WHO FAMILY PLANNING ACCELERATOR PROJECT

Promoting quality and rights based family planning services

The WHO FP Accelerator project supports partners and ministries of health (MoH) to accelerate quality and rights-based family planning (FP) services within the broader frameworks of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the WHO 13th Global Programme of Work (GPW13). The project contributes specifically to attainment of SDG targets 3.1, 3.7 and 5.6, and to the GPW13 goal of 1 billion more people covered by UHC. The WHO-FP Accelerator Project is coordinated by the Contraception and Fertility Care (CFC) Unit in the WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (WHO/SRH) and implemented with WHO’s Regional and Country offices. The project is being implemented in 14 countries.

FP Accelerator project: Current activity and progress

Afghanistan:
- Evaluation of PP/PAFP corners

Myanmar:
- Support RMNCAH services continuation during COVID-19 pandemic

Nepal:
- PPFP indicators in DHS, SSLE-Integrating PPFP in MNCAH services

Kenya:
- Analysis of SRH services in COVID-19 affected areas

Mali:
- 17th National family planning campaign

Niger:
- Introduction of PPFP indicator in DHIS2

Nepal:
- PPFP indicators in DHS, SSLE-Integrating PPFP in MNCAH services

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India:
- Cascade training of evidence-based FP recommendations by midwives

Pakistan:
- SSLE- on Pre-marital counselling in FP

Madagascar:
- Expansion of Subcutaneous DMPA

Guinea:
- National dissemination of WHO FP guidelines

Democratic Republic of Congo:
- Expansion of Subcutaneous DMPA

Nigeria:
- Monitoring framework on task sharing, SSLE- Quality of care in FP

Timor-Leste:
- Standardized FP training

Tanzania:
- Dissemination of FP guidelines, Quality of care in FP
Afghanistan

Monitoring of Postpartum/Postabortion family planning (PP/PA FP) corners in Kabul and Herat

The mid-term monitoring of PP/PA FP corners was conducted between 25 July and 5 September 2021 through desk review, observations of 16 health facilities (10 in Kabul, 6 in Herat), 12 key informant interviews and 7 clients exit interviews. Results show an increase in the uptake of IUD (from 24 to 28 in Kabul, from 28 to 42 in Herat) and implant (from 7 to 10 in Kabul) per 1000 deliveries, between 2020 and the first 5 months of 2021. Site visits indicated 75% of health providers at the PP/PAFP corners were trained, interruption in the supply of implants and IUDs, with implants available in only 2 facilities (12.5%) and IUDs available in 11 health facilities (69%). These findings indicate an urgent need to maintain a regular supply of FP material, kits and equipment for the functioning of the PP/PAFP corners.

Pakistan

Scoping review for inclusion of Family planning in pre-marital counselling (PMC)

WHO CO conducted a scoping review to (i) learn how the PMC is implemented in the neighbouring countries in the region, (ii) ascertain the acceptability of PMC at various levels of decision making, (iii) explore the perspectives of stakeholders on introduction of PMC in Pakistan, and (iv) suggest a model for PMC specific to Pakistan. Findings from review indicate that most stakeholders were supportive of including FP in the pre-marital counselling, as voluntary counselling over mandatory counselling. Sri Lanka was identified as one of the countries and their model seemed most relevant in terms of context and design. The team has proposed a PMC counselling model for Pakistan. Plans include South -South Learning exchange to learn the “How to” from a neighbouring country. Two meetings were held with Sri Lanka (24 September and 7 October), attended by representatives from WHO CO, RO and HQ from both countries, MoH Sri Lanka, and Forum of Safe Motherhood, Pakistan to discuss the ‘How to’ include FP in the PMC.

South-East Asia Region

South-South Learning exchange Nepal- Sri Lanka

Nepal: Following the SSLE with Sri Lanka on how to strengthen PPFP, WHO CO supported Ministry of Health and Population (MoPH) to conduct two orientation workshops for FP in 7 provinces in October. Participants developed action plan to strengthen PPFP services in their province and hospital. MoHP allocated 2.1 million Nepali Rupees in all 7 provinces to initiate and strengthen PPFP in 20 hospitals. Three indicators to monitor PPFP uptake are included in Demographic Health Survey and Nepal Health Facility Survey.
Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka transformed the paper-LMIS to e-LMIS, by inclusion of a reporting system on contraceptive commodities. This reporting system is scaled up to all 28 districts, after a successful piloting in 9 districts of Northern and East provinces.

