WHO FP Accelerator Plus

Project Newsletter
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FP Accelerator Plus

The WHO FP Accelerator Plus project builds upon past efforts by the Family Planning (FP) Umbrella (2015-2018) and Accelerator projects (2019-2022) to support partners and Ministries of Health (MoH) in accelerating the scaling up and sustaining of WHO-recommended gender responsive FP evidence-based practices. The project specifically contributes to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets 3.1, 3.7, and 5.6, as well as the WHO 13th Global Programme of Work goal of covering an additional 1 billion people under 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).

Country News

Bottleneck analysis (BNA)

27 countries across four regions have embarked on BNA using a standardized protocol to assist countries to develop National plans for scaling up evidence-based family planning practices in accordance with country context and consensus.
Pakistan

In collaboration with Sphere Consulting, WHO CO has completed data collection and analysis across all 15 provinces of Pakistan. 365 key informant interviews (KII) were conducted with stakeholders at district, provincial and national levels. The preliminary BNA findings were shared at the 33rd Country Engagement Working Group (CEWG) meeting on 25 June 2024. A consensus-building workshop is scheduled from 5 to 9 August 2024 to review and rank the bottlenecks and identify potential solutions and strategies for scaling-up post-pregnancy family planning (PPFP), task sharing and social and behaviour change (SBC).
Kenya

On 2 May 2024, the WHO and UNFPA Kenya team shared the BNA methodology with the Ministry of Health (MoH) focal persons and the FP technical working group. The MoH requested a comprehensive BNA for PPFP and SBC that includes counties with both poor and good indicators and those where partners are currently scaling the implementation of EBPs.

Ethiopia

WHO Ethiopia and UNFPA is conducting a BNA to identify strategies for scaling up of PPFP, SBC and task sharing. Following a validation workshop with the technical working group on 1 May 2024, data collection is completed from national and sub-national clusters. Data analysis has begun, and a consensus-building workshop is planned for 12-17 August 2024.

South-East Asia Region

Nepal

In collaboration with the Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Population, WHO Nepal has completed the data collection at national and subnational levels for the bottleneck analysis. A consensus-building workshop is scheduled for 9-10 August 2024, where key stakeholders will identify and prioritize the primary bottlenecks hindering the scale-up of PPFP and SBCC services and identify strategies to address these challenges.

National Workshop on orientation for family planning

Digital adaptation Kits

WHO/HRP, in collaboration with EMRO, WCO, and the Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination (MoNHSR&C), held a two-day workshop to launch the SMART Guidelines-Digital Adaptation Kit (DAKs) for family planning in Islamabad, Pakistan. WHO and MoNHSR&C will establish a multi-stakeholder implementation team to adapt the FP DAK to national and sub-national guidelines for use within digital systems.
Scoping meeting on emerging contraceptives

Experts convened in Geneva for a scoping meeting on emerging contraceptives. The aim was to develop recommendations on new methods of contraception that need further research. Insights from the meeting will inform the development of guidelines for contraceptive methods not currently included in the WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (MEC). These contraceptives, though registered for use in some countries or supported by strong safety and efficacy evidence, are not included in the WHO’s four cornerstones.

WHO Virtual Public Consultation on Strategies for Scaling up Post Pregnancy Family Planning

A virtual consultation on strategies for scaling up post pregnancy family planning was organized by the IBP network on 17 June 2024. Over 260 participants representing 105 countries and various organizations attended the consultation. Participants shared the gaps and barriers encountered in their settings and discussed strategies for scaling up postpartum and post-abortion family planning. These insights will inform the development of WHO guidance on strategies for scaling up post pregnancy family planning.

Regional Advisor’s meeting

MCA and SRH departments jointly held the Regional Advisors meeting from 24-28 June to discuss collaborative work across the life course approach. The meeting provided a favorable environment for exchanges between WHO HQ and regions to learn from each other, including the work on BNA and FP Accelerator Plus.

Purposeful Partnerships

FP2030 South-South Learning Workshop (Asia Pacific) Interfaith Action to Drive Progress on FP 2030 Commitments

WHO facilitated a session on South-South Learning exchange and strategies to convert learning into actionable outcomes. The session aimed to enhance participants’ understanding of how different regions can adapt and apply successful FP practices learned from one another.
This comment explores the implications of shifting population age structures and the challenge of reconciling declining fertility rates with the continued global population growth driven by demographic momentum. These uncertainties raise important questions about whether and how governments should intervene to influence human reproduction.

This mixed-method study protocol details a multisite, two-stage, five-phase intervention study design conducted in Pakistan and Nigeria. The aim is to identify and test the effectiveness of a contraceptive counselling intervention bundle in improving clients’ informed decision-making autonomy and meeting their family planning needs.
Providing technical assistance: lessons learned from the first three years of the WHO Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Technical Assistance Coordination Mechanism

This paper describes the process of developing the Technical Assistance Coordination Mechanism and the outcomes, experiences and lessons learned after three years of working. It triangulates the findings from a literature review, key informant interviews, outcomes from a series of structured review meetings, and the documented processes and results of the technical assistance provided to countries.

This paper presents a qualitative study on the experiences of experts on the challenges, enablers, lessons learned, and methodologies used in South-South learning exchanges. Key strengths include the empowerment of participants, positive peer-to-peer mindset shifts, and the transfer of hands-on learning. Significant challenges include the resource-intensive nature of the exchanges, participant reluctance, and the lack of a validated guiding methodology.

WHO FAMILY PLANNING ACCELERATOR PLUS PROJECT

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Share your experiences!

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

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 November 2024.

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