



# Results from the Rapid Assessment of Continuity of essential SRHR services

Round 1 - 4

Feb 2020 – May 2021

## Background 1/3

Four rounds of the Rapid assessment on continuity of Essential SRHR services with focus on safe abortion, Post-abortion care and Family Planning (FP) have been conducted for selected countries in the African region:

- Round 1 covered the period **Feb – May 2020**: 17 countries
- Round 2 covered the period **Jun – Sep 2020**: 15 countries
- Round 3 covered the period **Oct 2020 – Jan 2021**: 17 countries
- Round 4 covered the period **Feb – May 2021**: 25 countries

Main data source used by countries was HMIS/DHIS2

# Background 2/3

## Countries involved in each round

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
West Africa	Benin, <b>Burkina Faso</b> , <b>Ghana</b> , Guinea, Mali, <b>Nigeria</b> , Senegal	Benin, <b>Burkina Faso</b> , Cameroon, <b>Cote d'Ivoire</b> , Guinea, Mali, Senegal	Benin, <b>Burkina Faso</b> , <b>Ghana</b> , Guinea, Mali, Senegal	Benin, <b>Ghana</b> , Guinea, <b>Liberia</b> , Mali, <b>Nigeria</b> , Senegal, <b>Sierra Leone</b> , <b>Togo</b>
Central Africa	Burundi, <b>Cameroon</b> , <b>Central African Republic</b> , DRC	Burundi, DRC	Burundi, <b>Cameroon</b> , DRC	<b>Angola</b> , Burundi, <b>Cameroon</b> , <b>Central African Republic</b> , DRC
East & Southern Africa	Madagascar, <b>Rwanda</b> , South Africa, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania (Mainland & Zanzibar), Zimbabwe	<b>Ethiopia</b> , Madagascar, South Africa, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania (mainland), Zimbabwe	<b>Ethiopia</b> , <b>Kenya</b> , Madagascar, South Africa, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania (mainland), Zambia, Zimbabwe	<b>Ethiopia</b> , <b>Eritrea</b> , <b>Kenya</b> , Madagascar, <b>Namibia</b> , <b>Rwanda</b> , South Africa, South Sudan, <b>Uganda</b> , United Republic of Tanzania(mainland), , Zimbabwe

**Legend:** **Red:** Did not participate in all rounds of the rapid assessment, **Blue:** Did not participate in round 4, **Black:** Participated in all 4 rounds

# Background 3/3

**Goal:** To assess the continuity of essential SRHR services with focus on safe abortion, post-abortion care and family planning in the African Region in the context of Covid-19 pandemic (Feb 2020 – May 2021)

# SRH ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE OF THE NATIONAL CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC 1/3

Country	Family Planning / Contraception (FP)	Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC)	Post Abortion Care (PAC)
Angola	●	●	●
Benin	●	●	●
Burkina Faso	●	●	●
Burundi	●	✘	●
Cameroon	●	✘	●
Central African Republic	●	●	●
Democratic Republic of Congo	●	●	●
Eritrea	●	✘	●
Ethiopia	●	●	●

5 **Legend:** No ✘ Yes ●

## SRH ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE OF THE NATIONAL CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC 2/3

Country	Family Planning / Contraception (FP)	Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC)	Post Abortion Care (PAC)
Ghana	●	●	●
Guinea	●	✘	●
Kenya	●	✘	●
Liberia	●	●	●
Madagascar	●	✘	✘
Mali	●	✘	●
Nigeria	●	✘	●
Rwanda	●	●	●
Senegal	●	✘	●

6 **Legend:** No ✘ Yes ●

# SRH ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE OF THE NATIONAL CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC 3/3



Country	Family Planning / Contraception (FP)	Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC)	Post Abortion Care (PAC)
Rwanda	●	●	●
Sierra Leone	●	✗	●
South Africa	●	●	●
South Sudan	✗	✗	✗
Togo	●	✗	●
Uganda	●	●	●
United Republic of Tanzania	●	●	●
Zimbabwe	●	●	●

7 Legend: No ✗ Yes ●

## SPECIFIC MEASURES TAKEN BY COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN THE CONTINUITY OF FP/SA/PAC SERVICES 1/2

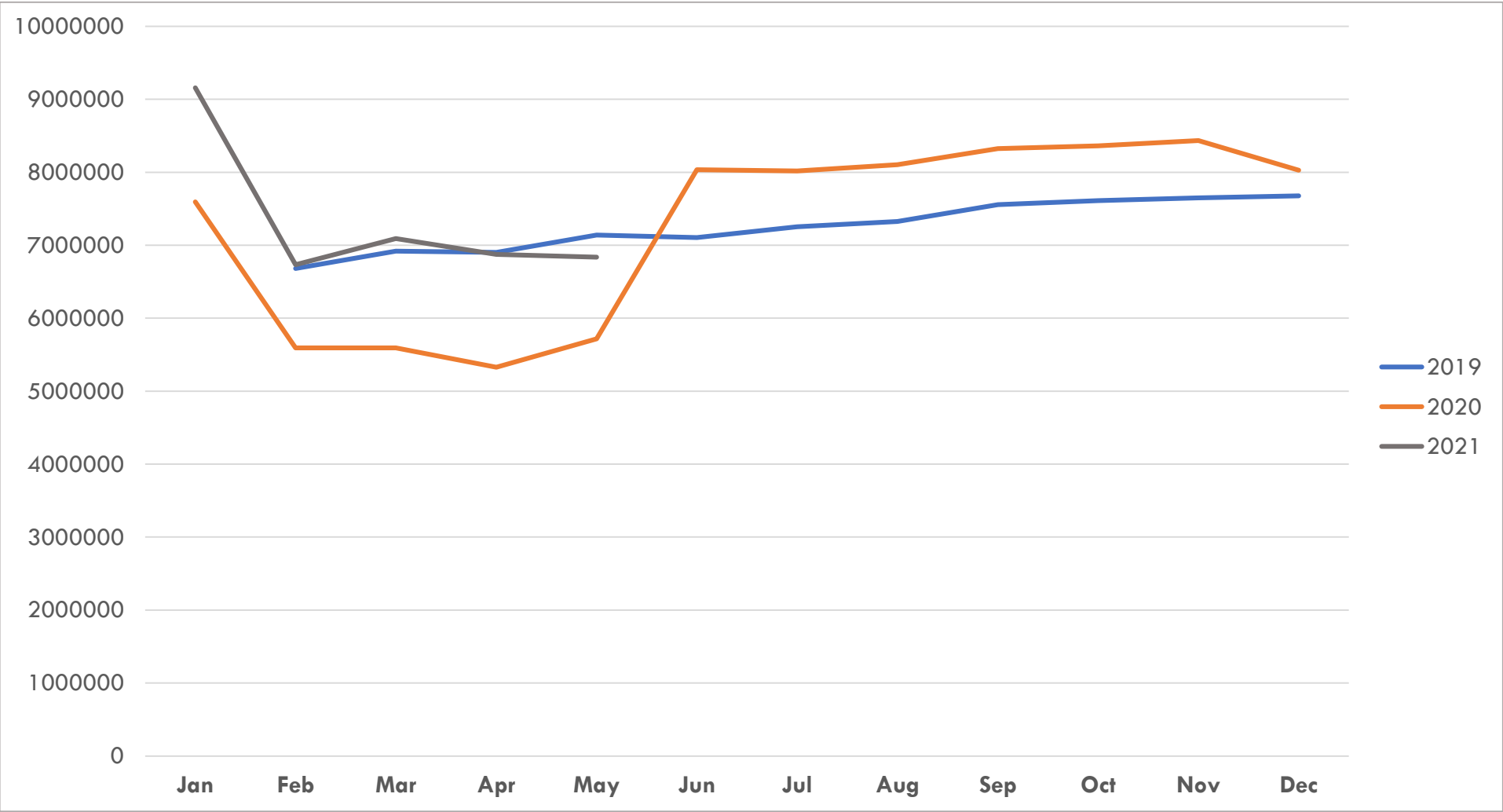
MEASURES	Countries
<b>Triage system</b> to direct COVID-19 cases to dedicated case management health centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin</li> </ul>
<b>IPC strengthening:</b> Supported with PPE and disinfection equipment to the health facilities; Deployment of hand-washing equipment in health facilities; Training; vaccination of health personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda</li> </ul>
<b>Promotion of self-care</b> such as self-injection of DMPA-SC and self-management at home through the mothers' class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin, DRC, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe</li> </ul>
<b>Multi-monthly dispensing</b> of FP products/ ARVs in order to reduce the flow of clients to the facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benin, Uganda</li> </ul>
<b>Supply chain management</b> & ensuring Health facilities have FP commodities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda</li> </ul>
<b>Community-based distribution</b> of FP commodities & Integrated Outreach Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRC, Uganda, Zimbabwe</li> </ul>



