CREATING A SELF-CARE MEASUREMENT TOOL

THE EVIDENCE AND LEARNING WORKING GROUP OF THE SELF CARE TRAILBLAZER GROUP’S MEASUREMENT EXPERT WORKING GROUP (MEWG) MEETING ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH) SELF-CARE

BACKGROUND

Self-care has received renewed attention for its potential to transform healthcare, and support achievement of universal health coverage by placing users at the center of health systems. However, the very nature of self-care makes it hard to monitor and evaluate. To help address this challenge, the Self Care Trailblazer Group’s Evidence and Learning Working Group is developing a sexual and reproductive (SRH) measurement tool as an adaptable resource for implementers, evaluators, researchers, ministries of health and other SRH and self-care stakeholders to monitor and evaluate SRH self-care programs. The first iteration of the measurement tool will address three priority self-care interventions: HIV self-testing, self-injectable DMPA-SC, and self-managed abortion. More importantly, it will establish a robust process for identifying and building consensus around SRH self-care priority indicators; this is critical for improving harmonization of self-care measures across varying settings.

MEETING OUTCOMES

PRIORITY OF ROUTINE MONITORING INDICATORS

Prioritization of routine monitoring indicators for inclusion in the final measurement tool, while recognizing that aspects of some interventions (especially for self-managed abortion) will require special data collection efforts given the legal, policy and social environment in which care is delivered and accessed. Key data sources explored throughout the 3-day event included:

- National health information systems, at the national, sub-national and district levels
- National policy documents, including national essential drug/medicine lists
- Globally standardized surveys and existing indicators, including Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA), Global Aids Monitoring (GAM) surveys, and the Abortion Quality Care (AQC) Tool
- World Health Organization (WHO) reports, including WHO’s pre-qualification (PQ) report

“...a minimum set of indicators would be useful to country stakeholders to support investment decisions, understand market size, how much is the work needed to raise awareness, attitudes, barriers and so on. For self-care measures to be accepted by the global community, they must be inclusive, they must be responsive to the needs of individuals and communities. They must have the support of the health system and take into account different cultural contexts, as well as life course and life stage approaches.”

- Dr. Funmi OlaOlorun, University of Ibadan

PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENT

Preliminary alignment around a minimum set of standard, priority indicators for the three self-care interventions.

IDENTIFICATION OF CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Identification of cross-cutting themes relevant to multiple self-care interventions and domains. These themes include:

- Challenges and needs related to measuring the continuum of care;
- Care obtained in the private sector;
- Equitable access to quality care;
- Decision-making and empowerment of the user;
- Quality of care from the users’ perspective; provider attitudes;
- Safeguarding self-care users’ privacy and confidentiality.

“...there is clear interest across the three intervention areas in having person-centered measures from the clients’ perspective.”

- Dr. Holly Burke, FHI 360

NEXT STEPS

DECEMBER 2022

Indicator validation: a consolidated list of indicators from the expert working group meeting will be shared with the experts to re-evaluate the proposed indicators

JANUARY 2023

User consultation: group key informant interviews will be facilitated with representatives from ministries of health, national self-care networks and self-care expert groups to ensure the tool meets users’ needs

FEBRUARY 2023

Tool finalized, published and disseminated by SCTG
PRESENTERS & FACILITATORS

SESSION 1
ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Gilda Sedgh
CIFF CONSULTANT

Olive Sentumbwe
WHO UGANDA

Caitlin Corneliess
PATH ACCESS COLLABORATIVE

Cheryl Johnson
WHO

Heidi Bart Johnston
WHO

Austen El-Osta
SCARU/IPL

Andrea Cutherell
IMPACT FOR HEALTH

SESSION 2
KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PRACTICES

Martha Brady
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

Funmi Olaolorun
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

Helen Anyasi
FHI 360 NIGERIA

Phil Anglewicz
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Colleen Oakes
PSI

Karin Hatzold
PSI

Ijeoma Egwuatu
GIWYN

SESSION 3
SERVICE DELIVERY & HEALTH OUTCOMES

Dinesh Kumar
DR. RP GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Fredrick Makumbi
MALERERE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC

Moses Muwonge
SELF-CARE EXPERT GROUP

Cheryl Johnson
WHO

Allen Namagembe
PATH

Elizabeth Omoluabi
AKENA+

Joseph Larmarange
INED

Arlette Simo Fotso
CEPED

Sarah Baum
IBIS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to the members of the measurement expert working group planning committee, for their valuable insights, expertise and guidance. We would also like to thank Impact for Health International for facilitating the MEWG meeting and working to produce the final self-care measurement tool.