

WHO FP Accelerator Plus

Project Newsletter

Issue 9 | December 2025

WHO FP Accelerator Plus Review and Planning Meeting

The WHO FP Accelerator Plus Review and Planning meeting convened colleagues from nine WHO country offices (Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania), four regional offices, headquarters and key partners, including UNFPA and FP2030. The meeting served as an important platform to reflect on progress, share lessons learned and strengthen collaboration. All programmatic areas under the project were reviewed, and the next steps were outlined for accelerating impact during 2026-2027.



Country representatives sharing barriers and solutions to scale up evidence-based findings as per the BNA protocol, 16 September 2025.



Participants of the FP Accelerator Plus review and planning meeting, 15-17 September 2025, WHO HQ, Geneva



Eastern Mediterranean Region



Pakistan

Contextualization of Digital Adaptation Kit (DAK) for Family Planning

The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, in collaboration with WHO, convened a core committee meeting to review and adapt the WHO Family Planning (FP) DAK. Government officials, technical experts, and development partners identified contextual gaps and proposed adaptations to the toolkit. The meeting concluded with a commitment to pilot the adapted FP package, strengthen federal-provincial coordination, and monitor progress through a national digital dashboard.



Representatives from the MoH, WHO and partner organizations gathered together to adapt the FP DAK in Islamabad, Pakistan, 31 January 2025

African Region



Zambia

User Acceptance Testing of the Enhanced FP Digital Adaptation Kit Module

WHO and the Ministry of Health, Zambia, convened a user acceptance testing workshop to review the enhanced module prototype for Smartcare Pro (national digital system). Experts in digital health, SRH, health information systems, M&E, and FP service delivery validated the module's functionality and proposed improvements. The rollout of DAK will start in five validation sites before expanding to more than 700 primary health care facilities nationwide.



Participants testing the User Acceptance for Smartcare Pro in Zambia, 24-28 February 2025

Côte d'Ivoire

Bottleneck Analysis (BNA) Completed

Côte d'Ivoire conducted BNA on postpregnancy FP, task sharing and SBC across 14 health districts in 8 regions with varying contraceptive prevalence rates. Following a national consensus-building workshop held from 15 to 19 September 2025, with participants from the Ministry of Health, academia, research institutions, local and international NGOs, professional organizations, district health providers and community representatives, frequent contraceptive stockouts, particularly long-acting contraceptives, and persistent cultural resistance to FP services were identified as key bottlenecks.



Uganda

National Dissemination of BNA findings



Uganda convened a dissemination workshop on 7 October 2025. Representatives from 20 districts, development partners, civil society and academic institutions reviewed key health system bottlenecks affecting the scale-up of postpregnancy FP, task sharing, and SBC. Participants discussed implications for service delivery, and prioritized interventions for national and subnational implementation. As a next step, a national policy brief is being drafted to guide implementation of prioritized interventions and support evidence-based decision-making.

Office Orchestra

New WHO Resources and Guidance

Toolkit and Content Repository for Digital Client-Facing Platforms: Family planning

[A new toolkit and content repository for digital client-facing platforms](#) has been developed. The toolkit provides reusable content packages derived from WHO guidelines for FP. The content repository is organized by key messages and addresses common myths and misconceptions about contraceptive methods. The digital content repository was launched through a webinar held on 25 June 2025. The recording is available [here](#).



Scaling up Postpregnancy Family Planning: Practical Guide

WHO has developed a [new technical guidance](#) to support scaling up postpregnancy family planning, covering contraception in both the postpartum and post-abortion periods. The guide was launched on 3 November at the ICFP 2025. The guide provides evidence-based practical approaches to scale and sustain postpregnancy FP, methods for monitoring and evaluating scale-up efforts, and the links to other related WHO guidelines.



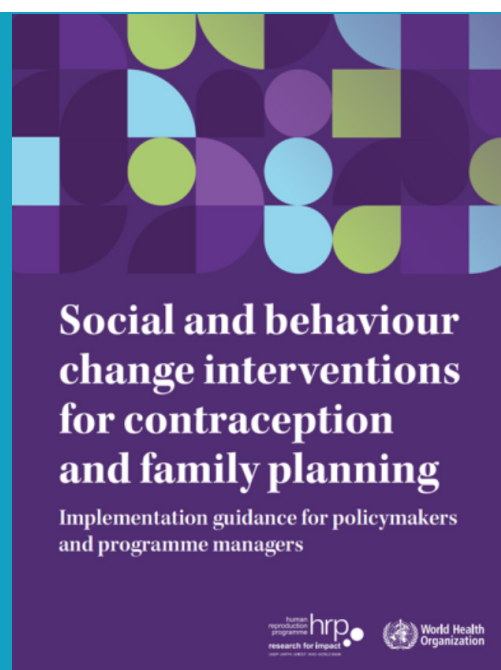
Scaling up postpregnancy family planning

Practical guide



Social and behaviour change interventions for contraception and family planning: Implementation guidance for policymakers and programme managers

SBC interventions in contraception have often been underutilized and insufficiently guided by evidence. The [new WHO guidance](#), launched at the ICFP 2025, provides a practical and evidence-informed roadmap to integrate SBC into national contraceptive strategies, outlining a structured process for designing, implementing and evaluating SBC interventions.