## SPECIFIC MEASURES TAKEN BY COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN THE CONTINUITY OF FP/SA/PAC SERVICES 2/2

MEASURES	Countries
Development/Revision of <b>Guidelines, standards, and tools for continuity of care</b> in the context of COVID & self-care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angola, Burkina Faso, DRC, Kenya, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Uganda</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthening coordination</b> through regular meetings with SRHR actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAR, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone</li> </ul>
<b>Supportive supervision</b> , mentoring & regular performance review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethiopia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Mali</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring of SRHR data:</b> Routine data analysis, Assessments on the effect of covid-19 on SRHR in health facilities, SRHR indicators included as tracer indicator for monitoring of EHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angola, CAR, Ghana, Namibia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe</li> </ul>
Services are part of the essential package for implementation at facility level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zimbabwe</li> </ul>
<b>Targeted health promotion &amp; sensitization</b> on continuity of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All</li> </ul>

# Family planning clients counselled and received - Regional

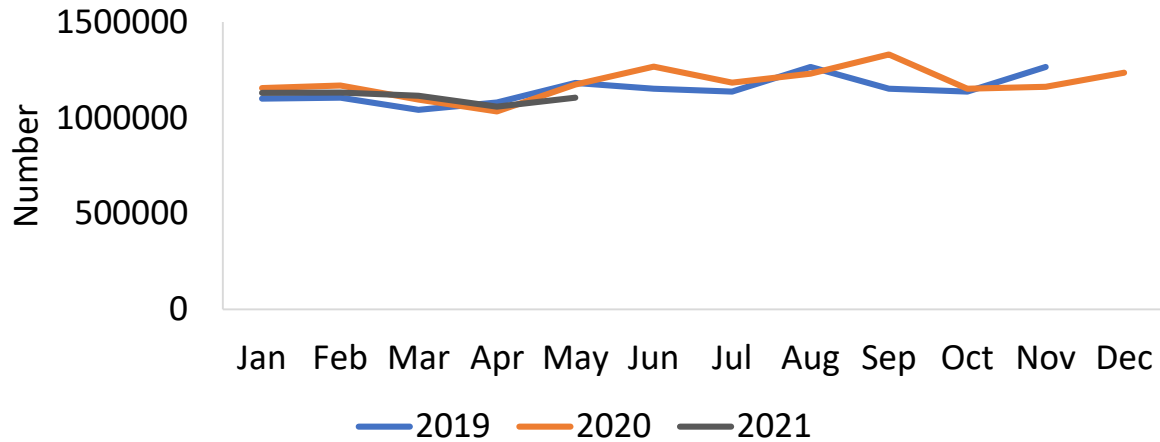


Angola
Benin
DRC
Cameroon
Ethiopia
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Senegal
South Africa
United Republic of Tanzania
Zimbabwe

