

Family planning service providers trained under EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy project



To ensure the efficient provision of family planning methods, training workshops were held for physicians and nurses from different governorates in the period between February 7 - March 9, under the EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy project.

Fifty-nine physicians from 10 governorates were trained on the latest medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use, and clinical techniques for insertion and removal of subdermal implants "Implanon NXT."

The training used a manual based on the latest criteria developed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The training brought together physicians from Alexandria, Assuit, Aswan, Cairo, Gharbeya, Giza, Kafr El-Sheikh, Luxor, Qalubiya and Sharqeya.

Twenty-seven other physicians affiliated with the Ministry of Health and Population were also trained as trainers on the insertion and removal of subdermal implants "Implanon" and related eligibility criteria to ensure the sustainability of on the job trainings.

The physicians were from the governorates of Aswan, Giza, Luxor, Matrouh, Minya, New Valley, and South Sinai.

Family planning nurses from 16 governorates were also trained in counseling, how to avoid pitfalls, infection control and management of family planning clinics. The counseling follow national and

international standards that focus on safety, accessibility, efficiency, equity, continuity, cost-effectiveness and client-centeredness, using a variety of counseling tools.

The training brought together 316 nurses from Assuit, Aswan, Beni Suef, Beheira, Cairo, Daqahleya, Fayoum, Gharbeya, Giza, Kafr El-Sheikh, Luxor, Minya, Qaliubiya, Qena, Sharqeya and Sohag.

Workshops, which took part between the period of February 14 - March 29, were held in 14 hospitals in Damietta to build the capacity of service providers on the effective provision of immediate postpartum contraception at hospital level, including trans-C-section IUD insertion. Participants were also trained on the medical eligibility criteria for family planning methods suitable immediately after delivery.

The trainings aim at strengthening reproductive health and family planning services provided by the Ministry of Health and Population, and enhancing the capacities of service providers to provide quality services.

Outreach workers trained on disseminating family planning information



A total of 963 outreach workers affiliated with the Ministry of Health and Population were oriented with different skills and knowledge in order to disseminate information about family planning within their communities.

The trainings, which took place between March 6 - 29, brought together outreach workers from 19 governorates including Alexandria, Assuit, Aswan, Beni Suef, Beheira, Cairo, Daqahleya, Damietta, Fayoum, Gharbeya, Giza, Kafr El-Sheikh, Luxor, New Valley, North Sinai, Qaluibiya, Qena, Sharqeya, and Suez.

Outreach workers are the point of contact with communities, whereby they disseminate messages through different means including door-to-door visits.

The workshop honed their knowledge on the importance of promoting family planning services, disseminating family planning messages, the risks of repeated pregnancy and the importance of birth spacing, appropriate contraceptive methods for postpartum period, dispelling misconceptions around family planning during the postpartum period.

The workshop also enhanced outreach workers' communication skills to be able to communicate relevant messages effectively.

Integrating family planning in maternal and neonatal service delivery points

Because it is important to integrate family planning in maternal and neonatal service delivery points, primary healthcare and immunization nurses were trained on family planning issues on March 6-14.

The trainings relied on a comprehensive training package that includes information for women during antenatal care visits about the importance of birth-spacing, and the importance of immediate post-partum contraception.

Such information is dispensed during postnatal visits, and during the immunization of newborns.

Integrating family planning counselling in maternal and neonatal service delivery points helps in avoiding unwanted pregnancies, where women are informed during their last trimester of pregnancy and during newborn immunization about the importance of seeking immediate postpartum contraception and importance of sufficient birth spacing both for the physical and mental health of the mother and her newborn. The training brought together 482 primary healthcare and immunization nurses from 210 service delivery points .

Enhancing youth friendly services provision

Providing young people with necessary information and encouraging them to seek youth-friendly services (YFS) is essential in enabling them to make responsible and informed reproductive health decisions.



352 staff members from 203 service delivery points were oriented with using training manuals to better provide effective reproductive health services to young people at primary healthcare units.

The manuals focused on reproductive health and family planning needs of young people as well as girl empowerment.

The trainings took place in four governorates; Assiut, Beheira, Gharbeya and Sohag in the period between January 23 – March 7.

One of the EU project's main objectives is to educate young people and people in reproductive age and raise their awareness on family planning and the value of smaller family size.

Youth-friendly services are offered in an inviting way to encourage young people to seek assistance when needed without fear of discrimination and stigma.

Reaching out to communities with family planning campaigns



The Ministry of Health and Population's Family Planning Sector, in collaboration with UNFPA, The first round of the quarterly "Your Right to Plan" campaign in 2021 was launched in nine governorates, aiming to provide access to family planning and reproductive health services, raise community awareness and increase demand for family planning services through fixed and mobile clinics, and maternal and child health centers.

The campaigns reached a total of 310,478 women with family planning counseling, services, and methods in Alexandria, Kafr El-Sheikh, Daqahleya, Cairo, Giza, Fayoum, Beni Suef, Minya and Assuit.