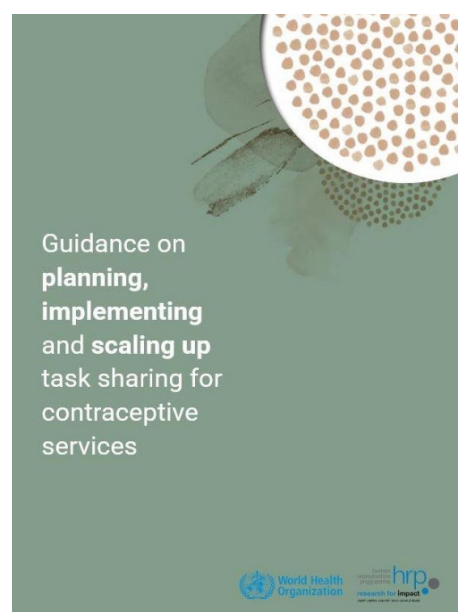
Social and behaviour change interventions for contraception and family planning

Implementation guidance for policymakers and programme managers



Guidance on planning, implementing and scaling up task sharing for contraceptive services

In many LMICs, access to quality FP service continues to be constrained by persistent shortages of skilled health workers. Although strong evidence demonstrates that task sharing is safe and effective for contraceptive services, policies and practices to support its use have not been widely scaled up, and guidance and regulations vary across countries. To address these challenges, WHO launched the [new evidence-based guidance](#) at the ICFP 2025 to help countries plan, implement, and scale up task-sharing within contraceptive programmes.



Guidance on planning, implementing and scaling up task sharing for contraceptive services



WHO's Updated Family Planning Guidance: MEC 6th edition and SPR 4th edition

The 6th edition of the *Medical Eligibility Criteria (MEC) for contraceptive use* and the 4th edition of the *Selected Practice Recommendations (SPR) for contraceptive use* were officially launched at the ICFP 2025 (see [WHO website](#)). The updated MEC includes new recommendations on contraception use during breastfeeding, interactions between antiretroviral therapies and hormonal contraceptives and the repeated use of emergency contraception within the same menstrual cycle. The revised SPR introduces a new topic on recommended medications to use during interval intrauterine device placement.



Purposeful Partnerships

International Conference on Family Planning 3-6 November 2025, Bogotá, Colombia

WHO Pre-conference on Technical Assistance to Countries

WHO supports Ministries of Health and partners to accelerate quality, rights-based FP services within the frameworks of the SDGs, UHC and the WHO 14th Global Programme of work. The *WHO Pre-conference on technical assistance to countries* to countries, held on 3 November, highlighted key developments. The pre-conference introduced the FP Accelerator Plus project, launched three new FP scale-up guides and featured a panel sharing BNA experiences from Nepal, Pakistan, Ethiopia, and the Latin American and Caribbean region. It also introduced the updated WHO guideline on preventing early pregnancy and poor reproductive outcomes among adolescents in LMICs, along with research updates.



WHO's Updated Family Planning Guidance: MEC 6th edition and SPR 4th edition



Launch of the updated MEC and SPR at the WHO Pre-conference on technical assistance to countries

The event concluded with the official launch of the 6th edition of the WHO MEC and the 4th edition of SPR, led by Dr Pascale Allotey, Director, Department of Life Course, Health and Research, WHO HQ, and endorsed by partners.

From Guideline to Action and Impact at Country Level: Mobilizing Momentum for Adolescent SRHR

A pre-conference workshop on 3 November focused on preventing early pregnancy and poor reproductive outcomes among adolescents. The session brought together youth advocates, government representatives, implementers, researchers, funders, and civil society. It featured a keynote from Aparajita Ramakrishnan, Director of Family Planning at the Gates Foundation and a panel on preventing child marriage and improving adolescent access to contraception. Participants engaged in group work to develop actionable, country-specific strategies for guideline adaptation and uptake.



Participants engaged in thematic group discussions to move from dialogue to action



Speakers and panellists at the WHO/ICFP preconference on advancing adolescent SRHR

WHO/ICFP Scientific Writing, Mentoring, and Coaching Workshop

WHO and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, organized a four-day scientific writing, mentoring and coaching workshop. It brought together over 100 junior scientists whose abstracts were accepted by ICFP, providing them with hands-on guidance to strengthen their scientific writing skills. Sessions included expert lectures and interactive panels on developing high-quality manuscripts. Participants will now engage in a six-month mentoring program supported by WHO, [Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research](#), with each participant paired with a mentor to guide them through manuscript writing and submission.



Experts and early-career scientists at the close of the four day scientific writing workshop, 3-6 November, ICFP 2025

Spotlight session on Scaling-up Postpregnancy Family Planning

A WHO preformed panel on scaling up evidence-based practices in postpregnancy FP, was held on 5 November 2025. Country teams from Nepal, Ethiopia, and Peru shared their experiences using the BNA to uncover health system barriers, build national consensus and design strategies to accelerate the scale-up of postpregnancy FP services.