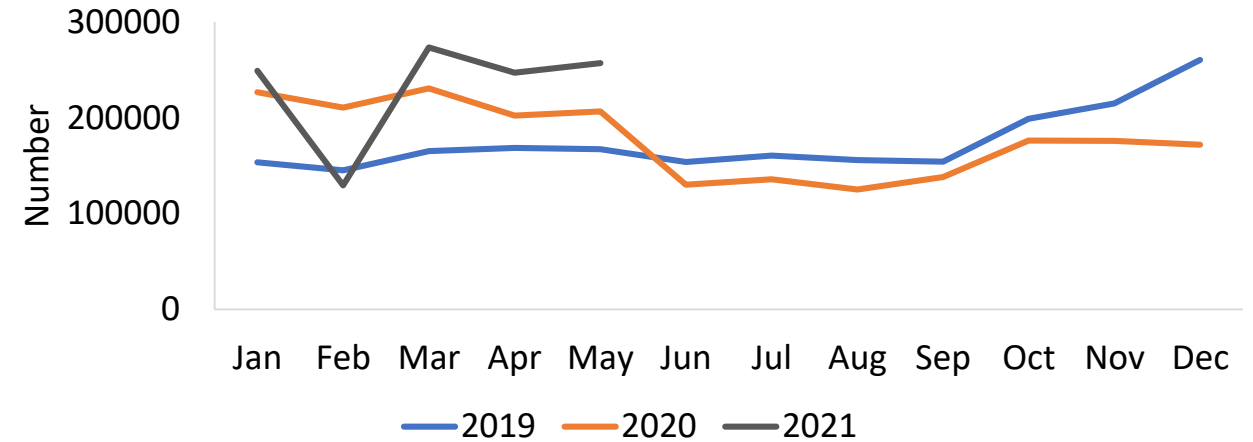


# Family planning clients counselled and received in countries 2/4

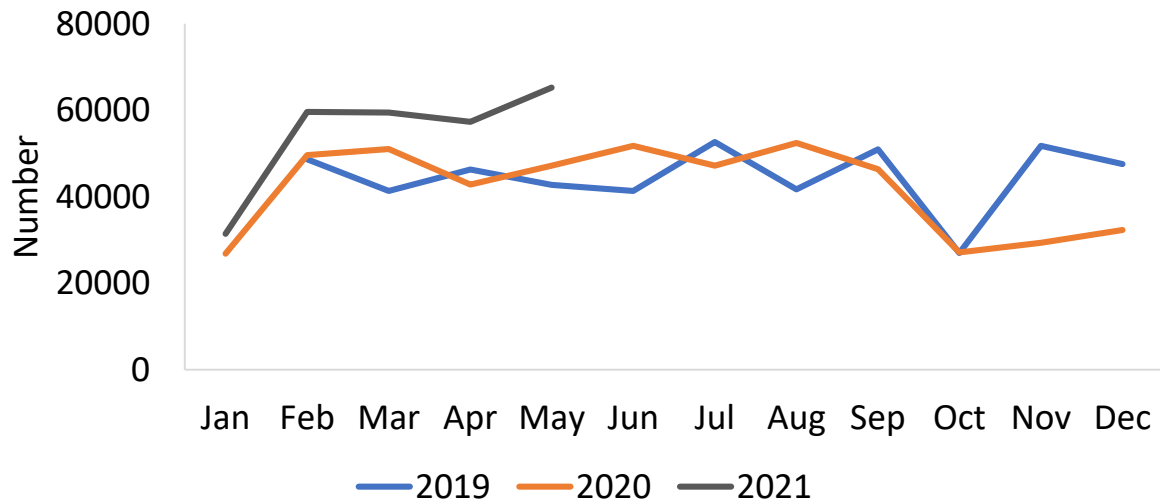
## Ethiopia



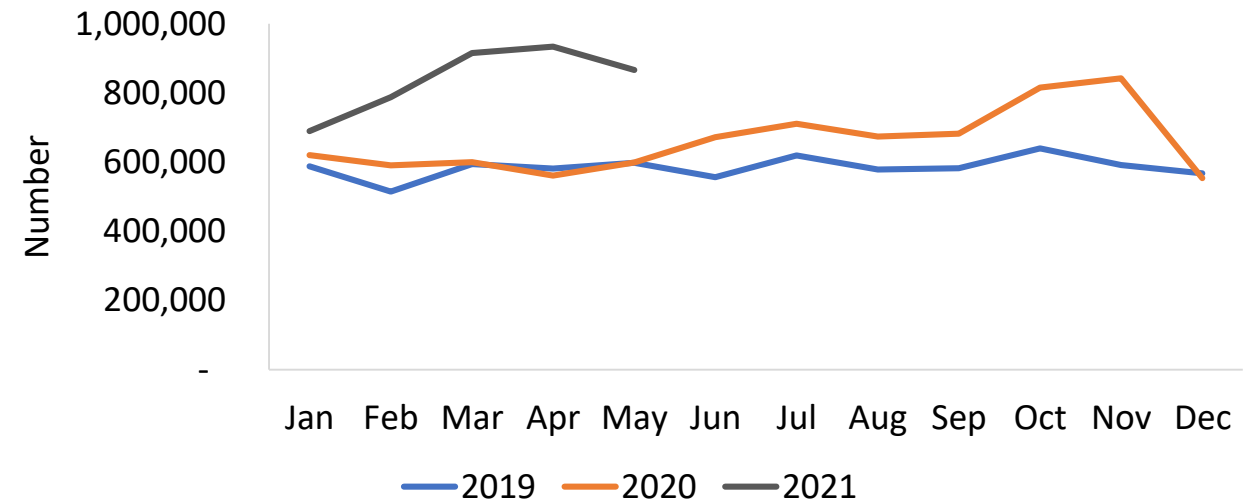
## Ghana



## Guinea

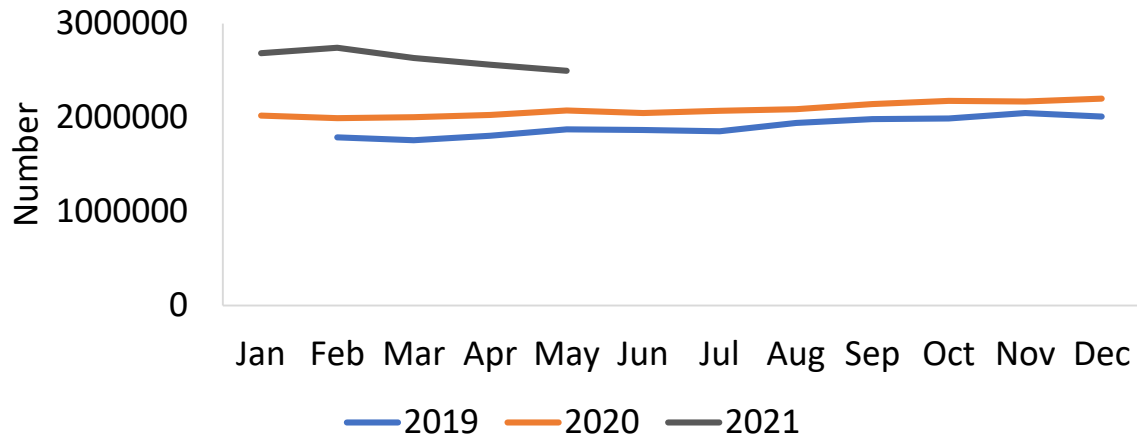


## Kenya

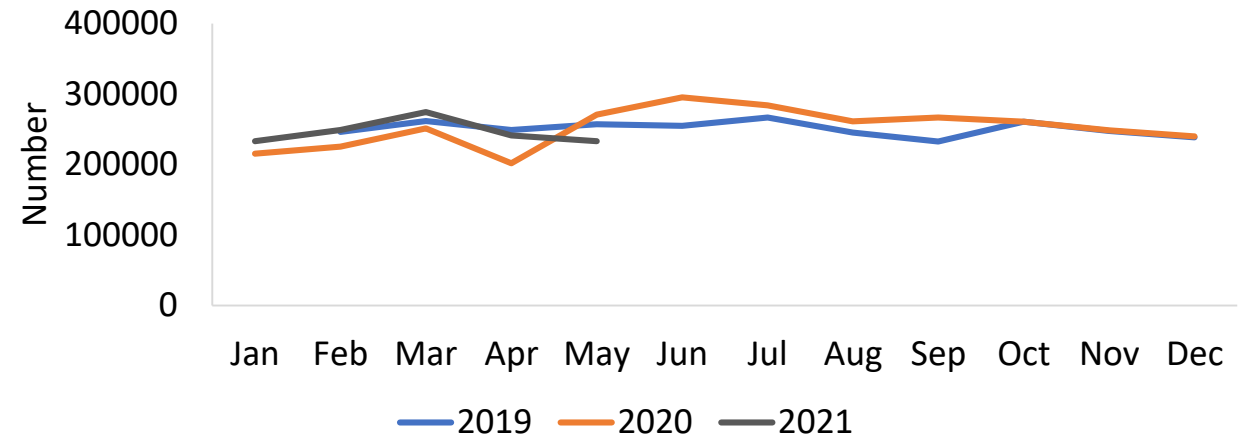


