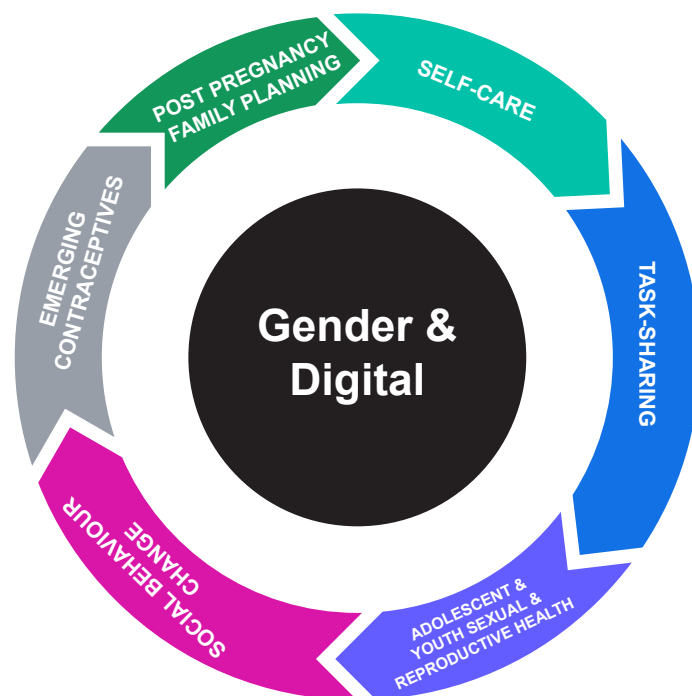


WHO FP Accelerator Plus

Project Newsletter
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FP Accelerator Plus

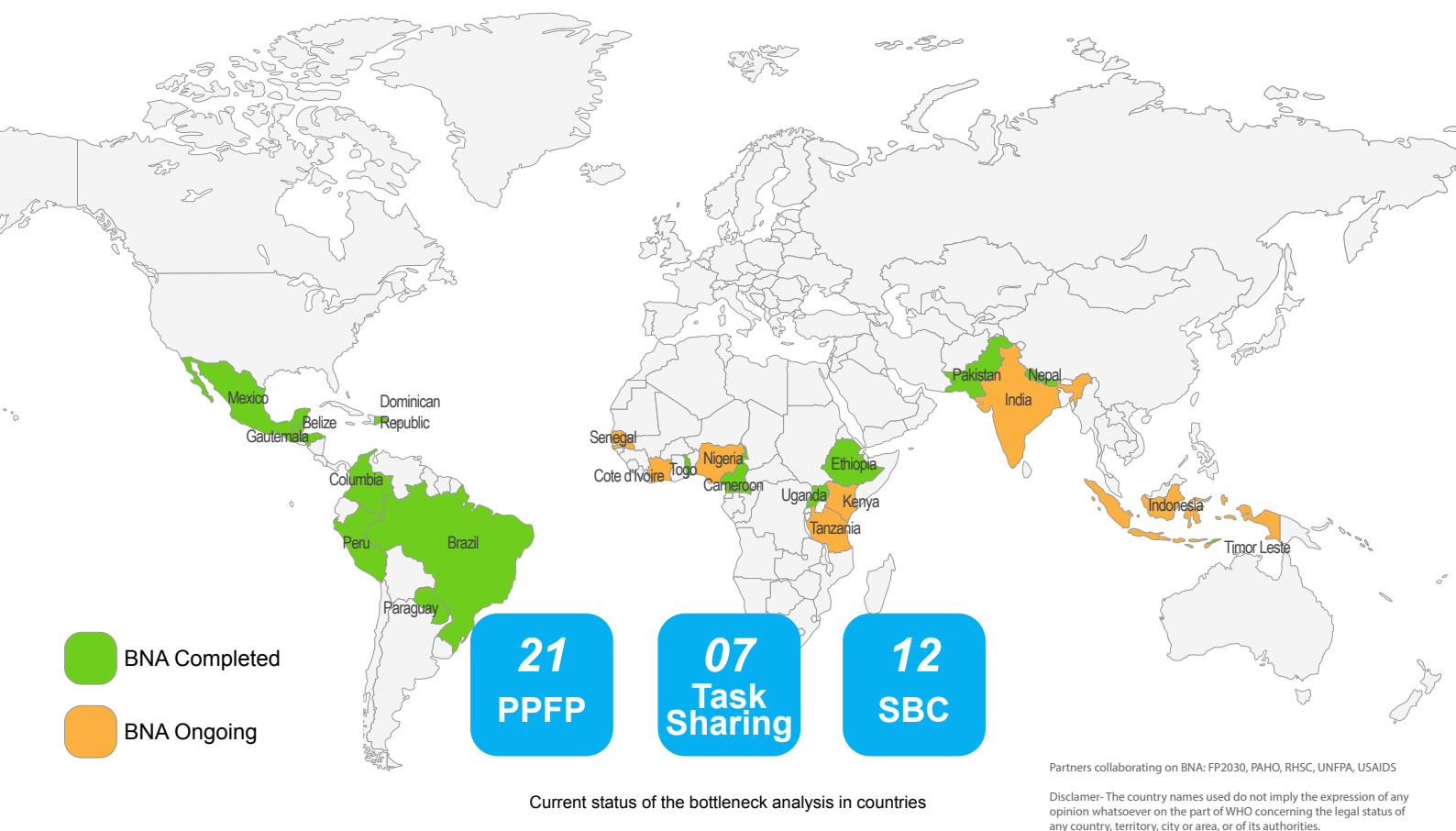
The [World Health Organization \(WHO\) FP Accelerator Plus](#) project builds upon past efforts by the Family Planning (FP) Umbrella (2015-2018) and Accelerator projects (2019-2022) to support partners and Ministries of Health (MoH) in accelerating the scaling up and sustaining of WHO-recommended gender 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)