Panellists from WHO Nepal, MoH Ethiopia, Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and WHO HQ contributing to the discussion on scaling up postpregnancy FP

ICFP 2025 Awards

The IBP Network was honoured with the prestigious Excellence in Leadership and Innovation Award, in recognition of its outstanding contributions to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) through bold leadership and innovative action. The IBP network comprises of more than 150 organizations, 15 communities of practice and 25,000 professionals united by a shared commitment to advance SRHR for all.

Dr Moazzam Ali received the Power of Family Planning Award for his research titled “Impact of Family Planning on Women’s Health and Socioeconomic Outcomes”.

WHO/IBP Network honoured with the Excellence in Leadership and Innovation Award and Dr Moazzam Ali received the Power of Family Planning Award



XXV FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics 5-9 October 2025, Cape Town, South Africa

WHO colleagues shared the latest recommendations and strategies for scaling up contraceptive access globally, emphasizing evidence-based approaches and country-level implementation during the session on 6 October.



WHO contributed to a panel on contraception for special populations. It focused on contraception for women living with HIV highlighting important considerations at client, program and community levels.

On 7 October, the FIGO Committee on contraception hosted “Strengthening SRHR: Advancing our collective agenda” featuring eight global partners, including WHO, the Gates Foundation, International Confederation of Midwives, ICFP, World Association for Sexual Health, Women Deliver and FP2030. This session underscored the importance of collective action to keep SRHR high on the global agenda and accelerate progress towards the SDGs 2030.



Publications

BNA country reports from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nepal, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania are [available](#) on the WHO website.

Advancing Quality of Care of Family Planning Services in Nigeria and Uganda

Strengthening quality of care of family planning services through South-South Learning Exchange



Nigeria and Uganda engaged in a reciprocal South-South Learning Exchange (SSLE) using WHO's five-step methodology outlined in the [SSLE guide](#), to improve the quality of care in FP. This [case study](#) highlights the countries' learning needs, describes the exchange process, and summarizes the key outcomes and lessons learned.

Improving Uptake of Self-administered DMPA s/c Injections in Burkina Faso and Madagascar

Using South-South Learning Exchange to increase uptake and accessibility to self-administered Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate (DMPA) s/c injections



Madagascar and Burkina Faso's [case study](#) presents the use of the five-step methodology of SSLE and the key outcomes of the learning exchange to scale up the use of self-administered DMPA-SC self-injections.

Kabra et al. *Reproductive Health* (2025) 22:159
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-025-02123-w>

Reproductive Health

RESEARCH

Open Access



Access to contraceptive services during the COVID-19 pandemic: clients' perspective at primary health care level from India, Nigeria and Tanzania

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This [paper](#) presents findings from a multi-country qualitative study conducted in India, Nigeria and Tanzania, to understand clients' experiences and perspectives on accessing contraceptive services at the primary healthcare level during the COVID-19 pandemic.

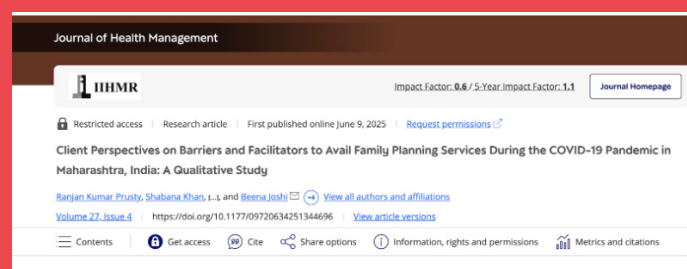


Indian J Community Med. 2025 May 30;50(5):854–857. doi: [10.4103/ijcm.ijcm_193_24](https://doi.org/10.4103/ijcm.ijcm_193_24)

Trends in Utilization of Contraceptive and Pregnancy-Related Services around COVID-19 Pandemic through Public Health Facilities: A Secondary Data Analysis

[Shabana Khan](#)¹, [Deepti Tandon](#)¹, [Ranjan Prusty](#)², [MK Bhavya](#)¹, [Rita Kabra](#)³, [Komal Allagh](#)³, [Beena Joshi](#)^{1,✉}

This [short communication](#) presents a trend analysis using secondary data from India's Health Management Information System (2019-2022) to assess contraceptive utilization at national, state and district levels through the pre-COVID period and the first two pandemic waves.



This [qualitative study](#) explores male and female clients' perspectives on the availability and accessibility of contraceptive services in public health facilities in Maharashtra, India, during the COVID-19 pandemic.



- **1 December 2025** - Webinar hosted by the WHO Pakistan Country Office to disseminate the Guidance on planning, implementing and scaling up task sharing for contraceptive services
- **New WHO resources (Upcoming)**
 - Guideline on Expanding Contraception Options
 - WHO Toolkit for Developing Social and Behaviour Change Interventions for Contraception and Family Planning

WHO FAMILY PLANNING ACCELERATOR PLUS PROJECT

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20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27
[www.who.int/teams/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-research-\(srh\)/overview](http://www.who.int/teams/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-research-(srh)/overview)

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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 March 2026.

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