



# UMBRELLA TO ACCELERATOR

WHO-FP ACCELERATOR PROJECT NEWSLETTER

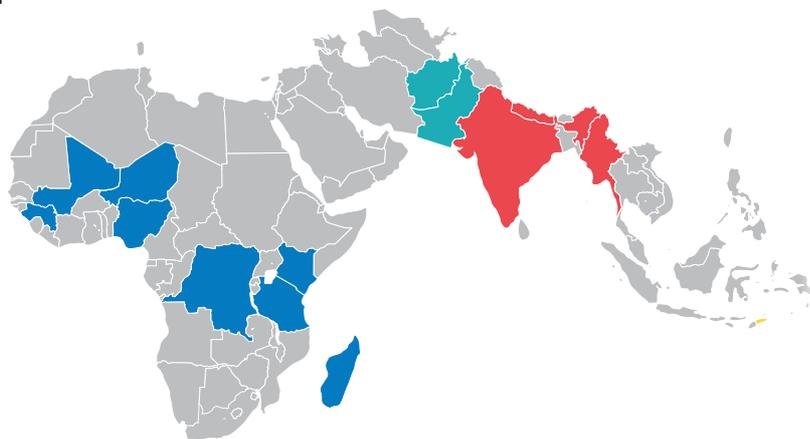
Issue 1–October 2019

## PROMOTING QUALITY AND RIGHTS-BASED FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

Following the conclusion of the WHO FP Umbrella project, WHO has embarked on the Family Planning Accelerator Project (2019–2022). The project continues to support partners and ministries of health (MoH) to accelerate quality and rights-based family planning services within the broader frameworks of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and WHO's 13<sup>th</sup> Global Programme of Work (GPW13). The project contributes specifically to attainment of SDG targets 3.1, 3.7 and 5.6, and to the GPW 13 goal of 1 billion more people covered by UHC. The FP Accelerator Project is coordinated by the Human Reproduction Team (HRX) in the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research (WHO/RHR).

### GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE FOCUSING ON

**14**  
COUNTRIES



#### Eastern Mediterranean Region:

Afghanistan, Pakistan

#### South-East Asia Region:

India, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor Leste

#### African Region:

Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

In the 14 selected focus countries:

1. Accelerate updating and implementation of evidence-based FP guidelines.
2. Improve the quality of contraception information and service provision, and uptake by adolescents.
3. Advance adolescent health programmes through implementing AA-HA! strategy.
4. Increase the uptake of postpartum and post-abortion contraception, availability of wide range of contraceptive methods and improve quality of care in FP services.

### Time line

#### Phase 1

2015–2017  
UMBRELLA

#### Supplement

2018–2019  
PREPARATORY

#### Phase 2

2019–2022  
ACCELERATOR

# SPECIFIC APPROACHES OF THE FP ACCELERATOR PROJECT

## LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS TO EXPAND IMPLEMENTATION OF WHO FP AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH GUIDANCE

WHO is aligning strategic priorities and activities with those of FP partners at the national and global levels, accelerating implementation of related evidence-based guidelines. Regional and in-country 'cascade training' will enhance the use of evidence-based FP recommendations through a WHO collaboration with the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES

Based on country requests, technical assistance (TA) will be provided for strengthening quality family planning programmes, and to help expand the range and choice of contraception options available.