PPFP workshop for provincial level hospitals, 11-12 October, Nepal
(Photo credit- Pooja Pradhan)

PPFP workshop for federal hospitals, 28-29 October 2021, Nepal
(Photo credit- R. Gurung)

Africa Region

Democratic Republic of Congo

Expansion of subcutaneous DMPA
The DMPA S/C self-injection became a part of the National FP program in DRC with the start of the COVID pandemic and was made available in health centers most affected by the pandemic (5-6 provinces). Advocacy campaigns were conducted on PPFP to promote use of DMPA S/C. The DHIS2 includes indicators on number of women who recently gave birth and received a contraceptive method and number of women who received information on family planning.

Guinea

Assessment of FP services in the health districts
A survey was conducted in the first quarter of 2021 to assess the availability of FP services at the district level. Findings include inappropriate distribution of FP methods in the community, high cost of the contraceptives in some centres, in appropriate procurement of contraceptives, and commodities. Following the survey, a focal point in each health district is appointed, who will be responsible for supervision of all RMNCAH activities.

South-South learning exchange Guinea- Cote d’Ivoire
SSLE continues between Guinea and Cote d’Ivoire

Mali

17th National family planning campaign
Mali conducted its 17th National FP campaign from April to September 2021, which resulted in 46,692 new acceptors of family planning methods. Among the 10 districts of Koulkoro region, the maximum number of new users were from Kati district (n=9365) and the least new users from Banamba district (n=2331). The five most accepted methods were male condoms, injectables, jadelle, implanon, combined oral contraceptive pill. A review on effectiveness of these campaigns is being undertaken.

Niger

Validation workshop and Introduction of PPFP indicators in DHIS2
A validation workshop was held in October with policymakers and key stakeholders to present the results of the situational analysis. Recommendation to advocate and strengthen integration of PPFP at various contact points, including updating the training curriculum was highlighted. To monitor the PPFP uptake, two indicators on PPFP have been included in the DHIS2: (i) Number of post-partum women who have adopted a contraceptive method and (ii) number of women who received contraception after abortion.

Data collection of the new PPFP indicators in DHIS2, Niger
**Madagascar**

### Expansion of Subcutaneous DMPA
Following the completion of the pilot on introduction of DMPA S/C self-injection in December 2020, DMPA S/C self-injection is scaled up to 24 districts across the country. 80% of the districts have received training for the self-injection procedure. WHO has supported training in 3 districts and will support the implementation of the self-injection program in these 3 of the 36 districts.

### Training workshop on integrated FP and PPFP
A training of trainer’s workshop was held for regional and district FP managers in Analamanga & Alaotra Mangoro regions on integrated FP and PPFP.

![Training of trainers for regional and district FP managers on integrated FP and PPFP, Madagascar](image)

### Family planning champion- President of Republic of Madagascar
The President of the Republic of Madagascar Andry Rajoelina was designated as a ‘Family Planning Champion’ on 28th September, 2021 and received a trophy for it.

![President of the Republic of Madagascar receiving the trophy as a ‘Family Planning Champion’](image)

### South-South learning exchange Nigeria-Uganda

**Nigeria:** The National FP training manual was revised to include Quality of care in FP and the revised manual was validated in May 2021. WHO CO supported the training of trainers using the new FP training manual from 21 August to 1 September 2021. Stepdown trainings on QOC in family planning for health care workers is organized in FCT and Oyo State in Nigeria in the 1st week of December.

**Uganda:** A three-day workshop (19-21 October) was held to review the FP QoC tools (Human Right’s based (HRB) and PPFP/PAFP assessment tools, monitoring indicators, PPFP/PAFP change packages), develop indicators and draft an action plan to have the FP QoC operational. This workshop was attended by 12 participants from MOH (RHID and SCAPP), UNFPA, USAID, WHO and Jhpiego. On 5 November 2021, the final draft of the HRB was presented by the RHID and SSLE team (WHO, Jhpiego) to the SCAPP and FP implementing partners.

![Training of trainers on new FP training manual, Nigeria, 21 August-1 September 2021](image)

![FP QoC tools standardization workshop, 19-21 October, Kampala, Uganda](image)
Consultation on South-South learning exchange in Family planning

A virtual consultation on intercountry South-South learning exchange (SSLE) in FP was held on 29-30 November 2021. SSLE is one of the four approaches used in the WHO FP Accelerator project to improve access quality of FP services in country, strengthen national FP program and enable countries to reach their SDG goals 3 and 5. The consultation explored how SSLE can be used to scale up implementation of the family planning best practices and WHO Guidelines.

