

Ensuring human rights within contraceptive service delivery: implementation guide



World Health
Organization



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WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Ensuring human rights within contraceptive service delivery: implementation guide

I.World Health Organization.

ISBN 978 92 4 154910 3

Subject headings are available from WHO institutional repository

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Printed in Denmark.

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Acknowledgements

Work on this guide was initiated and coordinated by Luis Mora (Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch, UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund), Lale Say (Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization (WHO)), and Jagdish Upadhyay (Commodity Security Branch, UNFPA).

The final document was written by Jane Cottingham (Independent Consultant), and Sundari Ravindran (Independent Consultant), with strong support and contribution from Rita Columbia (Commodity Security Branch, UNFPA), Rajat Khosla (Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO), Maria Isabel Rodriguez (Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO) and Leyla Sharafi (Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch, UNFPA).

We appreciate the contributions of the following individuals to the development of this guide: Hashina Begum, Maha Eladawy, Sandra Novo, Nurgul Smankulova, Josiane Yaguibou, and Precious Zandonda.

Within UNFPA and WHO, a large number of staff contributed to the project. These included:

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Kate Gilmore
Gifty Addico
Kabir Ahmed
Asa Anderson
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Henia Dakkak
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Mona Kaidbey
Azza Karam
Laura Laski
Ida Mikkelsen

Nuriye Ortayli
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Sylvia Wong

WHO

Moazzam Ali
Avni Amin
Maria Barreix
Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli
Mary Lyn Gaffield
Marleen Temmerman
Lale Say
Lisa Thomas

We are also grateful for inputs from UNFPA staff who participated in the *Expert Group Meeting on Integrating Gender, Human Rights and Culture into Family Planning*, 25–26 November 2013:

Elizabeth Benomar
Jennifer Butler
Bidia Deperthes
Javier Dominguez
Sennen Hounton
Mona Kaidbey
Desmond Koroma
Elsa Kuntziger
Benedict Light
Penda Ndiaye
Debora Nandja
Kechi Ogbuagu

Acronyms

AAAQ	available, accessible, acceptable and of good quality
ANM	auxiliary nurse midwives
CBD	community-based distributors
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CHW	community health workers
CSE	comprehensive sexuality education
CSO	civil society organization
EC	emergency contraception
FP	family planning
HFAC-SL	Health For All Coalition Sierra Leone
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IPV	intimate partner violence
IUD	intrauterine device
LAPM	long-acting and permanent methods
LARC	long-acting reversible contraception
LMIS	logistics management information system
LPR	law, policy, protocol and guideline review
M&E	monitoring and evaluation/accountability
MOHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
MP	meaningful participation
NA	needs assessment
NGO	non-governmental organization
PBF	performance-based financing
RH	reproductive health
RHCLMIS	reproductive health commodities logistics management information system
SRH	sexual and reproductive health
STI	sexually transmitted infection
SV	sexual violence
TMC	Teenage Mothers Clubs
TR	training and supervision of health workers and others involved in the provision of contraceptive information and services
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAW	violence against women
VPE	volunteer peer educators
WHO	World Health Organization
YFRC	youth-friendly resource centres

Foreword

We are pleased to share with you this joint WHO and UNFPA publication on *Ensuring Human Rights within Contraceptive Service Delivery: Implementation Guide*.

This guide brings together the framework and recommendations from WHO's guidelines *Ensuring Human Rights in the Provision of Contraceptive Information and Services*, and of *Choices not Chance: UNFPA's Family Planning Strategy 2012–2020*. Additionally the guide has benefited from broad review, and input from a variety of experts.

Access to contraceptive services and information is a human right, central to gender equality and women's empowerment, and is a key factor in reduction of poverty and enhancement of development. The lives and well-being of millions of women and adolescent girls depend on whether they have what they need to exercise choice about when to have children, how many to have, and at what intervals. Access to the appropriate information and services, including to contraceptive choices, is also one of the most powerful ways to enable girls to remain in education, and thus achieve their fullest potential. In other words, sexual and reproductive health and well-being is a cornerstone of sustainable human development.

Unprecedented momentum has been galvanized globally to make contraceptives available to all, including to about 225 million women who want to avoid a pregnancy but are not using an effective

contraceptive method. However, improving health outcomes requires more than the provision of contraceptive services alone. Health and human rights considerations require governments to ensure human rights in the context of service provision — including the human rights of all who seek and/or use contraceptive information and services. Yet, many women and girls still are not able to access and or freely use quality contraceptives. Governments have binding obligations to make contraceptive information and services available to all. This is particularly important with regards to adolescent girls and such efforts should be set within the context of a broader effort to end gender discrimination and promote gender equality.

Unwavering commitment to health and human rights principles can be effectively operationalized by providing appropriate operational tools and 'how-to' guidance to explain how best to put human rights principles and standards into practice. This guide is designed to do just that. It outlines for health programme planners, managers and providers the key considerations and practical action steps for planning and programming of rights-based contraceptive services.

We trust this guide will prove to be a real asset to all who are working to ensure contraceptive information and services are rights-based and uphold the dignity of all who access them.

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