# Family planning clients counselled and received in countries 3/4

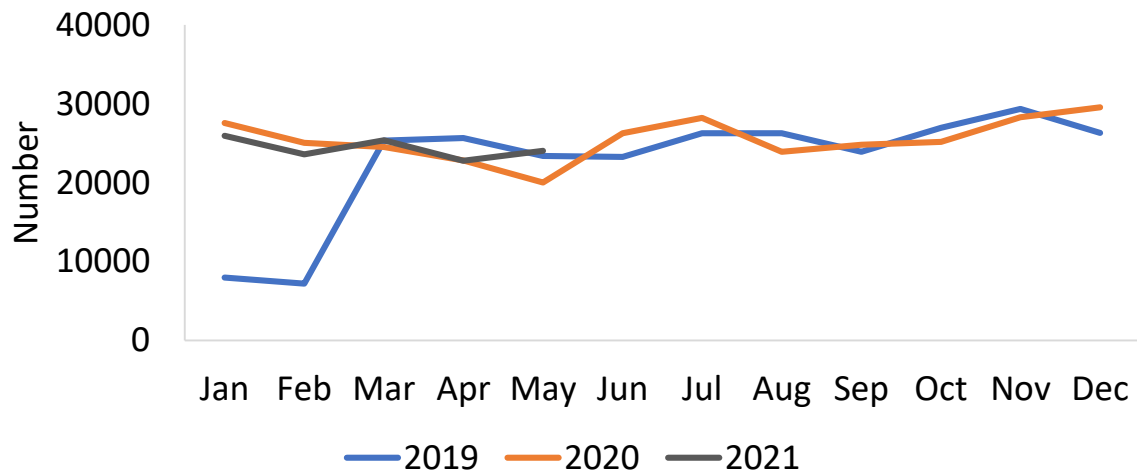
## Madagascar



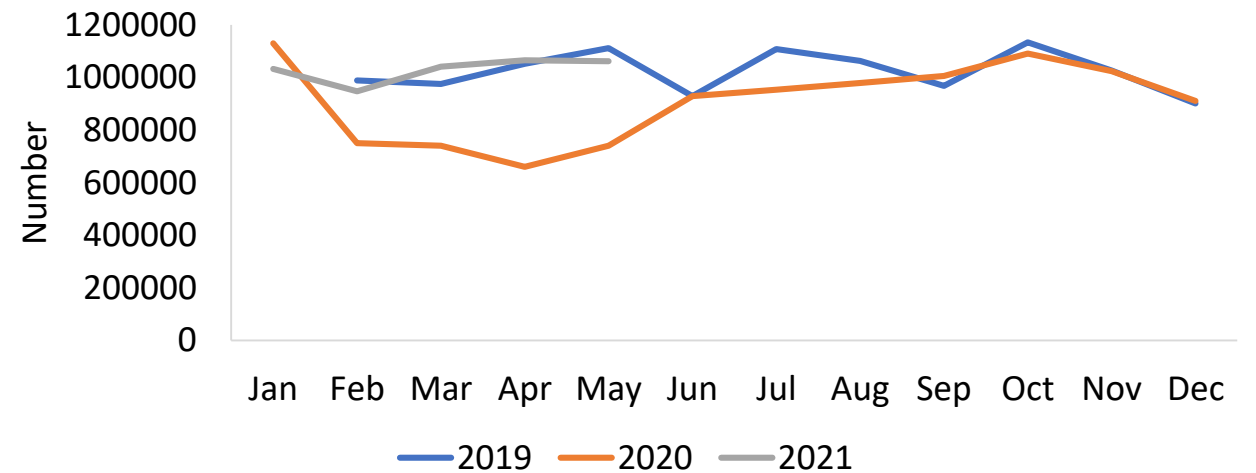
## Nigeria



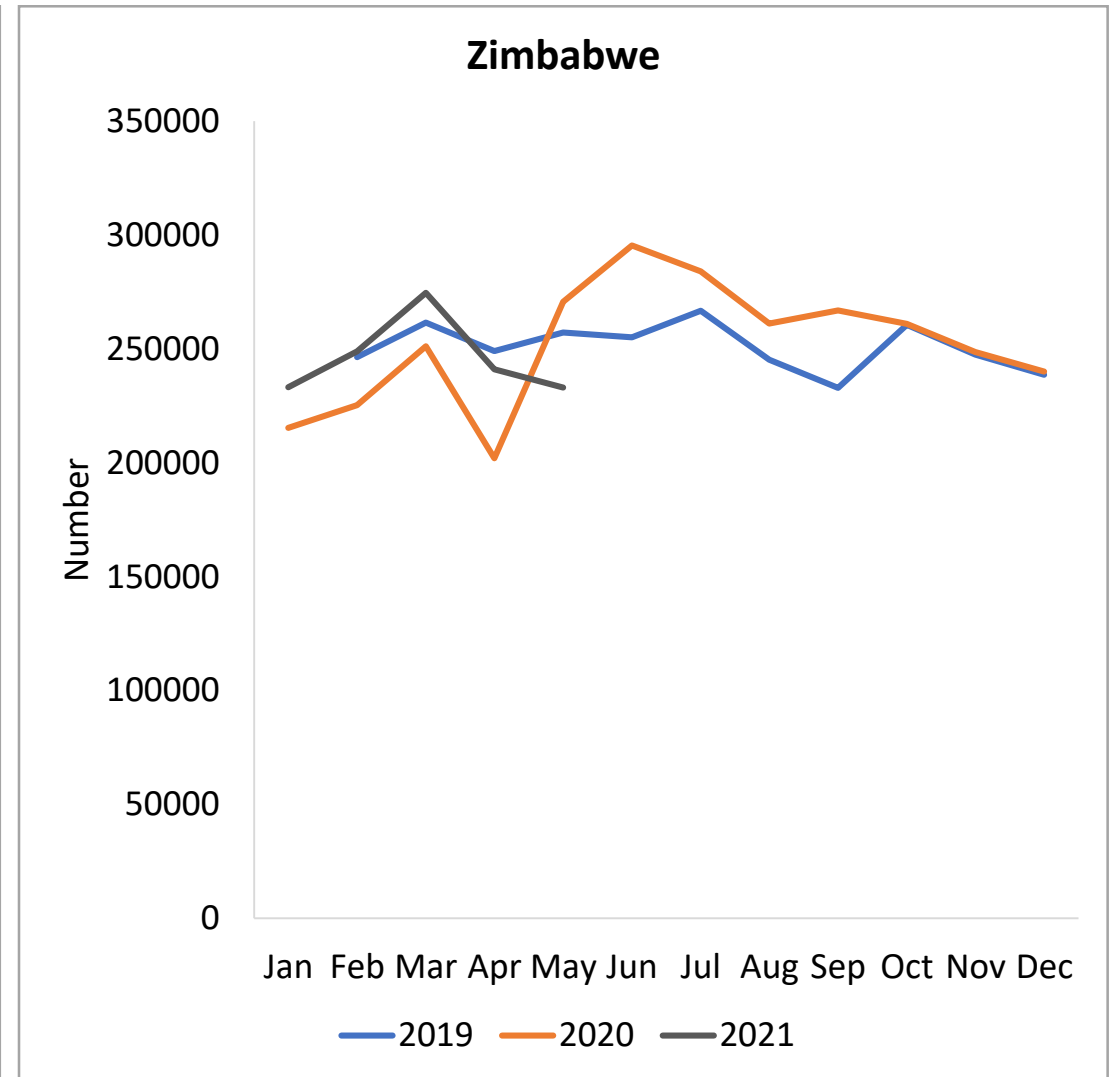
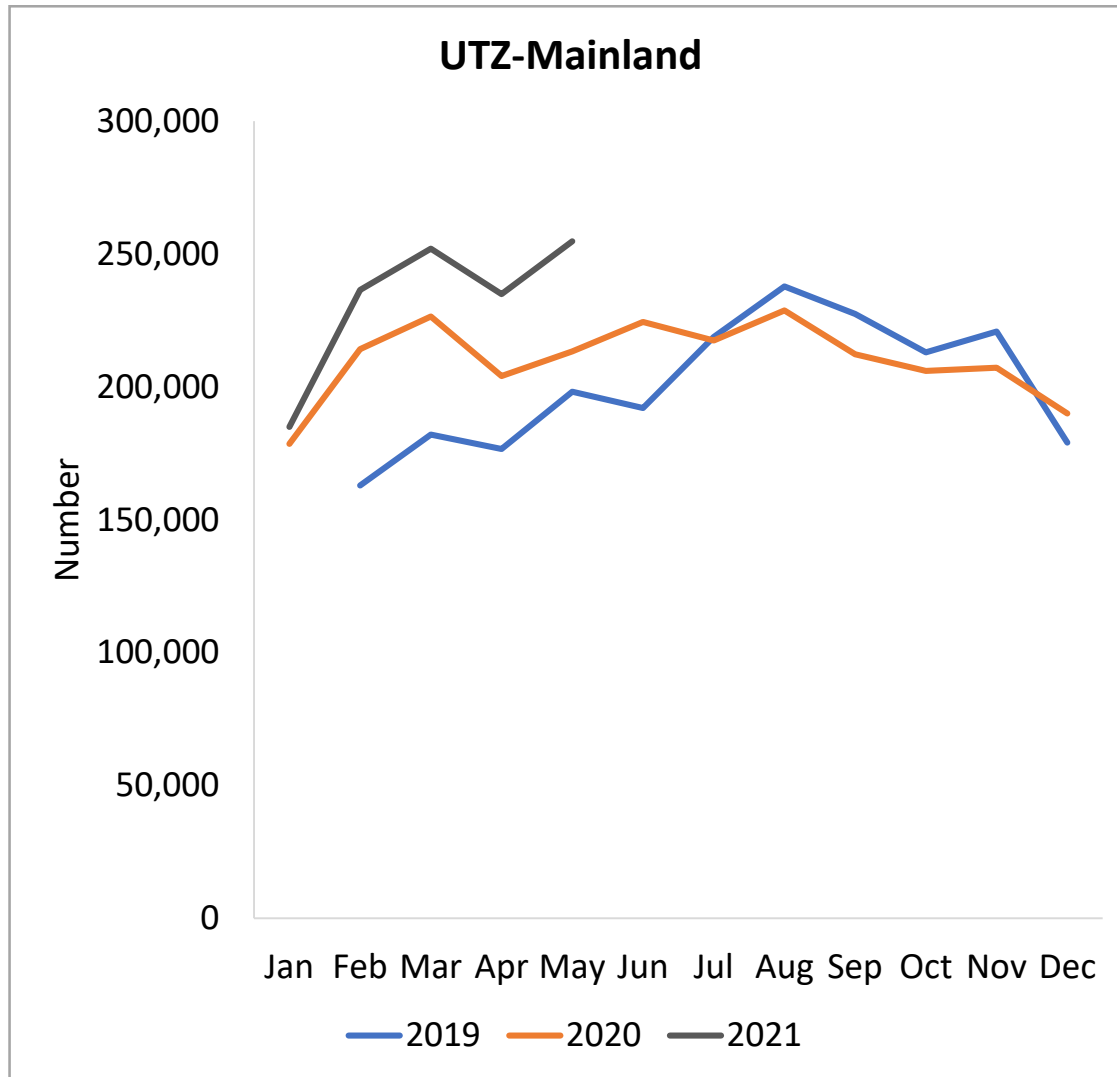
## Senegal



