	16	20	18
Developing countries	14	10	26
<i>Total</i>	30	30	44

<i>PEER REVIEWERS</i>	<i>RHM 13</i>	<i>RHM 14</i>	<i>Safe Motherhood</i>
Africa	2	3	3
Asia	4	13	8
Caribbean	0	0	0
Eastern Med	1	0	1
Western Europe	9	18	13
Eastern Europe	1	0	0
Latin America	8	2	2
NZ/Australia	0	1	0
North America	8	12	9
<i>Total</i>	33	49	34

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD AND TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

The May 1999 Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) meeting was devoted to discussion of the content of the introduction of the Safe Motherhood book, brainstorming of topics in relation to journal themes for 2000 to support the preparation of editorials and give direction in seeking papers, and deciding on themes for the journal in 2001 and 2002. The long-term future of the journal was also on the agenda of both boards, with the views of the EAB discussed by the Trustees. It was agreed that the editor would discuss future perspectives with RHM's donors and an agreed list of large organisations in the field. Five new invitees for the Editorial Advisory Board for 2000 were proposed to replace members who were rotating off.

RHM ON THE WEB

RHM's publisher, Blackwell Science, created a website in 1998 for RHM at www.blackwell-science.com/rhm. It contains the tables of contents of all journal issues and special publications, author and submission guidelines, subscription rates, and an order form. At the end of 1999, RHM began to pursue with Blackwell Science the possibility of putting the abstracts of all past papers on the Web in English, French and Spanish, as well as the first six issues of the journal, which are now out of print and sold on disk only.

Papers from the journal are available electronically for a fee through the Ohio Database of Women's Studies. About a dozen papers from the journal are posted on a website of the Global Reproductive Health Forum, Harvard School of Public Health. One paper from *Safe Motherhood Initiatives* has been posted on a WHO web page on the financing of reproductive health interventions. EBSCO, an international subscription agency in the USA, specialising in libraries, has a Sample Issue Page for RHM on their website. A link has been set up between RHM's home page and the sites of the World Health Organization and the Health Education Authority UK. A range of other organisations and publications will be approached in 2000 to set up similar links.

Requests for permission to reprint RHM papers in other publications and for permission to hand out specific back issues of the journal and/or to copy specific papers for students on specialist university-level and post-graduate courses on reproductive health and development are regularly being received.

INDEXES THAT INCLUDED THE JOURNAL IN 1999

The journal is abstracted/indexed in *Contemporary Women's Issues*, *Current Awareness in Biomedicine*, *Excerpta Medica (EMBASE)*, *Feminist Periodicals*, *Health Promotion Information*, *International Bibliography of the Social Sciences*, *Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex and Reproduction* (website only), *List of Free Materials in Reproductive Health*, *Ohio Database of Women's Studies*, *Popline*, *Population Index* (also on website), *Public Affairs Information Service (PAIS)*, *Social Planning/Policy and Development Abstracts (SOPODA)*, *Sociofile*, *Sociological Abstracts*, and *Studies on Women Abstracts*.

RHM RESOURCES

RHM receives many books and journals, which are used as sources of information that is included in the Round-Up section of the journal and other publications. Healthlink Worldwide (formerly AHRTAG), have housed most of the books in their resource centre since 1997. Although RHM moved to a different building from them in 1999, Healthlink Worldwide agreed to continue to keep RHM's books in their resource centre and to enter them into their resources database.

CONTRACT WITH BLACKWELL SCIENCE

RHM has now completed two years of a four-year contract with Blackwell Science Ltd (BSL) in Oxford. BSL has been handling all paid and free subscriptions for the journal, back issues (RHM 1-5 on disk and all others in print), and orders for single copies of the journal and the two special publications. In addition to distribution, BSL are responsible for renewal letters to subscribers, joint promotion and marketing with RHM, management of the RHM website, reprint permissions, sending out offprints of papers to authors, and proofreading and handling of author's corrections. RHM has continued to handle the typesetting and printing of all its publications.

Following considerable efforts by both RHM and BSL throughout 1999 to rectify the omissions and errors due to the difficulties with the BSL database in 1998, described in the previous annual report, the situation in 1999 has been much improved. Most subscribers and orders were 're-found' during the course of 1999. This brought the numbers closer to those at the end of 1997, prior to the start of this contract. More needs to be done, e.g. in relation to BSL's contribution to the promotion of the journal and other publications; other services were provided satisfactorily.

ORDERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS

RHM's publications continue to reach people in over 100 countries. The print run for each journal issue was 2500 copies per issue in 1999 and 2500 copies of the Safe Motherhood book were also printed.

Most journals do not have many requests for back issues, except from libraries for complete sets. RHM's journal is different in that the themes continue to be of interest and the papers have proven themselves not to be out of date even three to five years later. Hence, due to a combination of subscriptions, orders for single copies, back issues, and sample and promotional copies, each journal print run is being distributed within three to four years of printing. The first five issues of the journal are out of print and in order to continue distributing these, disk copies have been produced.

Journal subscription rates and book prices for 1999 were as follows:

Journal

- Institution - developed country £76 / \$126
- Institution - developing country £38 / \$63
- Personal £24 / \$40
- Reduced rate and students £10 / \$17
- Free

Books

Beyond Acceptability: Users' Perspectives on Contraception £16 / \$28
Safe Motherhood Initiatives: Critical Issues £24 / \$40
– Students and developing countries (each book) £8 / \$14 or free

The table on the next page shows a breakdown of the print runs, and the cumulative

number of copies distributed to date based on subscriptions and other orders, and promotional copies. For the first 14 journal issues, from 1993 through to the end of 1999, almost 57,000 issues were printed, of which over 46,000 have been distributed. Since 1997, 12,000 copies of the Chinese edition of the journal have been printed and distributed, while since 1998 2,000 copies of the Arabic version have been printed and distributed.

Subscription rates were not raised for 1999 over 1998. The substantially higher developed country institutional and personal subscription rates, in place since January 1998, brought in increased income in 1999 compared to previous years. However, an analysis of the list of who had subscribed and re-subscribed at the end of 1999 indicated that the database problems in 1998 combined with the higher prices, particularly for developed country institutions, were having a negative effect on the numbers of renewals and new subscriptions, in spite of considerable promotion efforts.

As a result, the proportion of paid to free subscriptions, which had been about 40:60 in previous years, has shifted to about 30:70, i.e. for every 100 orders received, 30 are paid and 70 are free.

Developing country and student/reduced rates were kept low after the move to BSL. In practice, however, these have brought in few paid orders in the years since RHM began. The great majority of paid subscriptions and orders continue to come from developed countries, while almost all subscriptions and orders from developing countries were for free copies of all publications.

It was agreed that an even greater effort would need to be made to re-build and increase the distribution of RHM's publications in the year 2000 and plans began to be formulated for this at the end of 1999. In particular, with a new office/promotion manager with experience in the reproductive health field internationally on the staff, more time can be devoted to promotion and to working in conjunction with BSL to find and win back lost subscribers and seek new ones. There are many more people in the field who should be receiving the journal, and it was decided: (i) to offer a wide list of people based in governments, NGOs, women's health groups and a range of professional associations and institutions the journal, paid or free, in 2000 and, (ii) to begin using copies of the journal more often for promotion purposes again, as had been done in the first three years of the project.

Further, at BSL's request, RHM decided to alter its policy of expecting free subscribers to renew each year, which most other journals do not do. Rather, they write to free subscribers every one to three years and ask them to reply only if they no longer wish to receive the publication.

In 1999 the project continued to receive support for free and reduced rate subscriptions. Supported subscriptions in 1999 were for subscribers already on the journal's mailing list in the south Asia region, eastern Europe and developing countries generally, and some or all of the sponsoring organisation's national and/or field offices, or groups nominated by them.

PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

RHM and BSL carried out the following promotion activities in 1999:

Advertising

- *Africa Health* – RHM listing (6 issues) in the Book Update section, including the offer of a free sample copy of the journal.
- *Health and Human Rights* – exchange advertisement in RHM14 (November 1999) for one in their special issue on 'Reproductive and sexual rights' in 1999.

Questionnaire

- BSL distributed stocks of RHM leaflets, Safe Motherhood book leaflets and a marketing questionnaire to all RHM Editorial Advisory Board Members.