Community-based distribution campaigns via mobile clinics were also held to increase access and use of family planning services, particularly in the under-served rural areas. The campaigns reached 8,284 women with family planning methods in 11 governorates; Assuit, Daqahleya, Sharqeya, So-hag, Beheira, Luxor, Qaliubiya, Giza, Aswan, Qena and New Valley.

Nawah theatre teams hold free of charge public performances

Building on the theatre techniques they acquired through virtual workshops last year, the Nawah teams held five public performances tackling different population issues such as family planning and the benefits of small-sized families.

Nawah is a community theatre group that aim at empowering young people through theater tools and techniques to raise awareness of various developmental issues.

The performances titled "Hope," "Failure," and "Playback events" tackled population issues such as family planning and FGM.

They were held in youth centers in the governorates of Qena, Aswan and New Valley and attended by over 120 people

The performances are the fruit of workshops conducted with the help of Zad Art Team, who coached volunteers on developing theatrical scripts and songs through online workshops to raise the awareness of their communities on various issues including female genital mutilation, family planning and gender-based violence.

One of the EU project's main objectives is to educate young people and people in reproductive age and raise their awareness on family planning and the value of smaller family size. This is done through employing entertainment and art tools, among other things, which include music and interactive theater, and aims to raise awareness on population issues.



Ministry of Local Development orient population units on local response project

UNFPA and the Ministry of Local Development (MoLD), in cooperation with the National Population Council (NPC), held two workshops during 14-17 March 2021 to orient around 30 personnel from the new established population units in eight governorates on the Accelerated Local Response to Population Issues project.

The workshops introduced the project's objectives to accelerate local responses through the establishment of population task forces at the governorate level. This approach can enhance coordination, monitoring and reporting on the national population strategy.

The sessions included orienting members of the task forces on their roles, as well as achievements of the project's first two years and lessons learned through sharing experience of peers in other governorates.



The project aims to strengthen the population portfolio at the governorate level and builds on the available mechanisms. Population taskforces are formed under the project under the leadership of the different governors.

Being a multisectoral issue, the population taskforces include multiple stakeholders namely, the newly established population units within the governorates directorate, branches of the National Population Council, representatives from multiple directorates (health, youth, education, manpower, etc), youth representatives, population focal points at district and village levels. It also brings together corporate social responsibility focal points, NGOs and academia.

Participants of the workshops included members of the population units, heads of the NPC branches in the different governorates and youth volunteers of the population taskforce.

Dr Tarek Tawfeek, Deputy Minister of Health and Population for Population Affairs, General Ashraf Mowafy, Secretary General of Kafr El-Sheikh governorate, Mrs. Dawlat Shaarawy UNFPA Population and Development Analyst, Dr. Fatma El-Zahraa, MoLD Project Coordinator and Dr. Alaa Bakr, Institutional Arrangements Consultant attended the opening session of the second workshop.

Ministry of Health and Population introduce the new National Supply Chain Assessment Tool

UNFPA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population, conducted a workshop on February 26-28, 2021 in Assiut to orient personnel from the Ministry's population sector at the central and governorate level on the newly developed supply chain assessment tool.

The primary goal of a supply chain assessment tool is to inform and guide country and donor supply chain investments on identifying and prioritizing poor performing areas while monitoring the impact of specific supply chain improvements.

The participants of the workshop are set to use the tool to assess the contraceptive commodities supply chain.

The new USAID National Supply Chain Assessment Tool, NSCA 2.0 that was translated to Arabic by the project. The Ministry of Health and Population uses the tool's capability maturity model to

identify capacity and performance gaps in supply chain components and key performance indicators that measure a set of supply chain indicators for the first time in Egypt. Based on the assessment, basic indicators are developed for future interventions.

The results of the assessment help supply chain stakeholders develop their strategic, operational and investment plans, as well as monitor whether activities are achieving their desired outcomes.

The main functional areas the tool assesses are supply planning, procurement, pharmacy and stores management, distribution, strategic planning and management, policy and governance, Logistics Management Information Systems (LMIS), human resources, financial sustainability and waste management.

One of the goals of the EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy project is that family planning services are scaled up and more accessible. This goal entails strengthening the supply chain management to enhance the quality of care.

Family Planning clinics' accreditation system introduced in Matrouh



The family planning accreditation system "Al-Wessam" was rolled out in the governorate of Matrouh in the first quarter of 2021, bringing the total of governorates oriented with the system to 24.

Al-Wessam is an accreditation system where family planning units across Egypt are assessed based on a set of indicators and criteria set by the Ministry of Health and Population, and awarded based on their score.

The Ministry of Health and Population held two orientation sessions on the system for 25 family planning service providers, who were briefed about the system, the quality indicators, and the importance of quality assurance in family planning service provision.

Since the inception of the EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy project, 134 family planning units in 9 governorates were awarded Al-Wessam.

So far, 11 governorates were trained on the system and orientation events were held in 24 governorates.