## South Africa



# Family planning clients counselled and received in countries 4/4

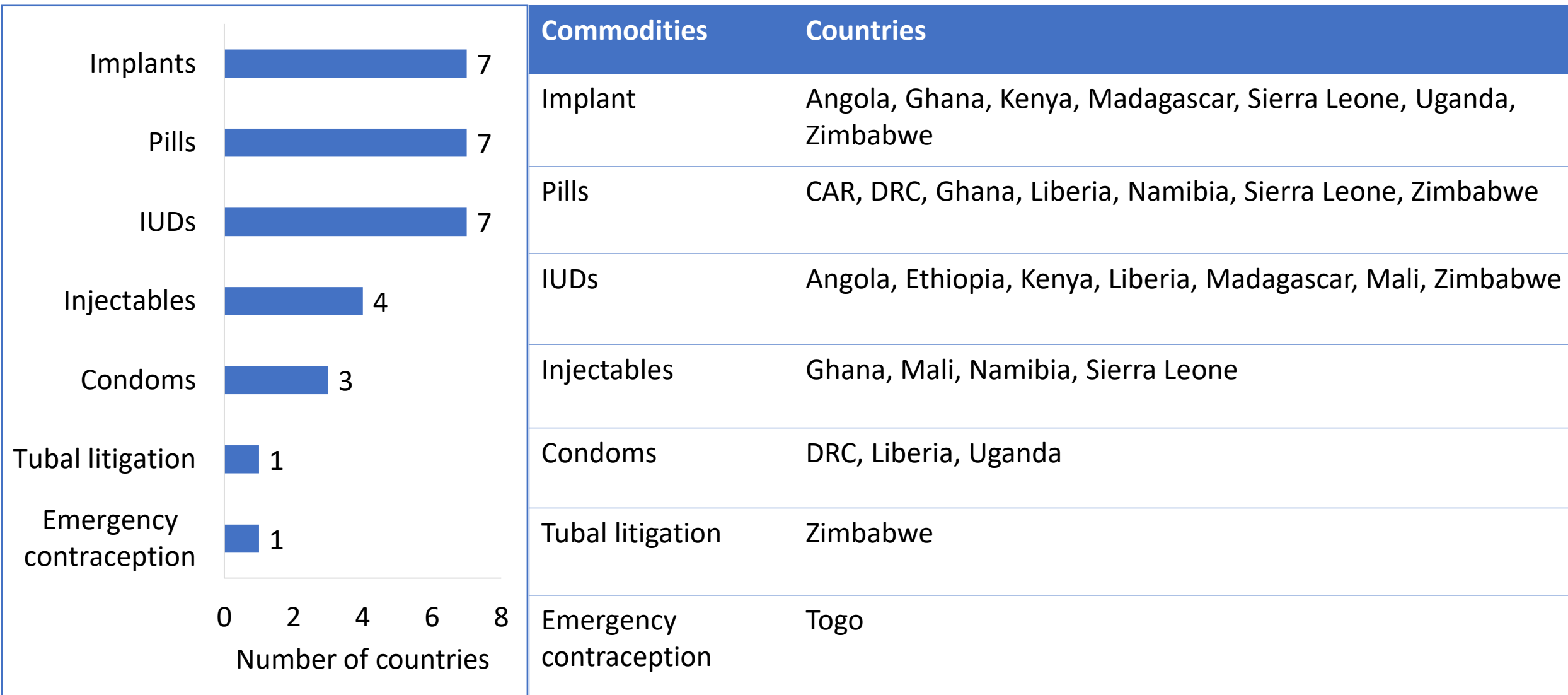


# REDUCTION IN UPTAKE OF FAMILY PLANNING COMMODITIES

<p><b>Feb - May 2020</b></p> <p>5, 29%</p> <p>12, 71%</p> <p>■ Yes ■ No</p>	<p><b>Jun – Sep 2020</b></p> <p>5, 33%</p> <p>10, 67%</p> <p>■ Yes ■ No</p>	<p><b>Oct 2020 – Jan 2021</b></p> <p>7, 41%</p> <p>10, 59%</p> <p>■ Yes ■ No</p>	<p><b>Feb- May 2021</b></p> <p>11, 44%</p> <p>14, 56%</p> <p>■ Yes ■ No</p>
<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Benin Burkina Faso Burundi DRC Madagascar Nigeria Tanzania (Mainland &amp; Zanzibar) South Africa</p> <p>Burkina Cameroon Ghana Mali Zimbabwe</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Burkina Faso Burundi Cote d’Ivoire Ethiopia Mali</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Burkina Faso Ethiopia Ghana Kenya Mali Zambia Zimbabwe</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Angola DRC Ghana Liberia Mali S/Leone Uganda</p> <p>CAR Ethiopia Kenya Madagascar Namibia Togo Zimbabwe</p>

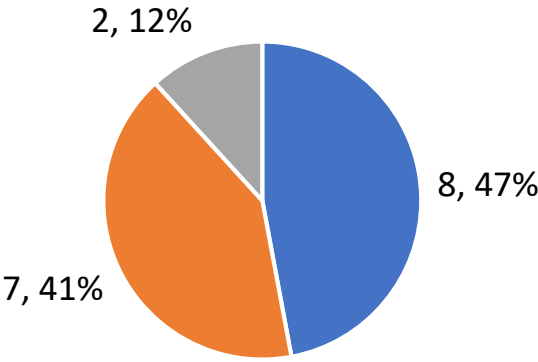
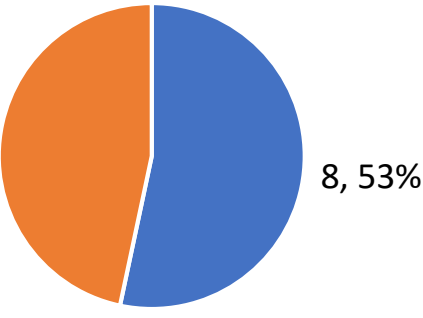
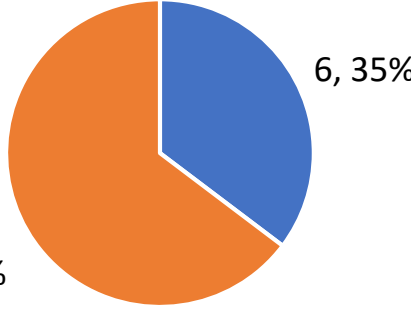
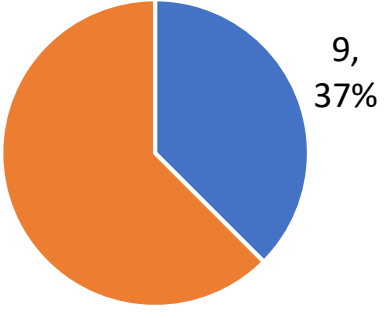
# REDUCTION IN UPTAKE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS

Feb – May 2021



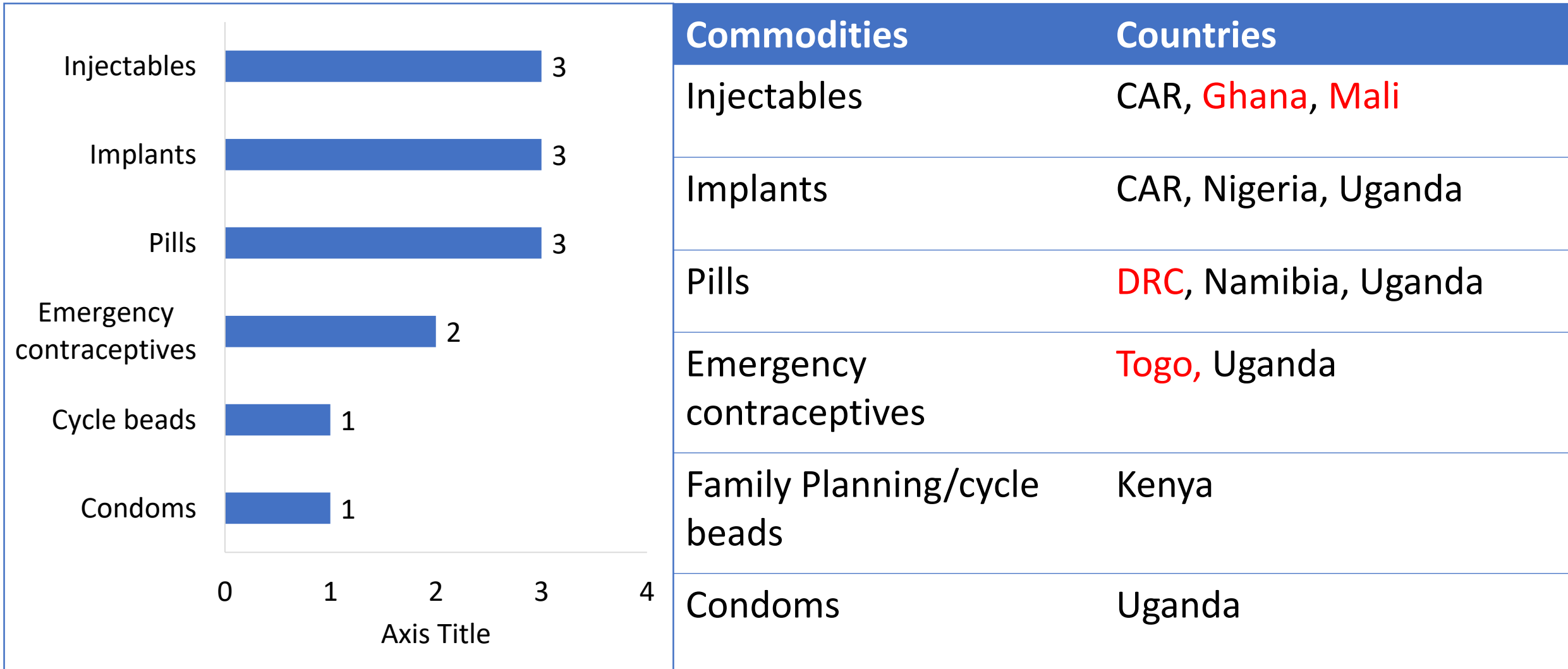


# STOCKOUT OF FAMILY PLANNING COMMODITIES












<p><b>Feb - May 2020</b></p>  <p>2, 12%</p> <p>8, 47%</p> <p>7, 41%</p> <p>■ Yes ■ No ■ No response</p>	<p><b>Jun – Sep 2020</b></p>  <p>7, 47%</p> <p>8, 53%</p> <p>■ Yes ■ No</p>	<p><b>Oct 2020 – Jan 2021</b></p>  <p>6, 35%</p> <p>11, 65%</p> <p>■ Yes ■ No</p>	<p><b>Feb - May 2021</b></p>  <p>9, 37%</p> <p>15, 63%</p> <p>■ Yes ■ No</p>
<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Benin Cameroon DRC Mali Nigeria Senegal South Africa Tanzania (Mainland)</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cote d'Ivoire DRC Mali South Sudan Zimbabwe</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Burkina Faso DRC Ethiopia Ghana Kenya Zambia</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>CAR      DRC Ghana    Kenya Mali      Namibia Nigeria   Togo Uganda</p>

