



WHO FP Accelerator Plus

Project Newsletter
Issue 3 | August 2023

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 implementing evidence-based, gender-responsive programmatic interventions and accelerating the scaling up and sustaining of WHO-recommended 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).

Geographic scope focuses on 14 countries:

Eastern Mediterranean Region

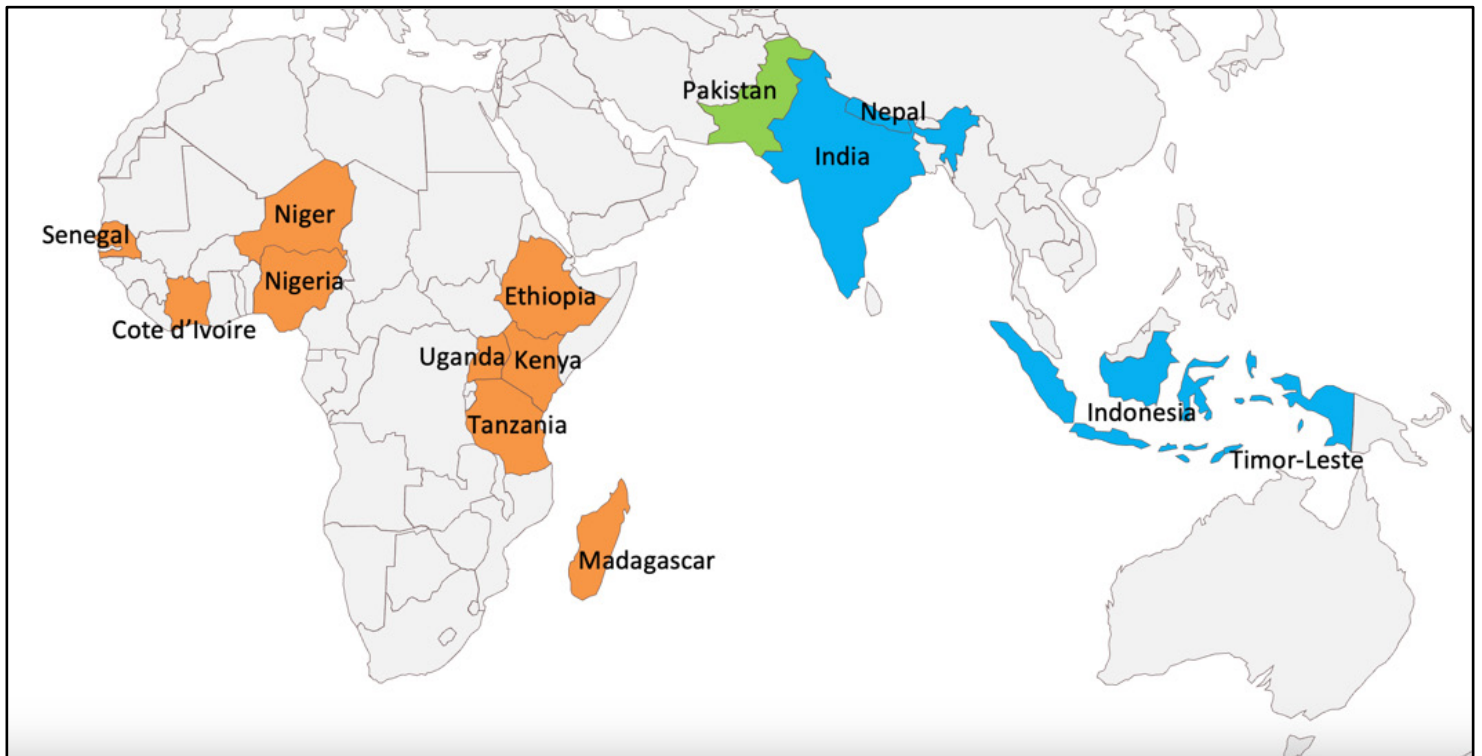
Pakistan

South-East Asia Region

India, Indonesia, Nepal, Timor-Leste

African Region

Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda





Madagascar - Burkina Faso

Representatives from the Family Health Department, Ministry of Health, UNFPA, and WHO country office from Burkina Faso visited Madagascar to meet with representatives from the Ministry of Public Health, the Tana Regional Health Director, and in-country partners from 20th to 25th May, 2023, to learn about community-based strategies to improve the uptake of self-administered DMPA S/C injection. Later, the team visited a Basic Health Centre in Ambohitrolomahitsy commune and the Bongatsara district referral hospital to gather feedback from community health workers and clients about their experiences. Following the study tour, both countries have started implementation of learnings.