Twenty-three countries across four regions have embarked on BNA using a [standardized WHO BNA protocol](#) to assist countries to develop National plans for scaling up evidence-based family planning practices in accordance with country context and consensus.



African Region

Uganda

A multistakeholder team comprising of the Ministry of Health, Makerere University School of Public Health, the UNFPA and WHO Uganda conducted a bottleneck analysis to identify barriers hindering the scale-up of postpregnancy family planning, task-sharing and social and behaviour change (SBC). The analysis, guided by the [WHO BNA protocol](#), covered five regions and included a review of 25 national policies and guidelines, national data, three case studies and 78 key informant interviews.

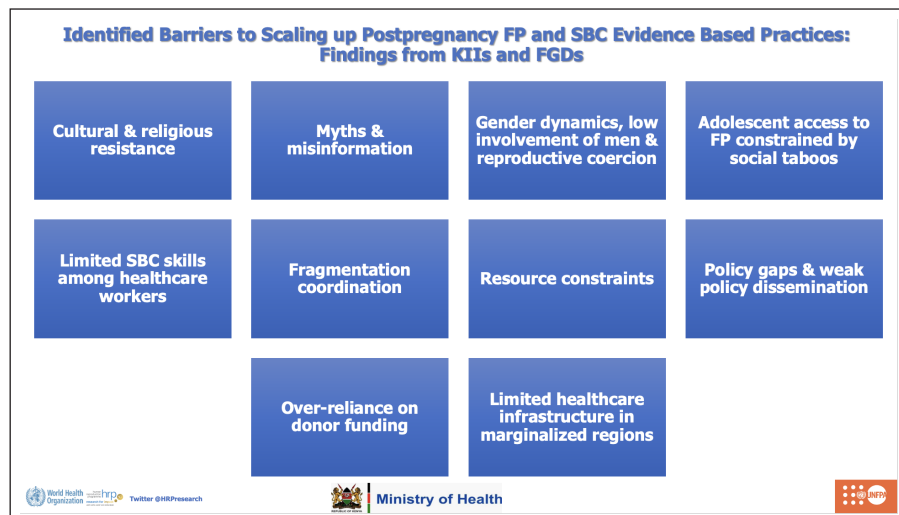


Stakeholders during the group work at the consensus-building workshop, 12 November 2024

Findings were shared at the consensus-building workshop on November 12, 2024, where stakeholders confirmed the following bottlenecks: limited awareness and skills among health providers on postpregnancy FP, inequitable service access, weak integration of SBC indicators, inadequate policy and funding for task-sharing. Proposed solutions included policy dissemination, targeted training and mentorship for health providers on postpregnancy FP, improved FP distribution, integrating SBC indicators into HMIS, stronger leadership with dedicated budget lines for task sharing. Efforts are underway to disseminate and implement the scale up plan.

Kenya

The UNFPA and WHO Kenya offices commenced a BNA focused on postpregnancy FP and SBC. At the request of the Ministry of Health to include the perspectives of service users in the analysis, the team adapted the WHO BNA protocol to include focus group discussions with women of reproductive age who had given birth within the past year. Data collection was carried out across six counties- Kisumu, Muranga, Kajiado, Kwale, Nairobi, and Garissa- selected to reflect a mix of high- and low-performing counties based on modern contraceptive prevalence rate. 50 KI interviews and 3 FGDs were conducted. A consensus-building workshop, is being planned to prioritize bottlenecks and propose strategies to address them.



