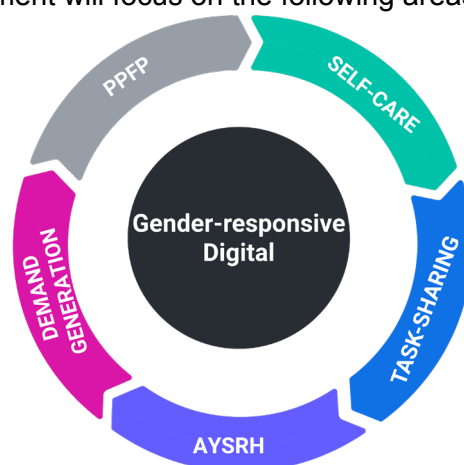


WHO FP Accelerator Plus

Project Newsletter
Issue 1 | February 2023

The **WHO FP Accelerator Plus** project builds on past efforts by the family planning (FP) Umbrella (2015- 2018) and Accelerator projects (2019-2022) to support partners and ministries of health (MoH) to accelerate scaling up and sustaining the implementation of WHO recommended gender-responsive FP evidence-based practices. The project contributes specifically to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets 3.1, 3.7 and 5.6 and the WHO 13th Global Programme of Work goal of 1 billion more people covered by the Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The WHO-FP Accelerator Plus 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 over a period of 5 years (2022- 2027). This investment will focus on the following areas

- A. Self-care interventions for SRH, including FP
- B. Post-pregnancy FP
- C. Task sharing for FP
- D. Demand generation and Social Behaviour change communication (SBCC)
- E. Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health TA mechanism
- F. Guideline for Emerging contraception



Gender responsiveness and digitalization of the tools will be integrated across all focus areas. To address these areas, WHO will support using the following approaches: south to south learning exchange; development of tools and guidelines; country adaptation and implementation of WHO guidelines; evidence synthesis and assessment; health system integration; explicit WHO leadership, technical assistance, and development of strong partnerships at the global, regional, and country level. This work will leverage the efforts of partners and donors (USAID, UNFPA, CIFF, BUFFET foundation, PEPFAR, GFF and Global Fund, Expand net, FP 2030, OP, IBP partners, academia, civil society, and professional associations) to ensure complementarity at global, regional, and country levels.



International Conference in Family planning

14 - 17 November 2022
Pattaya, Thailand



WHO Pre-conference on Technical Assistance to Countries, South-South learning exchange & Social Accountability Research

WHO organized a pre-conference session on 14 November 2022. Regional offices and WHO staff shared the evidence on SSLE in family planning, WHO's approach and guidance to conduct SSLE, and lessons learnt in using SSLE to strengthen family planning services in Nigeria, Uganda, Nepal and Sri Lanka. This session was attended by more than 50 participants, including Ministry of Health representatives from Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Nepal and Uganda.

During the afternoon session, the Community and Provider - driven Social Accountability Interventions (CAPSAI) study team shared the methodology and findings of the study being conducted by WHO in partnership with the Population Council Ghana, Ifakara Health Institute - Tanzania and Integrity Initiative - Ghana.



Opening remarks by Dr Pascale Allotey during the WHO pre-conference at ICFP 2022



The CAPSAI Study team at ICFP



Panel discussion at ICFP 2022, Pattaya, with representatives from MoH Nigeria, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Jhpiego Uganda and WHO India

IBP Track program implementation: Innovation, Documentation, Monitoring and Implementation



Experience sharing on SSLE during the learning lab at ICFP

The WHO/IBP network held a pre-conference session in collaboration with UNFPA and FHI 360 on 13 November 2022. WHO facilitated a learning lab on the South - South learning exchange. Participants from Knowledge success, Intrahealth International, Pathfinder International, Voluntary Service Overseas International, UNFPA and FIGO attended this round table discussion and exchanged their experiences and lessons learnt on SSLE.