WHO, MoH, and partners from the Burkina Faso team meet with Dr Laurent Musango, the WHO Representative to Madagascar



Community worker at Basic Health Centre in Ambohitrolomahitsy commune counselling a woman on the use of self-administered DMPA S/C injection

Nepal - Sri Lanka

Following the SSLE with Sri Lanka, Nepal started implementing the learnings for scaling PFP services at Civil Services Hospital, Kathmandu. The hospital staff underwent orientation on national PFP policies and guidelines, and received training in IUCD/implant insertion and removal. Additionally, the hospital received IUCD and implant instruments from the Kathmandu district health office and IEC materials from the National Health Education, Information, and Communication Center. This effort led to the implementation of a systematic service monitoring system at the hospital. Early results indicate significant progress; the FP clinic now offers five temporary contraceptive methods, expanding from just three (condoms, pills, and DMPA) in the past. Moreover, male partners actively participate in counseling sessions, and FP counseling has been seamlessly integrated into various RMNCAH activities.



Participants of review meeting of PFP Demonstration site at Civil Services hospital, 1st June 2023, Kathmandu, Nepal

AYSRHR Technical Assistance Coordination (TAC) Mechanism Review and Planning Meeting

A review meeting for the AYSRHR TAC mechanism was held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva. Representatives from WHO, Ministries of Health, partner organizations like UN agencies, FP 2030, USAID, and BMGF attended the meeting to share lessons learned, discuss current challenges and make recommendations for improving the TA Mechanism and its operations.



Participants of the TAC mechanism meeting, 30-31 May 2023

WHO Guidelines on Preventing Early Pregnancy and Poor Reproductive Outcomes in Adolescents in Low and Middle-Income Countries

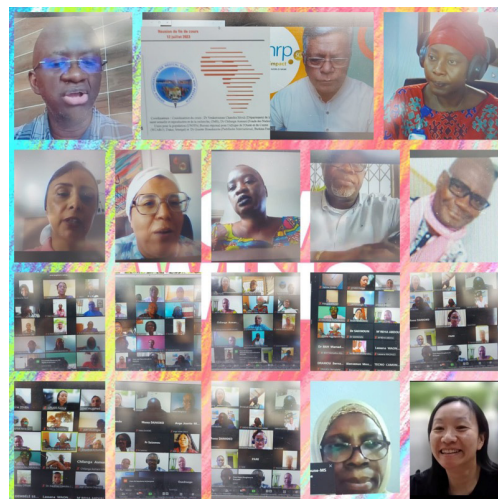
The third meeting of the Guideline Development Group (GDG) took place at WHO Headquarters to revise the guidelines in accordance with the recommendations. These guidelines specifically address the prevention of early pregnancies and poor reproductive outcomes in LMICs, with a particular emphasis on addressing child marriage, catering to the ASRH needs of married girls, and enhancing accessibility to and adoption of contraception. The fourth and final GDG meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2023, after which the guidelines will be finalized.



Third Guideline Development Group meeting participants, 26-28 June 2023

Online Training Course in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH)

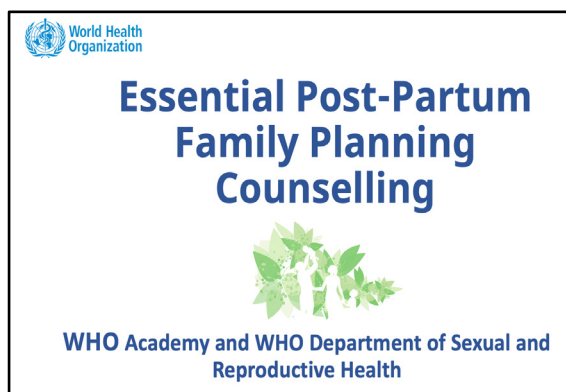
WHO and GFMER joined forces to deliver an eight-week online training program focused on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health. The course successfully enrolled 324 participants, primarily hailing from West and Central Africa. Conducted entirely in French, this course was tailored for public health professionals working in or interested in ASRH. Upon the course's completion, all participants were awarded certificates of achievement.



Online training sessions on ASRH, 17 May -11 July 2023

Essential Postpartum Family Planning Counseling

To strengthen Postpartum Family Planning counseling, the Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH) and the WHO Academy launched the Essential Postpartum Family Planning Counseling course on August 7, 2023. This blended course includes four self-paced e-learning modules and facilitated virtual face-to-face calls and will run for 20 weeks. Of the first cohort of 25 learners from different parts of the world, 15 are experienced counselors who will serve as facilitators for future cohorts. Effective counseling on the use of contraception is essential for ensuring that health workers respond to the needs of individuals and communities.



