

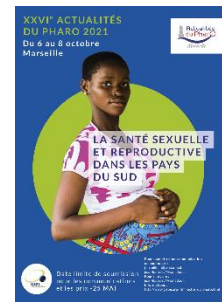
Actualités du Pharo 2021 – Session 1

Women's health in conflict situations: from paternalism to humanitarian maieutics. Paradigm shift?

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MSF is 50 years old. 50 years of action in emergencies and with so-called vulnerable populations. Women's health is a major part of this, with more than 300,000 assisted deliveries per year.

In addition to monitoring pregnancies and the post-partum period, MSF places particular emphasis on providing contraception and managing abortions and their complications. A more recent investment has been in cervical cancer prevention and sexually transmitted diseases beyond HIV.

In addition to expanding its range of care, MSF has adapted to the constraints of access to populations by developing new patient-centred approaches.

Difficulties in accessing care, the simplification of certain diagnostic tools and other management protocols currently allow for new models of care, potentially making them more accessible, such as self-management.

Self-care can mean taking a contraceptive pill, palpating the breast for lumps, diagnosing an ongoing pregnancy or managing an abortion. It also means doing your own cervical cancer screening via self-sampling for human papillomavirus testing or home saliva testing for HIV.

With the necessary support from experienced people, self-care allows people to take back control of their health. Above all, it is based on reliable methods that promote people's well-being.

For women and girls who cannot easily access health care, self-care, with or without the assistance of a health professional, can help them stay healthy and know how to find out about health issues from a trusted person or on a digital app.

These new perspectives are transforming provider-patient relationships and moving towards more autonomy in care while ensuring similar quality. This is a welcome perspective for women.

To achieve this paradigm shift, training of health care workers, as well as the transfer of knowledge and skills to women is necessary. Trusting the population and providing care closer to the community is the challenge to be met today in order to respond to the humanitarian issues of tomorrow.