Scaling up evidence-based family planning practices

WHO participants from HQ, Regional offices (AFRO, PAHO, SEARO, EMRO) and country offices (DRC, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Niger, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste) and partners (BMGF, USAID, UNFPA, Expand Net, FP 2030 and JHPIEGO) met in Geneva, 13-17 February, 2023 to review the available evidence and develop plan and strategies for scaling up evidence-based FP practices, to support universal access to SRH and attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets 3.1, 3.7 and 5.6. Discussion focussed on developing knowledge products, supporting member states and partners in implementation and scaling up post-pregnancy family planning, social behaviour change communication, task sharing among community health workers, self-care interventions for SRHR, emerging contraception, and technical assistance coordination mechanism (TAC) for AYSRH programmes under the WHO FP Accelerator Plus project.

Dr Pascale Allotey, Director, WHO SRH /HRP, highlighted the importance of coordination within WHO and with partners to accelerate the scale-up of evidence-based practices in family planning.

Evidence from systematic reviews to scale up PPFP, task sharing/expansion and SBCC for FP was reviewed on 15-16 February 2023.
Indian Insights

National Guidelines on Subdermal Contraceptive Implant

Ms. Roli Singh, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), MoHFW inaugurated the ‘National Dissemination Workshop for Subdermal Contraceptive Implant’ (single rod) and presented the Reference Manual developed in collaboration with WHO.

The first group of trainers (gynaecologists and rural doctors) were trained on single rod subdermal contraceptive implant in Delhi (21-22 March 2023). These trainers will disseminate the training at the sub-national level.

ASHA FP counselling booklet has been updated and published with regard to the new methods (single rod subdermal contraceptive implants, the non-hormonal pill Centchroman and the hormonal contraceptive injection Medroxyprogesterone acetate).

Launch of Family planning Self-care kits

The self-care kits developed with the support of the WHO team were presented at the stand of the Ministry of Health’s FP department at the G20 workshop in India. The kits contain pregnancy tests, condoms and emergency contraception pills. They are labelled with the QR code and contain information on family planning, contraception and counselling as per the WHO guidelines on self-care interventions for health and well-being.
Moroccan Marvel

Scaling up contraceptive access in Morocco

To expand contraceptive options in Morocco, the WHO guide on self-care interventions for health and well-being was adapted and integrated into the national SRH strategy. A pilot project on the introduction of the self-administered injectable contraceptive was recently completed, involving a quadrilateral partnership between WHO; the Organisation Panafricaine de lutte contre le sida (OPALS); the Family Planning Department of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection; and UNFPA.

Experiences with the introduction of self-care interventions were shared on World Contraception Day 2022. Discussions are currently underway to scale up self-administered injectable contraceptives in Morocco.

South-South Learning Exchange (SSLE)
Madagascar- Burkina Faso

The Madagascar team, consisting of representatives from the Departments of Safe Motherhood and Family Planning, the JSI Access Collaborative and WHO, met the Burkina Faso national and district-level officials to share ideas/experiences on advocacy, governance, training, monitoring and scale-up of self administered DMPA SC in Madagascar. The team visited districts and health centres to hear from district managers, health care provider, communities and clients about their experiences.
ExpandNet

ExpandNet is celebrating its 20th anniversary as an informal global network of public health and development professionals working to advance the science and practice of scaling up.

In February 2023, members of the ExpandNet Secretariat attended the FP Accelerator Plus meetings in WHO HQ, Geneva, to identify areas for future collaboration to strengthen scaling up capacity between WHO headquarters, regional and country office staff, government stakeholders and other implementing partners. Last month, staff from WHO attended the first meeting of the new ExpandNet Global Advisory Council that was established to guide the work in the coming years.

Office Orchestra

Family Planning and Comprehensive Abortion Care Toolkit for Primary health care workforce

WHO released volumes 1 and 2 of the FP and CAC toolkit for the primary healthcare workforce. This guide is designed for programme and curriculum developers who are preparing or revising formal education and training programmes and curricula for the FP and CAC workforce. This toolkit is available in English, Spanish and French.

Volume 1 focuses on competencies for the primary healthcare workforce & volume 2 focuses on programme and curriculum development.
Implementation of WHO SMART guidelines-Digital Adaptation Kits (DAK) in Zambia

WHO / HRP supported the Ministry of Health of Zambia in strengthening its national electronic health record system (SmartCare Plus) and digitising HMIS. Following the November 2022 meeting to adapt and validate the content of DAK, a four-day workshop was held in Kabwe to align FP DAK with the national FP reporting tools (HIA2 forms and registers). This meeting was conducted by the MoH SRH/Family Health, ICT and M&E Directorates to jointly standardise the content of the digital system. The DAK will be adapted and rolled out countrywide. The SMART guidance approach will be used to update the national HMIS tools, such as the FP card.

Family Planning Global Handbook for Providers 2022

Following the launch of the handbook WHO FP at the International Conference on Family Planning on 15 November 2022 in Pattaya, Thailand, WHO and the IBP Network hosted a webinar for all family planning providers, partners, donors and users of the handbook on 29 March 2023. The updated manual includes two new chapters: FP for women at high risk of HIV and provision of FP services during an epidemic.

WHO ICFP Scientific writing, mentoring and coaching workshop

Following the Scientific Writing, Mentoring and Coaching course held at the International Conference on Family Planning in Pattaya, Thailand, 14-17 November 2022, WHO, in collaboration with the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research, is offering participants 6 months of coaching (21 November - 20 May 2023) to improve their skills and confidence in writing a high-quality scientific manuscript.

Two webinars were held on 2 February and 13 April 2023 with trainers, coaches, organisers and participants. Participants found the course useful. 4 of the 43 participants completed their manuscripts and submitted them for publication. The participants gave suggestions on motivation and organisational support for young authors, the usefulness of webinars in networking, and criteria for selecting participants in future workshops to facilitate completion of the course by the students and prevent fallouts.
The Human Reproduction Programme is celebrating its 50th birthday. The story shares key moments from HRP’s history and its work on advancing the attainment of SRHR. HRP at 50: Sexual and reproductive health and rights across the life-course. March 2023

In Nigeria, self-administered contraception is helping women to access their sexual and reproductive health rights. They can use it in any setting, whether they live in an IDP camp, urban area, remote community or anywhere else. The injection provides three months of contraceptive cover, which is also a game changer for many women who want or need long-lasting protection.

• 20-25 May 2023- SSLE (Study tour) between Burkina Faso and Madagascar
• 30-31 May 2023- Partners meeting on AYSRH TAC mechanism, WHO Headquarters
• 11-14 June 2023- 33rd International Confederation of Midwives Triennial Congress, Bali, Indonesia

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www.who.int/teams/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-research-(srh)/overview

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