Bottleneck Analysis (BNA)

To gain a better national context-specific understanding of factors that may help or hinder the scale-up and sustaining of evidence-based practices (EBPs) on post-partum family planning (PPFP) and post-abortion family planning (PAFP), task sharing/expansion, and social behavior change (SBC), a bottleneck analysis is planned in 10 countries. A protocol (FP-BNA) has been designed, consisting of a core method guide detailing the assessment methods and activities, as well as three separate annexes containing the assessment tools for each module. A BNA working group comprising of representatives from WHO departments of Maternal Child, Adolescent and Aging, Sexual Reproductive health and Research, Behavioural insight Unit, Health workforce Unit, USAID, UNFPA, FP 2030, FIGO, Jhpiego, BMGF provides oversight to the process. WHO is in discussions with partners and MoH in Pakistan, Nigeria, Indonesia, Uganda, and Ethiopia to implement it. Partners interested in collaborating on BNA can contact WHO.

The IBP network organized a virtual consultation to discuss the WHO bottleneck analysis protocol. Dr. Rita Kabra presented the BNA protocol. Insightful feedback was provided by over 45 participants from 22 countries on the methodology and comprehensiveness of the BNA tool. Participants expressed enthusiasm to use the protocol. They shared ideas and reflections on how the tool could be used.



IBP Consultation on the WHO bottleneck analysis protocol, 16 August 2023

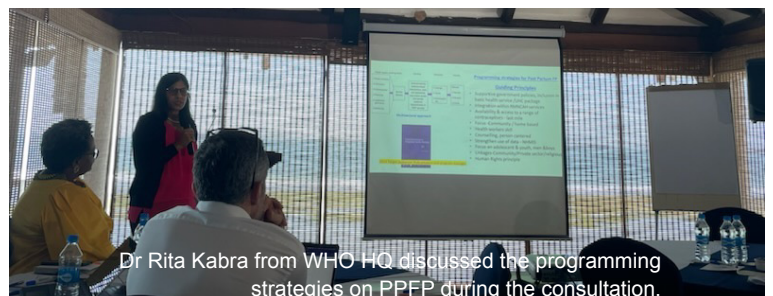
Purposeful Partnerships

Revitalizing and scaling up Postpartum/Post-abortion family planning within Universal Health Coverage

WHO participated in the strategic consultation on revitalizing and scaling up postpartum and post-abortion family planning within the Universal Health Coverage context, held in Dar es Salaam, led by the Momentum SSFPO project and Engender Health. Discussions revolved over solutions to scale up programming, financing, access, and quality of PPFP and PAFP within UHC. Representatives from USAID, UNFPA, Momentum, Jhpiego, and BMGF attended the meeting. The meeting proceedings and resulting action plan will be used to draft a White Paper and Call to Action for PPFP that will be disseminated at key global and technical forums, including the upcoming FIGO congress in Paris.



Participants at the consultation on revitalizing and scaling up PPFP/PAFP within UHC, 5-7 June 2023, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



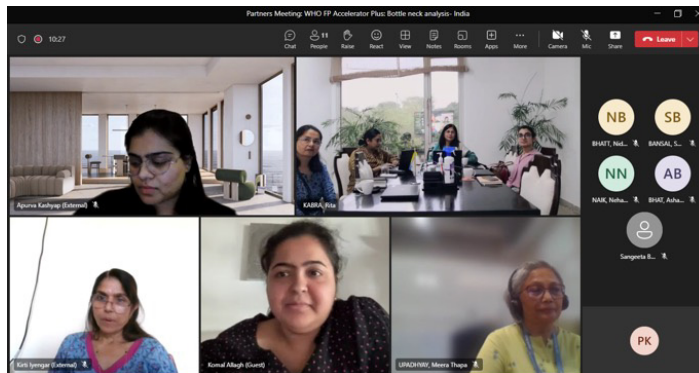
Dr Rita Kabra from WHO HQ discussed the programming strategies on PPFP during the consultation.

FP 2030 Global Steering Committee meeting on PPFP/PAFP

On July 27, 2023, at the quarterly Global Steering Committee meeting on PPFP/PAFP (virtual), participants were oriented on (i) WHO's bottleneck analysis protocol to identify barriers and enablers to scale up evidence-based interventions related to post-pregnancy FP, task sharing, and social & behavior change, as part of the FP Accelerator Plus, (ii) on the outcomes of the consultation on revitalizing and scaling up (PPFP/PAFP) held by MOMENTUM in Dar es Salaam in June, and (iii) on R4S's work on PPFP/PAFP quality and core components and existing tools. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2023.