# STOCKOUT OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS



























February – May 2021



# TRENDS IN SAFE ABORTION CARE SERVICES (JUN 2020 – MAY 2021) COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Countries	Jun – Sep 2020	Oct 2020 – Jan 2021	Feb – May 2021
Benin	No change	No change	Don't know
Burkina Faso	Don't know	Don't know	NA
Burundi	NA	NA	NA
Cameroon	NA	NA	Don't know
Cote d'Ivoire	No change		
Democratic Republic of Congo	Don't know	Don't know	No change
Ethiopia	Decreasing 	Increasing 	Increasing 
Ghana		Decreasing 	Increasing 
Guinea	NA	NA	NA
Kenya		NA	Don't know
Madagascar	NA	NA	NA
Mali	NA	Don't know	NA
Rwanda			Increasing 
Senegal	NA	NA	NA
South Africa	Decreasing 	Don't know	Decreasing 
South Sudan	NA	NA	Increasing 
Tanzania (mainland)	NA	NA	NA
Zambia		Decreasing 	
Zimbabwe	Decreasing 	No change	Don't know

# TRENDS IN POST-ABORTION CARE SERVICES (JUN 2020 – MAY 2021) COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Countries	Jun – Sep 2020	Oct 2020 – Jan 2021	Feb – May 2021
Benin	No change	No change	No change
Burkina Faso	Decreasing 	Don't know	
Burundi	Decreasing 	Decreasing 	Increasing 
Cameroon	No change	Decreasing 	
Cote d'Ivoire	No change		
DRC	Decreasing 	Decreasing 	Increasing 
Ethiopia	Increasing 	Increasing 	Increasing 
Ghana		Decreasing 	Decreasing 
Guinea	No change	No change	No change
Kenya		Increasing 	Increasing 
Madagascar	Don't know	No change	Increasing 
Mali	Decreasing 	Don't know	
Rwanda			Increasing 
Senegal	Increasing 	Decreasing 	No change
South Africa	Decreasing 	Don't know	Don't know
South Sudan	Don't know	No change	Increasing 
Tanzania (mainland)	Don't know	No change	Increasing 
Zambia		Increasing 	
Zimbabwe	Decreasing 	No change	Increasing 

20

\* First round not included because questions on these services were lumped as 'comprehensive abortion care'.

## HEALTH FACILITIES OFFERING SAFE ABORTION AND POST-ABORTION CARE IN COUNTRIES IN ROUND 4

### Health facilities offering safe abortion care in accordance with the law:

- Operational in Benin, CAR, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zimbabwe
- Reported as 'not applicable' in the other countries due to **restrictive laws**

### Health facilities offering post-abortion care:

- No designated health facility for post-abortion care in CAR and DRC, but all maternity hospitals in DRC provide this service

	Self-provision of contraceptive pills	DMPA sub-cutaneous self-administered	Self-management of Abortion - Mifepristone/Misoprostol (in accordance with national laws)	HPV self-testing	STIs self-sampling
Angola	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Benin	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Burkina Faso	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Burundi	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cameroon	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
CAR	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
DRC	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Eritrea	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Ethiopia	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Ghana	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Guinea	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Kenya	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Madagascar	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Mali	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Liberia	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Namibia	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Nigeria	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Rwanda	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Senegal	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Sierra Leone	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
South Africa	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
South Sudan	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Tanzania	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Zambia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Zimbabwe	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

## SELF-CARE INTERVENTIONS FOR SRHR

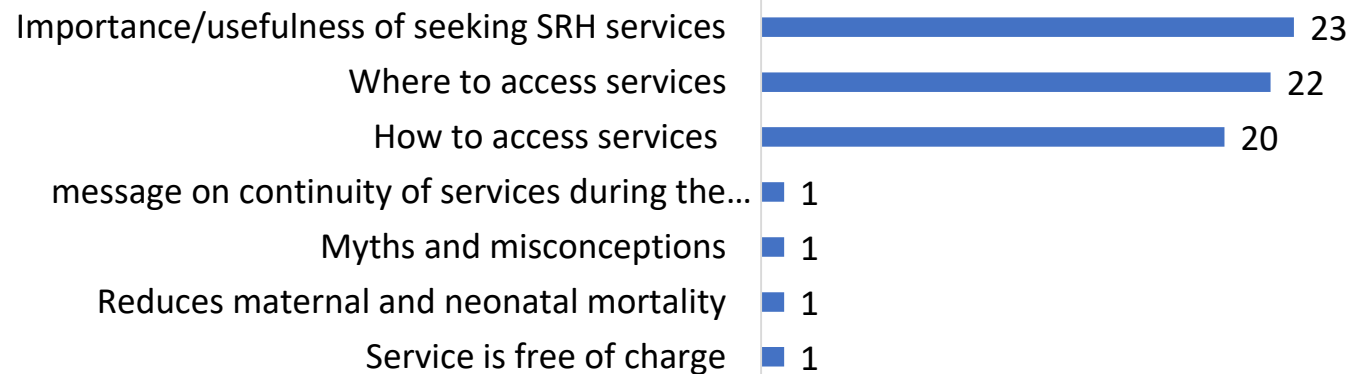
- In South Africa, ovulation prediction kits for infertility care and HIV self testing are available
- In Senegal, duo counseling for syphilis and HIV done at home, then self-testing

# AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL ABORTION DRUGS IN HEALTH FACILITIES (R4)

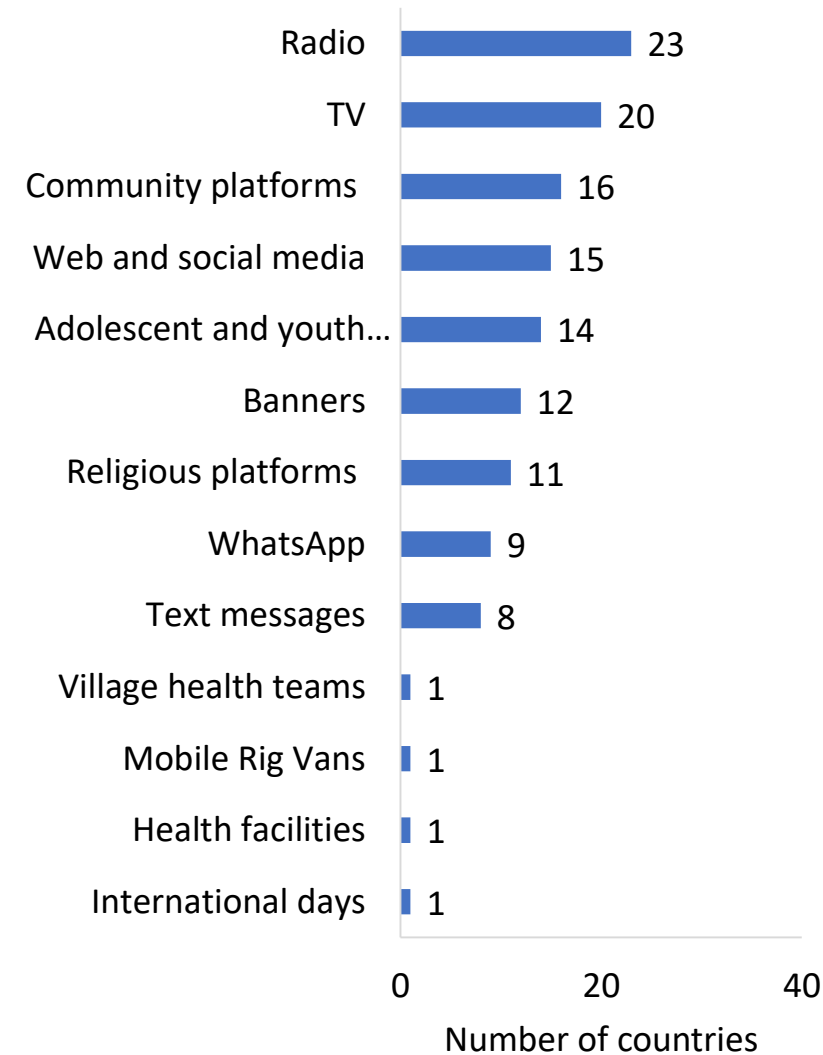
Medical abortion drugs	Countries where available	Countries where not available and reasons for limited or unavailability in Health Facilities
<b>Misoprostol</b>	Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stockout of drug in Benin, Ethiopia, and Sierra Leone</li> <li>▪ Drug is not in health facilities but available in the pharmacies in Guinea</li> </ul>
<b>Mifepristone</b>	Liberia, Rwanda, South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drug is not registered in essential medicines list in Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Eritrea, Guinea, Madagascar, Namibia, Senegal, South Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe</li> <li>▪ Drug is only available in pharmacies in Benin, Cameroon, DRC, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo, and United Republic of Tanzania</li> <li>▪ Stock out of drug in Sierra Leone</li> </ul>
<b>Miso/Mife combipack</b>	Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drug is not registered in essential medicines list in Angola, Burundi, CAR, Eritrea, Guinea, Madagascar, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe</li> <li>▪ Drug is not in health facilities but available in the pharmacies in Benin, DRC, Guinea, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania</li> <li>▪ Stock out of drug in Sierra Leone</li> </ul>