Direct Mail

- Participants' lists from various international and UK meetings and conferences:
 - HERA ICPD+5 meeting on partnerships (Mexico),
 - Population Council/ Wellcome Trust meeting Towards Safe Effective Use of Medical Abortion (Bermuda)
 - Advocacy for Women's Health (UK)
 - 5th Meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Vaginal Microbicides (UK)
 - International Conference on Research Societies of Sexual Reproduction 1998 (Argentina)
 - 43 DFID UK NGO Forum
- International Planned Parenthood Federation members
- 1800 subscribers of the following journals:
 - *European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology*
 - *Journal of Reproduction and Fertility*
 - *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*
 - *The Reproductive Medicine Review*
 - *Women's Studies*
 - *Birth*
- 457 book buyers attending the following conferences:
 - Society for the Study of Fertility Conference
 - European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology
 - European Association of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, Dublin
- 123 Latin America women's health and rights organisations
- 500 SOFIGO members (Supporters of the International Federation of Gynecology & Obstetrics)
- 2,228 international list of medical schools, family planning agencies, midwifery and women's studies departments (from IBIS, UK mailing house)
- 1,877 international individuals and organisations in social services, welfare, and public health and safety (from SWETS subscription agency)
- 6,968 international lists of individuals and organisations in population and family planning, public health and education and health promotion, public health nursing and maternal and child health (from J C Lists & Co, USA mailing house)

- 5,400 RHM leaflets inserted into the following BSL publications:
 - *Health and Social Care in the Community*
 - *Health Libraries Review*
 - *International Journal of Andrology*
 - *Medical Education*
 - *Health Expectations*
 - *Sexual Dysfunction*
 - *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*
- 1,400 RHM leaflets inserted into:
 - *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest*

Direct E-mail

- 146 international list of organisations and individuals compiled from in-house publications by RHM
- 190 Women's Global Leadership Centre contacts, USA

Special Offers

- A number of RHM journal subscribers did not renew either for 1998 or 1999. To encourage them to re-subscribe, they were offered free copies of special publications as follows:
 - *Beyond Acceptability* offered to those who subscribed for 1998
 - *Safe Motherhood Initiatives* offered to those renewing for 1999
- Members of the IUSSP were offered special discounted subscription rates as part of an offer by IUSSP to its members with a number of journals.

Subscription Agency Exhibits

- Medical Libraries Associations, USA (2,000 attendees)
- Special Libraries Association, USA (6,500 attendees)
- American Libraries Association, USA (20,000 attendees + EBSCO Special Drawing for a free RHM subscription – 75 entries, 2 winners selected).

Wisepress Agency Exhibits – Annual Conferences

- British Association of Maternal & Fetal Medicine, UK
- 11th International Meeting of Gynaecological Oncology, Hungary
- Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists and Royal College of Midwives: Changing Childbirth & Antenatal Meeting, UK
- BPS Women & Psychology Conference, UK
- 15th Annual Meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology, France
- HIV Nursing – A Brighter Future, UK
- Society for the Study of Fertility, UK
- 7th European Conference on Clinical Aspects & Treatment of HIV Infection, Portugal
- Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Infertility, Czech Republic

Conference Delegate Packs and Stalls

RHM publications were promoted at the following conferences in the following ways: journals and leaflets displayed on BSL's stand together with their other publications (3 conferences); leaflets inserted into delegate packs (14 conferences); table top of sample copies of the journal together with leaflets (20 conferences); leaflets displayed on reception table (2 conferences); RHM materials displayed on table s shared with another organisation (1 conference):

- Royal College of Nursing Exhibition & Jobfair – UK
- 7th Annual Public Health Forum – UK
- Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, USA
- Royal College of Nursing Research Conference – UK
- 10th World Congress on Human Reproduction – Brazil
- American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists – USA
- 11th Annual Medical & Scientific Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine – Australia
- Talk Gender & Sexuality, University of Aarlborg, – Denmark
- Abortion Law & Services: What Do Women Want?, Birth Control Trust – UK
- National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association – USA
- NGO Forum on ICPD + 5 – Netherlands
- Global Pharmacy Practice, Royal Pharmaceutical Society – UK
- Strategies for Demographic Renewal: An International Agenda for Citizen Action and Community Development – UK
- 10th Conference on Social Aspects of AIDS – UK
- Second Annual Conference on Governance of Gender Health: Women's Health –South Africa
- Beyond Boundaries: Sexual Diversity & Human Rights Second International Conference, Manchester University – UK
- Second International Interdisciplinary Conference on Women and Health, University of Edinburgh – UK
- AIDS Impact 1999, Biopsychosocial Aspects of HIV Infection – Canada
- World Congress on Practical Infertility Management – India
- World Conference on Breast Cancer – Canada
- 9th International Conference for People Living with HIV/AIDS – Poland
- 5th International Congress on AIDS in Asia & the Pacific – Malaysia
- Biomedicine, Family and Human Rights, International Society of Family Law Regional Conference – UK
- XIV Congress of the European Association of Gynaecologists & Obstetricians –Spain
- 4th International Scientific Meeting of Royal Colleges of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, 'Women's Health: Into the New Millennium – South Africa
- Association of Reproductive Health Professionals – USA
- Women, Work, Health – Brazil
- 3rd International Conference on Healthcare Resource Allocation for HIV/AIDS - International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care – Austria
- American Public Health Association – USA