Partners Meeting on WHO FP Accelerator Plus Bottleneck Analysis in India

The WHO country office organized a meeting with representatives from UNFPA, CIFF, Ipas, WHO SEARO, and HQ. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the FP Accelerator Plus project and the FP Bottleneck Analysis protocol. Partners expressed their interest in conducting/supporting the BNA, and the discussion centered on their experiences and suggestions for utilizing the tool in India.



Partners in India meet to discuss the WHO FP Accelerator Plus project and the FP Bottleneck analysis, 23 August 2023

Scaling up Family Planning High-impact and evidence-based practices through human rights and gender transformative approaches

At the UNFPA led workshop on scaling-up FP high impact and evidence based practices, WHO presented an overview of evidence-based practices and its relation to High impact practices, FP Accelerator Plus project, and the Bottleneck analysis which aims to identify barriers and enablers to scale up evidence based interventions related to post-pregnancy FP, task sharing, social and behavior change. The workshop was attended by UNFPA staff from 22 countries in the African region to increase knowledge in FP programs, including in humanitarian settings, and identify programmatic strengths and weaknesses for scaling up evidence-based and high-impact practices. Countries shared experiences on implementation, challenges, refined their roadmaps, and drafted action plans.



Participants of workshop to scale up evidence-based and high impact practices on FP, 7-10 August 2023, Johannesburg, South Africa

Publications

Advocacy briefs, Case Studies and Commentaries:

The **photo story** provides valuable insights into how Madagascar and Burkina Faso are learning from each other (South-South learning exchange) to increase access to Family planning services for those most in need and contribute to the achievement of Universal Health coverage.

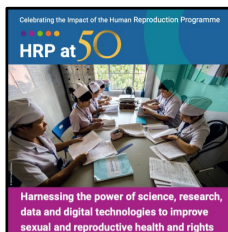


The **case study** documented promising results in the uptake of long-acting reversible contraceptives during the immediate postpartum and post-abortion period by establishing postpartum and post-abortion family planning corners in the delivery rooms of 25 health facilities in Kabul and Herat provinces.

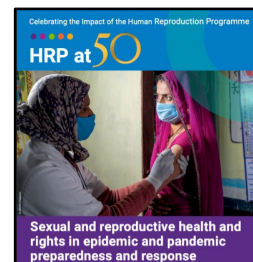
This **commentary** highlights pharmacies can enhance adolescent's access to contraceptives, but the out of pocket payment can be a hindrance for disadvantaged rural youth.



This **advocacy brief** focuses on the excellent leadership of HRP in utilizing research, data and digital technology to deliver evidence-based solutions for SRHR.



An **advocacy brief** features the establishment of the SRH Outbreak Working Group in 2014 and how it conducts rigorous research on SRH during epidemic and pandemic situations (Ebola, Zika, Covid and Mpox) and strives to implement these findings for benefit in countries.



Research:



A **systematic review** of strategies to scale up post-pregnancy family planning included strategies for healthcare infrastructure, policy and regulation, financing, human resource, and people at the point of care.

This **scoping review** explored the purpose, approaches, enablers, barriers and outcomes of South-South Learning Exchange in family planning through a systematic literature search and interviews with experts.



A **qualitative study** presenting the experiences on challenges, enablers, lessons learnt and the methodology used for South-South learning exchange.

Coming up

- **12-14 September 2023:** SEARO Regional capacity building workshop on family planning using updated Training Resource Package, Kathmandu, Nepal
- **15 September 2023:** FP Accelerator Plus- South-South learning Exchange - After-Action Review, Kathmandu, Nepal
- **18-20 September 2023:** WHO consultation to develop implementation guidance on self-care interventions, WHO HQ, Geneva
- **26 September 2023:** Webinar on FP Accelerator Plus and Bottleneck analysis methodology
- **9-12 October 2023:** XXIV FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Paris
- **19-20 October 2023:** Scoping Meeting: Leveraging digital channels for FP information access, WHO HQ, Geneva

WHO FAMILY PLANNING ACCELERATOR PLUS PROJECT

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[https://www.who.int/teams/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-research-\(srh\)/overview](https://www.who.int/teams/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-research-(srh)/overview)

Share your experiences!



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

We welcome submissions of updates by any team member for inclusion in the next newsletter, scheduled for November 2023.

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.

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