



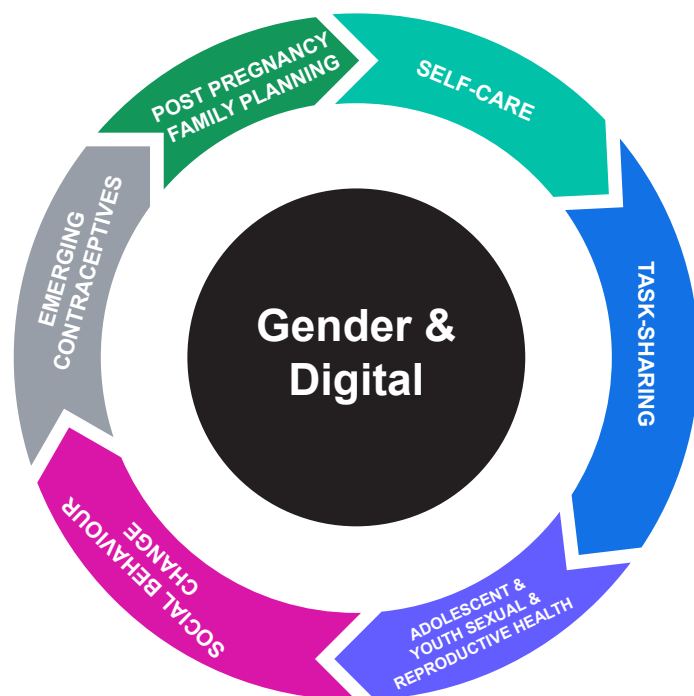
WHO FP Accelerator Plus

Project Newsletter

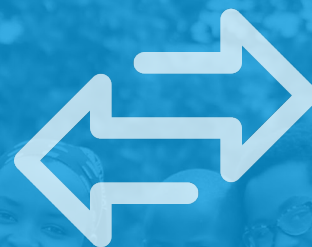
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FP Accelerator Plus

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.



Countries implementing the bottleneck analysis

Eastern Mediterranean Region

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).



33rd Meeting of Country Engagement Working Group and Sub-group meeting, Skardu

African Region

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.



Meeting to brief the FP- Technical working group and MoH representatives on BNA

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.



Participants from MoH, UNFPA and WHO at the BNA tool adaptation and validation workshop

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.



Stakeholders from the Family Welfare Division of the Department of Health Services, WHO CO Nepal and other organizations and experts convened to discuss the contextualization of BNA tools and planning for upcoming field activities

Office Orchestra

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.**



MoH representatives from digital health, FP program and health informatics, FP providers, provincial leaders and staff from WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF at the National orientation workshop on FP-DAKs, 14-15 May 2024, Islamabad.

Scoping meeting on emerging contraceptives

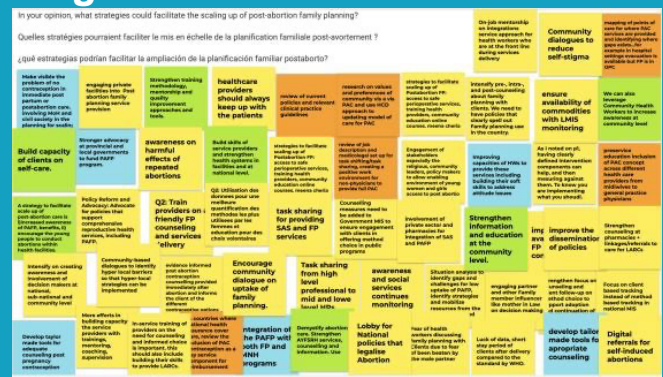
Experts convened in Geneva for a scoping meeting on emerging contraceptives. The aim was to develop recommendations on new methods of contraception that need further research. Insights from the meeting will inform the development of guidelines for contraceptive methods not currently included in the WHO 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.



Experts at the scoping meeting on emerging contraceptives, 11-13 June 2024, Geneva, Switzerland

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.



Strategies for scaling up post-abortion family planning, shared by participants during the virtual consultation

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.



Participants at the FP 2030 South-South Learning workshop, 7-9 May 2024,
Siem Reap

FP 2030 Asia Pacific Regional Hub meeting

WHO participated in the FP 2030 Asia Pacific Regional Hub meeting in Manila from 29 June to 4 July 2024. Delegates from 15 countries discussed the challenges and findings from the BNA conducted in the region to identify strategies to scale up evidence-based practices for postpartum and post-abortion family planning (PPFP+PAFP). In preparation for the meeting, IBP Network, IPPF-ESEAR, and Knowledge SUCCESS held a CSO Consultation with 100 participants from the region to discuss and identify FP and SRHR priorities and challenges in the Asia Region. These included addressing the needs of young people, stigma, and male engagement. Challenges included a lack of power of CSOs to influence governments, funding constraints, declining fertility rates, lack of support to work with marginalized communities (i.e. LGBTQI), and a rapidly shrinking CSO space.



