



Communité de Pratique  
**PFPP intégrée**  
à la SMNI/Nutrition



# Accelerating the Scale-up of Postpartum Family Planning Integrated with MNCH and Nutrition in Francophone West Africa

## 3rd Edition of the Annual Regional Meeting

Date: 18-19 May, 2022

Venue: Virtual and in-person (in Togo)





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Logo of Host Country



**Theme: Advancing the integration of PFPP-MNCH-Nutrition to meet the challenge of health coverage for women and children in the context of health and security crises in West Africa**

**Session 4: Maintaining the secure supply of quality essential health services to populations during the COVID-19 pandemic: Achievements, Challenges, Lessons Learned and Perspectives in the ECOWAS region**

**COUNTRY : Ministry of Health, The Gambia**  
**Dr. Momodou T. Nyassi**



# Outline

- I. Context**
- II. Actions carried out and Results**
- III. Challenges**
- IV. Leçons learnt**
- V. Perspectives**

# Context

- ❑ Health systems are being confronted with rapidly increasing demand generated by the COVID-19 pandemic
- ❑ When health systems are overwhelmed, both direct mortality from an outbreak and indirect mortality from vaccine-preventable and treatable conditions can increase dramatically.
- ❑ Disruption of RMNCAH services including immunization services , even for brief periods, will increase numbers of susceptible individuals, raise the likelihood of outbreak-prone Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) and could increase preventable maternal and child morbidity and mortality.
- ❑ In the Gambia, the first case of COVID-19 was reported on 17th March 2020. Although initially the majority of cases detected were among travellers and their contacts, until late June when local cases without clear epidemiological link to a confirmed case dramatically increased that was indicative of the presence of community transmission of COVID 19

# Actions carried out and Results

- **Implication in key activities and meetings::**

- ✓ Coordination Challenges
- ✓ Limited resources
- ✓ Inadequate planning and preparedness
- ✓ Weaknesses in structures and system to adequately respond to Emergencies
- ✓ Difficulties in ensuring continuity of RMNCAH services

- **Actions carried out with national COVID-19 response team:**

- ✓ Daily and weekly coordination meetings
- ✓ Contact tracing
- ✓ Risk Communication and community engagement for behavioral change
- ✓ Psycho social support

- **Actions carried out with the Essential Care Programmes :**

- ✓ Case Management and control
- ✓ Infection control
- ✓ Prevention and treatment of complications

# Actions carried out and Results

## □ Results

- ✓ Operational protocols and guidelines were collaboratively developed to provide guidance for health care workers in ensuring effective health care service delivery and as well ensure continuity of quality RMNCAH services including immunization most especially in emergency situations.
- ✓ An official communique was dispatch from the office of the DHS to help decongest and prioritized essential health care services to save the lives of women and children.
- ✓ Elements of antenatal, postnatal and Child care that were crucial to minimizing maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality were modified to ensure safety of the patients and the health care workers within the context of COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Capacity building of laboratory and other cadres of health practionaers for scaling up of Coivid 19 testing and other related services.

# Actions carried out and Results

- ❑ Results
- ❑ Provision of materials like Covid 19 testing equipments and Person Preventive equipment that enhanced service delivery and preventive measures during the Pandemic.
- ❑ Vaccination of the mass to prevent Covid 19 Infection
- ❑ Institutional collaboration and and exchange of good practices and standrds,
- ❑ A proactive risk communication and community mobilization activities that promoted the following during the pandemic was actualized thus :
  - ✓ Provision of family planning services in emergency situations
  - ✓ Metigate threats and Gender based Voilence
  - ✓ Alleviate Misconceptions about Covid 19 and control media rumours to further counter its social effects.

# Challenges

- Inadequate coordination to effectively respond to emergencies including covid 19 pandemic
- Lack of planning and a weak systems and structures to ensure adequate preparation and response to emergencies
- Inadequate operationalisation of the National Public Health Operation Centre .
- Inadequate disease surveillance system.



# Lessons Learnt

- ❑ Effective planning and preparedness is critical in emergencies
- ❑ An operationalised national Public Health Centre (PHOC)
- ❑ Effective Risk Communication and Community Engagement is critical in Public health practice.
- ❑ Disease surveillance and routine immunization should be always strengthened .

# Perspectives

- ❑ Effective planning and preparedness is critical in dealing with emergencies
- ❑ Effective behavioural change communication and community engagement is key in dealing with emergencies.
- ❑ Policies, guidelines , SOPs and all relevant protocols should be in place.
- ❑ Disease surveillance and routine immunization should be strengthened.
- ❑ Operationalisation of the national Public Health Emergency Centre and its limited regional decentralisation.



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**THANK YOU !!!**

**Dr. Momodou T. Nyassi**

**Accélérer le passage à l'échelle de la Planification Familiale du Post-Partum Intégrée à la SMNI et à la Nutrition en Afrique de l'Ouest francophone**