- Social Science Research on Childlessness in a Global Perspective: Interpreting Infertility – Netherlands
- 4th Internationale sur la prise en charge extra-hospitalière et communautaire des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA – France
- British Andrology Society & Society for the Study of Fertility – UK
- Third African Population Conference – South Africa

Courses/ Seminars

Introductory participant packs supplied, containing leaflets and a sample copy of the journal were given to students on the following courses/seminars. In addition one copy of the RHM Cumulative Index, *Beyond Acceptability* and *Safe Motherhood Initiatives* were donated to:

- Reproductive Health Research Course, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine – London, UK
- Empowerment, Health Management & Leadership for Sexual & Reproductive Health, Centre for African Family Studies – Nairobi, Kenya
- Operationalising Cairo & Beijing: A Training Initiative in Gender & Reproductive Health, Centre for African Family Studies – Nairobi, Kenya
- Financing Health Care – University of Heidelberg, Germany
- International Perspectives on HIV & AIDS Seminar, Crown Agents International Training Centre – Worthing, UK

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE EDITOR 1999

The editor served for the fourth year as Chairwoman of the Gender Advisory Panel, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization. In this capacity she attended the Department's Scientific and Technical Advisory Group in March 1999 and its Policy and Coordination Committee in June 1999.

She is a steering committee member of the Voices & Choices Project, International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, London.

She is a member of the European Association of Science Editors and the Society of Authors – UK.

She wrote or co-authored the following in 1999:

- Introduction, *RHM* 7(13), Living without children.
- Editorial, *RHM* 7(14), Access to reproductive health: a question of distributive justice.
- Introduction, *Safe Motherhood Initiatives: Critical Issues*, co-authored with TK Sundari Ravindran.
- HIV/AIDS, pregnancy and maternal mortality and morbidity: implications for care, in *Safe Motherhood Initiatives: Critical Issues*.
- When pregnancy is over: preventing post-partum deaths and morbidity, in *Safe Motherhood Initiatives: Critical Issues*, co-authored with Carla AbouZahr.
- *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the UK: Five Years On From Cairo*, co-authored with Anne Weyman and Amy Kapczynski, published by the UK FPA 1999.
- Reducing perinatal HIV transmission in developing countries through antenatal and delivery care, and breastfeeding: supporting infant survival by supporting women's survival, *Bulletin of the WHO* 1999; 77(11).
- Breast cancer risk and cultural differences between USA and France (letter). *Lancet* . 353, 1999.

She served as a peer reviewer for a number of papers for the *Bulletin of the WHO* special issue on reproductive health, publication date May 2000. She was one of the reviewers for a publication by Healthlink on 'Women, HIV and safe motherhood' (in press in 1999) and for *Sharing Responsibility: Women, Society and Abortion Worldwide*, Alan Guttmacher Institute, New York, 1999.

She made presentations at the following meetings:

- The good, the bad and the ugly: qualities of contraceptives, ethical, technical and rights issues. Presentation to Population Council meeting on reproductive rights, New York, 6-7 May.
- HIV, maternal health and prevention of perinatal HIV transmission, UK NGO AIDS Consortium, London, 26 May.
- Summary and implications for the future. Medical Abortion: Meeting Women's Needs, FPA UK and Population Council USA, London, 14 October.

She also attended the following meetings:

- European Association for Research on Women and Health, Edinburgh, 12-14 July
- 2nd Global Meeting on Prevention of Perinatal HIV Transmission, Montreal, 1-4 September
- Expert consultation on dual protection, WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research, Geneva, 20-22 October.

Nationally, she attends the DFID NGO Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Pro-Choice Alliance, London.

SENIOR STAFF CHANGES

TK Sundari Ravindran resigned as co-editor of RHM as of 1 January 1999 after six years of dedicated work and joined the RHM Editorial Advisory Board, where her unflagging support for RHM's publications and authors continues.

Rosa Tunberg joined the staff in October 1999 to work on promotion and administration.

