

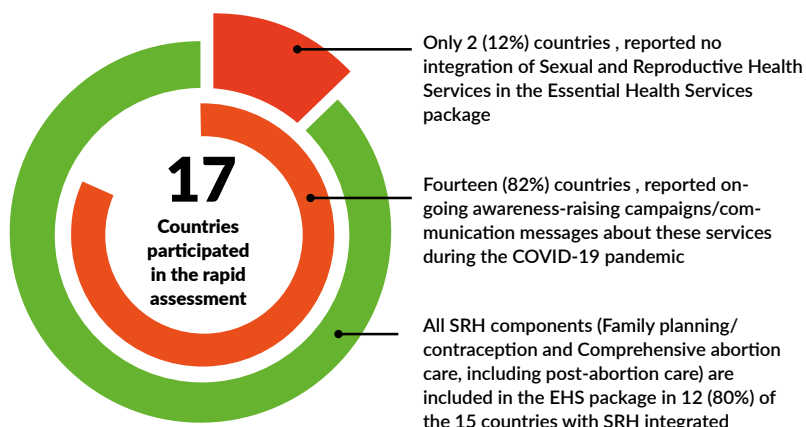


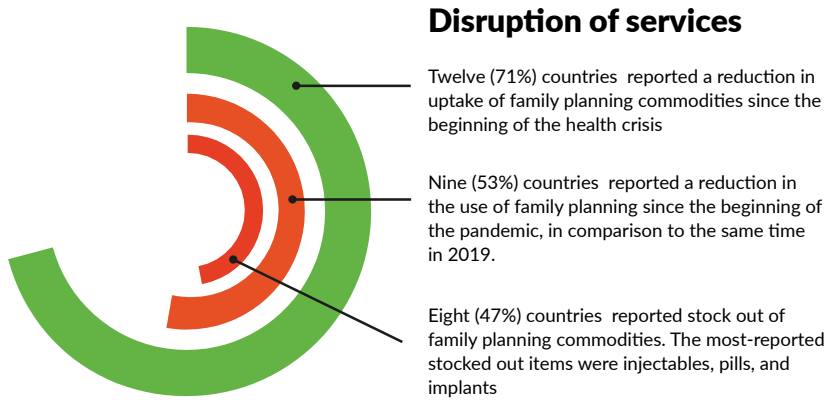
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## Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the context of COVID-19 in the African Region: rapid assessment of continuity of services

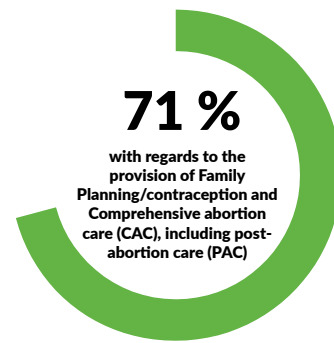
The COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly become a significant global public health crisis by causing disruptions in the supply and use of health services with a potential risk of adverse impact on maternal and child health.

The WHO Regional Office for Africa conducted a rapid assessment on the continuity of essential Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services in the African Region in the context of COVID-19. The evaluation aimed to assess the inclusion of SRHR in the Essential Health Services (EHS) package of the COVID-19 response in the countries of the African Region. The survey was conducted from June to July 2020. Purposive sampling technique was used. The questionnaire was sent to African countries that were already part of or being targeted to be focus countries of WHO SRHR projects, and countries that had reported a high number of COVID-19 cases.





**The key challenges identified in most countries**



Services during the COVID-19 pandemic, were the fear of patients/clients to go to health facilities and the lack of information of the population regarding the continuity of these services. The funding of Family Planning/contraception and CAC/PAC services was also identified as a challenge.