South-East Asia Region

India

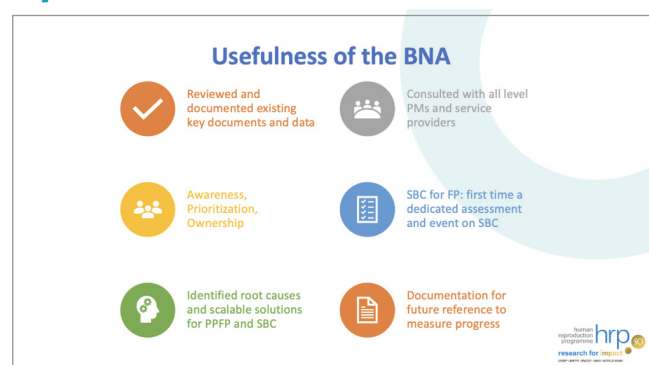
In Maharashtra, one of India's most populous states, the Global Health Strategies, in collaboration with WHO, is conducting a BNA to identify the key barriers to scale-up of postpregnancy FP service delivery, policy implementation and contraceptive uptake. A consensus-building workshop is planned for May, with participation from both national and state-level stakeholders, to review the findings and collaboratively identify priority bottlenecks and solutions to support scale-up efforts.

Ipas Development Foundation (IDF) is conducting BNA for scaling up postpregnancy FP in Madhya Pradesh. National Health Mission has approved the process and data collection has begun.

Office Orchestra

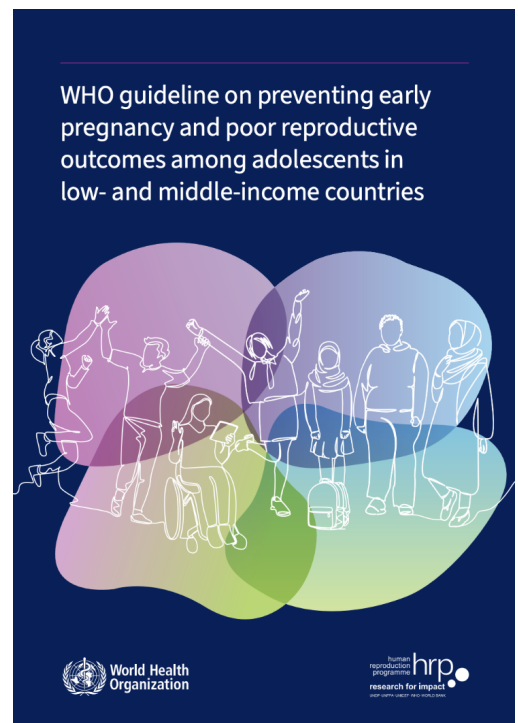
42nd Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) meeting

During the 42nd STAG meeting, held from 3-5 March 2025, the bottleneck analysis was presented to the advisory committee. The presentation highlighted the importance of using a structured approach to identify barriers to scaling up evidence-based FP services. It included an overview of the current implementation status across countries, insights into challenges encountered, lessons learned throughout the process and implementation experience from Nepal.



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

This updated [WHO guideline](#) provides evidence-based recommendations on interventions to improve adolescent morbidity and mortality by preventing early pregnancy and its associated negative health outcomes. The guideline is intended for policymakers, planners and programme managers from governments, NGOs and agencies offering technical and financial support.



A Step-by-Step Guide to South-South Learning Exchanges

WHO released the [step-by-step guide](#) to South-South learning exchanges, a joint publication with the UNFPA. This guide is designed for learning exchange facilitators, the planning committee and all participants engaged in the exchange process. It provides a comprehensive approach to planning, conducting and evaluating an intercountry South-South learning exchange.



Dissemination of Findings from the Bottleneck Analysis for Scaling-Up Evidence Based Practices in Uganda and Kenya

A second BNA webinar was held on March 26, 2025, in collaboration with the IBP network. The session featured findings from Kenya and Uganda, following an introductory overview of the WHO BNA methodology and its current implementation across countries. The event drew over 106 participants, including representatives from Ministries of Health, implementing partners, civil society organizations and global stakeholders in reproductive health. The recording from the webinar can be accessed [here](#).