VOLUNTARY HELP AND DONATIONS IN KIND

The participation of members of the Board of Trustees and Editorial Advisory Board has always been and remains voluntary. All board members receive free a subscription of the journal and expenses for attending annual meetings. Peer reviewers of papers submitted for publication also work on a voluntary basis and receive a free copy of the relevant journal issue. Authors whose papers are published receive a free copy of the journal or publication in which their paper appears. Blackwell Science provides 10 offprints of the paper and RHM continues to offer payment of up to £100 (\$150) for expenses involved in writing and editing papers, aimed mainly at those in developing countries working on their own. Many organisations continue to send information and their publications in exchange for the journal and these are used by RHM for the Round-Up and book reviews. They are then put on the RHM library shelves or sent to the Healthlink Resource Centre.

NEW OFFICE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

RHM was unable to renew the lease on its office space in Farringdon Road, London, and because of rapidly rising rents in commercial properties, moved out of central London at the end of August 1999 to an office in a converted warehouse where several other health and development NGOs were moving (though not Healthlink, with whom RHM had been in the same building for 6 years, who moved elsewhere). New storage cupboards for publications and records and three new computers were purchased to update the computer, database, e-mail and Internet capacity of the RHM office in line with international developments.

APPENDIX 1

STAFF, CONSULTANTS AND BOARDS 1999

Editor

- * Marge Berer

Editorial consultants

- * Rosa N Geldstein - Spanish language papers, RHM journal
- * Deborah Maine - Safe Motherhood publication

Editorial assistant

- * Amy Kapczynski (to July 1999)

Administration and promotion

- * Rosa Tunberg (from mid-October 1999)

Administration and promotion

- * Sally Barber

Finance and bookkeeping

- * Paula Hajnal-Konyi

BOARD OF TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS 1999

- * Kathy Attawell -Freelance health and development consultant, UK (until August 1999)
- * Frescia Carrasco -Movimiento Manuela Ramos, Peru
- * Amparo Claro -Latin American & Caribbean Women's Health Network, Chile
- * Lesley Doyal -University of Bristol, UK
- * Barbara James -East London and City Health Promotion Service, UK (until August 1999)
- * Sandra Kabir -Population Concern, UK (Company secretary/treasurer from September 1999)
- * Bene Madunagu -Girls' Power Initiative, Nigeria
- * Rosalind P Petchesky-International Reproductive Rights Research & Action Group, Hunter College, USA (Chair from May 1999)
- * Juliet Richters -National Centre in HIV Social Research, University of New South Wales, Australia

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD 1999

- * Rashidah Abdullah -Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women, Malaysia
- * Carla AbouZahr -Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, Switzerland
- * Regina Maria Barbosa -University of São Paulo, Brazil
- * Toni Belfield -Family Planning Association, UK

- * Mabel Bianco -Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, Argentina
- * Judith Bruce -Population Council, USA
- * Frescia Carrasco -Movimiento Manuela Ramos, Peru
- * Cordia Chu -Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Griffith University, Australia
- * Rebecca Cook -Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, Canada
- * Jane Cottingham -Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, Switzerland
- * Mawaheb El-Mouelhy -Cairo Family Planning Association, Egypt
- * Sylvia Estrada-Claudio -Philippines
- * Mahmoud F Fathalla -University of Assiut, Egypt
- * Claudia García Moreno -Evidence and Information for Policy, WHO, Switzerland
- * Rosa N Geldstein -Centro de Estudios Nacional de Población, Argentina
- * Adrienne Germain -International Women's Health Coalition, USA
- * Judith Helzner -International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region, USA
- * Sandra Kabir -Population Concern, UK
- * Frances Kissling -Catholics for a Free Choice, USA
- * Barbara Klugman -Women's Health Project, South Africa
- * Marta Lamas -Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida, Mexico
- * María Ladi Londoño -Fundación SI Mujer, Colombia
- * Deborah P Maine -Columbia University School of Public Health, USA
- * Florence Manguyu -Medical Women's Association, Kenya
- * Michael Mbizvo -Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, Switzerland
- * Jo Murphy-Lawless -Women's Studies, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
- * Judy Norsigian -Boston Women's Health Book Collective, USA
- * Miho Ogino -Kyoto Bunkyo University, Japan
- * Adepeju Olukoya -Child and Adolescent Health Department, WHO, Switzerland
- * Nandini Oomman - Independent public health researcher and consultant to the Rockefeller Foundation, USA
- * Ana María Portugal -Isis Internacional, Chile
- * Mala Ramanathan -Consultant demographer, AMCHSS, SCTIMST, India
- * Susanna Rance -National Committee for Defence of Reproductive Rights, Bolivia
- * Sunanda Ray -North Staffordshire Health Authority, UK
- * Erica Royston -Retired, Switzerland
- * Mridula Sainath -STD physician, educator and activist, Fiji
- * Michael Lim Tan -Health Action Information Network, Philippines
- * Nahid Toubia -Rainbow, Global Action against Female Genital Mutilation, USA
- * Paul Van Look -Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, Switzerland
- * Jo Wainer -Freelance journalist, Australia
- * Judith Wasserheit -HIV/STD Division, Centers for Disease Control, USA
- * Ninuk Widiantoro -Fenomena, Indonesia