# ONGOING AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGNS ABOUT FP OR CAC OR PAC DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

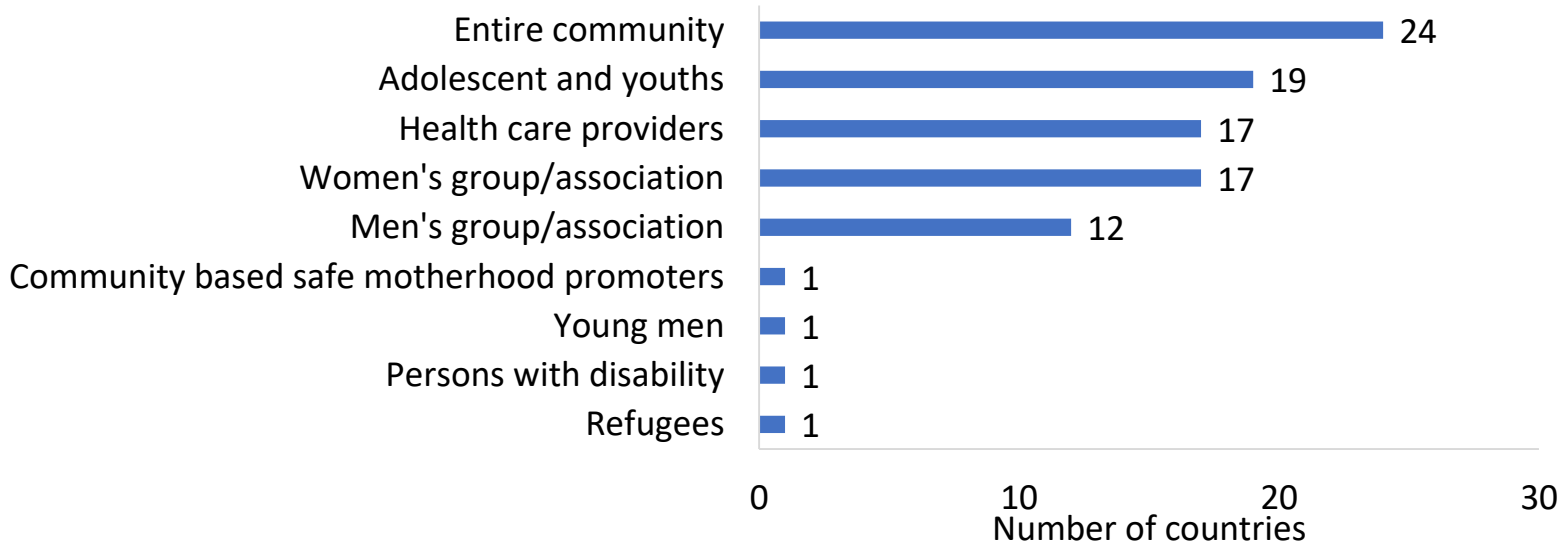
## Key messages



## Communication channels

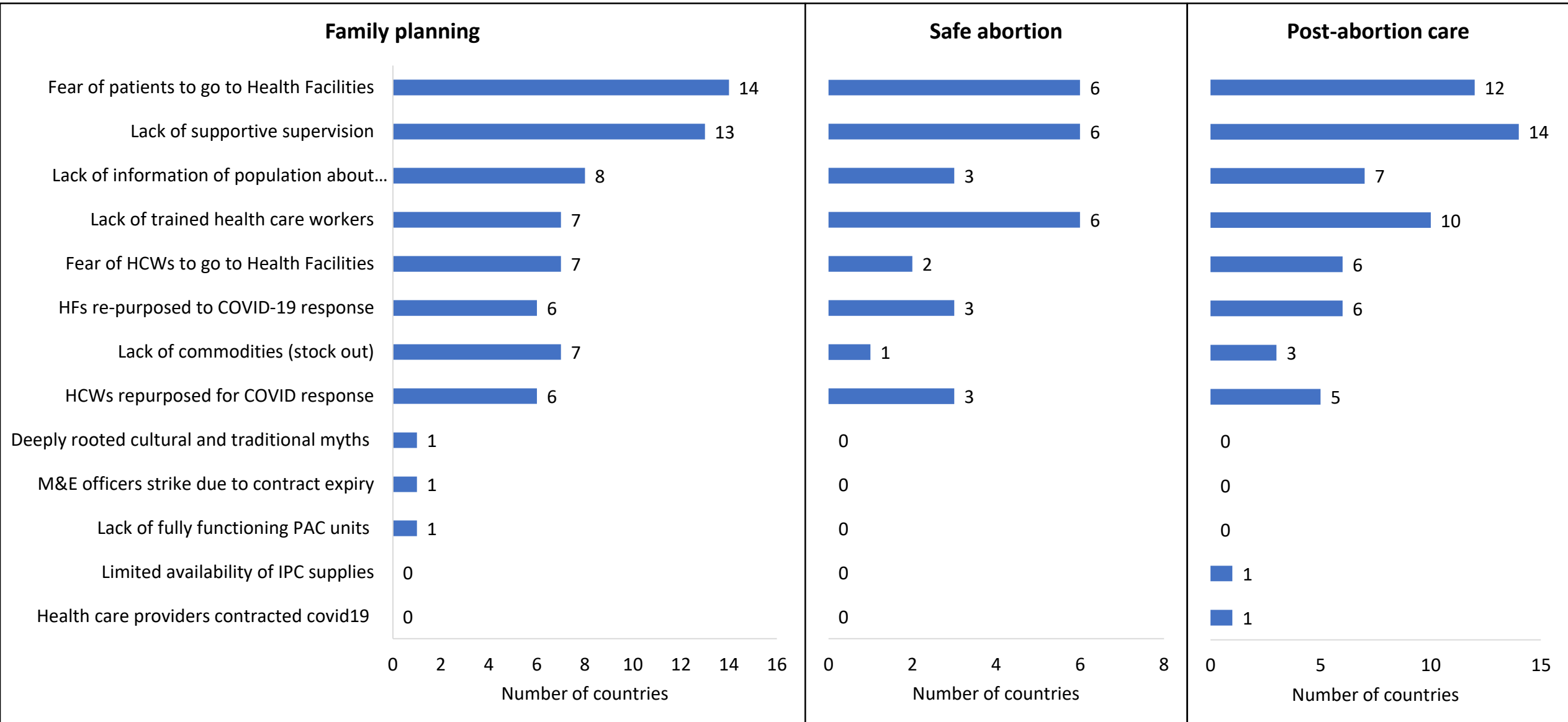


## Target audience

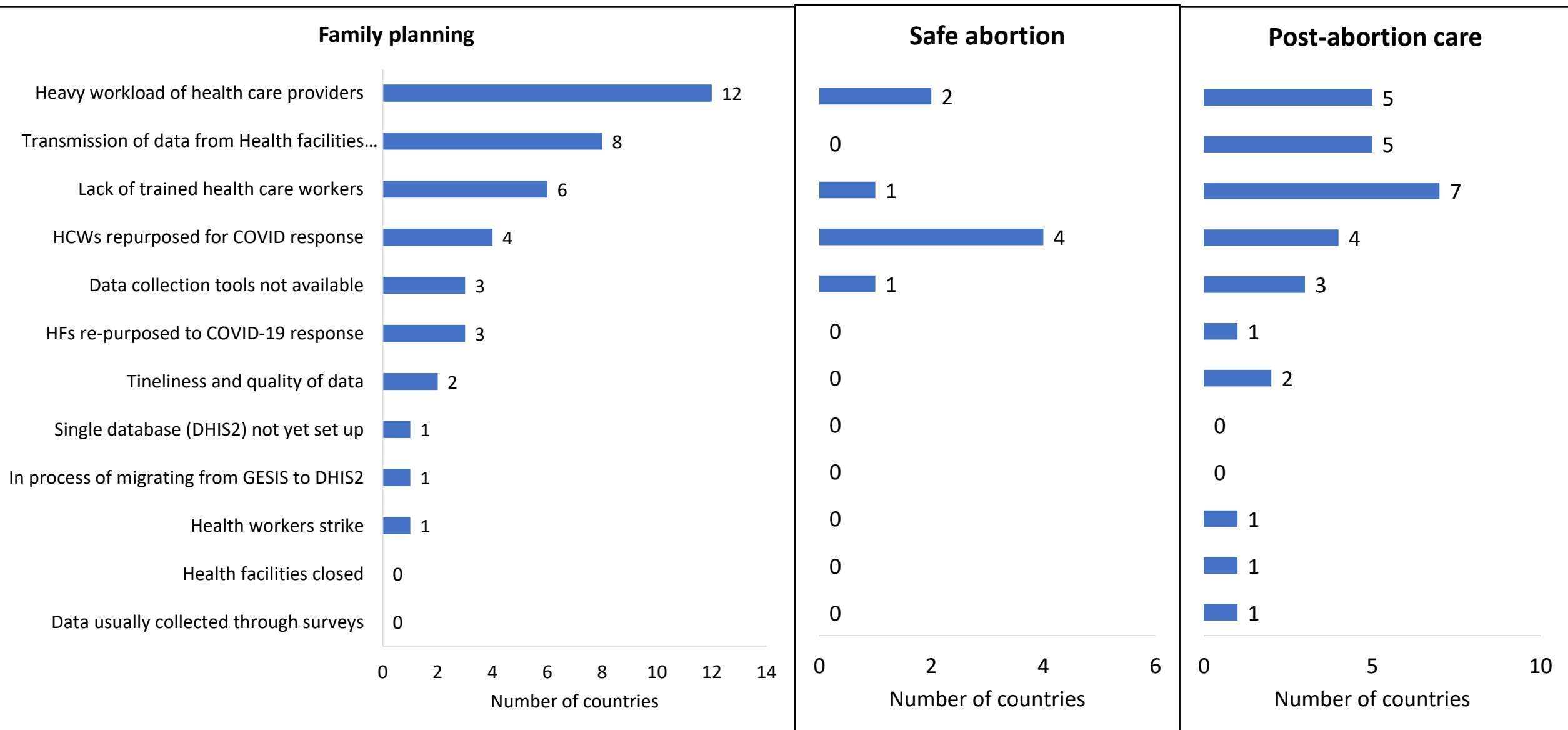




# KEY CHALLENGES TO FAMILY PLANNING, SAFE ABORTION CARE, AND POST-ABORTION CARE IN ROUND 4



# KEY DATA CHALLENGES TO FAMILY PLANNING, SAFE ABORTION CARE, AND POST-ABORTION CARE IN ROUND 4



# COUNTRIES THAT HAVE CHALLENGES FUNDING FP, SAFE ABORTION, AND POST-ABORTION CARE SERVICES

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Countries</b>
Family planning	Burundi, CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria South Sudan, Zimbabwe
Safe abortion	Angola, DRC, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe
Post-abortion care	Angola, Burundi, CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe

# Summary of the 4 rounds 1/2

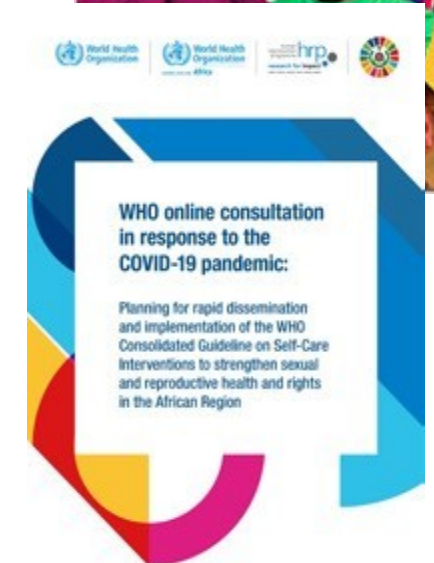
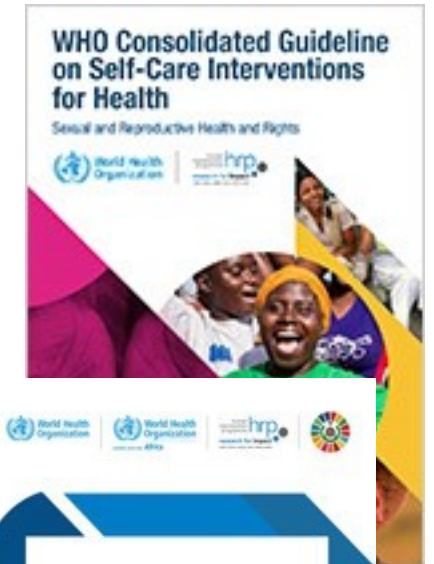
- There have been disruptions to essential SRH services in most of the participating countries
- **With exception to South Sudan that did not integrate the SRH package (CAC, PAC & FP )** into the national COVID-19 response continuity plan for essential health services (CES), Family Planning has been integrated in all the CES plan of all the participating countries. However, 12 of the participating countries didn't integrated CAC into their plan and one country (Madagascar) had **only** integrated FP
- FP commodities with a reduced **uptake** in most countries in round 4 are implants, pills, and IUDs
- **Stockout** of FP commodities in most countries in round 4 of injectables, pills, and implants
- Four (21%) countries in round 4 reported an increase in safe abortion care services, one (5%) reported a decrease, and one (5%) reported no change