The meeting was attended by over 40 participants from partner organizations, ministries of health and WHO headquarters, regional and country offices. Five countries Nepal, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Uganda, and Pakistan presented their experiences with the WHO supported SSLE for FP. Five partners UNFPA, JHPIEGO, BKKBN, PPD and FP 2030 presented on their experiences with supporting inter country SSLE for FP. A scoping review on SSLE and an overview of the FP Accelerator project were presented and discussed. The review concluded insufficient evidence is available on the extent to which SSLE contributes to FP outcomes.

The consultation identified various enablers and barriers to SSLE, the need for improved monitoring, evaluation and documentation, the need for tools to standardise the SSLE processes, the need for research on cost effectiveness and the need to identify the most effective approaches.

Going forward additional countries that have expressed interest will be supported to engage in SSLE for FP, the scoping review will be published and stakeholders will continue to engage in a community of practice on SSLE for FP.

FIGO-WHO Regional Francophone training

The Francophone regional training workshop was organised to train participants in the latest WHO guidelines and tools in FP during a two-day virtual regional workshop from 29-30 September. Eight participants (seven OBGYNs and one midwife) from three different countries (Guinea, Mali and Niger) and WHO CO representatives from Niger and Guinea attended the workshop. Following the regional workshop, national dissemination workshops were held in each of the three countries. Cascade workshops were held in Guinea (attended by 22 doctors & midwives) and Mali (15 doctors) in November 2021, in collaboration with DNFSN, MoH Guinea, ASFEGUI- association of midwives (Guinea), DGSHP-Mali and PSI-Mali. Focussed workshops were held in Guinea (attended by 10 doctors & midwives) and Mali (13 doctors).

FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics

At the XXIII FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics which took place virtually (21-28 October 2021), the WHO FP Accelerator project, dissemination of guidelines via cascade trainings in collaboration with FIGO and National OB Gyn Societies, the WHO 5 step South-South Learning exchange and its application in early adopters was presented. This was followed by country partners sharing their experiences.
Meet the Team

Dr. Manjula Danansuriya
National Professional Officer in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health- WHO Sri Lanka

I am a medical doctor with postgraduate degree in Public Health. Currently, I work as the National Professional Officer in RMNCAH area with WHO Sri Lanka. I closely work with government counterparts, developmental partners and other stakeholders in improving maternal and child health in Sri Lanka. My main work areas are on enhancing the quality of family planning programme delivery including capacity building, introducing global tools and experiences. In the recent past I supported the Ministry of Health to reorient the family planning services in the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Prior to joining WHO, I served the Ministry of Health for 18 years, as a doctor in preventive care at the field level as well as a national programme manager in the Adolescent Health programme.

The FP Accelerator project has supported Sri Lanka to strengthen PPFP service delivery as well as it provided opportunity for us to share our experiences with other country teams. Following engagement in South- South Learning exchange with Nepal, we were able to introduce web based logistic management system for family planning commodities in 2021.

Dr. Olive Sentumbwe Mugisa
Family Health and Population advisor- WHO Uganda

I am a medical doctor with specialisation in Obstetrics and Gynecology. I have 14 years experience of active clinical practice and since more than 20 years am working with WHO Uganda as the Family Health and Population Advisor. I have worked majorly on policies, guidelines, and programs with the Ministry of Health in the area of reproductive health with all its components as laid down at the Cairo Conference on Population and Development.

I have actively supported the Roadmap for implementing family planning Quality of care activities in Uganda and facilitated all country technical meetings on FP QoC. The FP Accelerator Project has helped Uganda through the South to South Learning Exchange with Nigeria to strengthen leadership in FP quality improvement and standardizing the FP Quality of Care tools and standards. In the long term, the use of these tools especially the Human Rights Based tool and PPFP/PAFP change packages will result in improved uptake of family planning method-mix translating in a better maternal health outcomes.

COMING SOON

• FP Accelerator review and planning meeting: 20 January 2022
• After action review meeting- March 2022

Share your experiences!
We invite you to post experiences and lessons learned during implementation of the FP Accelerator project with us.

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This newsletter is designed for those involved or interested in the FP-Accelerator project at WHO Headquarters, Regional and country offices. It features current and upcoming activities, accomplishments by the team and useful resources. We welcome submissions of project updates by any team member for inclusion in the next newsletter, scheduled for March 2022.

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