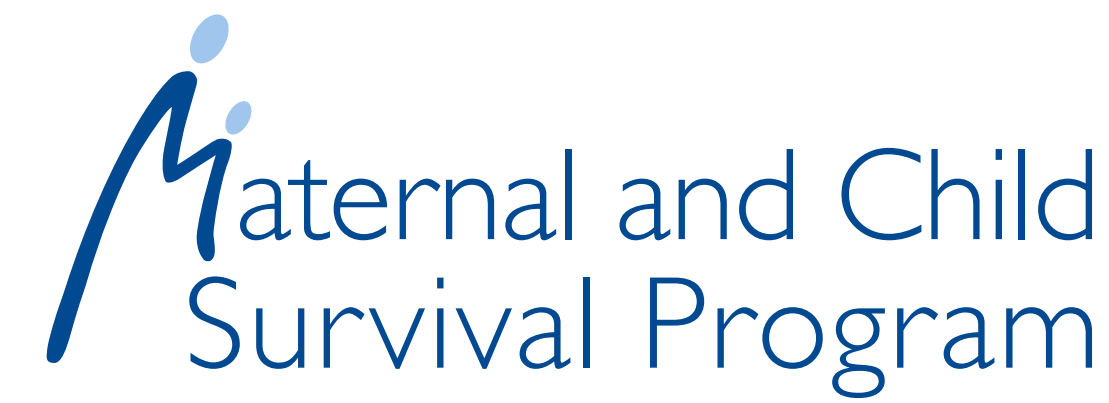




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# What Gets Measured Matters: Review of Family Planning Indicators in National Health Management Information Systems of 18 Countries

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## Background

- There is renewed interest in using data collected in routine health management information systems (HMIS) to monitor family planning (FP) trends and progress toward national and global Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) goals.
- Each country has a unique HMIS, so not all collect global indicators or data for newer strategies to improve FP coverage, such as postpartum FP (PPFP).
- MCSP reviewed facility registers and reporting forms from 20 HMIS in 18 countries to determine:
  1. What FP/PPFP data elements are aggregated in reporting forms
  2. What data on PPFP/postabortion FP are recorded in FP, antenatal, maternity, and postnatal registers used at facilities

## Methods

- Developed a list of FP data elements key to global tracking and performance monitoring, including PPFP, postabortion FP, client type, age, commodities distributed, and users of each method.
- Two reviewers completed separate analyses of reporting forms from each country, then compared and compiled results into a single Excel worksheet to ensure consensus and accuracy.
- Reviewers analyzed facility registers and register instructions or HMIS manuals for user type definitions, then discussed findings together.

## Results

- Half of countries in this review report a PPFP indicator, but how and where PPFP is recorded varies. Few disaggregate by method.
- Only two countries report postabortion FP. More collect it but do not report it on summary forms.
- Most countries separate "new" and "old" users, but use different terminology. Even when the same terms are used, the definition varies widely. For example, "new users" may refer to those who are:
  - Using modern contraception for the first time in their life
  - New to a method, regardless of previous FP use
  - Not using a modern contraceptive method and start using one
- Half of countries do not report on the number of FP clients under 25.

Table 1. Reporting of PPFP and postabortion FP by country

	Postpartum FP		Postabortion FP
	# Clients	Method	# Clients*
Afghanistan	○		
Bangladesh DGFP			
Bangladesh DGHS			
DRC	✓	None	✓
Ethiopia	✓	All available method	○
Haiti			
India	✓	IUD, Tubal Ligation	○
Kenya	○		
Liberia			
Madagascar			
Malawi	✓	None	
Mali			
Mozambique	✓	IUD, Other	○
Nigeria	soon		
Pakistan DOH	✓	IUD, Implants	
Pakistan PWD			
Rwanda	✓	All available methods	
Tanzania	✓	Jadelle, Implanon, Other	✓
Uganda	○		○
Zambia	✓	None	○
Total	9		2

✓ In register and summary form ○ In register only

\*DRC does not disaggregate postabortion FP by method; Tanzania disaggregates by Jadelle, Implanon, and other.

Table 2. Reporting "new" and "old" FP users

	New	Old
Afghanistan	New case	Re-attendance
Bangladesh DGFP	New	Old
Bangladesh DGHS		
DRC	New acceptors	Renewals
Ethiopia	New acceptors	Repeat acceptors
Haiti	Acceptors	
India		
Kenya	New	Re-visit
Liberia	New acceptors	
Madagascar	New users	Regular users
Malawi	New clients	Restarting & subsequent
Mali	New users	
Mozambique	New users	Continuers
Nigeria	New acceptors	
Pakistan DOH	New clients	Follow-up clients
Pakistan PWD	New case	Old case
Rwanda	New acceptors & New users	
Tanzania	New clients	Revisit
Uganda	New user	Revisit
Zambia	New acceptors	Continuing & restart
Total	18	13

Table 3. Reporting on young FP clients

	<20*	20–24	≥25
Afghanistan			
Bangladesh DGFP			
Bangladesh DGHS			
DRC	✓		
Ethiopia	✓	✓	
Haiti			✓
India			
Kenya			
Liberia	✓		
Madagascar			
Malawi	✓	✓	
Mali	✓	✓	
Mozambique			
Nigeria			
Pakistan DOH			
Pakistan PWD			
Rwanda	✓	✓	
Tanzania	✓	✓	
Uganda	✓	✓	
Zambia			
Total	8	6	1

\*Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Tanzania separate 10–14 and 15–19; Rwanda only reports 15–19.

## Knowledge Contribution

- PPFP data are increasingly reported in national HMIS, showing countries want to track it (even if not an FP2020 core indicator).
- Few countries disaggregate all PPFP methods or report postabortion FP.
- FP client type definitions should be standardized for easier interpretation and better decision-making.
- Many countries collect and aggregate a large number of FP indicators, so HMIS revisions must balance need to capture detailed data with burden of data collection and compilation.
- Country and global stakeholders can use this review to rationalize global recommendations for measurement and align global indicators with data available from country HMIS.
- The 2017 Family Planning Summit in London led to a global commitment for age-disaggregated data to better meet the needs of young clients. This review shows where there is work to be done to achieve that vision.