WHO ICFP Scientific writing, mentoring and coaching workshop

A four-day (14-17 November 2022) scientific writing, mentoring and coaching workshop was organized by WHO at ICFP in collaboration with the John Hopkin Bloomberg School of Public Health. 100 participants were selected from those who submitted an abstract to ICFP to develop skills and confidence. Each session included brief lectures by experts, followed by a panel discussion. On the last day of the course, feedback was taken from the participants. In collaboration with GFMER, participants will be supported by a coaching program for 6 months and evaluated after 1 year. The recording from these sessions is available: [Anatomy of a scientific paper](#), [Getting your paper noticed by Journal editors](#) and [The road to publication](#).



Mentors and participants of the Scientific writing workshop, ICFP 2022



WHO scientific writing workshop at ICFP, 14-17 November 2022

Meeting with parliamentarians

A one-to-one meeting with parliamentarians from Tanzania, Pakistan and Kenya was organized. Parliamentarians recommended the importance of engaging with them to strengthen family planning programs in countries.



Updates from Regional offices and HQ

FIGO-WHO Regional Francophone workshop

WHO and FIGO organized an all-country virtual meeting on 8 September 2022 to evaluate the Cascade training on implementation of WHO FP guidelines and tools. 50 ob gyns from 17 countries attended the meeting. Participants reported that Cascade training improved their knowledge, hence the quality of services and ability to influence in-country policy. The trainings were cost-effective and successful in the widespread dissemination of up-to-date knowledge and practice on a global scale.

Webinar on improving access to quality family planning services

WHO COs shared experiences and lessons learnt in scaling up postpartum family planning services (Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger) and developing an electronic Logistics Management Information System (e-LMIS) for Family planning commodities (Sri Lanka) in a webinar organized with the IBP network on 27 September 2022. The live event was attended by 50 participants.

Regional Meeting on Family planning and comprehensive abortion care to accelerate the reduction in maternal mortality

Ministry of Health hosted a regional meeting with WHO in Dilli, Timor-Leste, from 30 November to 2 December to strengthen the capacity of Member States to implement strategies to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by improving the quality and coverage of family planning and comprehensive abortion services. The meeting was inaugurated by the HE President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Dr Jose Ramos Horta. The meeting was attended by the Health Minister and 77 participants, including religious leaders. At the end of the meeting, each participating country developed an action plan to implement new evidence in improving access to FP, infertility, comprehensive abortion care, and post-abortion care services, including mitigation plans during health emergencies.



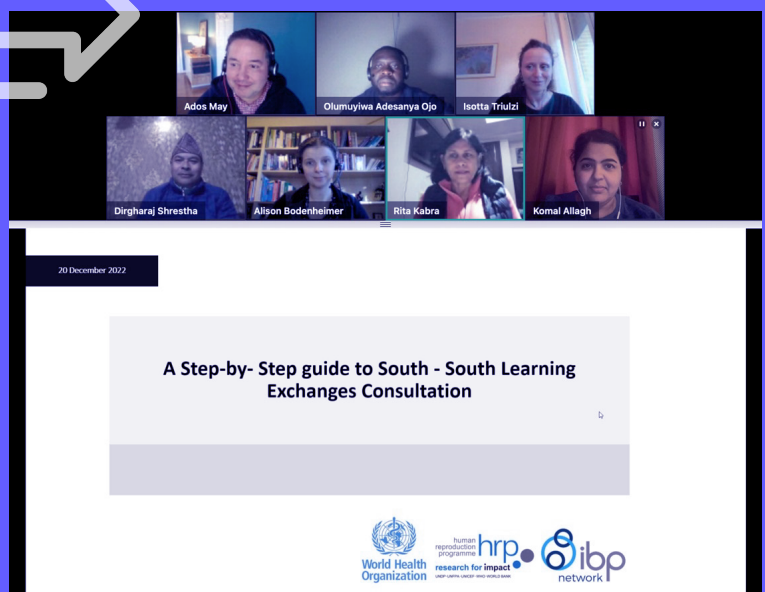
Participants of Regional meeting on FP and comprehensive abortion care to accelerate the reduction in maternal mortality, Dilli, Timor-Leste

Launch of SMART guidelines- digital adaptation kits implementation research in Ghana

WHO/HRP has provided intensive country support and implementation research since 2021 to enable countries to apply the *SMART guidelines* approach and ensure that the digitalizing of guidelines is conducted systematically and effectively. To kick off the implementation research in Ghana, WHO/HRP and the University of Ghana conducted a national consultation in November 2022, convening SRH stakeholders from the MoH and implementing partners and counterparts focused on digital health activities. This consultation was featured on two of the Ghanaian national television stations, *Ghana Broadcasting Channel* and Ghana TV, and included representatives from the Ghana Health Service, the University of Ghana, and WHO.