## Summary of the 4<sup>th</sup> round 2/2

- Nine (53%) countries in round 4, reported an increase in post-abortion care services, 1 (5%) reported a decrease, and 3 (16%) reported no change
- Fear of patients/clients to go to health facilities and lack of supportive supervision are some of the major challenges to FP/CAC services in countries
- Heavy workload, lack of data collection tools, and lack of trained health workers are the major data challenges for FP, SAC, and PAC respectively
- The most common self-care intervention for SRHR is self-provision of pills in 18 countries, and this is followed by DMPA sub-cutaneous self-administered in 12 countries

# Support provided by WHO/AFRO to support countries to maintain SRH services

- Promotion of self-care interventions for SRH through regional webinars and social media
- Supporting South-South learning between countries on introduction of self-care
- Supported 5 countries to incorporate SRHR into the national guidelines on continuity of essential health services (CES)
- Provided recommendations on task-sharing in FP during regional FIGO congress 2020
- Disseminated latest SRH guidelines and guidelines for CES
- Financial & technical support to countries
- Monitoring of focus countries and regular assessments on CES



## SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

- Strengthen in-service training and supervision of HCWs on FP/SAC/PAC services (virtual or face to face)
- Strengthen evidence-based advocacy for funding and intersectoral collaboration
- Engage policy makers for policy improvement to move the SRHR agenda forward
- Use alternative approaches for service delivery (including using digital consultations, virtual platforms)
- Promote self-care interventions
- Improve availability of FP products
- Provide adequate protection for HCW (PPE, water points) and strengthen IPC
- Share country experiences (south to south learning)
- Sustain awareness creation on essential SRH services and IPC measures
- Support the use of findings for decision making – at health facility and higher level programming levels

# Thank you