Publications

Towards a nuanced view and response to global fertility trends

Concerns regarding fertility and population dynamics are not new¹ and will undoubtedly continue. Central to these concerns are unanswered questions regarding the implications of changing population age structures, and how to reconcile declining fertility rates with ongoing growth of the global population due to demographic momentum. Debates linger regarding whether these changes pose a substantial threat to humanity, or are simply adaptive, self-limiting phenomena.² These uncertainties lead to questions regarding whether and how governments should act to influence human reproduction. In *The Lancet*, the GBD 2021 Fertility and Forecasting Collaborators¹ model recent and future trends in global total fertility rate (TFR) and livebirths, using a large dataset from the Global Burden of Diseases, Published Online March 28, 2024 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(24\)00949-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(24)00949-2) See Articles page 2052

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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.

Jahanfar et al. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* (2024) 24:395 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-024-06587-9>

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

RESEARCH

Open Access

Assessing the impact of contraceptive use on mental health among women of reproductive age – a systematic review

Shayesteh Jahanfar¹, Julie Mortazavi¹, Amy Lapidow², Cassandra Cu³, Jude Al Abosy⁴, Katherine Morris¹, Juan Camilo Becerra-Mateus², Paola Andrenacci³, Manwa Badawy⁴, Meredith Steinfeldt¹, Olivia Maurer¹, Bohang Jiang⁵ and Moazzam Ali^{1*}

This [systematic review](#) explores the quantitative evidence on the relationship between contraceptive use and mental health outcomes among women of reproductive age. It includes 43 studies, comprising 23 randomized controlled trials and 20 cohort studies. The meta-analysis of RCTs involving women with a history of mental disorders revealed a slightly significant protective effect. In contrast, the analysis of women without prior mental disorders indicated a significant increase in depression scores.

Open access Protocol

BMJ Open Strengthening contraceptive counselling services to empower clients and meet their needs: protocol for a two-stage, multiphase complex intervention in Pakistan and Nigeria

Nguyen Toan Tran,¹ Moazzam Ali², Syed Khurram Azmat³, Armando Seuc,² Funmilola M Oloalorun,⁴ Muhammad Ali Awan,⁵ Imran Morhason-Bello⁶, Ellen Mpanganjani Thom,⁶ Joseph Martin,⁷ Hanifah Datti Abubakar,⁸ Qudsia Uzma,⁹ James Kiari²

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.

Received: 14 February 2024 | Revised: 10 May 2024 | Accepted: 23 May 2024
DOI: 10.1111/andr.13675

REVIEW ARTICLE

ANDROLOGY WILEY

The role of the World Health Organization in male contraceptive development

Nancy Kidula¹ | Brian T. Nguyen² | Ndema Habib¹ | Mario Festin^{3,4} | Igor Toskin¹ | James Kiari¹

Male contraceptive methods are currently limited to vasectomy, male condoms and withdrawal. New male contraceptives would expand the contraceptive method mix and alleviate the contraception burden disproportionately shouldered by women. This [review article](#) details WHO's role in male contraceptive development as premised on the WHO's core functions and the various stages of male contraceptive development.

RESEARCH

Open Access

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

Bruce Dick^{1,2}, Marina Plesons^{1,3}, Callie Simon^{4,5}, Jane Ferguson^{2,5}, Ahmed Kassem Ali⁶ and Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli^{7*}

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.

RESEARCH ARTICLE



REVISÉ Strengths and weaknesses of the South-South Learning Exchange: a qualitative analysis of experts' perspectives

[version 2; peer review: 2 approved, 2 approved with reservations]

✉ Isotta Triulzi ¹, Rita Kabra ², Komal Preet Allagh³, James Kiarie ²

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This article is included in the International Conference on Family Planning gateway.

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.



COMING
SOON

- **5-9 August 2024** - BNA Consensus building workshop, Pakistan
- **9-10 August 2024** - BNA Consensus building workshop, Nepal
- **12-17 August 2024** - BNA Consensus building workshop, Ethiopia
- **20-21 August 2024** - Technical Working Group Meeting for Supporting Guide on Social Behaviour Change for Policymakers and Program Managers, Geneva, Switzerland
- **25-26 September 2024** - Convening on Strategies for scaling up gender-responsive post pregnancy family planning, Geneva, Switzerland

WHO FAMILY PLANNING ACCELERATOR PLUS PROJECT

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[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 November 2024.

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