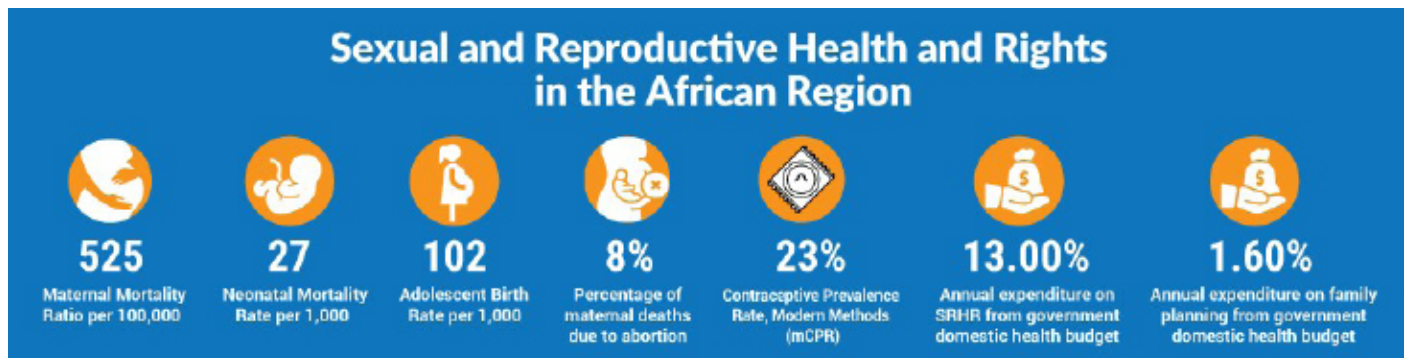


Three countries reported a decrease in comprehensive abortion care services (safe abortion where legal and post-abortion care) since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thirteen countries (76%) reported implementation of self-care interventions for Family Planning/contraception or safe abortion. The most common ones implemented during the COVID pandemic are self-provision of pills and self-administered sub-cutaneous Depomedroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA).

Some suggestions to improve continuity of these essential services include training and supervision of Health care providers, improving service provision at community level, offering alternative approaches to service delivery, promoting self-care interventions for SRH, and ensuring availability of Family Planning products.



# Benin on track to have its scorecard on sexual and reproductive health

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Benin managed to organize the country Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) scorecard development workshop. As an accountability tool, the Benin SRHR Scorecard aims to track progress in sexual and reproductive health and rights in the country. It will be used to monitor the achievements of SRHR targets in Benin.

The meeting was held at Princess Hotel in Bohicon and was organized jointly by the Directorate of Programming and Prospective and the National Agency for Primary Health Care (ANSSP), with technical and financial support from WHO. The workshop brought together more than twenty Beninese participants: doctors, teachers, researchers. [More](#)



Participants to the meeting ©WHO/Benin

# Review of maternal deaths and the continuity of essential reproductive, maternal, and child health services in the context of COVID-19 and the Humanitarian Crisis in the Sahel, Burkina Faso

In the context of the double burden of COVID-19 and Humanitarian Emergencies in the Sahel region, analysis of data from the official weekly telegram-letter (TLOH) of the Ministry of Health's showed an unusually high number of institutional maternal deaths reported in this region during the four weeks (Week 16 to Week 19) of the year 2020, compared to data from the same period in 2019.

The Ministry of Health initiated investigations to identify the real causes of this increase in maternal deaths in the region's health facilities to propose appropriate corrective solutions. With the support of WHO, the Department of Family Health organized a joint field mission with the main objective of supporting the region in conducting a review of all notified maternal deaths, strengthening the capacity of health facilities for the continuity of quality Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services, and developing a roadmap for the reduction of preventable maternal mortality in this context.

[More](#)



Demonstration of the use of a brand new electric Hoover deemed non-functional by Dori RHC staff ©WHO/Burkina-Faso

## The WHO Global Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights initiative welcomes two new members in the African Region

Mali and Sierra Leone have been selected as new members of the WHO Global Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Initiative. The announcement was made at the end of May to the two countries.

Initiated in January 2019, the SRHR Initiative aims to help recipient countries in the AFRO region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Rwanda and South Africa) to reduce maternal mortality through strengthening the health systems to address SRHR challenges and contribute to achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). It places emphasis on eliminating maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion, which is of importance in the African Region. [More](#)



## Latest Publications



### FP Dashboards

<https://www.afro.who.int/publications/family-planning-health-profiles-2019>



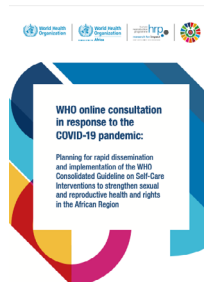
### Sexual and Reproductive Health fact sheet

<https://www.afro.who.int/publications/sexual-and-reproductive-health-fact-sheet>



### Score Card on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in WHO African Region

<https://www.afro.who.int/publications/score-card-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-who-african-region>



### WHO online consultation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

**Planning for rapid dissemination and implementation of the WHO Consolidated Guideline on Self-Care Interventions to strengthen sexual and reproductive health and rights in the African Region**

<https://www.afro.who.int/publications/who-online-consultation-response-covid-19-pandemic-planning-rapid-dissemination-and>

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