South-South Learning Exchange (SSLE)

The learning exchanges between Sri Lanka - Nepal, Uganda - Nigeria, and Madagascar - Burkina Faso continue. A **brief** on the methodology and lessons learnt from SSLE is published on the WHO website. An online public consultation was held on 20 December 2022 to obtain feedback on the Step-by-Step Guide to South-South Learning exchanges.

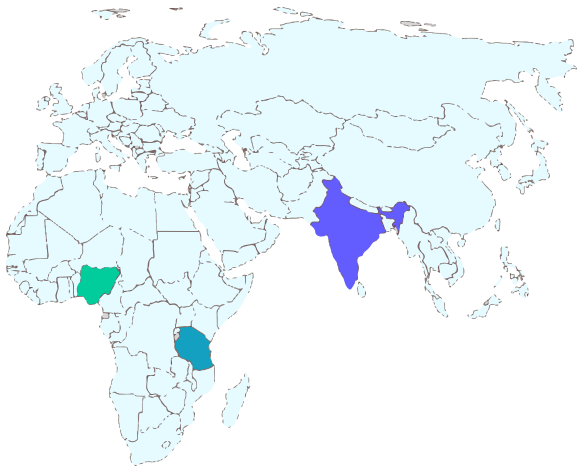


WHO Family planning and comprehensive abortion care toolkit for the primary health care workforce

The WHO Family planning and comprehensive abortion care toolkit for the primary health care workforce has been published. The cornerstone of the Toolkit ([Volume 1](#)) presents the competencies needed for FP and CAC PHC workforce. These competencies will help set standards for education, training and performance. [Volume 2](#): Programme and curriculum development guide presents a systematic approach to developing curricula.

Health systems analysis of the barriers to availability and utilization of contraceptive services during the COVID-19 pandemic: Implementation Research

A multi-country mixed-method study is undertaken by WHO to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the primary health system's capacity to provide FP and contraceptive services in three countries- India, Nigeria and Tanzania. All sites are analysing the data and publishing the results. The results will help policymakers and health managers develop and strengthen FP policies and services to be more responsive to community needs.



- 1. [India: ICMR - National Institute for research in reproductive and child health](#)
- 2. [Nigeria: University of Ilorin](#)
- 3. [Tanzania: Ifakara Health Institute](#)

Conference presentations:

Study sites for implementation research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on FP

Nigeria Family planning conference 2022 (12-16 Dec 2022): *'Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on family planning service delivery and access to commodities in selected primary healthcare facilities in Nigeria'*

Association of Public Health Physicians conference (31 Jan to 3 Feb 2023): *'Male involvement in supporting family planning service uptake by their female partners during the COVID-19 pandemic in selected states in Nigeria'*

International Conference on Kaleidoscopic Insights into Reproductive and Child Health (23-25 Jan 2023): *'Health system's response to Family Planning services during COVID-19: A Rapid Assessment Survey in a district of Maharashtra, India'*



The ICMR-NIRRH study team presenting at the International Conference on Kaleidoscopic insights into Reproductive and Child Health



COMING SOON

- **13-14 February 2023:** Workshop on WHO FP Accelerator Plus - WHO Headquarters
- **15-16 February 2023:** Consultation on Scaling up evidence - based practices - WHO Headquarters
- **17 February 2023:** Review the WHO FP Accelerator Plus project with Regional and Country colleagues- WHO Headquarters

Share your experiences!



We invite you to post experiences and lessons learned during implementation of the WHO FP Accelerator Plus project with us.

WHO FAMILY PLANNING ACCELERATOR PLUS PROJECT

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The content of this publication does not necessarily represent the views, decisions or policies of the World Health Organization. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the publication lies entirely with the authors.

This newsletter is designed for those involved or interested in the WHO FP-Accelerator Plus 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 April 2023.

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