Purposeful Partnerships

United Nations Population Fund

The UNFPA, in collaboration with WHO, led the BNA in Timor-Leste to identify key barriers to scaling up postpregnancy FP, task sharing and SBC. With approval from the HE Minister to Director General CSP through the National Directorate of Maternal and Child Health, the BNA was conducted in six districts— Dili, Ermera, Maliana, Manatuto, Baucau and Ainaro, representing both urban and rural settings, including key capital centres. The study involved desk review of national policies and data and 78 KI interviews across the three thematic areas.

On November 13, 2024, a national consensus-building workshop convened 36 stakeholders from national and subnational levels. Participants were organized into three thematic groups to review findings, prioritize bottlenecks, and develop actionable solutions. The country is developing plan to scale up the identified solutions and strategies.



Key informants completing questionnaires in the municipalities of Ermera, Maliana, Manatuto and Baucau

Publications

Open access Protocol

BMJ Open Protocol to assess bottlenecks inhibiting the scaling up of evidence-based family planning practices in low-income and middle-income countries using mixed methods

Rita Kabra¹, Kathryn Church², Komal Preet Allagh³, Abdulmumin Saad², Moazzam Ali¹, Petrus Steyn¹, James Kiarie¹

To cite: Kabra R, Church K, Allagh KP, et al. Protocol to assess bottlenecks inhibiting the scaling up of evidence-based family planning practices in low-income and middle-income countries using mixed methods. *BMJ Open*. 2024;14(1):e008123. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2023-008123

ABSTRACT

Introduction Scaling up evidence-based practices (EBPs) in family planning (FP), as recommended by the WHO, has increasingly been accepted by global health actors as core to their mission, goals and activities. National policies, strategies, guidance, training materials

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

⇒ This protocol ensures that the bottleneck analysis (BNA) is done systematically based on the WHO building blocks for strengthening health systems and triangulates data from desk reviews, case studies

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Experiences of infertility among couples in Morocco

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To better understand the challenges hindering the sustained scale-up of evidence-based practices in postpregnancy FP, task sharing and SBC, WHO has developed a standardized assessment protocol. This **BNA protocol** has enabled over 23 countries to systematically assess health system barriers, identify key implementation bottlenecks and develop solutions and strategies to overcome them.

This **qualitative study** aimed to obtain an in-depth understanding of the couple's experiences of their diagnosis and treatment of infertility at the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Centre in Morocco. Thirty-nine in-depth interviews were conducted with patients, hospital staff and policy stakeholders involved in fertility care as part of the evaluation of this first public ART centre.



The impact of male contraception on global sexual and reproductive health and rights☆☆☆☆

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The right to health and other health-related human rights are legally binding commitments enshrined in international human rights instruments. While these positions are known and ratified by policy makers, little has been done to actualize men's sexual and reproductive health (SRH) as an integral part of attaining these important global goals. Not addressing men's SRH over and above supporting their female partners

This **paper** presents a review and synthesis of published literature on male contraception and men's sexual and reproductive health. The paper recognizes men's SRH as a public health concern, provides insights on the impact of male contraception, including novel methods and the spillover effects on global SRH.



**COMING
SOON**

- **New WHO resources**
 - Scaling up Postpregnancy Family Planning- A Practical Guide
 - Social and behaviour change interventions for contraception and family planning: implementation guidance for policymakers and programme managers.
 - Guidance for planning, implementing and scaling up task sharing for contraceptive services
- **August 2025:** Regional dissemination workshop on 'Scaling up Postpregnancy Family Planning: A Practical Guide'
- **September 2025:** After-action review for BNA
- **October 5-9, 2025:** XXV FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Cape Town
- **November 3-6, 2025:** International Conference on Family Planning, Bogotá, Colombia

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)

DISCLAIMER

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Successful strategies that address gender-related barriers and promote bodily autonomy within efforts to scale up and sustain postpregnancy contraception: a scoping review

Arachu Castro ¹, Rita Kabra ², Anna Coates ², James Kiarie ²

To cite: Castro A, Kabra R, Coates A, et al. Successful strategies that address gender-related barriers and promote bodily autonomy within efforts to scale up and sustain postpregnancy contraception: a

ABSTRACT

Introduction Acknowledging the integral role of bodily autonomy in advancing gender equality, our study aimed to assess the extent to which strategies used in postpartum and postabortion contraception have effectively equipped women, girls and gender-diverse individuals with the tools,

WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC

⇒ Previous scoping and systematic reviews have explored strategies to increase postpregnancy contraception uptake globally. However, none have specifically focused on strategies that promote bodily autonomy while ad-

This **scoping review** assesses the extent to which strategies used in postpartum and post-abortion contraception have effectively equipped women, girls and gender-diverse individuals with the tools, knowledge and resources required to make autonomous decisions that align with their diverse life experiences.

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 September 2025.

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