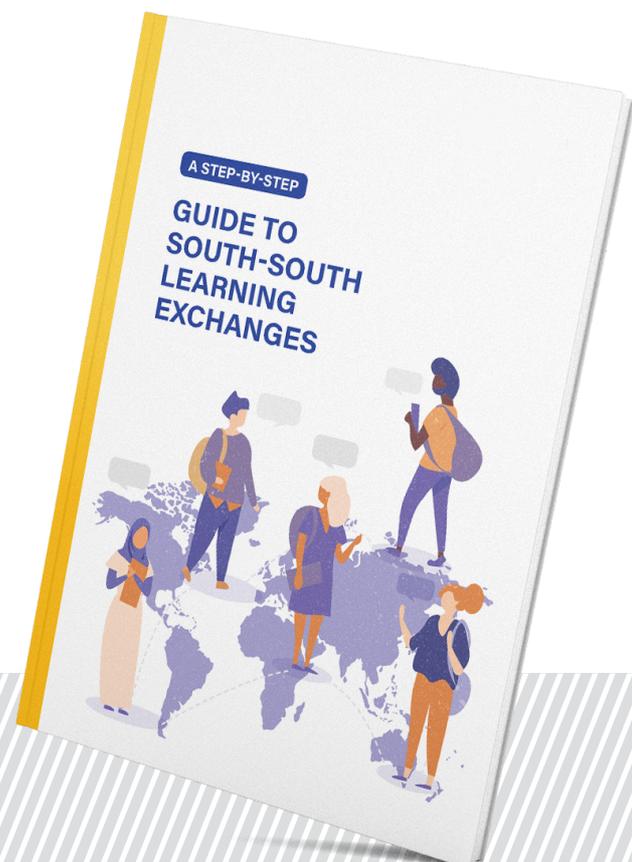
A timely/prompt TA mechanism has been established to help improve adolescent/youth sexual and reproductive health and rights. Country requests for TA are reviewed using a standard set of criteria. TA is provided and monitored using standardized mechanisms. Countries are encouraged to request TA.

## PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING EXCHANGE

This approach helps to facilitate peer learning on implementing and scaling up of evidence-based good practices in FP. A guide to facilitate the learning process has been developed by WHO and IBP partners.

## PRODUCTS TO ADDRESS KEY IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Specific guidance and derivative tools and products will be developed to address implementation challenges for strengthening quality family planning programme/services.



# ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE FP UMBRELLA PROJECT (2015-2019)

## 1. STRENGTHENED LEADERSHIP

WHO staff in 63 countries proactively engaged in policy dialogue with MoHs, academia/professional associations, implementing partners and local civil societies to advocate for rights-based quality FP. Engagement in FP programmes at the country and WHO headquarters levels led to increased collaboration and coordination between partners, endorsement and use of WHO guidelines as reference documents in FP work, as well as reduced duplication in the development of tools and job aids.

## 2. ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED FP AND CONTRACEPTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

At the outset of the project (in early 2016), only a few focus countries had updated national guidelines based on the latest WHO recommendations. Six new derivative tools were developed to help facilitate implementation of WHO evidence-based family planning guidelines.

By the end of the project in 2018, 38 countries had updated national guidelines and training materials in line with WHO recommendations, and a further 12 were in process.

