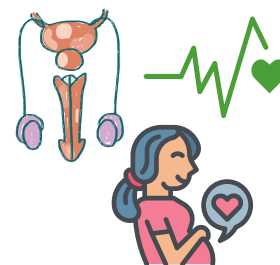


## 1 Overview



For over two decades, ARHR has advocated for improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) outcomes in Ghana through rights-based and responsive approaches. Initially focused on RMNCAH advocacy, ARHR's mission expanded following Ghana's challenges in achieving Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG 5). The organization has adopted a systems approach, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 target of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). ARHR recognizes Primary Health Care (PHC) as a strategic entry point to strengthen health systems, improve RMNCAH outcomes, and ensure equitable healthcare access, particularly for women and girls.

ARHR has transitioned from a national civil society organization (CSO) advocating for responsive RMNCAH to a leading advocate for health systems strengthening and financing within a robust PHC system. We have developed a systems-change strategy aimed at improving access to and utilization of PHC for women and girls by focusing on four priority areas:



- **Gender-Equitable Policies and Standards:** We advocate for applying gender and intersectional standards in all PHC-related policies, programs, and strategies to ensure equitable service delivery.
- **Capacity Building of Frontline Health Workers:** We strengthen the capacity of healthcare providers to deliver timely, dignified, and confidential care that meets the specific needs of women and girls.
- **Feedback and Accountability Mechanisms:** ARHR enhances feedback and accountability systems, empowering women and girls to demand responsive healthcare and hold service providers accountable.
- **Women's Leadership and Participation:** We prioritize the involvement of women and girls in decision-making processes to improve their health outcomes and transform community and family dynamics.



## 2 Strategic Collaborations and Partnerships

ARHR collaborates extensively with a diverse group of stakeholders across sectors to ensure the successful implementation of our advocacy and health system-strengthening initiatives:

- **State Actors:** We engage the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service (GHS), Ministry of Finance, National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health in high-level policy dialogues.

ARHR shares critical evidence and policy gaps to shape health policies and programs.

- **Civil Society and Media:** ARHR collaborates with other CSOs and media outlets, offering capacity support on health policy issues, budget advocacy, and evidence-based engagement to advance UHC.
- **Academic and Research Institutions:** ARHR partners with institutions such as the School of Public Health at the University of Ghana, Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Dodowa Health Research Center to conduct rigorous research. These partnerships enhance the credibility of our findings and strengthen our advocacy efforts.
- **Community Engagement:** We work directly with women and girls to track and document their experiences with the health system, ensuring that their perspectives are central to our advocacy. This engagement helps to reflect the responsiveness of health systems to their needs.

### 3 Key Achievements and Impact

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Over the past six years, ARHR has empowered over one million women of reproductive age, men, and adolescents across Ghana with information about their health rights and government commitments. Approximately half of these individuals have been linked to healthcare facilities, resulting in increased access to essential services, particularly for women and girls. Our work has also had a broader impact, with millions more indirectly benefiting from our advocacy efforts.



ARHR's use of social accountability tools like community scorecards has significantly stimulated community engagement, fostered multi-level accountability, and prompted concrete actions from decision-makers.

Key contributions by ARHR include:

- **Advocating for Policy Changes:** ARHR played a pivotal role in securing the integration of family planning services into the NHIS benefit package and in developing Ghana's Essential Health Service Package. We successfully lobbied for removing taxes on sanitary products (currently applied to locally manufactured pads), representing a significant step forward in health equity.
- **Technical Leadership:** ARHR served on Ghana's Technical Working Group for the Global Financing Facility (GFF), leading thematic areas on RMNCAH+ nutrition and mental health. Our contributions were integral to the development of Ghana's Health Sector Medium Term Development Plan (2022-2025) and other policy documents such as the UHC Roadmap (2020-2030) and the Health Security Policy (2022).
- **Representing CSOs:** In May 2024, ARHR represented CSOs in providing input into Ghana's draft Health Sector Gender Policy, reflecting our leadership in gender-focused health policy reform.



## 4 Competitive Edge

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ARHR's strength lies in its ability to navigate the health ecosystem at global, regional, national, and local levels. Our ability to build partnerships with public, private, and civil society actors has allowed us to mobilize resources, share knowledge, and drive accountability for health service delivery. Our expertise in gender and health policy analysis, advocacy, and evidence generation—coupled with our presence in all 16 regions of Ghana—positions us as a key player in health systems strengthening.

## 5 Outlook



ARHR is committed to advancing a gender-equitable, inclusive, and accountable PHC system that guarantees universal health coverage for all. As we look forward to 2030, our advocacy for systems change will continue to be driven by strategic partnerships, robust evidence, and a relentless pursuit of gender equity in healthcare.



## 6 Mission

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ARHR works to promote, defend, and protect the rights of women, newborns, and adolescents to quality healthcare through evidence-based advocacy and by empowering communities to hold the government accountable for equitable healthcare delivery.

## 7 Vision



A society in which universal health coverage is achieved.



## 8 Conclusion

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ARHR's strong track record in health and gender policy advocacy, community engagement, and systems change has contributed to significant improvements in health outcomes for women and girls in Ghana. Our collaborative approach, grounded in evidence and driven by a commitment to gender equity, will continue to drive meaningful change in Ghana's healthcare landscape for years to come.