



WEBINAR RECAP

STRENGTHENING FAMILY PLANNING AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (EPR) – INSIGHTS AND DIALOGUE ON FP2030 AND EPR COMMITMENTS

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3QULi5doWA>

MIHR, FP2030, and PROPEL Adapt are partnering on a series of webinars focused on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) emergency preparedness and response (EPR). These discussions will delve deep into EPR for SRH, spotlighting its importance in addressing SRH needs before, during, and after crises, sparking dynamic conversations and innovative solutions. The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH defines the international standard for basic SRH care in acute crises. Significant progress has been made in the number of governments incorporating EPR into their FP2030 commitments, conducting MISP readiness assessments across sub-Saharan Africa, establishing an EPR Center of Excellence, and testing new tools and approaches. The webinar series will support countries to operationalize these commitments.

BACKGROUND

This webinar, the first in the series, provided a unique learning and exchange opportunity to explore how EPR for FP/SRH can be operationalized and learn from countries about concrete strategies, initiatives, and policies they have implemented to secure continuous access to FP/SRH during a crisis. The session featured a discussion with partners from different regions who are implementing this work in different contexts.

OVERVIEW AND SETTING THE SCENE (2:43)

Speaker: Oren Jusu, EPR Director, FP2030

- FP2030 works to prioritize emergency preparedness related to FP/SRH as many of the countries they support are vulnerable to shocks and stresses, including conflict, infectious disease outbreaks, extreme weather, and declining biodiversity. Also, there is an overall increase in countries facing fragile contexts.
- Pre-existing vulnerabilities are often exacerbated during a crisis, including lack of access to FP and broader SRH services. Preparedness helps us strengthen existing health systems and build the resilience of communities to bounce back from shocks and stresses.
- The goal of [the FP2030 Emergency Preparedness and Response Strategy](#) is for FP access to be maintained and improved for women and adolescents affected by acute and protracted crises,

contributing to a future where women and adolescents everywhere have the freedom and ability to lead healthy lives, make their own informed decisions about using contraception and having children, and participate as equals in society and its development.

- FP2030's EPR strategic priorities include supporting new EPR commitments, brokering and providing technical and financial assistance, developing and integrating EPR measurements and tracking progress, influencing global and national EPR agendas, expanding FP2030 partnerships and reducing silos, and engaging youth and other civil society partners to develop an EPR advocacy agenda.

PANEL DISCUSSION (15:04)

- Three panelists provided responses to questions from moderator Nesrine Talbi (FP2030 EPR Consultant).
 - Alemayhu Bogale (Ethiopia), UNFPA Ethiopia, SRHRIE Programme Analyst
 - Abdul Halim (Bangladesh), Director Reproductive & Child Health Unit, Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh (CIPRB)
 - Wendyam Micheline KABORE (Burkina Faso), Executive Director, Initiative Pananetugri pour le Bien-être de la Femme (IPBF)
- **Panel Question:** What FP2030 EPR commitments or other processes or policies has your country done to secure access to FP/SRH in emergencies?

- Wendyam Micheline KABORE - Burkina Faso

Current crises have exacerbated sexual violence against women and girls in the country and affected the quality and accessibility of health services, specifically for FP/SRH. In response, Burkina Faso signed an FP2030 commitment to provide an accessible network of high-quality services for the population amid these crises. Actions taken by the government include working with civil society and advocacy organizations to help develop and implement response and resilience plans. One activity includes the use of mobile health clinics to better reach vulnerable populations, including the over 2 million displaced people in the country. These mobile services provide contraception and other FP services, with the goal of meeting urgent needs during periods of service disruption. Two major challenges faced in Burkina Faso include financial needs and security issues. Burkina Faso has pledged to provide free contraception and other supplies during these times; however, limited funding has a direct impact on the country's ability to stand by this claim. In terms of security and logistical support, services still have difficulties reaching vulnerable populations, and organizations outside the humanitarian system may be unable to provide support during periods of crisis.

- Dr. Abdul Halim - Bangladesh

Bangladesh is prone to a multitude of environmental disasters that affect the country every year. As a result, the health system is often disrupted. The government has identified FP/SRH services as a high priority area, and the health sector program carried out by the government is working with development partners to align with the FP2030 commitment to use an integrated multisectoral human rights approach to address FP/SRH needs. The national health sector program recently conducted an assessment that identified top needs including maternal health services, referral systems, gender-based violence care, and improvement of FP supply chains, which are often disrupted during disasters. The health sector program has a working

group that developed an action plan (2023 – 2029), emphasizing SRH needs. Additionally, the government collaborates with development partners to update action plans and ensure they align with the national framework for implementing various FP/SRH activities. Other priority areas for the government include focusing on capacity building, minimizing supply issues, and leveraging non-medical personnel (including from civil society organizations) to help with emergency responses related to SRH/FP care. They also employ mobile health services to organize support in more remote areas.

- Mr. Alemayhu Bogale - Ethiopia

Ethiopia faces a complex humanitarian crisis situation, which includes both conflict and environmental disasters. According to the government, over 21.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance within the country. There are over 3.2 million displaced persons and over a million refugees from South Sudan and Somalia. The government has endorsed an implementation plan with a budget of over US\$500 million to address community issues, security, and supply chains while narrowing regional disparities among FP/SRH outcomes. Working to reduce disparities within the country is the first priority. In addition, the National Health Sector Development Investment plan (2023 – 2026) is focused on including FP/SRH services as part of the strategic initiative, specifically related to supply chain management and developing and implementing training that is necessary to support populations during complex emergencies. Until recently, about 95 percent of supplies were covered by donor funds; however, Ethiopia is working to cover more of this cost percentage.

Q&A (49:33)

- What have been effective strategies to ensure that preparedness activities monitor and inform response actions?

- Mr. Alemayhu Bogale

It is essential to engage the government when it comes to programming. In Ethiopia, they have an SRH technical working group at the national and subnational levels. Additionally, the government, in partnership with UNDP, is supporting programming efforts and leveraging results from the assessment of FP/SRH services to ensure that they are allocating funding for emergency planning properly and engaging multiple levels of the health system.

- Can you expand on what the specific needs of women and girls are in areas impacted by crises and what are the ways to increase access to these FP/SRH services?

- Wendyam Micheline KABORE

In areas of crisis, we have found that there is an increased incidence of rape, so we need to increase comprehensive and holistic care related to this issue, including addressing mental health aspects. Another issue faced occurs during childbirth/labor in a moment of crisis, which requires additional actions to be taken to prevent adverse health outcomes. It is important to increase awareness of these issues in areas prone to conflict and be able to provide complete packages of service. For example, one Burkina Faso service area that is made up of many poor villages is extremely hard to access and requires individuals to walk up to 10 kilometers to seek care. Add the issue of security on top of this access issue, and the problem is even more severe. That is why leveraging mobile care is so important for these areas. Blocked roads and

commodity stockouts still remain a challenge for these mobile clinics; however, getting additional funds will hopefully help improve the capacity of this type of programming.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS (58:38)

- For those interested in learning more, additional resources related to the webinar content can be found on the following websites:
 - [FP2030](#)
 - [Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises \(IAWG\)](#)
 - [IAWG Sub-Working Group on Emergency Preparedness and Resilience](#)
 - [Ready to Save Lives: Sexual and Reproductive Health Care in Emergencies Toolkit](#)
 - [Incorporating Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Resilience in Commitments](#)