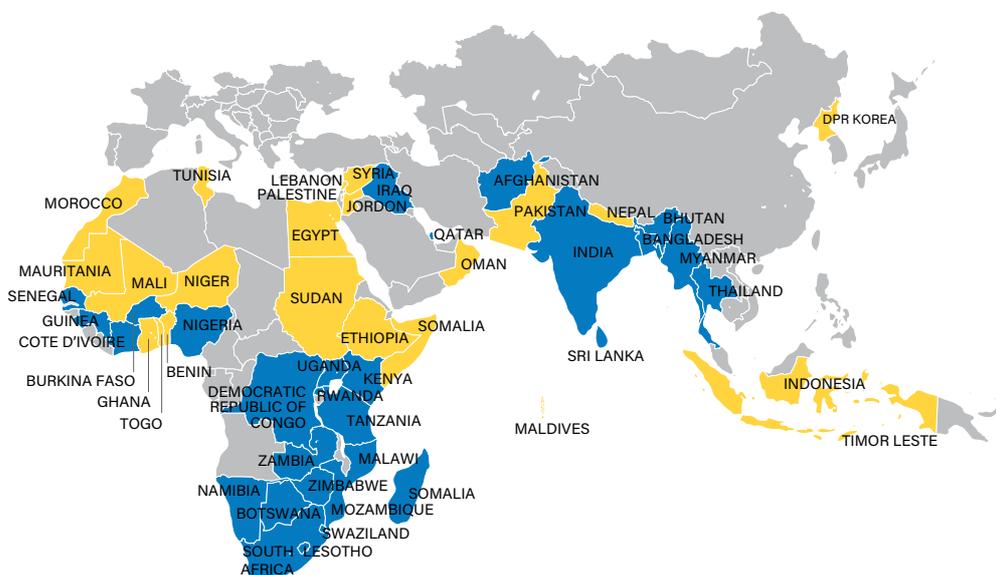


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## COUNTRIES STARTED WORK ON UPDATING NATIONAL GUIDELINES

12 Update of National guidelines in progress

38 National FP guidelines revised



## 3. SKILLED AND MOTIVATED HUMAN RESOURCES

Over 300 experts (7-8 in each of the 50 countries) were equipped with essential skills and understanding to support use of evidence-based FP recommendations. These experts continue to serve as advocates, trainers and mentors. They support ministries at national and sub-national levels in identifying barriers and facilitators of FP and addressing them through policy implementation, as well as active monitoring and documentation of quality FP programmes. This helps to ensure that capacity development is sustained and scaled up.



## COUNTRY NEWS

### AA-HA! BARBADOS AND SUDAN TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE HEALTH OF THEIR YOUTH

**Barbados** and **Sudan** undertook a systematic process of needs assessment, national prioritization and programming for adolescent health using the Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!) guidance, leading to development of a comprehensive adolescent health strategy in each country.



### INDIA INITIATES PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING EXCHANGE

**India** pilot-tested the new guide on South-South learning exchange in West Bengal, with the aim of enhancing implementation of FP best practices. Based on the pilot test results the activity has been renamed peer to peer learning exchange. The guide was disseminated during the IBP global Partners meeting in Washington DC in September. Partners committed to use the guide in future SS learning exchanges.



“ *The PFP programme has helped to reduce missed opportunities for family planning services for mothers who meet service providers at antenatal, delivery, postpartum and during immunization - enabling them to access the services. Access is further increased by availability of trained staff.* ”

*District health Officer- during key informant interview- Hoima district Uganda*

### SCALE UP OF POSTPARTUM FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME

In **Uganda**, following health facility assessment, postpartum family planning (PFP) protocols were developed, validated and disseminated to integrate post-abortion and postpartum services into national maternal and child health (MCH) services.

### ONGOING UPDATES TO POSTPARTUM FAMILY PLANNING MANUALS

National training manuals focusing on five contraceptive methods have been developed in **Nepal**. The manuals focus on non-scalpel vasectomy, 'mini' laparotomy, implant insertion and removal, intrauterine devices (IUD), and postpartum IUDs.

National family planning guidelines, and a standardized training package for facility- and community-based workers were developed in **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan**.

Nepal Training material



Afghanistan guidance package for FP



# ON THE FP ACCELERATOR PROJECT HORIZON



Partners and Timor Leste Ministry of Health developing action plan to strengthen family planning services



## TIMOR LESTE ROLLS OUT THE FP ACCELERATOR PROJECT

On 23–27 September 2019, Timor Leste Ministry of Health officials, partners, academia and WHO staff came together to review the status and readiness of the country to address the high national maternal mortality, unmet need of contraceptives and achieving overall strengthening the family planning programme. A plan of action has been developed and its implementation will be supported under the FP Accelerator Project.



HQ, CO and RO Walk the talk in Timor Leste – 28.09.2019

## SHARE PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Representatives from the eight FP Accelerator Project focus countries in Africa will meet in Cotonou, Benin on 26–27 November 2019 to review the status of project implementation, share their related challenges and experiences and prepare plans for 2020.

**SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!**



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



This newsletter is designed for those involved or interested in the FP-Accelerator project at WHO Headquarters, Regional and country offices. It features current and upcoming activities, accomplishments by the team and useful resources and will be distributed quarterly. We welcome submissions of project updates by any team member for inclusion in the next newsletter, scheduled for January 2020.

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