APPENDIX 2

SAFE MOTHERHOOD INITIATIVES: CRITICAL ISSUES

Edited by Marge Berer and TK Sundari Ravindran

INTRODUCTION

Marge Berer and TK Sundari Ravindran

Preventing Maternal Mortality: Evidence, Leadership, Resources, Action

MEASUREMENT: ITS VALUES AND LIMITATIONS

Carla AbouZahr

Measuring Maternal Mortality: What Do We Need to Know?

Tessa Wardlaw, Deborah Maine

Process Indicators for Maternal Mortality Programmes

Oona MR Campbell

Measuring Progress in Safe Motherhood Programmes:
Uses and Limitations of Health Outcome Indicators

Judith A Fortney, Jason B Smith

Measuring Maternal Morbidity

NATIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Zahidul A Huque, Margaret Leppard, Dileep Mavalankar, Halida Hanum Akhter, TA Chowdhury

Safe Motherhood Programmes in Bangladesh

Coeli J Geefhuysen

Safe Motherhood in Indonesia: A Task for the Next Century

Susanna Rance

Safe Motherhood, Unsafe Abortion in Boliva

Eva Weissman, Olive Sentumbwe-Mugisa, A K Mbonye, Craig Lissner

Costing Safe Motherhood in Uganda

Helen Schneider, Lucy Gilson

The Impact of Free Maternal Health Care in South Africa

Wendy J Graham, Susan F Murray

I. A Question of Survival: A Review of Safe Motherhood in Kenya

Clare Taylor

II. Two Years After the Review: Accomplishments, Hurdles and Next Steps

CAUSES OF MATERNAL DEATHS AND MORBIDITY : CASE STUDIES

Vinaya Pendse

Maternal Deaths in an Indian Hospital: A Decade of (No) Change?

Ana Langer, Bernardo Hernández, Cecilia García-Barrios, Gloria Luz Saldaña-Uranga and the National Safe Motherhood Committee of Mexico

Identifying Interventions to Prevent Maternal Mortality in Mexico: A Verbal Autopsy Study

Do Thi Ngoc Nga, Martha Morrow

Nutrition in Pregnancy in Rural Vietnam: Poverty, Self-Sacrifice and Fear of Obstructed Labour

Pascale Allotey

Where There Is No Tradition of Traditional Birth Attendants: Kassena Nankena District, Northern Ghana

Emily Fatula

Lakshmiben: A Case Study of a Near-Miss Obstetric Event in Gujarat, India

Maggie Bangser, Balthazar Gumodoka, Zachary Berege

A Comprehensive Approach to Vesico-Vaginal Fistula: A Project in Mwanza, Tanzania

TK Sundari Ravindran, R Savitri, A Bhavani

Women's Experiences of Utero-Vaginal Prolapse: A Qualitative Study from Tamil Nadu, India

PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS THROUGH EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Deborah Maine

What's So Special about Maternal Mortality?

Carla AbouZahr, Marge Berer

When Pregnancy Is Over: Preventing Post-Partum Deaths and Morbidity

Kim Dickson-Tetteh, Helen Rees

Efforts to Reduce Abortion-Related Mortality in South Africa

Marge Berer

HIV/AIDS, Pregnancy and Maternal Mortality and Morbidity: Implications for Care

Vivian Taam Wong, Jerker Liljestrand

Managing Obstructed Labour: Four Phases of Maternity Care Development

Dora J Shehu

Community Participation and Mobilisation in the Prevention of Maternal Mortality: Kebbi, Northwestern Nigeria

Della R Sherratt

Why Women Need Midwives for Safe Motherhood

RESOURCES *Prepared by Amy Kapczynski*

